

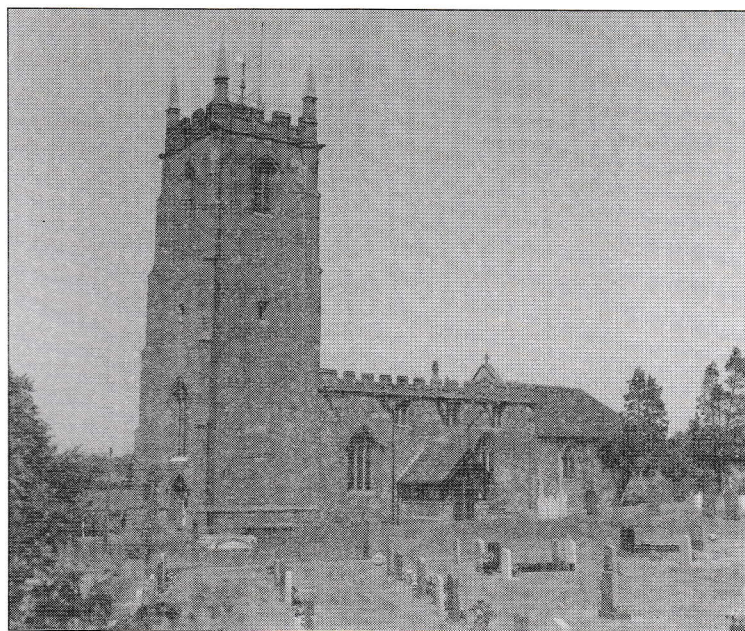
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

Parish including Birchley Heath, Ansley Common
Ansley Village, Church End

No: 932

FEBRUARY 2003

Price 25p



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'February brings the rain, swells the frozen dikes again'.

As we have seen the rain tumbling down day after day during December and part of January, this saying seems very irrelevant, but still God's promise to Noah of the seasons in due time has been fulfilled, as we see the bulbs start appearing from the dark, cold, wet earth, promising once again seedtime and harvest. We are extremely lucky in this country as although we are small compared with the vast areas of other countries, we have plenty to eat; we have warmth and all the comforts of this life. We also do not have to withstand many of the man-made afflictions, but most important of all we have the most precious gift of clean water. Water is life and as we turn on our taps to wash up, clean out teeth or have a bath, load up the washing machine or have a glass of water, we can be thankful for this luxury which is not afforded to all.

What has made you cry lately? A funny question but what made me cry was watching the old film 'It's a wonderful life', for what must be about my tenth time, but it never loses its appeal no matter how many times I watch it. It teaches us all 'self-worth', a belief in ourselves, as the hero is visited by an angel sent from heaven to help him as he is suicidal, who shows him what other peoples lives would have been if he had never been born. Think about it! What difference has your life made to friends, family and community? It's certainly very eye opening. I also cried when Aled Jones sang 'Oh night divine' as a boy chorister and as he is now. No matter how many times I see this film and this carol it still has the same effect.

What has made you laugh lately? I bought a 'Smilie Water Wiggler' in the January sales for a couple of pounds. I tried to hand it to someone but it shot across the room and was uncontrollable. It is a transparent soft tube filled with what looks like jellied liquid, and the whole aim is to try and keep hold of it, which is an hilarious exercise. Also at Christmas one of our relatives bought a giant party popper and as it exploded we captured the moment of utter surprise on the faces of everyone. It was great fun, but, as you can imagine, cleaning up afterwards was hard work.

We in our lifetime have seen many changes as church services are more relaxed, as years ago no one spoke in church before or after the services except when shaking hands with the Vicar on the way out and wish him 'Good Morning'. There was also a very strict code of dress practice as even the poorest adults and children wore their Sunday Best Clothes, even if they were hand-me-downs. This may seem like centuries ago but did you know that it was not until 1942 that the Church of England relaxed its rules that women must wear hats in church. I didn't know it had actually been a hard and fast rule but we always wore a hat and our brother wore a cap which he took off before entering the church. The wearing of hats is very rare now, except for weddings and even then hats are getting more rare. Years ago a woman's hair was called her 'crowning glory' and the hat was worn, so as not to distract from the service.

February is a dull month, but it is a time for looking forward to Spring and all that means, and the winter is being left behind.

Marie Cove

If you require the services of a vicar please have a word with Moreen who is dealing with baptisms and Margaret weddings. Funerals can be arranged with either.

St John's Hall Ansley Common Services 10.30 a.m.

Feb 9th 4th Before Lent Family Service

Feb 23rd 2nd Before Lent Holy Communion and Sunday School.

St. Laurence's Church services 10.30 a.m. & 6.30. p.m.

Feb 2nd Presentation of Christ a.m. All age Worship with the Worship Team.

p.m. BCP Holy Communion Rev. L. Beard.

Feb 9th 4th Before Lent a.m. Holy Communion and Junior Church Rev. D Jupe.
and Junior Church

Epiphany 5

p.m. Evensong Rev. A. Welsby

Feb 16th 3rd Before Lent a.m. Baptism

p.m. Holy Communion Rev. Nick Clarke.

Feb 23rd 2nd Before Lent a.m. The Lord is Here Communion Rev. R Barnacle
Nicholls and Junior Church.

p.m. Evensong Donald Parr.

Tuesday 18th at 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer on In the Village Church Hall. The

Senior Citizens meeting follows, everyone is welcome to this service.

Monday 3rd and 17th Ansley Common Fellowship meets

Wednesday 12th and 26th The Wednesday Fellowship group meet

Wednesday 5th and 19th The Prayer group meets at 10 Nuthurst Crescent at
2.p.m.

Mondays at 7 p.m. The Links youth club meet. in the Village Church Hall.

The Visiting team meeting to be arranged.

The P.C.C. meet on Thursday 20th.

The Deanery Synod meeting is on Thursday 6th at Exhall.

It is appreciated that this section is very late but the January Magazine needed to be at the printers early in December.

Gill & Geoff sent via e mail best wishes to everyone for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. They were in good health and wished to be remembered to everyone.

Christmas

The Church Wardens wish to thank everyone who worked to make Christmas at Ansley such a happy occasion, and appreciated the pleasing comments received.

From the registers.

James Goadby was baptised at the morning service on January 6th he with his cousins and other young members of the congregation behaved impeccably. Afterwards his family enjoyed a lovely cup of tea and a chat.

The Bishop has recently asked us as a Church to set some objectives for the next twelve months. At the P.C.C. meeting on 14th January it was agreed that our objectives, under the headings set out below, for the year should be:-

1. The life of the Congregation

Keep our present format, providing cover for our services and giving support to groups and individuals as required.

2. Outreach to the community

Focus on visiting – particularly after a bereavement, and the Church yard requirements .

Keep on with our present social format for the next year and invite the recently baptised to the Jesus Birthday party in December.

3. Buildings and fabric.

- a/ Get our new room up and running and raise £5,000 towards the cost.
- b/ Complete the guttering repairs to the church and if possible one more item from our Quinquennial report. (the quinquennial is an architects report that is produced in 2000 about the fabric of the Church).
- c/ Sort Health and Safety requirements at the Church.
- d/ Get disabled toilet for St. John's.

Grass cutting will now cost £200 a cut. If the graveyard is to kept to the standard it is, we will require some donations, as this could work out at about £2000 per year. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

BLUE PETER BRING & BUY. Saturday, 1st March. 10am to 2pm at Ansley Village Church Hall.

Proceeds to help towards the appeal to provide more wells to give clean water for people in Tanzania and Uganda. Please come along and support this event. If you have any items you would collected please contact Marie or David Cove on Telephone Number: 024 7639 4114.

ANSLEY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS: Meeting November 14th 2002.

Fly tipping. Problems of certain locations in the Parish were discussed. It was agreed that depositing of rubbish such as builder's waste, old items of furniture etc., makes the Parish look unsightly and efforts should be made to ensure this illegal practice is stopped. North Warwickshire Borough Council advise that with relevant proof they have necessary powers to act against persons responsible. Local residents with any relevant information to contact Borough Council on 01827 715341

VANDALISM. Another panel kicked out of Ansley Common bus shelter. Further discussion on whether this shelter should be removed completely to take place.

POLICING: P.C. Cook attended the meeting and advised 'Police Post' set up near to recreation area in Ansley Village and had attracted a small number of residents who wished to speak with P.C. Cook, the local officer. Efforts to be made to set up Police Post on a regular basis for at least one hour per week. No details at present.

WARWICKSHIRE BOUNDARY REVIEW OF ELECTORAL DIVISIONS

1st Option: A division consisting of Ansley, Arley, Corley and Fillongley.

2nd Option: Ansley Village with Baxterley, Bentley, Merevale, Ridge Lane, Arley, Astley, Corley, Fillongley and Maxstoke. This would mean Ansley Common would be part of a separate electoral division including Hartshill. The Parish Council felt that the Parish of Ansley and all those village should not be separated and that all Ansley Parish parishioners should be within the same electoral division and vote for the

same County Councillor. Have written to Warwickshire County Council expressing importance of the first option being implemented.

Next meeting dates: February 13th, 2003, March 13th, 2003.

Please note any items wishing to be discussed at future Parish Council meetings must be forwarded in writing to the Clerk, Mrs. T. Pointon, 17 Laurel Drive, Hartshill, Nuneaton. CV10 OXP.

As February is a quiet month for news, I was asked to write a poem but found it almost impossible to do so for this month as it always seems cold and grey and uninteresting except for Valentine's Day. So, I gave up and wrote about the birds in winter instead entitled 'The Winter Garden'

The garden is bare and cold and stark. With winter skies above moody and dark.
The blackbird sits on fence and tree. I can see him but he can't see me.

The bread is scattered on path and lawn. Other birds now gather this winter morn.
Look at the robin with breast so red, with beady eye and perky head.

Here come the starlings, those cheeky birds, with manners undescribed in words.
They rule the roost, or think they do, but the blackbirds teach them a thing or two.

The sparrows quietly enter the scene. They know the way their share to glean.
But now they fly, their feeding done, with thoughts of Spring and welcome sun.