

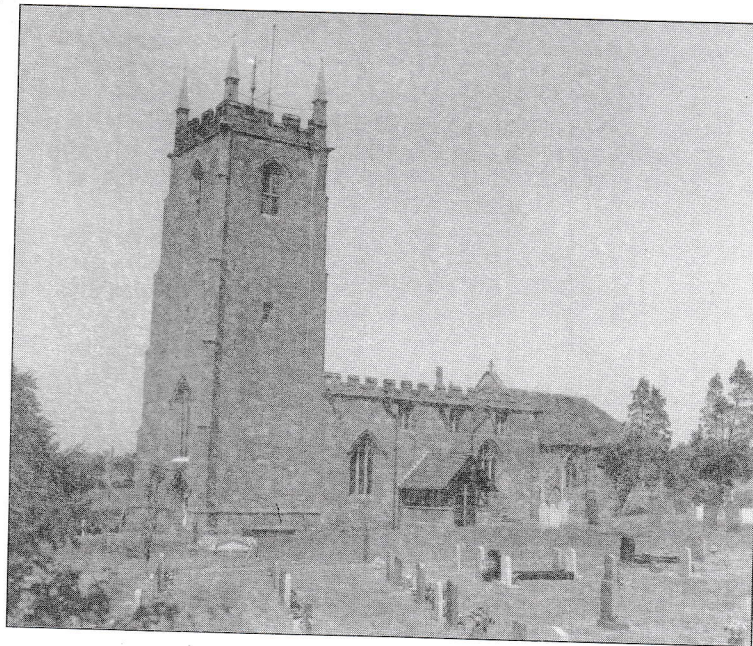
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 944

FEBRUARY 2004

Price 25p



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Welcome

Jesus' call to each of us is to come to him. Our task as a church is to welcome. As a Church Council we are seeking to bring under the spotlight everything that may appear unwelcoming and to see if there might be another way of doing things. As a result we have decided that we welcome families that do not yet attend church to seek baptism for their children. We hope and trust that they would join us in our worship and that they would find such a welcome that they will keep attending long after the baptism service, but no longer require them to attend church before we book the baptism service.

We are also aware that there are many couples where one or both is divorced and their spouse is still alive and who seek to be married in church. As a church we are totally committed both to the permanence of the marriage bond and to the forgiving nature of God's love that makes possible new beginnings. Should you be seeking a marriage in church and have been married before, please note I cannot give you a yes (or a no!) over the phone. Nor can the preparation be rushed. I should however be very happy to meet with you or, if you prefer, to send you our leaflet that outlines our approach in greater detail. I hope and pray that, whether or not I can agree to your request, you will find a real welcome and prayerful support.

One of the ways we extend our welcome and support to you all is by our ministry in times of sadness. As a Church we seek to minister to those who are bereaved first by sensitively preparing together for the funeral service and making it as personal as possible. We then invite the family to a Memorial Service at St. Laurence shortly after the service.

In addition, we invite the bereaved to our Annual Memorial Service. This year the service will be held on Sunday 29 February at 6.30 p.m. It will include specially chosen hymns, prayers and readings. The service will be led by our Readers, Donald Parr and Mandy Watts, and I shall preach. During the service there will be an opportunity to light a candle to the memory of your loved one. As a departure from the custom of recent years, I shall, during the service be recalling the names of loved ones departed. If you have anyone you would wish us to remember, please write their name (block capitals, please!) in our new Book of Remembrance which will be available for your use at all of our services in February until the start of the Memorial Service itself.

One of the things that makes us who we are is our memory. Everyone's experiences are special to them and quite unique. If we forget who and what has made us the person that we are, we become disorientated and unsettled. At the same time when we want to talk about the past we are sometimes silenced by those around us especially when we start talking about those who are no longer alive. But remember them we must. Our love for them has not diminished, nor has our gratitude for their lives. At death our love does not cease, but it needs to find new ways of expressing itself. I very much hope that through this service you will be re-assured that the love of Christ is stronger even than death itself and thus find strength, support and comfort for the year ahead.

Whatever your hopes or fears, whether you seek comfort in sadness or come that we may share in your joy, I hope that you will find a real welcome that flows out of the wonderful assurance of God's unconditional love.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

St John's Hall Ansley Common.

Wednesday 4 th	9.00a.m. Epiphany 4	Holy Communion.
Sunday 8 th	10.30a.m. 3 rd before Lent.	Family service.
Wednesday 18 th	9.00a.m. 2 nd before Lent.	Morning Prayer.
Sunday 22 ⁿ	10.30a.m. 1 st before Lent.	Holy Communion.
Sunday 29 th	10.30a.m. Lent 1	Songs of Praise.

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

Feb. 1 st Candlemas	a.m. All Age Worship. p.m. BCP Holy Communion.
Feb 8 th 3 rd before Lent	a.m. Holy Communion. p.m. Evensong.
Feb 15 th 2 nd before Lent	a.m. All Age Worship. p.m. Holy Communion.
Feb 22 nd 1 st before Lent	a.m. The Lord Is Here Communion. p.m. Evensong.
Feb 29 th Lent 1	a.m. All Age Worship p.m. Memorial Service

Monday 2 nd 9 th & 23 ^d	Links group meet.
Tuesday 17 th 10 a.m.	Morning Prayer in the Village Church Hall. Followed by Senior Citizens.
Tuesday 10 th & 24 th	Prayer group meets at 10 Nuthurst Cres. at 2.p.m.
Wednesday 4 th & 18 th	Wednesday Fellowship meets.
Thursday 5 th & 19 th	Ansley Common Fellowship.
Thursday 26 th	P.C.C. 7.45p.m. in Village Church Hall.
Saturday 14 th	Nostalgia Evening 7.p.m. at St. John's

From the Registers

Funerals:

The funeral of Irene Monica (Mollie) Arnold took place at the United Reform Church Chapel End on December 29th. She grew up in Ansley worshipping at the Congregational Chapel until it's closure. She was married to George for 10 years and moved away because of his work, but when he became ill they came back to Ansley. After his untimely death she worked at the Co-op offices in Nuneaton. She was a member of the Church Choir and supported Frank as our Church Warden for many years. She will be remembered for her caring nature and reminiscences.

The funeral of Joan Mary Beasley took place at St. Laurence's on Thursday 8th January, being buried in the Churchyard with her husband Len (Leonard John) who died in 1999. Joan and Len moved to Birmingham Road, Ansley from Buckhurst Hill Essex 15 years ago to be near their son Stephen, wife Sue and their family.

The funeral of Jean Smedley took place in Church on 10th January. Jean had lived in Ansley since 1952 being on of the first residents on the St. Lawrence Estate, moving to Croft Mead 13 years ago. She had many jobs in the area cooking, caring and cleaning, however whatever her problems she was always cheerful and willing to lend a helping hand.

The ashes of 86 year old Mrs Winifred Doris Mallabone were brought back to Ansley and buried in her husbands grave on 14th January.

Nostalgia Evening

On Saturday 14th February there will be an evening of Nostalgia from 7 -10 p.m. There will be music, sing - song and may be a dance. Entry will be £1.50 (children 50p) this will include light refreshments, tea or coffee or you may wish to bring a bottle. Proceeds will be towards the cost of the kitchen floor.

Ash Wednesday

This year Ash Wednesday is on the 25th February and the service will be at St. Wilfrid's Arley

Memorial Service

Our Annual Memorial Service will be held on Sunday 29th February at 6.30 p.m. Everyone is invited to come, to remember and give thanks for the life of a loved one. During this service you will be invited if you wish to come forward and light a candle to their memory. Families that have been bereaved in the past year will be sent an invitation to this special service.

Brass Concert.

The Sutton Brass Concert on Dec 20th was a very enjoyable evening. During concert we were able to join in the carols. However the program had to be hastily rearranged as the tuba player had got lost in the dark and confusion of the new M6 toll round about and ended up in Lichfield. However he arrived before the end of the early interval and we were surprised just how much each individual instrument contributed to the overall effect. We thank Sutton Brass for a lovely evening and hope they will be able to come again another year. A total of £205 was added to the building fund after expenses were paid.

Carol Service & Christmas

These traditional festival services are always well attended and enjoyed.

The cash collection at the carol service was, as usual, given to Spurgeon Child Care Trust and amounted to £17

The Church as usual was beautifully decorated, despite the pouring rain. Thank you to all helped.

The final total for the Christmas Fayre including all the money from the wreaths amounted to £1106. – A wonderful effort by all concerned. Many thanks.

Thank you

A very special thank you to Mr & Mrs Chilvers for the donation of a wardrobe to St John's Church Hall to replace the ones that collapsed when they were removed, to enable the floor to be replaced.

Flower & Brass Rotor

If anyone would like to assist either by doing, or by giving a donation towards the cost of the flowers please have a word with Margaret Kimberley on 02476 384680. It may be that you would like to do this to mark an anniversary etc.

Christmas Quiz

The Christmas quiz has been very successful raising over £50 for the new Annexe. A lot of people have had great fun working out the answers. The winner will be announced in next month's magazine and the answers published when space permits.

ANSLEY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

ROAD SURFACE IMPROVEMENTS

The Council have recently written to the County Council for their consideration in including two sections of highway in the Parish onto their resurfacing schedule. The two sections, Pipers Lane/Ridge Lane and the B4114 at Church End both show considerable signs of wear and tear after lengthy periods of use by heavy goods vehicles. This high volume of use has in the main been as a direct result of projects that have been undertaken by local private companies in the Parish and the Parish roads have suffered. The comments of the County Highways are now awaited.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

The first meetings of 2004 for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme will be held on January 21st and February 18th at 7pm at the Old Peoples Meeting Room, Croft Mead, Ansley Village.

DUMPING OF RUBBISH AT ARLEY TUNNEL

The Parish Council have with the assistance of the Borough Council, successfully brought to a close the long standing issue of fly tipping on private land owned by Network Rail at the rear of Birmingham Road, an area which is located directly above the Arley Tunnel. The rubbish amounting to approximately 3 tonnes has now been removed by the landowner and letters have been forwarded by Network Rail to local householders warning of the legal consequences that befall anyone committing the serious offence of fly tipping.

2004/2005 PRECEPT

The Council recently met to discuss the precept requirements for the Parish for the coming financial year 2004/2005. The average increase in precept over the past 5 years has been approximately 8.5% per annum and has seen the figure rise a relatively small amount from £8000 (99/2000) to £11000 (2003/04) over this time. It was considered that a similar percentage increase for the coming year would be acceptable and that any additional expenditure required would be readily available from the reserves currently held and which meet the recommended figures. A precept figure of £12000 was subsequently set for 2004/2005.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Parish Council were pleased to receive four letters of application from local residents expressing an interest in being considered for the current Parish Councillor vacancy. After considering the applications, a vote took place and Mr Tony Worrall of Pipers Lane was duly co-opted onto the Council having received a majority vote.

NEXT MEETING DATES

FEB 12th	MAR 11th
APR 8th	MAY 13th

Please note that any items, residents would like to be discussed at a future Parish Council meeting, must be forwarded giving full details in writing to the Clerk, Mrs Tracy Pointon at 17 Laurel Drive, Hartshill, Nuneaton, CV10 0XP.