

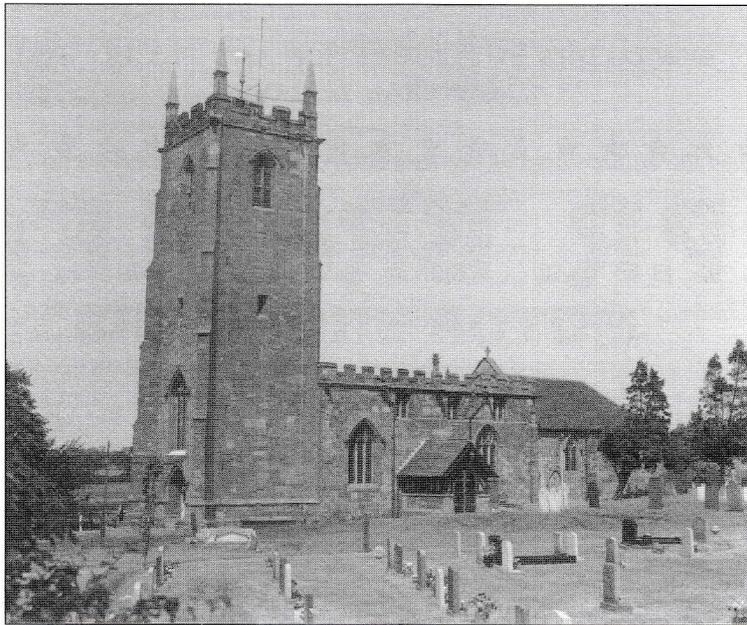
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 968

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Price 25p



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Thank You God, Work in us and through us

Please give thanks to God for answers to prayer:

We have the money to advertise for a youth worker to serve in Ansley, Arley and Fillongley. Give thanks for all who have supported this work by their time their giving and their prayers, Give thanks for all who have contributed - Coalfields Regeneration Trust, the Diocese of Coventry, Community Education, Positive about Young People, Fillongley Education Foundation, the local churches and the parish councils of Ansley and Arley.

Pray

for all organisations considering grant applications.

that the right person be appointed:

for all who are thinking of applying, for the short-listing process and the interviews.

that through the Ley Group Young Peoples Project many young people will find encouragement and fulfilment

Give thanks that we have the money to refurbish the Village Hall, for all who have worked to achieve this goal and pray for all who will oversee the work. Work will be undertaken in stages starting this month. I hope this will really transform the hall and make it a lovely place of rest and entertainment for every age range.

Pray for the new services on the first Sunday of each month at St. Laurence at 4 p.m. They start on March 5th. We pray that these services will be short and lively, will be thoroughly enjoyed by all and especially by families and children. All are welcome to this short and varied service which will be followed a light buffet.

And please pray for me as I begin on April 1st to take on the additional responsibility of Rural Dean of Nuneaton. I shall be licensed to this post on May 18th. And from Pauline and myself a very special thank you for your cards, prayers, condolences and support upon the passing of her mother Nora Cockcroft at the end of a long and full life..

With many thanks,

Your friend and vicar,

Peter

February What's On

St. Laurence's Church

Sunday 5 th	4 th before	10 30 a.m.	Morning Worship
□	Lent	6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th	3 rd before	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Healing Service
	Lent	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 19 th	2 nd before	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship and Godly Play
	Lent	6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion.
Sunday 26 th	Next before	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
	Lent	6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Hall Ansley Common Services

Wednesday 1 st		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 5 th	4 th before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 12 th	3 rd before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Sunday School
Wednesday 15 th		9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 19 th	2 nd before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 26 th	Next before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Other Activities at St. John's Church Hall

Tuesdays from 10 th	9.00 – 12.00a.m.	Krazy Kettle Kafé
Wednesdays	6.30 p.m.	A.C.Y.C.
Thursday	7.00 p.m.	Youth Club
Friday 17 th	7.30 p.m.	Valentine's Dance

Activities at Village Church Hall

Mondays	7.00 p.m.	Links - Youth Club
Tuesdays	10.00 a.m.	Senior Citizens
Wednesdays	10.00 – 11.30 a.m.	Ansely's Little Angels
Wednesdays	2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	Community Caf�
Wednesday 8 th & 22 nd	7.30 p.m.	Bingo
Thursday 9 th	7.30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 23 rd	7.30 p.m.	P.C.C. Meeting
Saturday 25 th	12.00 – 2.00 p.m.	Community Caf� Table Top Sale

Other Parish activities

Tuesdays	10.00 a.m.	Family History Class (Annexe)
Thursday 5 th & 19 th	7.30 p.m.	Ansley Common Fellowship
Fridays	1.00 p.m.	Art Classes at the Club

From the Registers

Baptisms

Madeleine and Hannah were baptised on December 10th Madeleine happily looked around at her baptism, but was fast asleep when she was presented with her gift. Hannah was not happy to go to the vicar, but was all smiles when given her children's bible stories.

On Sunday 8th January Alfie Dodd was Baptised He was not sure of being held by the vicar, but gave everyone a lovely smile when he was taken round to meet everyone.

Funerals

The family and friends of Jason Knowles and Jade Whittleford gathered at St. Laurence on 21st December to mourn the loss and give thanks for the life of their new-born son Murphy John Thomas Knowles. The service was followed by burial in the churchyard. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to all the family.

Michael Joshua Oxford whose funeral took place in Church on 22nd December was a popular man in Birchley Heath for all his 64 years, attending the local schools; he spent his working life as a 'brickie', and was a very keen gardener. We pray for his wife Jenny, son Gary his loving family and friends as they come to terms with their sad loss.

The funeral of John Bayley took place at St. Laurence on December 22nd and was followed by cremation at the Heart of England Crematorium. John married Mary in 1950 and they had two daughters Dorothy and Susan. Through his life he held a variety of jobs, but nothing compared to working down the pit with its strong sense of comradeship. John loved his holidays in Skegness, his garden and allotment, socialising with his many friends and most of all the company of his family.

Daphne Norwood (néé Worrall) 's funeral took place at St. Laurence on 9th January and was followed by interment in the churchyard with her late husband Ken. Mother to Barbara and Jean she brought life, energy and joy to every encounter, situation and relationship – whether it be a chance meeting in the street or an organised party. Her liveliness and joy was rooted in her life of faith, her devotion to our church was greatly appreciated by all.

St John's Christmas Fayre

There was £110 raised, which although lower than in previous years, was none the less a very happy event and the refreshments were excellent. However Father Christmas was kept busy by his many visitors who came to see him sitting in his beautifully decorated grotto.

Christingle Service

A total of £52.30 has been forwarded to the Children's Society which was the amount collected at the Christingle service held at St. John's.

St. John's Church Hall

We are pleased to be able to say that we have now formally received planning permission for the work we are planning at the back of the hall. The next part in the process is to obtain quotations for the work to be done, and when we know the cost of the project we can then approach funders for some of the capital costs. In the mean time we will continue to raise funds for this work.

Valentine's Dance

On Friday 17th There will be a Valentine's Dance commencing at 7.30 in St. John's Church Hall Tickets are £1.50; These are available from Marie Cove and Hetty Sharman. Tea coffee and nibbles will be provided, but please bring a bottle if you wish.

Carol Service Collection for Spurgeon Child Care

The carol service cash collection totalling £228.67 has been forwarded to Spurgeon Child Care. This brings the total raised for Spurgeon's in 2005 to £748.67. Thank you everyone for your support.

The Christmas Bazaar

The final profit total for the Christmas Bazaar was £1230.68 this will be used for the general day to day running costs of the Church.

Church Hall

In December we received a further two grants towards the work to be carried out in the hall this brings the total grants agreed by the end of the year to £31863. Although nearly £6000 short of the total required it is hoped that work will commence before too long. In the meantime we will continue to apply for grants and fund raise for this project.

Table top sale.

On Saturday 26th The Village Community Café will be holding a tabletop sale in the Village Church Hall from 12 –2 p.m. Tables are £5 each to book please telephone 01827 874520. Refreshments will be available and there will be a raffle. The people who run and attend the café are using the funds raised towards the hall improvements.

Ash Wednesday

This year Ash Wednesday is on the 1st March and the service will be at 7.30 p.m. at St. Wilfrid's Old Arley.

Apology

We apologise for the printing error in the January advertisement of Mrs Gloria Flemans' Canine Beautician by putting the picture of a kitten and not a dog.

From the past

In 1906 the Church accounts ran from Easter to Easter. In the year ending Easter 1906 the total receipts were Collections £37 6s 3½d and there was a donation of 18/- . Among other costs the 'fire' insurance was £1, coke and cartage was £1 19s 3d. At the end of the year there was a balance in hand of £2 16s 2½d.

There were special collections for the Sunday School Anniversary £7 16s 8½d. Nuneaton Hospital £3 18s and the Church Missionary Society £5 2s 2½d.

It was in 1906 that our organ was installed at a cost of £222 16s 6d. It was dedicated on 15th November with a short service followed by a recital by Mr Bunney a 'skilled organist who had recently played before Royalty'. He commented afterwards it was a 'Good organ, the tone was charming, free from harshness'.

February, 2006

We have received a letter from 'Samaritan's Purse' thanking us for the shoe boxes which St. John's sent before Christmas. They said that over 1 million children benefited and this was probably the best thing that would happen to them ever. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Have you noticed the vast amount of paper we generate? There are newspapers, magazines for young and old on every subject, free papers, leaflets. You name it we have it. We fill our recycling bin every fortnight with paper. How very different it was years ago. We had a newspaper delivered every day by the newspaper boy, but it was always used. My mother used one sheet to light the fire every morning, summer and winter and if we had any newspaper over we took it to Boffins Chip Shop, as they used it to wrap the chips. Comics were especially dear to us as our Dad wouldn't buy them, but the lady across the road passed her children's on. We really loved them and almost read the print off, and eventually were passed to next door. Beat that for recycling!

Someone on T.V. said that as a nation we do not sing, and singing does you good. Our family always sang on every occasion and still do, but it was our good fortune to be young when musicals were very popular. I can remember going to see Doris Day in two different films in one week (during school holidays), after I had almost ran my legs off doing errands to earn the admission money. We went to see 'Singing in the rain' and sang and danced all the way home and later on when we went to see 'Rock around the clock', the cinema was in complete bedlam. I don't think the youngsters today could imagine their grandparents in that scene, as the teenagers still like rock and roll and the twist.

At this time of year I start looking for clues that Spring is on it's way. I have seen quite a lot of Snowdrops in bloom and some Primulas, but best of all, it is getting slightly lighter at night. The Forsythia has some flowers and the Camellia is covered in buds, with the promise that Spring 2006 is surely on the way.

February fill dyke, or so we have heard say,
A month that shows signs Spring is on the way.
A month of flowers, Snowdrops and Crocuses are through.
A hope of lighter nights with some sunshine too.

So don't be glum now February is here.
Think of Spring, a wonderful time of year.
And as we sit seed catalogues to peruse,
Think of the enjoyment to come from the plants we choose.

Marie Cove.