

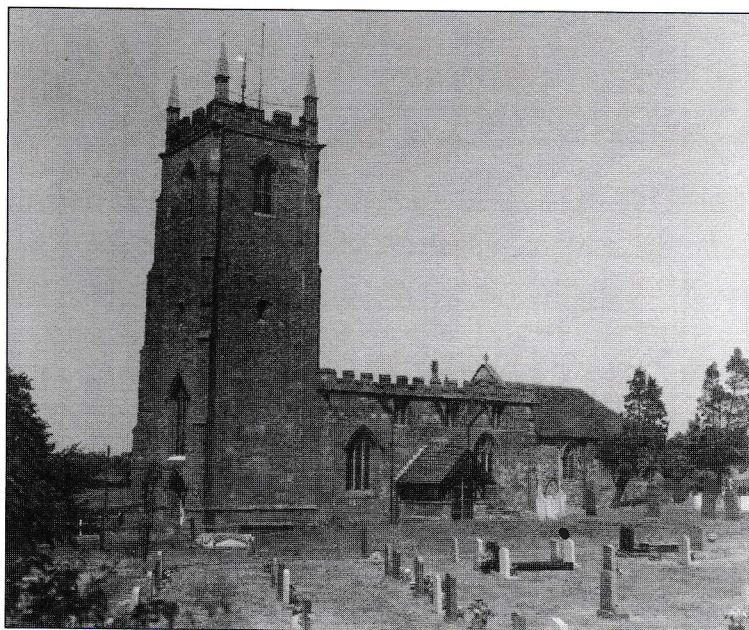
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1021

FEBRUARY 2011

Price 25p



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All are welcome

Sometimes, just sometimes I get two *really* good days following each other. This happened on January 14th and 15th.

On January 14th Pauline and me went to visit our eldest son's new baby- Toby. It was a wonderful thrill to see (for the third time!) my four week old grandson and to feel a great sense of pride and joy as I pushed him in his pram around their local park. There are many reasons in life for sadness but when joys such as this come our way it is truly reason to celebrate!

The day after, January 15th, was a great day too, though in a very different way. Lucy Moore came to Arley and St. Michael's Community Centre to speak about Messy Church which she started in 2004 and is now spreading across the U.K. and beyond. Thirty five people attended from across Nuneaton Deanery. But what is Messy Church? It is a new approach to worship and Christian fellowship centred around the needs of children and families who do not feel comfortable with church as we know it. It includes craft, celebration and food. People of all ages are encouraged to share, to worship and to enjoy. Both the time and the venue are chosen to meet the needs of those who would like to come. Messy Church is proving immensely attractive and is helping many find faith in Jesus. I believe it will have a lot to give us. Please pray about how we can use it best.

Talking of prayer may I invite you to join members of our Church Council as we seek to learn more about deepening our live with God - through prayer, Bible Study and times away together. We invite you to join us in the Annexe (beside St. Laurence's Church) on Thursdays from 7.30-9pm on 17,24, 31 March and 7 April.

All are welcome.

Your friend and Vicar,
Peter

February St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 6 th	5 th before Lent	10 30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th	4 th before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 20 th	3 rd before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 th	2 nd before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 6 th	5 th before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
Sunday 13 th	4 th before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 th	3 rd before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 27 th	2 nd before Lent	10.00 p.m.	Holy Communion

Discussion Groups

'The year through the Bible' Thursday 3rd at 7.30 p.m. 128 Birmingham Road.
Discussing the parables Tuesday 8th at 7 p.m. in St. Johns Church Hall.

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

From the Registers

Wedding

On January 8 we shared with Ben Tillson and Katherine Knott in the joy of their wedding. After an icy start to the New Year the sun shone for them. May the light of God's love bring them joy in their lives whatever the season of the year.

Interment

On January 25th the mortal remains of Janet Thurman were interred in St. Laurence's Churchyard following her cremation at Heart of England Crematorium on January 20th. Janet will be greatly missed by her friends, by her family whose company she relished and who always knew her as "Aunt" and most of all by her beloved husband Jo.

Table Top Sale

The Village Hall committee are again having a Table Top Sale in the Village Church Hall on Saturday 19th February from 12 noon and finishing at 2p.m. The tables will cost £6 and any one wishing to book a table please contact Margaret Antill on 01827 874520. There will be refreshments available and proceeds are in aid of hall funds.

St. Valentine's Dance

St. John's Hall committee are having a Valentine's Dance on Friday 11th February in St. John's Hall at 7.30 p.m. tickets are £3.00. Jacket potatoes with various fillings are included (please bring your own drink)

As usual you will be ensured of a good fun social evening.

Church Yard

On the 21st February, or soon after, we will be preparing the churchyard ready for the start of the mowing season. Would you please, therefore, remove all items on your loved one's grave and take them home as the P.C.C. cannot be responsible for the safety of such items.

At the same time we will be carrying out an examination of all gravestones, to make sure that the very severe frosts through the winter have not made the stones unsafe.

Christmas Tree Festival

What an amazing event. Despite all the things that seemed to conspire to hinder our 5th Christmas Tree Festival it was such a success.

The wonderful community spirit that started with the arrival of the trees on Monday 13th continued all through until the last needle had been cleared from the church.

It was most unusual to have the heating running while the preparations were underway but with the icy conditions it could not be otherwise.

Great pleasure was brought to those able to come and see the trees in a warm church, although some were deterred because of the adverse conditions, and the church did take on a special appearance with the snow all around.

The refreshments were welcome and the hot chocolate was particularly popular.

Some of the comments from our visitor's book put into words what they thought.

- The Christmas tree festival is delightful and interesting
- A really beautiful festival. Very festive and beautiful.
- Very pretty and festive. I now feel like it is Christmas.
- Really cool the best trees yet.
- A very enjoyable sight, well done all.
- Lovely as always.
- Very special.
- Excellent display.
- Beautiful we loved it.
- Absolutely fantastic! What a lot of effort had been made.

Unfortunately the flute concert planned for the evening of 17th had to change its venue, because of the travelling conditions, but it did help to raise £40 for both the Air Ambulance and Church funds. Also because of the weather there were some additional donations. In all the final total raised was £1,195.00. This was divided between Church General Funds £958.51 Air Ambulance £138.50 and £Church Yard Fund £98.50.

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported this event in any way.

Christmas Fayre

The final total for the Christmas Fayre was £927. A wonderful total, thank you to all.

Magazine

Over time we are having an increasing number of surplus magazines. Shortly it will be necessary to decide whether to reduce the numbers produced each month, which is currently 300.

- Do you know of anyone who may be interested in knowing about some of the things that are happening in the parish?
- Does your neighbour have one delivered?
- Do you pick one up occasionally and would like to have one regularly?
- Has someone recently moved into the area?

The magazine costs £3 per year and Marie Cove organises the free delivery anywhere in the parish with the loyal band of helpers.

Magazines are also posted to anyone interested, but it is necessary to cover the postage which at present is a further £4 per annum.

If you wish to add a name to the list please contact Marie on 024 7639 4114 who will be happy to arrange things accordingly.

Thank you

The P.C.C. are very grateful to the family and friends of Nancy Williams for the donations amounting to £210 in her memory.

St. John's Church Hall

At the time of writing the new drinks hot water heater has been fitted and is working well, the additional covering for the heating pipes has been completed and the new notice boards have been delivered, it is hoped these will be fitted shortly. The Hall Committee are grateful to Warwickshire County Council Community Development Fund and the Parish Council for their contributions towards these items.

The new notice boards will be of great improvement to the appearance of the hall.

Apology

We apologise to the family of the late Eric Jeffcott for the incorrect spelling of his name in our previous edition of the magazine. The committal took place at Hartshill Cemetery.

Women's World Day of Prayer

The day of prayer this year is Friday 4th March. Full details of the special service next month.

First Resort – Opening doors to new beginnings

This is a free service for anyone who is currently unemployed, recently made redundant or who's work is uncertain and who wishes to have help in writing a C.V, completing a Job Application Form, Confidence Building, Job Interview Techniques, courses and training.

The sessions run each Wednesday 9.45 – 11.45a.m. at New Arley & St. Michael's Community Centre. For more information please contact Kay Aldersley, WorkCare Development Officer 024 7636 2995 or email kay.aldersley@btinternet.com.

www.workcare.org

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'

The total paid into our Fabric Fund in December was £13 bringing the total to £301 for the year from this small change collection. Although the coins collected are small they all add up and as can be seen by the final total each one has helped. Please continue to save you small change. If you would like to have one of our collection tins please take one from church or ask one of the wardens to get one to you.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence and St. John's please hand the slip below to a member of the Church Congregation or contact the Vicar on 024 7639 9070. Please remember the vicar would be pleased to visit anyone who is sick, but he does need to know, again please ring.

Please pray forwho is

February, 2011

Samuel Johnson said "When two Englishmen meet, their first talk is of the weather". How very true, but the weather is particularly important in this day and age, as many people travel by various means of transport to their work, school or college. Not so when we were young. We only knew two people who had cars – the Doctor for one and my sister's father in law who had a taxi business. However, most workers went by pit bus or factory bus or they had a bicycle, with which they battled through snow and ice. Otherwise we all used Shankses pony as my Dad called walking – why I don't know. Apart from the cold weather bringing Chilblains, from which I suffered, we loved the summer months when we could be out hour after hour in field and wood, but the winter never really bothered us, even though we had no central heating or hot water. We were a hardy bunch.

I was watching a weather programme and they visited a Russian Village near the Arctic Circle where temperatures went down to minus 40 degrees, or even minus 50 or 60 degrees, not just in the winter but all the year round. As they showed the streets nearly everyone, young, old and in between, wore fur coats, and it is so essential there is even a mortgage which can be taken out to buy a fur coat.

When I was a child I desperately wanted Piano Lessons, but Dad said I had to give my whole attention to my school work. However, I sometimes spent a week or two during the summer school holidays with my Aunt and Uncle in Hinckley, and they had a Pianola. What Joy! All I had to do was put the roll in and pedal and pretend I was really playing the music. My Aunt, however, who didn't have any children, had no idea how to care for a child. She was an Usherette at the cinema and she would take me with her. I watched films every night, but usually fell asleep before the end. Then we would walk home, picking up my Uncle from the Wharf Pub where he worked (as well as having a full time job in a Hosiery Factory). This wasn't the end of it, because then my Auntie would put the late night play on the Radio which was usually very scary, while she proceeded to do my hair, not in gentle rags, but in metal Dinky curlers and vicious wavers – it was agony.

February already, but as we look out on the garden, there is so much green – plants and shrubs which have survived the ice and snow. The Bulbs are also peeping through and even our tubs of Winter Flowering Pansies have survived. Nature really is marvellous, and this time of year is uplifting as we look forward to Spring in all its glory, and we can put the winter behind us for another year, we hope.

Marie Cove