

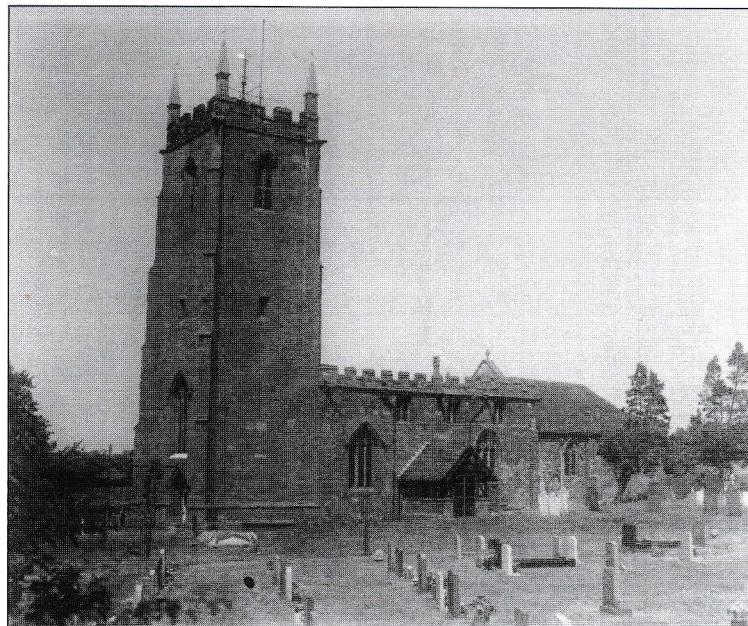
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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Looking to the year ahead

I would like in this letter to draw your attention to three quite different opportunities this Springtime. You are welcome to come to any or all of them.

Confirmation classes

If you are not confirmed or were confirmed some time ago and would like to look at the Christian faith all over again, if you are keen to renew your confirmation promises or simply want to find out more about the Christian faith then please come to The Old Barn St. Wilfrid's Arley on Monday February 6th at 7pm. We shall share a meal at 7.30pm and then hear about the course. Coming is just a chance to find out more. If this doesn't suit you there is no obligation to continue! If, as the course proceeds, you decide that you wish to be confirmed the Confirmation will take place at Coventry Cathedral in the early hours of Easter morning. It should be a wonderful occasion!

Parish Lunch.

In all the busyness of life we have far too few opportunities just to be together and the enjoy each other's company. So we have set aside time after the Holy Communion service of February 26th for a Parish Lunch. You are invited to join us.

Lent Group.

Over the past two years we have as a Church during Lent met weekly in the annexe. It has been good to be together to listen, to share and to learn. Because it has proved so helpful and worthwhile we are continuing with this tradition. We shall start on Thursday March 1st. This year we shall be looking at Giving-delighting and cherishing what God has given us and enjoying the privilege that we have of giving back to God. If you haven't been to these groups then do join us. Everyone is most welcome.

Diocesan Pilgrimage

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the consecration of Coventry Cathedral. As part of that celebration both Bishops will be walking through the Diocese. Bishop Christopher will start in the far South and walk to Stretton on Dunsmore and then the entire Coventry Way. Bishop John will start at Atherstone and over four days walk south to meet Bishop Christopher at Stretton on Dunsmore. You are particularly invited to join Bishop John as he walks on March 26 from Atherstone to Chilvers Coton via Mancetter and Hartshill between 10am and 2pm. Further details will be published shortly.

If you can come to all of these events that would be marvellous but I hope you will be able to attend at least one!

May God truly bless you in the year ahead,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

February St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 5 th	3rd before Lent	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th	2nd before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 19 th	Next before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 th	Lent 1	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 5 th	3 rd before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 12 th	2 nd before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th	Next before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 26 th	Lent 1	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion

Discussion Groups

'The year through the Bible' Thursday 2nd February 7.30 p.m. 10 Nuthurst Crescent.
Discussing the parables – Tuesday 14th February at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

From the Registers

Funeral

It was a sad day on December 22 as Mavis Shaw's family and many friends gathered at St. Laurence's Church for her funeral. In the midst of the joy of the Christmas Spirit it was a hard time to mourn. Yet there was also celebration as we not only remembered how much Mavis had given to her family and to so many more besides, but also celebrated the fact that the light of Christ comes into our darkness - a light no darkness can extinguish.

Ash Wednesday

To mark the start of Lent on the 22nd February there will be a service of Holy Communion which this year will be at St. Michael's New Arley at 7.30 p.m. If anyone requires transport please speak to one of the wardens.

Lent Meetings

For four Thursday's during Lent there will be a discussion held in the annexe at 7.30 p.m. The first of them will be on Thursday 1st March and the discussions will be on the theme of "Giving"

Lunch in the Annexe

Following an impromptu lunch held in the annexe last year, which everyone who attended enjoyed, the P.C.C. decided to repeat it again, but on a more organised basis, and it will be held on 26th February following the Sunday service of Holy Communion. This is the first Sunday of Lent so it will be an opportunity of eating a meal together. It is hoped that everyone who can, will bring a dish of their choice which will be shared by all.

Church Yard

On Wednesday 29th February we will be clearing the wreaths and other items from the church yard ensuring that it will be easy for the grass cutter to cut round the grave stones. As there are over 700 gravestones in the churchyard, it is very important that we do not have any items/hazards on the graves, thus ensuring safety for all and the cost of maintenance does not become prohibitive.

At the same time we will also be checking that all the stones are safe and do not wobble. We would ask everyone who visits a loved one's grave to please ensure that it is safe and in good order, but if a problem is found please let the wardens know so that the problem can be resolved as easily as possible.

Table Top Sale

There will be the usual table top sale in the Village Church Hall on Saturday 18th February. Tables will cost £6 each and will be available to set up from 10 a.m. with the sale commencing at 12 noon. If you wish to book a table please contact Margaret Antill 01827 874520 There will be refreshments available including sausage and onion batches etc

St. John's St. Valentines Event

On Friday 17th February there will be a social event in St. John's hall including a quiz and a short bingo session. Tickets will be £1. Please bring your own food and drink.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Advanced notice. This annual service will be on Friday 2nd March at St. Laurence at 7.30 p.m. full details next month.

Live & Local.

Advance notice of the Live & Local performance Saturday 3rd March at 7.30pm at Ansley Village Church Hall CV10 9PS. The band "Heretique" consists of three talented young Englishmen who play a range of musical styles, including Anglo-French traditional dance, a little jazz, some contemporary classical music with references to pop, film and TV. They sing and play a mix of instruments such as accordion, bagpipes, hurdy gurdy, guitar and recorder. They provide a lively and enjoyable evening's entertainment. The tickets are adult £8, child £6 [10-15].

Christmas Tree Festival

This event got off to a wonderful start on Monday 5th December with the arrival of all the trees, there was a great team of volunteers who worked hard together and all the trees were in place around the church in well under an hour.

The decorating took place over the next days with much joy and laughter. There was time for everyone who came to talk and enjoy the fellowship created in such an event.

The festival itself was a great success with everyone commenting favourably, both verbally and in our visitor's book and a few of the quotes follow.

"Magical as always,

"Enchanting!"

"The wonders of imagination brought to life in glorious Technicolor."

"Made us smile, lovely."

"Amazing trees!"

"Biscuit trees looks Yum."

"First time visiting, what a lovely experience, great display."

In all, everyone had a wonderful time over the two weekends and the mid week Wednesday. The church looked magnificent, and the whole event culminated with the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service on the Sunday Evening.

The trees remained in the church until after Christmas ensuring our lovely church was decked for the whole of the Christmas season.

The financial result was also good with a total of £110 raised for the churchyard fund from the stars on the memory tree and £1850 raised for church funds and a donation of £185 being sent to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.

Thank you to the many, many people who have contributed to this event in so many different ways

Soup, Sweet and Carols at St. John's

On 16th December a good crowd came to St. John's for a lovely meal with a choice of soup and a wonderful array of sweets. This was followed by a quiz and three games of bingo. There was also a raffle. This lovely event was rounded off with the singing of carols and Christmas songs which everyone enjoyed, and a total of £82 was raised for hall funds. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event.

The Queen's Jubilee,

As a way of marking this momentous national event the PCC with the support of the Parish Council are thinking of holding an event in both Church Halls on Saturday 26th May. Please make a note in your diary. Further details to follow

Church Yard Wall.

On November 5th an unknown car hit the churchyard wall near the lych gate and although it does not look as if there is much damage it has moved a large section of wall on its foundations, thus making it unstable. The cost of repairs will be £4,600 and whilst an insurance claim is being submitted it will only cover part of the cost, the remainder of the cost will have to be born by church funds.

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

The total from the small change collection for December was £11 bringing the final total to £248. Thank you to everyone who contributed. The PCC have agreed that we to continue, with this running total but on a quarterly basis. However please continue to save your small change as can be seen it all mounts up and as the saying goes "every penny counts"

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

My daughter asked me recently when we were having some very inclement weather – “How did they dry the washing before Spin dryers, tumble dryers and radiators?” Well, my mother had her big mangle, an airer in the kitchen and she also put washing on the fire guard – which would now be thought very dangerous. However, she managed to wash and dry for 9 of us, she did my Grandma’s washing and even washed for neighbours who were ill and couldn’t do their own. She seemed to manage very well, but I hated Monday as this was washday, and it was an all day job.

I had to smile when I read my Bible notes for Christmas Eve. Solomon in Proverbs wrote ‘Without oxen a stable stays clean, but you need a strong Ox for a large harvest. This also relates to – if you decide to have children you will have lots of joy, but lots of messes to clear up. Within seconds children can take a house that looks like it belongs in ‘Better Homes and Gardens’ and make it look like a trial run for the battle of Armageddon. This I can relate to, but the joy, fun and laughter is worth a little hoovering and tidying up.

Researchers have found that 40% of the things we worry about never happen. Thirty percent are in the past and can’t be helped. Twelve percent involve the affairs of others that are not even our business. Ten percent relate to sickness, real or imagined. That means only eight percent of the things we worry about are even likely to happen. Scientists at Yale University have actually identified a ‘worry gene’, but they say that while you may have inherited it, you can overcome it. Somebody said ‘worry is just interest paid on trouble before it comes due’. And in most cases it never comes due.

Anyone who saw the moon at the beginning of January saw a sight to behold. Sometimes it looked like a yellow balloon hanging in the sky. The cycle of the moon means a full moon happens every 29 days which means on average there is one moon a month (originally, this word was moonth). So it was only natural to give each full moon a name associated with the natural world at that time of the year. January was called Wolf Moon and February Snow or Ice Moon.

There used to be many sayings connected with the weather and many people forecast by the season or the date eg. If Candlemass (2 February) be fair and bright, Winter will have another fight., If Candlemass Day brings cloud and rain, Winter will not come again. So let’s see if this is true.

Marie Cove.