

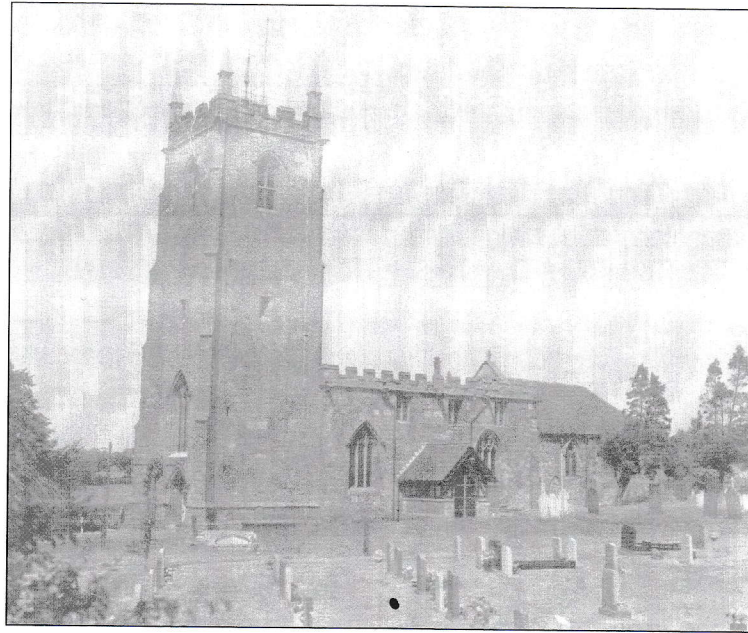
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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A little introduction

In less than two months time with a small team led by Bishop Christopher I shall be visiting Kaduna Diocese in Nigeria at the invitation of their Bishop, The Most Rev. Josiah Idowu Fearon. We have been asked to meet clergy, women's groups and congregations to appreciate in particular the Diocese's work in the field of Rural Health and Community Development. We shall travel out on Friday March 15th and back on Wednesday March 20th. Bishop Josiah will travel back with us to attend Justin Welby's installation as Archbishop of Canterbury the following day.

It is a mark of friendship to bring a small gift and in discussion with Bishop Christopher we felt that what would be most valued would be photographs and descriptions of our life as a benefice. This would include photos of each of our congregations, with a little about each, and descriptions and photographs of our community work at St. John's Hall, Ansley Village Church Hall, Arley and St. Michael's Community Centre and The Old Barn Centre.

I am looking for people who would be happy to take the photos and (not necessarily the same people) someone to edit this brochure.

Having created this, I would like not only to take this with me but also to use it in our parishes as a snapshot in time of the work of Jesus in our midst.

And for me it's vaccinations, visa applications and getting ready for a very different climate!

Peter

In the meantime our worshipping life continues. Candlemas on February 2nd marks the end of the Christmas season. Ten days later we mark the beginning of Lent with our United Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service with imposition of ashes at St. John's Ansley Common at 7pm. I look forward to meeting you there.
Your friend and Vicar,

February St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 3 rd	Candlemas	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St John's
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th	1 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 17 th	Lent 1	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 24 th	Lent 2	10.30 a.m.	The Lord is here
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 3 rd	Candlemas	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St John's
Sunday 10 th	1 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th	Lent 1	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 24 th	Lent 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Discussion Groups

Prayers in the Bible – Wednesday 6th February 7.30 p.m. at 10 Nuthurst Crescent.

Fellowship Group – Tuesday 5th February 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

From the Registers

The funeral of Bert Hicks took place at St. Laurence's Church on December 18th and was followed by his interment in the churchyard.

The funeral of Ronald Wood took place at St. Laurence's Church on January 3rd and was followed by cremation at the Heart of England Crematorium.

The funeral of Beryl King took place at the Heart of England Crematorium on January 3rd.

Candlemas

Please remember that we will all be at St John's for this service.

There will be no morning service at St Laurence on 3rd February.

Ash Wednesday

We mark the beginning of Lent on 13th February with a united service of Holy Communion with imposition of ashes at St John's, Ansley Common starting at 7.00p.m.

Live and Local Brassed Up

A reminder that this musical evening will take place in Ansley Village Church Hall on Saturday 9th February at 7.30p.m. Tickets are £8 for adults and £6 for children aged 7 to 16. We expect to be blown away by James Stretton's skilled playing of a range of brass instruments. Tickets can be obtained by contacting a PCC member.

St John's Valentine Day Entertainment

This will be on Friday, 15th February at 7.00p.m. Please make sure you book tickets at £2.50 for soup and sweet, as numbers are limited.

Table Top Sale

This will take place in Ansley Village Church Hall on Saturday 16th February between 12.00 and 2.00p.m. Cost per table is £6. Please book by phoning 01827874520.

Ansley Village Church Hall

We are grateful to North Warwickshire LEADER for allocating £2976 for work to be carried out on the church hall. A new fence will be installed at the rear and the electrics will be updated. This is a North Warwickshire LEADER project supported through the Rural Development Programme for England, which is jointly funded by Defra and the European Union, and is delivered by Defra.

Christmas Tree Festival 2012 at St Laurence Church

To hear a young girl come into a church and exclaim "WHOOOW" and see the look of wonderment on her face together with all the other comments and exclamations reported to those stewarding in church has made all the work by so many, many people so very worthwhile.

The church looked fantastic with all the trees and lights around. The gentle glow on the altar with the crib scene at the centre brought the focus to one of the most important events of history – when Jesus was born in a stable – and brought this Good News to all who visited.

The festival ran this year over three weekends and was such a happy event with everyone working together for the good of all. Several people helped with the refreshments for the first time which made the extra days of opening easier to cover. We extend a big thank you to everyone who helped in whatever capacity.

Photographs only show part of the picture, but Adam Collins, a young man learning photography, has taken some which can be seen on the link.

<http://www.ctwo12.com/ansley-church-christmas-tree-festival/>

The comments in the visitor's book are all so encouraging and a few are quoted below.

"Superb. The trees are a wonderful delight."

"Treemendous"

"Fabulous display. A lot of hard work. Well done!"

"Really lovely, great to see so much of the community involved!!"

This wonderful community event has brought delight to so many and raised £2202.50 of which £220.25 has been forwarded to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. A further £150 was raised for the Churchyard Fund from the stars on the "Memory Tree".

A big thank you to everyone who helped and supported this event.

Margaret Antill

Community Christmas at St Laurence

We were very pleased to welcome the children, their families and the staff from Nursery Hill School, Ansley Common for their Christmas assembly. Eventually everyone, or almost everyone, found a seat. The children displayed great confidence as they spoke and sang, surrounded by the colourful trees.

We also welcomed the students and staff of the Arc School for their last assembly of the term. We were impressed by both the instrumental group and the speakers. There was a strong sense of mutual support and appreciation between students and staff. Thank you to both schools for visiting St Laurence church.

Christmas Fayre

The final total raised from this event was £950 which has been allocated to church running costs.

Christingle Service at St Laurence

This service brought the Christmas message to children and adults alike, with the help of oranges, candles and sweets! We were pleased to be able to send £120.30 to The Children's Society.

Christmas concert at St Laurence

Jess and Richard Arrowsmith, with Jo, entertained us with folk tunes and traditional carols from the Sheffield area. The audience enjoyed the music, joined in with some of the carols and appreciated the refreshments. Thank you to the musicians and organisers.

Soup, Sweet and Carols at St John's

This very enjoyable evening resulted in £108 being added to St John's funds. Thank you to those who do all the hard work

St John's Hall

A sum of £790 has been spent on St. John's Hall. The broken doors have been replaced and retainers added. Protective edges have been fixed on all the plaster corners (23) to stop the plaster and paint work from being knocked and marked. This was part funded by a grant from Warwickshire County Council of £500 from the Councillor Grants Fund.

Small change collection

The total for the small change collection during 2012 was £216.30. Thank you very much to all who gave in this way.

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.

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Please pray forwho is

'February brings the rain, swells the frozen dyke again'. Let us hope that February doesn't live up to this, as the ditches, ponds, lakes and rivers are already full to overflowing.

A couple of weeks ago when snow was forecast, the younger generation waited in excited anticipation; those who needed to drive to work worried and the elderly worried for them. Everyone watched or listened to the weather forecast but most of the time the forecast doesn't actually include our part of the Midlands. So, we just had to wait and then we were in the news we wished we weren't as the snow fell and fell and at last the children had their wish come true.

Another instance of how our lives are governed by so many petty regulations was just before Christmas when a Head Teacher wrote to parents and said they couldn't accept home-made cakes for the Christmas Fayre unless those who made them had a Food Hygiene Certificate. Don't the 'powers that be' know that children, boys and girls, like nothing better than making cakes with Mum and it gives them a skill for later life? I have never heard of anyone having food poisoning from home-made cakes. My mother made lovely pastry and every time she baked she would give each of us a small piece of pastry to make a turnover (a lardy buster as we called it). By the time my younger brother had rolled his time after time, it was a grey colour, but he still had it cooked and ate it himself. By the way, he was never ill from this!

Years ago I spent many hours with my children doing Jig Saw Puzzles and later on by myself. My better half made me a board so that I didn't have to do them on the dining room table and dismantle them before every meal. It was amazing how many adults and children would come to the house and start putting pieces in. This Christmas our two youngest grandchildren had a jigsaw each, and it was good to see how they enjoyed doing them amidst all the electronic gadgets they had. It has now started me off and I have started a jigsaw.

I recently asked my Grandson to put his Anorak on and he said, 'What's an anorak?' I told him and he said it was a jacket, but his sister said it was a coat. To mix us up even more Grandad said 'It's a windcheater,' sending the children in to peals of laughter as they had never heard the word. As they say, 'Different strokes for different folks.'

Keep safe and warm in the snow all us oldies and in between and enjoy the snowmen, sledging and snowballing you youngsters.

Marie Cove