

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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"May you have your roots and foundations in love."

So wrote St. Paul to the Christians in Ephesus.

What is important is not so much what you see as what you *cannot* see.

25 years ago when I was curate in Derbyshire the Vicar decided to investigate how we might extend the meeting hall at the back of the church. He rang the churchwarden who had been responsible for building the hall 20 years earlier.

"I am thinking of building another storey on top of the meeting room," he said.

"You can't do that," came the reply.

"Why not?"

"Because the foundations we laid would not even pass today's building regulations for a single storey building. There is no way you can put another storey on the top."

Pause as the Vicar doesn't quite know what to say.

"Don't worry," the churchwarden continued, "The hall won't fall down."

With that the conversation ended. But that conversation is worth repeating because it contains a very deep spiritual message. Unless you build down you cannot build up. No progress can be achieved without quiet unseen prayer and godly careful reflection.

So we need, in the words of our church's prayer, to "deepen our spiritual life".

I have already shared with you how we are seeking to do this as a church. Now it's becoming clearer. Here are some of the opportunities:

- Join the confirmation course that is just about to start. For those already confirmed this is a great opportunity to join with those seeking confirmation and it leads on to the renewal of your confirmation promises. Ask me for more details or join the candidates confirmed in November as they continue to explore the Christian faith. Our next meeting is on Monday February 10th at 3, St. Wilfred's Cottages, Arley.
- Come and listen to the Bishop of Coventry as he preaches and presides at Holy Communion on Sunday March 2nd at 10.30 a.m. at St. Laurence's. (This is a joint service with St. John's.) Stay afterwards to hear him speak more deeply about prayer and bible study and join in a shared lunch together.
- Join in the Lent Groups in the annexe every Thursday evening at 7.30 p.m. from 13th March to 10th April. The theme is "A pattern of life and a rhythm of prayer". (The meeting on 13th March precedes the monthly PCC meeting and on 10th April precedes the AGM of the PCC. The other meetings finish at 9.00p.m.)
- (Fuller details of both the Bishop's Visit and the Lent Groups are elsewhere in this magazine.)

And finally... if you want help cultivating a daily pattern of Bible Study, please ask Mandy or me.

I pray that 2014 may be the year when you deepen your foundations and grow your roots in the love of God.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

February St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday	2 nd	Candlemas	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St John's
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9 th	4 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	16 th	3 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	23 rd	2 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Baptism
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday	2 nd	Candlemas	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St John's
Sunday	9 th	4 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	16 th	3 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	23 rd	2 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Discussion Group

Fellowship Group – Tuesday 11th February at 10.00 a.m., in St John's Church Hall.

From the Registers

On Tuesday 14th January the funeral took place at St. Laurence's Church of Frances Eileen Greenway. This was followed by burial in the churchyard. Eileen gave of her all at work and at home, applying great dedication to all her tasks, not least the successful family business. Much loved by her sons Arthur and Alan, she is sadly missed by all the family and by her many friends.

On Wednesday 15th January the funeral took place at the Heart of England Crematorium of Edith Robinson, followed by interment in St. Laurence's Churchyard the following day. In her two beautiful marriages Edith found great joy but also faced tragedy at the loss of her dear husbands. Never wanting to be thought of as "an old lady" she maintained her dignity and love of life to the end. She is greatly missed by family and friends.

On Thursday 23rd January the memorial service took place at St. Laurence's Church of Vi Hazell. This was followed by the interment of her mortal remains in the family plot at St. Laurence's Churchyard. Though she moved around North Warwickshire Vi's heart was always in Ansley, not least with the churches of St. Laurence's and St. John's. Factory worker and music teacher, wife of John, mother of Michael, Ian and Alan, a good friend, a good baker and a well travelled caravanner, Vi will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Advance notice

On Sunday, 2nd March there will be a joint service of Holy Communion at St Laurence's. The Right Reverend Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry, will be presiding and preaching.

After the service, tea or coffee will be served in the annexe, followed by a talk by Bishop Christopher and then lunch. Everyone is very welcome. Jacket potatoes will be available and you are invited to bring a savoury or sweet contribution of food towards the lunch.

Women's World Day of Prayer

The service this year has been prepared by Christian women from the Egypt committee. It was planned at a time of great hope soon after the "Arab Spring". Our service will take place on Friday, 7th March at St Laurence's, beginning at 10.30 a.m. It will be one of many held around the world on that day to focus on issues affecting women's lives. This is not a "women only" service – men and children will also be very welcome!

Lent Meetings

Please note that there will be open meetings on each Thursday in Lent, (13th March to 10th April), in the annexe, starting at 7.30 p.m. "A pattern of life and a rhythm of prayer" will be the theme this year. This series will provide an excellent opportunity to discover and share ideas and practical suggestions to deepen our faith.

St John's Valentine's Day social

This will be on Friday 14th February at 7.00p.m. in St John's Hall. Tickets are £3.50 and should be booked in advance. Sausages or faggots and chips plus a sweet will be served.

Table Top Sale

This will be held in Ansley Village Church hall on Saturday 15th February from 12 until 2.00p.m. Book a table at £6.00 by phoning 01827874520.

Live and Local Date for your Diary

The group "Baltic Crossing" will be providing the entertainment on Friday, 11th April in Ansley Village Church Hall, (CV10 9PS) starting at 7.30 p.m. Five lively performers from Finland, Denmark and the UK will bring a breathtaking blend of fiery folk music, dynamic stage presence and light humour to the hall! Tickets will be £9.00 for adults and £6.00 for older children (12-15). Light refreshments will be available. Please contact Diana Kealey on 02476395089 to book seats or for answers to queries. Live and Local is an organisation that facilitates live performances in smaller, often rural, settings. It receives government and council grants to enable subsidised performances to take place. Their website is www.liveandlocal.org.uk.

Christmas Tree Festival at St Laurence's

From the start to the finish the Christmas Tree Festival was a happy and enjoyable event in the life of the church in Ansley in 2013. We are extremely grateful to the many people, groups and organisations that participated this year, giving their time and talents to decorate "their" tree. Not forgetting all who helped by providing the refreshments and serving them. Also those who helped clean and "set up" for the event as well as clear up at the end when all the trees were removed.

Over 600 adults (not counting the many children) visited over the three weekends, with the children and staff of both Nursery Hill Primary School and The Arc School, Church End coming

for their respective carol services. Congregations at the Christingle and Carol Services swelled the numbers further.
With over 50 entries it has been hard to choose some comments from our visitor's book, but here is a selection.

"A big Wow factor. Makes me feel so warm inside."

"Our annual visit was once again a triumph for everyone. Brilliant, it's not Christmas without a visit. Thank you."

"Wonderful! Thank you, it's really blessed me!"

"This is brilliant this must have taken ages!"

"Absolutely fantastic. Well done and Thank You."

This wonderful community event has brought delight to many and raised £2500, of which £250 has been forwarded to the Nuneaton and North Warwickshire Equestrian Centre.
A further £166 was raised for the Churchyard Fund from the stars on the "Memory Tree."
Thank you so much to everyone who helped and supported in any way.

Christmas Fayre in Ansley Village Church Hall

The sale of wreaths leading up to Christmas made £339 and brought the final total for the Christmas Fayre to £967.

Soup, Sweets and Carols at St John's

This was a very entertaining evening and thanks are due to all who organised and supported this event.

Thank you

We would like to thank our printer for using a coloured image on our front cover, at no extra charge.

Apology

We are sorry that the dates were incorrect on the list of services in January's magazine and that the wrong year was on the cover! We shall aim to do better!

Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence's and at 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 for who is

February, 2014.

First I would like to thank everyone who attended our Christmas Event at the end of November. We raised £130 which was for Zoe's Place, a Children's Hospice in Coventry, and not for the church funds. Thank you very much for making this such a lovely event.

We all take for granted the weather forecast on T.V. Sometimes we think it is spot on and other times we think they have got it all wrong. In my life I have seen most of the presenters. It has been 60 years since the first weather forecast on the B.B.C. - and in the early days one presenter made the front pages of the newspapers when he said it would be a good day to put the washing out. When we were young we weren't obsessed with the weather as many are today, except we didn't want moonlit nights to aid the bombers in the war. We took the weather as it came and expected snow and ice and fog in the Winter months, rain and some weak sun in the Spring, warm, sunny Summers and mellow Autumns. Today, however, the weather is so unpredictable we can have all four seasons in one day.

Recently (in January) on Nuneaton Market I couldn't believe the variety of fruit for sale - Strawberries, Raspberries, Blueberries, Plums, as well as the usual fruits. I never tasted a Banana until I was 10 years old and had never heard of Blueberries, except in the song 'Blueberry Hill'. In fact with the sun shining and not too cold, with the array of fruit it could have been Summer, not Winter.

We have all heard the saying 'bury the hatchet' meaning to forgive and forget, but the saying goes back to when Native American tribes fought with one another. When one tribe had had enough, it would throw a tomahawk into the ground and the other side would do likewise. To (white) American settlers who witnessed this ritual, the tomahawk looked like a hatchet.

February we welcome you, as shoots of green come peeping through. The Catkins are hanging like jewels so fair, company for the ivy who is always there.

The birds are hungry each and every morn, but they know that Spring will very soon dawn.
So February we welcome you now and every bird on every bough. (Marie Cove).

Marie Cove.