

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1092

FEBRUARY 2017

Price 30p



Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL
MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 01827 874520
Tel: 024 7638 1833

Deputy Wardens

Diana Kealey
Margaret Oliver

Tel: 024 7639 5089
Tel: 024 7639 5674

St. Johns Leaders

MARIE COVE
JOHN COX

Tel: 024 7639 4114
Tel: 024 7639 4802

Lay Reader:

GWYNETH HICKMAN

Tel: 024 7639 8901

www.ansleychurch.org

Print Centre 024 7638 6017

Christian Stewardship

Happy 2017!

I am afraid I have been landed with the onerous duty of delivering some very bad news to you all.

It is the agreed opinion of the PCC that everyone who gives regularly to the collection plate in church on a weekly basis, should be asked to consider giving an extra 50 pence above their normal giving. If you want to know whose crazy idea this was, don't ask, especially not me!

The truth is we are only scraping by in the church coffers and an extra boost in regular giving would help enormously. We are all feeling the pinch at the moment as prices rise here, there and everywhere and the church is no exception. We are regularly faced with running repairs that can run into hundreds of pounds as well as having to pay our way with the Parish Share to the Diocese.

I have found a couple of prayers from the Lion Prayer Collection to help us search our hearts when it comes to Christian Stewardship.

Gwyneth Hickman, Reader.

O Lord our God,
give us by your Holy Spirit
a willing heart and a ready hand
to use all your gifts to your praise and glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thomas Cranmer (1489 – 1556)

Lord, teach us to value our possessions in the right way. Help us never to think more of them than of people. Make us ready to use them freely for the good of others and to share them generously without grudging. Thank you for the beautiful things that we enjoy possessing. May our enjoyment be wholesome and right and may we hold lightly to all we own. For the sake of Jesus Christ, who became poor that we might be eternally rich. Amen.

Lord, in times of poverty make me perfectly content, and in times of wealth make me generous and liberal.

John Edison

February St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 5 th	4 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th	3 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 19 th	2 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 th	1 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 5 th	4 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 12 th	3 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th	2 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 26 th	1 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Please Note

During the interregnum it may be necessary to change the pattern of services from time to time at fairly short notice. This would be to enable visiting clergy to hold a communion service.

From the Registers

Baptism

Olive Louise Allton celebrated her baptism on 18th December 2016, supported by her parents, Peter and Charlotte, her Godparents, family, friends and members of the church congregation. She is named after a great grandmother, Olive, was a stalwart choir member for many years. This baptism was conducted by the Reverend Peter Allan.

We ask for God's blessing on Olive as she steps out on the path of faith and on her parents and Godparents who will encourage and support her.

Funeral

The funeral of Greta Morewood took place on Friday 23rd December and was attended by many. Greta was born in 1929 and lived with her parents, Jack the butcher and Doll. Her childhood was spent in College Street.

She met the love of her life, Eddie and they married and later moved to Birchley Hall Farm in 1952. They lived there happily throughout their married life. They had two children, Janet and Peter. Greta loved her grand children, Teresa, Tom, Chris and Charlotte and her great grand children, Ted, Isla, Oscar, Ollie, Lachlan and the bump(!).

She was a kind hearted, loving wife, daughter, sister, mum, grandma, great grandma and friend. She will be very sadly missed.

Greta was a regular church goer and is remembered fondly by the church congregation. Her presence is sadly missed and her constant faith in God is a shining example to us all.

Interment

The ashes of Mrs Sarah Shaw were interred in St Laurence's churchyard on Thursday 12th January.

Ash Wednesday

The benefice service for Ash Wednesday this year will be held at St John's, Ansley

Common at 7.30 p.m. on 1st March. St John's congregation is looking forward to welcoming members from St Laurence's Ansley and from St Wilfrid's Old Arley and St Michael's New Arley to mark the beginning of Lent.

Women's World Day of Prayer

You are welcome to this special, informal service at St Laurence's on Friday 3rd March at 10.30 a. m. Men are very welcome too! The service this year has been prepared by the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee of the Philippines and has the title, "Am I being unfair to you?" Volunteers from the congregation usually take on roles from the service sheets and we will learn about concerns of the church and women in the Philippines. Refreshments will be served in the Annexe after the service.

Lent Lunch

St Laurence's will be hosting a soup lunch on Friday 3rd March at 12.30 p.m. We hope this will be a more convenient day and time than the Sunday Parish Meals we have held in recent years. The cost will be £1.00 and will go towards the Lent collection in aid of clean water wells in Nigeria. We hope people from the Women's World Day of Prayer service will be able to stay for the Lent lunch and that others will join us too.

Lent Course

Meetings will be held in the Annexe at 7.30 p.m. each Thursday in Lent beginning on 9th March. The title of the course is "Receiving Christ - in five different ways," by John Young. The purpose is to meet and discuss our faith, share experiences and encourage each other at this special time of the year. Do come along. Even if you cannot manage every meeting, you will be very welcome to those you can make.

Refurbished Processional Cross

It is lovely to have the refurbished processional cross back in church. It was given originally in memory of George and Florence Rottenbury. We are very grateful to a grandson of theirs who undertook this refurbishment.

St John's Valentine Social

Final details are not available at the time of going to press, but do contact a St John's member if you are interested. Remember places must be booked!

St Laurence's 11th Christmas Tree Festival Final Report

After three wonderful weekends, Ansley Church's Christmas Tree festival ended on Sunday, 18th December with the traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Following the weeks of preparation, it is good when the event is such a lovely success. As with all such events, it is wonderful to welcome visitors to share it. It is most encouraging to hear their positive comments and also to read those written in the visitors' book, a few of which are listed below:-

"Beautiful and creative."

"Again, another year of heartfelt beauty."

"Congratulations to you all, a wonderful display."

"The trees are so pretty; I would love to come next year."

The true meaning of Christmas was brought out, especially in the Nativity scene on the altar and elsewhere around the church.

It is very pleasing to report that the sum of £2,637 was raised, of which £400 has been received by Mary Ann Evans Hospice. A further £147 was donated to the Churchyard Fund from the stars on the "Remembrance" Tree.

The lucky winner of the Christmas Cake Raffle was Mrs Jackson from Ansley Village.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with and supported this event in any way.

Christmas Tree Festival Quiz

I received twenty completed forms, which have all been marked. The results ranged from 36 to 48. The winner with 48 correct answers has been sent a voucher for £10.

Congratulations to Mr Victor Holloway of Barwell, Leicester. Thank you to all who took part. A list of correct answers will be placed on the notice board in the church porch.

Moreen Freestone

Concert of Traditional Music, Saturday 17th December

This proved to be a very enjoyable event. Thank you to the musicians, Richard, Jess Arrowsmith and Jo Ma, and to Pat Arrowsmith for organising the refreshments etc. A sum of £40 for hire of the building and an £80 donation was given to church funds.

St John's Christmas Social

An enjoyable evening was experienced by all who attended this social event. £100 was made for Hall funds.

Free Will Offering Envelopes

Please ask about these if you want to give regularly to the church, but are not able to attend each week. They are suitable for people who cannot give through the Gift Aid system, for which you have to be a tax-payer.

Churchyard Reminder

Please remember that all wreaths should be removed from the church yard before the annual gravestone inspection on Monday 20th February and before the grass is mowed for the first time this year. During the inspection glass items, inappropriate objects and faded displays will be removed, so that the church yard retains its character and is able to be kept neat for all visitors. It is the family's responsibility to keep the grave area tidy and free of objects that impede maintenance.

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 a warden. Phone numbers are on the front page of this magazine. Please remember that a visit can be arranged to anyone who is sick, but the wardens do need to know, so again please ring.

Please pray for who is

February 2017.

When T.V. adverts started they were a novelty as before the B.B.C. was the only programme and they just had intervals between some of the programmes. Those first adverts were almost as good as the programmes. You wanted to try the Birds Eye Peas (as fresh as the moment when the peas went pop); you were tempted by Cadbury Flake and of course Fairy Liquid which made your hands feel soft as your face. There were many more but they were short; not like today when the adverts take up about one third of every programme and they are so depressing, advertising funerals and insurance. I am not tempted by today's adverts but I have never used anything but Fairy Liquid since.

Did you know that 2016 was the warmest year for many years, and this we could believe as we had a mild winter and muggy summer? The only thing we needed and still do is sunshine to brighten up everyone.

The Editor of a National Newspaper wrote a great article on Church Halls and Village Halls and how they have played a very important part in people's lives, from Brownies, Cubs, Scouts and Girl Scouts through to women's clubs and Darby and Joan Clubs, with the millions who have given their time and energy voluntarily to pass on crafts, to make endless cups of tea and some things still continue in Church Halls and Village Halls all over the country. The Editor said we should endeavour to prioritise these Halls and not let them enter the list of endangered species, and we can honestly say this is being done in Ansley Church Hall and St. John's Hall.

B.T. are now thinking of taking out all the red telephone boxes as they are rarely used and many are vandalised. When Dave was in the army stationed in London we would arrange a time when he would 'phone me on the red telephone box opposite Arbury Hall entrance. But then not many people had 'phones in their homes, and mobile 'phones had never been thought of. Still, I suppose we must move with the times but the telephone box will always hold a special place in many people's hearts.

"The Eskimo has 52 names for snow because it is so important to them; perhaps there ought to be as many for love." Margaret Attwood.

Marie Cove.