

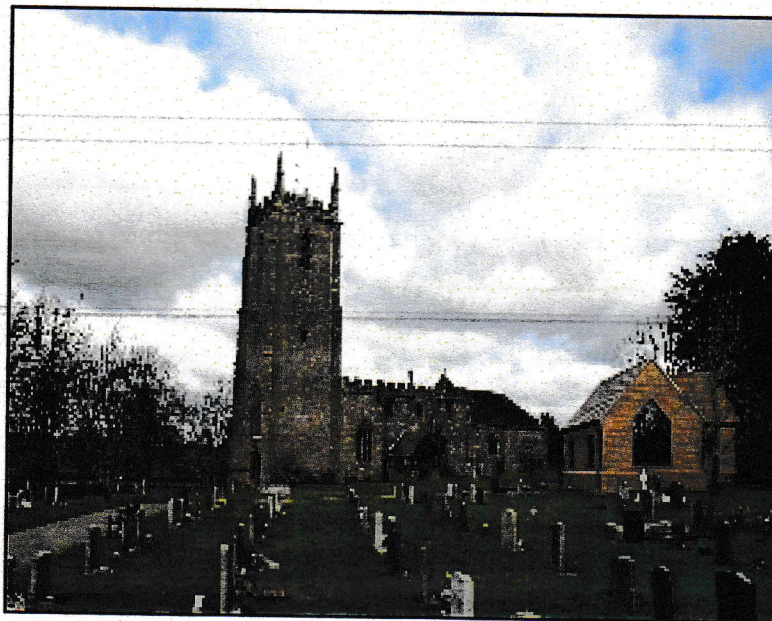
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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A time of change

Regular readers will notice that there has been a change this month to the normal format of this first page of the magazine. Having been hoping for and working towards the appointment of a new worship leader for Arley and Ansley over what seems a very long time, we are now able to circulate the news that the Reverend John Langlands is to be our new minister. He will take up his appointment in early June 2018. This month, therefore, instead of the regular message from our Reader Gwyneth, we have inserted this statement from John, which gives some information about his life so far.

Statement from the Reverend John Langlands

For the past 9 years we (my wife Frances and I) have been active in our local church at Allesley Park and Whoberley where I currently serve as an SSM curate (Self Supporting Minister). I grew up in Glasgow and my first job was in London, where I met and married Frances, who grew up in a village in Essex. We have two children and three grandchildren. For 23 years I was a Free Church minister and I have re-engaged in the business world since 2001, relocating to Coventry in 2008.

During this time, God has been gradually moving me back into church ministry within the Anglican Church. I was ordained Deacon in 2015 and priest in 2016. Frances has been a Teaching Assistant at Our Lady of the Assumption Primary School, Tile Hill, for the past 9 years.

I became a full time church minister in rural Norfolk, where my call was to rural, pioneering, mission work which spanned thirteen years. During these years, I not only committed myself to the growth of the village chapel, whose witness covered a wide geographical area but I ensured that I expanded my vision beyond the boundaries of Norfolk village life to the national needs of rural Britain. I became involved in a number of Christian national rural organisations. In 1992, the call of God took us to minister in the Harwich peninsula, North East Essex. My grounding in rural work equipped me to recognise the importance of pastoral visitation and building strong individual and community relationships. The gospel is for all ages and I am particularly aware of the importance of drawing alongside those of more mature years.

Working at E.on has brought me further understanding and experience of engaging in the secular world of work as a new mission field. My move to Coventry enabled me to embrace responsibilities and ministries in my local Church and I believe these have helped to give me a more rounded and balanced life.

We are both fully involved in a variety of activities at St Christopher's. We are looking forward to meeting you all and serving God in partnership with the churches of Ansley and Arley.

February St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 4 th	Candlemas	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St John's
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 th	Next before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18 th	Lent 1	10.30 a.m.	Lent screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th	Lent 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 4 th	Candlemas	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St John's
Sunday 11 th	Next before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service/Girls' Brigade
Sunday 18 th	Lent 1	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 25 th	Lent 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

St Wilfrid's, Old Arley

Wed 14 th	Ash Wed	7.30 p.m.	Benefice Service
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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

Funeral

The funeral of Iris Perry was notified in last month's magazine. She was a well-loved wife, mum and grandmother. She lived in Ansley from 1963. She married her husband in 1959 at St Paul's Church, Stockingford. They had one child, Gary. Most of Iris' working life was spent in the Hosiery Trade. She and her husband enjoyed gardening and she loved going to Bingo. For some time she worked in the village shop, which is no longer there. She attended "Good Companions" regularly. Iris will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. We think of them in our prayers.

Please Note

On Sunday 4th February there will be a joint service at St John's to celebrate Candlemas. The service will be at 10.30 a.m. There will be NO service at St Laurence's that morning.

St John's

The Girl's Brigade will join St John's congregation on Sunday 11th February for their church parade.

Ash Wednesday

A joint benefice service to mark the start of Lent has been arranged for Wednesday 14th February. This will be held at 7.30 p.m. in St Wilfrid's Church, Old Arley. Members of St Michael's, New Arley, St Laurence's, Ansley and St John's, Ansley Common are warmly

invited to join St Wilfrid's congregation at this service. Please tell a warden or church member if you need help with transport.

Retiring Collections

There will be an opportunity to place donations on a plate at the cross aisles in aid of two deserving charities during February and March. The first collection will be for the victims of the chemical disaster at Bhopal, which took place on 2nd December 1984. Half a million people were exposed to the deadly gas, methyl isocyanate, and 25000 have died to date as a result of their exposure. More than 150000 still suffer from ailments caused by the accident and the subsequent pollution at the plant site. Our donations will be used to offer free medical care to sufferers from the disaster. An internet search under "The Bhopal Medical Appeal" will provide further details of the aims and work of this charity.

The second collection will be towards providing clean water wells in Kaduna Province, Nigeria. Our congregations have supported this work during Lent over the last few years. Each collection plate will be in place for four weeks.

Lent Course

This year Gwyneth will be leading a Lent course with the title "On the Third Day" at the annexe, St Laurence's, Ansley. The first meeting will be on Thursday 22nd February at 7.30 p.m. This course is open to all within the local parishes. Come along to study God's word at this special time of the year. You are very welcome whether you enjoy joining in discussions or prefer to listen and reflect privately on what you hear. If you cannot attend each Thursday, come along when you can. The final meeting will be on Thursday 22nd March.

Advance Notice

You are warmly invited to a Women's World Day of Prayer service at St Laurence's Church on Friday 2nd March at 10.30 a.m. The service this year has been prepared by the women of Suriname and has the title, "All God's Creation is very good." Everyone is welcome to attend and refreshments will be available after the service.

St John's Social

You are invited to a social evening at St John's on Friday 16th February. Please contact a member of St John's for details and do make sure you have booked a ticket.

Final Report on the Christmas Tree Festival 2017

The 2017 Christmas Tree Festival at St Laurence's will long be remembered as the one when there was not even one day of good weather. There was heavy mist and drizzle the first weekend, hard frost and snow the second and the third weekend started icy and then was wet. However it was a wonderful event, with over 400 people leaving their homes and braving the weather in order to enjoy the decorated church. A warm drink and a mince pie were added attractions if time permitted.

Some comments from the visitors' book include,

"Still the best ever."

"Always special."

"Beautiful trees. Well done everyone – Just stunning."

A total of £1886.65 was made – less than last year, but very encouraging considering the difficulties. From this sum, £380 has been forwarded to the Mary Ann Evans Hospice. The remainder will be put towards church running costs. A further £99 was donated specifically for the churchyard fund. We wish to thank all the individuals, organisations and businesses who assisted with this event and brought joy to so many people.

Concert at St Laurence's Church

More than eighty people attended the concert on Friday 22nd December and very much enjoyed the performance of traditional and seasonal music. We would like to thank the musicians, Jess and Richard Arrowsmith and Jo Maher and all who helped with organising the event and the refreshments. The church treasurer is grateful for the donation of £165 which was given to church funds.

Christmas Quiz 2017

I would like to thank everyone who attempted the quiz. Thank you too to all who returned the sheet for checking. The number of correct answers ranged from 23 to 32 out of 50. The successful winner of the £10 shopping voucher was Mr V. Holloway of Barwell, with a score of 32. Many congratulations to Mr Holloway. Moreen Freestone

St John's Christmas Social 2017

This enjoyable social event raised £100 for hall funds.

Small Change 2017

It is a pleasure to report that those who collected small value coins during the year from purses and/or pockets contributed a total of £200.60 to church funds. Thank you very much.

From the PCC

The PCC members and church wardens of the four parishes making up the Benefice of Arley and Ansley are delighted to report that the Revd John Langlands will be joining us from Sunday, 3rd June. He has sent a statement to us, giving some details of his life so far. (See the first page of this magazine.) We pray for him and his wife, Frances that the next few months will run smoothly as they continue with their current commitments and as John prepares to take up his appointment with us. May God be with them and with each of us as we seek to share His love for everyone in our communities.

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, 2018

Well, here we are 2018, looking forward, but not knowing what lies ahead. Technology has gone forward at such a pace that older people cannot keep up with it and certainly don't understand it. There are watches which can answer back, never mind their purpose to tell the time. We have gadgets which can answer questions and obey commands and now children under school age can work mobile 'phones.

However, despite this, we found over Christmas and the New Year that youngsters ranging from four years old to 30 years old and also us 'oldies' enjoyed old fashioned games and activities. Tablets and mobile 'phones took second place.

There is a small town in Scotland which has a book shop which is let out for people as a holiday destination. Many years ago this would have been a dream for me, as I love books. However, it is not for someone with a family but it is fully let for the next two years and other countries are looking into doing something similar.

In January I bought some Daffodils and it lifted my spirits, as these flowers seem to herald that winter will soon be over but there is still some way to go. Also some nights when we have clear days it is light longer and it is as if nature is preparing for Spring.

I wasn't surprised to learn that well loved songs can help stir the memory of people with dementia. Music it seems can be a great healer and songs can remind us of years gone by, as we sing the folk songs from school, then the pop songs from our teens and perhaps songs which trigger milestones in our lives. I remember when I had my first child the song everyone was singing was 'High Hopes.' I don't know if other people remember it but we all have favourite songs or music which live in our memory.

It isn't enough to be pleasant when life flows by like a song
For the man worthwhile is the one who will smile
When everything goes dead wrong.

Marie Cove