

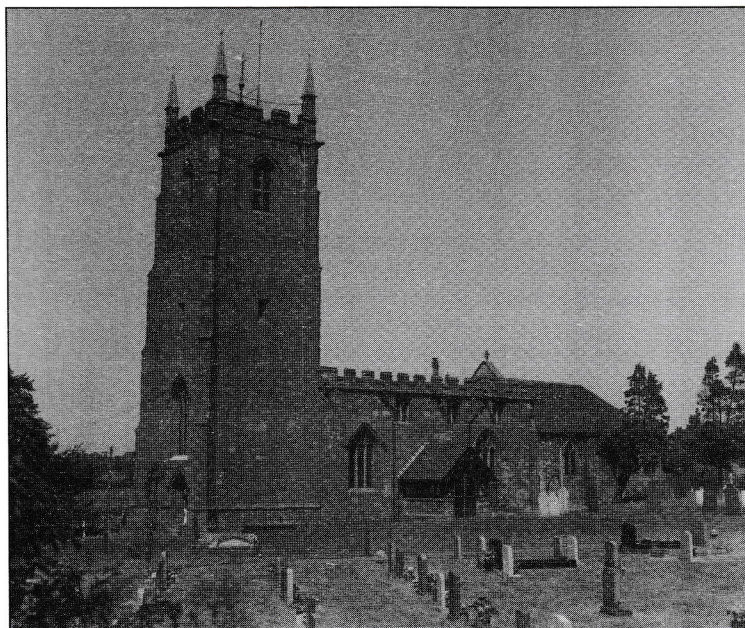
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 933

MARCH 2003

Price 25p



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I was reading a copy of 'The Big Issue' after just reading 'Tear Fund Times' and was so surprised how alike they were. Tear Fund told of people in desperate poverty and what they needed most. The 'Big Issue' asked the question 'What would you do to change the world?' Some suggestions were 'More recycling' which our Council is now tackling and trying to promote. 'More clean water' which Blue Peter are asking us to support, and 'More caring', which we as Christians strive for throughout our daily lives. So, two very different magazines but both with the same aims and the same messages.

We spent a few days in the Lake District at the end of January. This was my first visit, apart from a day trip, and what a breathtaking place. The sun shone, but the mountains were snow capped, with water cascading down into rippling streams. The woodlands were covered in thick moss and of course there were the beautiful lakes. It was the birth place of William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter, and what a place to inspire stories and poetry. Even in the heart of winter it was glorious and it compelled you to make a further visit in another Season.

A lady in the Village gave me a book called 'Flowers from the Cottage Garden'. It is very interesting and eye-opening to realise just how many generations have grown the same flowers we still have in our gardens today, and the history of these well loved flowers. Flowers have been companions, been present at birth, marriage and death, have been used for medicines, prophesied mirth or misery, protected men from evil, helped in love and comforted in despair, they are beautiful and have married legend and romance together.

We all love crocuses as they herald Spring, but did you know that hundreds of years ago these flowers were used to make Saffron dye. It took 4,320 flowers to make one ounce of Saffron but despite this the crop was profitable. It was not only used for dyeing but for flavouring cakes and used in medicines. It seems the medicinal properties of the Saffron Crocus go back to ancient times. Of course fields of Crocus are no longer seen - what a shame! What a sight they must have made.

A ridiculous story but expensive - £100,000 has been spent to try and find the best way to open a plastic bag. They have come to the conclusion that the bigger the area, the easier it is to open. What I say is forget about it - bring back the brown paper or greaseproof bag.

Marie Cove.

If you require the services of a vicar please have a word with Moreen who is dealing with baptisms and Margaret weddings. Funerals can be arranged with either.

St John's Hall Ansley Common Services 10.30 a.m.
Mar 9th 4th Before Lent Family Service
Mar 23rd 2nd Before Lent Holy Communion.

St. Laurence's Church services 10.30 a.m. & 6.30. p.m.
Mar 2nd Next before Lent a.m. All Age Worship with the Worship Team.
p.m. BCP Holy Communion Rev. L. Beard.
Mar 9th Lent 1 a.m. Holy Communion and Junior Church Rev. J. Law
p.m. Evensong B. Moss
Mar 16th Lent 2 a.m. All Age Worship
p.m. Holy Communion Rev. Nick Clarke.
Mar 23rd Lent 3 a.m. The Lord is Here Communion Rev. D. Jones and
Junior Church.
p.m. Evensong Rev. A. Welsby
Mar 30th Mothering Sunday a.m. The Children and the Worship Team
p.m. Evensong Rev. S. Ford.

Mondays at 7 p.m. The Links youth club meet. in the Village Church Hall.

Tuesday 18th at 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer on In the Village Church Hall. The
Senior Citizens meeting follows, everyone is welcome to this service.
Monday 3rd 17th and 31st Ansley Common Fellowship meets
Wednesday 5th Ash Wednesday 7.30.p.m. at St. Laurence joint service
with Arley.
Wednesday 12th and 26th The Wednesday Fellowship group meet
Wednesday 5th and 19th The Prayer group meets at 10 Nuthurst Crescent at
2.p.m.
Thursday 13th 7.30 The Visiting team meet.
Thursday 20th 7.45 The P.C.C. meet in the Village Church Hall
Thursday 27th 7.45 A.G.M.. Village Church hall.
Saturday 29th Mothering Sunday Saturday Church Open.
And Gift Day.

From the registers.

On Sunday 16th Rev Simone Ford baptised Georgina Jane Goldsworthy. Georgina looked around and was happy to meet everyone as she went around the Church with her parents Jane and Sam.

The funeral of David Wilson of Hartshill was held on 7th January and his ashes were buried in his parents grave. David aged 60 worked most of his life at Jaguar, he liked football and enjoyed a game of golf. Our prayers are with his wife and two children.

The Annual General Meeting of the Parochial Church Council takes place on Thursday 27th The first part of the meeting is open to any one of the parish. The second part is open to anyone on the Electoral Roll.
The Electoral Roll is only revised this year, and if you wish to be added to the list you will be required to complete a form in good time.
It is at the A.G.M. that the accounts are made public and reports are made of all the different aspects of Church life from the fabric, services, to the groups etc.

Nomination of candidates for election as Churchwarden or P.C.C. members are required in good time. The appropriate forms are in the Church Porch.

Sunday 30th is Mothering Sunday and as usual we will be giving bunches of flowers to all children both young and old. Both services will be based on the theme. Please bring children of all ages to the services they are most welcome, and there will be a time for them all.

Church Open and Gift Day.

On Saturday 29th as in the past few years the Church will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and refreshments will be provided. The Plans of the new building will be on view and we are combining a Gift Day as we still have to raise the last 15% or so of the total. We have enough to pay the builder, but there are still the architect, furniture, expenses and all the odd bits that will be required on completion of the building.

All the gifts will be presented at the Altar at the Sunday evensong.

A New Vicar

The position of vicar was re - advertised in February on the 14th and 21st and we now await the outcome. If there are applicants then there will be the necessary interview process in April if all goes to plan. Although unknown at this time, please continue to commit this person to God in your Prayers, and also those who will be involved with the selection.

The New Room

At the end of January we were finally given the go-ahead to start the building. Thanks to Landfill Tax credit funding of £14,500 from the Waste Recycling Group Plc. administered by WREN. It was important that all the requirements for this funding were met before the project started. The architect has advised us that the builder hopes to make a start on the building this month.

We have been asked by the Architect and Builder to make everyone aware that while the building is in progress the area inside the fence is legally in the possession of the builder and that we do not have any right of access for the duration. Please do not ask to go and have a look as the answer will be NO. This is for your own protection and is a requirement of the builder's contract.

They also ask that if you have any query or want any information about the building that it be directed to, either Moreen, Ron Morewood or myself (Margaret A). this will save time for the builders and ensure that things follow the correct channel that has been agreed in the contract. Thank you for co-operation as it will save time all round.

Funeral arrangements during building work.

As some of the car park near to the churchyard gateway will be cordoned off during building work, it has been decided by the P.C.C. that, in the interests of dignity and respect, the hearse and following cars will park at the top lych gate. The cortege will then proceed to the church along the main path. The top end of the car park will be available for the remainder of the mourners.

Funeral Directors have been made aware of this arrangement.

The Church Yard.

It was mentioned last month that the mowing of the churchyard will now cost £200 each cut. This is a lot of money for the churchyard fund to find, but there is a lot of work involved in keeping the 2½ acres tidy with over 600 grave stones set in the grass, as well as trees and paths to contend with. If you have a loved one in the churchyard and wish to make a contribution to its upkeep please do so to any Church member and make it clear it is for the Churchyard Fund Thank you.

Daffodil Coffee Morning, Tuesday, 1st April, 10 30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m

At: Field Farm, Pound Lane, Over Whitacre.

In aid of Christian Unity. In memory of Molly Cawood.

Proceeds for: St. Leonards. St Laurence and St. Annes/St. Josephs.

Ansley Parish Council News: Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Council adopted the Model Publication Scheme for Local Councils (Core Classes of Information only). The scheme adopted specifies the classes of information that are to be made available as matter of routine to any member of the Parish making enquiries. Details to be published in near future.

Budget figures for anticipated expenditure for 2003/2004 - last year's precept figure was 11,000, and after agreeing all individual items in budget, it was considered prudent to set the precept requirement at the same figure for the coming financial year.

Public Rights of Way: Obstruction and Maintenance. W.C.C. Countryside Recreation Enforcement Officer advised County has legal duty to assert and protect rights of way but many footpaths in the Parish are poor, particularly in relation to poor cultivation. Surveys of footpaths will be taking place shortly to ascertain any remedial works to improve the rights of way, details of which will be passed to landowners for their attention.

Street Cleaning: N.W.B.C propose to carry out audit of their current streetscape duties, i.e. amenity grass cutting, street cleaning, emptying of litter bins etc. and will be meeting with Parish Council; to discuss local requirements.

Grass Cutting of Recreation Grounds in 2003: Three tenders received - Parish Council agreed lowest quotation from W.C.C. (current contractor) be accepted and the new seasons commence in March/April.

NWBC Refuse and Recycling: Changed implemented. Government Recycling targets to be achieved by March 2002. Waste boxes for fortnightly kerbside collection of glass, bottles, paper and textiles and smaller number of green waste boxes will also be distributed during the year.

Parish Elections scheduled to be held on 1st May this year. Nomination papers to stand as a Parish Councillor can be obtained from N.W.B.C.

Next meeting dates, March 13th, April 10th, May 8th.