

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Roots and Foundations

One of my favourite prayers can be found in the letter to the Ephesians. Paul prays that the Christians at Ephesus "being rooted and grounded in love may have the power to grasp with all the saints the height and depth of the love of God .." There can be no greater prayer than that!. But do we take time to discover God's wonderful love? We worry about what others think of us, but do we neglect the quiet and private times of prayer that make us who we are? Some of you will be giving something up for Lent. That is good. Think of also what you can do during Lent to enrich your life. I invite you to join us at St. Laurence Annexe from 12 noon to 4.30 p.m. on Sunday, March 14th for a time to pray and develop our prayer life together. There will be time for prayer and worship, simple and practical advice about prayer and contemplation and opportunities for either discussion or quiet reflection as the mood takes you. Do join us! All are welcome. Bring a packed lunch. Drinks provided.

What is not seen is vitally important. What we see clearly is important too. The first thing most people see is our buildings. Our Parish church is a real beauty, in good condition and well cared for. The Annexe is new and sparkling. I am also most grateful for the care and support already given to the Village Church Hall and St. John's Hall. We need to build on this as both Halls could benefit from improvements to match our needs and serve our communities. I am keen to attract substantial funding for them both. You can help. We need your views. If you use the halls what improvements would you appreciate? If you don't, what could be done to encourage you to use them? Please pass on your views to me or to a Church Council member and don't be afraid to think big!

Finally, this month I would particularly appreciate your prayers and support for A.C.Y.C. the new Ansley Common Senior Youth Club that starts this month in St. John's Hall.

Your friend and Vicar.

Peter.

St John's Hall Ansley Common.	
Wednesday 3 rd 9.00a.m.	Holy Communion.
Sunday 7 th 10.30a.m. Lent 2.	Family service.
Wednesday 17 th 9.00a.m..	Morning Prayer.
Sunday 21 st 10.30a.m. Mothering Sunday.	Special Service
Sunday 28 th 10.30a.m. Passion Sunday	Holy Communion

St. Laurence's Church Sunday services 10.30 a.m. & 6.30. p.m.

Mar. 7 th Lent 2	a.m. All Age Worship. p.m. BCP Holy Communion.
Mar. 14 th Lent 3	a.m. Holy Communion & Baptism. p.m. Evensong.
Mar. 21 st Mothering Sunday	a.m. Special Service. p.m. Holy Communion.
Mar. 28 th Passion Sunday	a.m. The Lord Is Here Communion. p.m. Evensong.

Every Monday	Links group meet.
Tuesday 16 th 10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion in the Village Church Hall. Followed by Senior Citizens. (Please note the new time)
Tuesday 2 nd 16 th & 30 th	Prayer group meets at 10 Nuthurst Cres. at 2.p.m.
Wednesday 10 th & 24 th	Wednesday Fellowship meets.
Thursday 4 th & 18 th	Ansley Common Fellowship.
Thursday 18 th	P.C.C. 7.45p.m. in Village Church Hall.
Thursday 25 th	A.G.M. 7.45p.m. in Village Church Hall
Friday 12 th	Coffee Evening at Mandy's House 7.30.
Sunday 14 th	Pause for Thought. After Morning Service in the Annexe
Saturday 20 th	Open Church 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday 21 st	Open Church 12 -3 p.m.

From the Registers

Funerals:

St. Laurence's was packed on Friday 6th February as people gathered to celebrate the life of Robin Lightfoot (51) of 25 St. Lawrence Rd., Ansley. Robin was greatly loved by all the village for his humour, his friendship and his inimitable green fingers. Having among other jobs served in the Merchant Navy and worked at Daw Mill, the final years of his life were especially happy ones. With his wife Wendy he thoroughly enjoyed building up Astley Nursery, with his twin skills of working with plants and with people proved a winning combination for the business. Mike Ross, principal of The Old School, Ansley, summed up everyone's thoughts: "He is the only man I have ever met who never said a bad word about anyone and no-one said a bad word about him". We mourn his premature passing and pray for Wendy and all Robins' family and friends at this sad time for them all.

Tear Fund Coffee Evening

To be held at 10 Nuthurst Crescent on Friday March 12th at 7.30 p.m. with bring and buy and raffle.

Blue Peter Bring and Buy

The Links group are holding a Blue Peter Bring & Buy in the Village Church Hall Saturday 13th at 2.p.m. Items for sale and your support will be welcome.

Pause for Thought

This year as a change it is planned to hold the Pause for Thought day on Sunday 14th March. This will be in the Annexe after the Sunday service. It will commence after coffee, there will be time to reflect, time for quiet prayer, time to wander quietly around the churchyard or in church, and a time of listening. This day will be led by the Vicar. There is no need to book, although some indication of numbers will be useful, but please bring you lunch with you.

Mothering Sunday

This year falls on March 21st there will be special services at both St. Laurence's and St. John's at 10 30 a.m. and small posies will be given to all as a token of love from the "Mother Church"

Over the last few years we have had the Church open on the Saturday before as many people come to the Churchyard that weekend. It is planned to do the same again this year, but this time we will also have the facilities of the Annexe. The Church will be open from 10a.m. to 4p.m.

We also plan to open the Church on Sunday afternoon from 12 to 3p.m. as it is noticeable from the dustbin that there have been many visitors that afternoon. Do take this opportunity to come into the Church and take light refreshments in the Annexe.

AGM

This year the Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 25th in the Village Church Hall at 7.30p.m. This is an open meeting. The accounts for the last 12 months and reports on different aspects of the Church life will be presented.

It is at this meeting that the Church Wardens and P.C.C. members will be elected from those that are nominated. (Nomination forms are in the Church Porch and at St. John's Hall).

There will also be an opportunity for questions.

Christmas Quiz

The winner was Marie Cove with 35 points.

Gill & Geoff

The Church Missionary Society issue a prayer letter, and on 20th March our prayers are particularly asked for Gill and Geoff.

"The Cross of Nails Centre, which CMS mission partners Geoff and Gill Kimber are helping to establish, was officially dedicated in January. Pray for the Kimber's as they develop a full programme for this forum in which mission workers and missiologists from different denominations can come together."

Our mistake

Please accept our apologies the amount given to Spurgeon Child Care Trust from the Carol service should have read £170 and not £17.

Churchyard benches

If you are wondering what has happened to the missing bench in the Churchyard, it has gone to be repaired. Some of the other benches need attention and this will be carried out in due course. However all the five benches and four pairs of gates can do with a rub down and a coat of varnish. If any one is willing to take on **an** item please have a word. The materials will be supplied, but it is the time that is required.

March, 2004

I was sorting out old records and tapes for the Nostalgia Evening and it was absolutely amazing as records from as far back as the 1940's, I could remember the words and artists. I could also remember songs and artists from the 50's, 60's and 70's, but after that, apart from a few which were very popular, I knew hardly any. It must be my age, but could also be that there are so many records, tapes and C.D's made now which are fleeting and therefore easily forgettable. Our memories are marvellous things and computers are good but not as good as the human brain, as even in old age we can remember even the smallest details from our childhood, even if we can't remember what we went upstairs for. Anyway, it is more important to remember the people and events which have formed our lives and made us the characters we are today.

My granddaughter (she is 14) was telling me she has lost 1.1/2 stones in weight since Christmas, as she was very overweight, and she did it by not drinking Coke or eating sweets and puddings. It made me wonder what we drank as children. We had a cup of tea with every meal except Sunday dinner when we had a glass of Tizer, Vimto or Dandelion and Burdock (my favourite). It set me wondering just how many cups of tea I have consumed as I still average about 4 a day, and I think it would amount to many thousands - some cups of tea, but I still love it.

During January and February many people were saying that these months are very depressing. However, to me this time of the year is heartening, as almost every day I go out into the garden and look at the green shoots, the bulbs, I look for new signs of life and I don't see 'depressing', I see 'hope' - a forecast of better days. I admit I don't like the cold, the rain and the snow but we know it will soon pass and we can look forward. I am taking photographs of our garden in every kind of weather to remind me of those days when we thought winter would never end, and I intend to do this throughout the year and can look back on the dreary days to the bright days. It is surprising what changes there are and how different the garden looks in each month of the year. I love the following by Robert Browning, which I would like to share with you.

'The year's at the Spring and day's at the morn
Morning's at seven; The hill-side's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing; The snail's on the thorn.
God's in his heaven - All's right with the world! Marie Cove.

Answers to Quiz: 1. Sheffield. 2. Blackburn. 3. Doncaster. 4. Oxford. 5. Banbury
6. Warwick. 7. Rye. 8. Bournemouth. 9. Rhyll. 10. Swansea. 11. Glasgow.
12. Perth. 13. Dundee. 14. Aberdeen. 15. Belfast. 16. Newcastle. 17. Armaugh.
18. Cork. 19. Beverley. 20. Windsor. 21. Ascot. 22. Derby. 23. Plymouth.
24. Redcar. 25. Cambridge. 26. Paisley. 27. Grimsby. 28. Stockton. 29. Kenilworth.
30. Ashford. 31. Burnley. 32. Ryton. 33. Limerick. 34. Blackpool. 35. Ayr.
36. Maidenhead. 37. Middlesex. 38. Eigg. 39. Towcester. 40. Coventry.