

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1001

MARCH 2009

Price 25p



Vicar:

REV. PETER ALLAN

Tel: 024 7639 9070

Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL
MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 01827 874520
Tel: 024 7638 1833

St. Johns Leaders

DAVID & MARIE COVE

Tel: 024 7639 4114

Lay Reader:

MANDY WATTS
GWYNETH HICKMAN

Tel: 024 7639 7654
Tel: 024 7639 8901

www.ansleychurch.org

Print Centre 0800 389 4089

Why can't life be more straight forward?

Change? Disruption? Inconvenience?

So the building work at St. John's and St. Laurence's is beginning. St. John's Church is
in exile at the

Community Room pews are temporarily removed at St. Laurence's..

It is good to see things happening after months (no years!) of praying and planning but
what inconvenience and disruption! But of course that's life.

What we really want doesn't come from the flick of a finger (whatever
the adverts say) but from hard work and difficulties overcome. There are no shortcuts.
That wasn't even a short cut for Jesus. It was anything but a short cut. Love meant dying on
the Cross. It was a hard tough road. And we think we've got problems!

We naturally want life to be carefree and easy going. And why not? But sometimes
it's worth making sacrifices. Lent's one such time. Thinking about our lifestyle.

Different priorities. Giving something up. Getting
just a little feel of what Jesus did for us.

If you do use Lent to review your habits and patterns, Easter will be so
much more special. Lent without Easter is like winter without Christmas. Easter without

Lent is like watching a thirty second clip of
the winning goal because you had forgotten to video the game.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

March, St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 1 st	Lent 1	10 30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4 00 p.m.	Family Service in Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th	Lent 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 15 th	Lent 3	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd	Mothering Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Special Service for Mothering Sunday
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 29 th	Passion Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Please note All Services will be held at the centre St. John's Close until the work on the hall has been completed

Sunday 1 st	Lent 1	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 8 th	Lent 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th	Lent 3	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 22 nd	Mothering Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 th	Passion Sunday	10.30 a.m.	

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards. No activities will be taking place in St. John's Hall until the refurbishment is complete.

From the Registers

Baptism

The baptism of Anna May took place on February 15. It was good to welcome her into the Christian family to join her sister Caris whom I baptised shortly after I arrived at Ansley.

Wedding

On a cold January 31st the wedding of Lorraine Coleman and Donald Spark took place at 1 p.m. and Anthony Hiatt married Lisa Bielby at 3 p.m.

Funerals

The interment of the ashes of Peter John Skett took place at after morning worship on Sunday December 14th. It was good to receive Peter back to the place he loved.

The funeral of David Sandland took place at Heart of England Crematorium on January 22. A delight in choral and classical music, a passion for Rugby Union, a love of animals and a committed gardener (not least in his involvement in Ansley Common allotments) David worked most of his life in the photocoper business. He married his beloved wife Pearl in 1964 and was the proud father of Marie.

The funeral of Colin Cross took place on February 4. Devoted husband of Rita and conscientious worker, Colin served in the Middle East after World War Two and returned

home to spend most of his working life with the Borough Council. Quiet, loyal, conscientious and utterly reliable, Colin will be greatly missed.

The funeral service of Margaret Jones took place at St. Laurence's on Friday February 13. Widow of Harry and mother of Richard, Roger and Stephen, Margaret was a practical and straight forward pursuing life with single minded dedication. At the end of life she allowed herself to relax and make friends until sadly ill health set in. Committal at Heart of England Crematorium was followed by interment at St. Laurence's Churchyard.

Thank you

- After running a collection in aid of the Anglican Hospital in Gaza for two weeks Ansley PCC were able to send £80.50 to Coventry Diocese, our donation with those from other churches has enabled the diocese to forward £8915.98. Bishop Suheil of Jerusalem is hugely grateful for this generosity from a sister church.
- For the additional donation of £50 given by the Arrowsmith family following the extra sponsorship of their Christmas Tree
- The additional donation of £40 to the churchyard fund in memory of Jim Ashton.
- A donation of £200 to the fabric fund in memory of Bill Turner.

Women's World Day of Prayer,

This special day which this year is 6th March we shall be holding a special service at St. Laurence This year the service has been devised by the Christian people of Papua New Guinea, and 96% of the population are Christian. It is just below the equator and is made up of over 600 mostly volcanic islands, the main part being the second largest island in the world which it shares with Indonesia. This country has over 1000 different cultural groups and many languages, and has a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democratic system. It is a land of surprises with dense tropical rainforests and cool mountains. There are many amazing different plants and animals many of which still to be identified.

The people of Papua New Guinea have chosen the theme 'In Christ there are many members yet on body' This is a service where many can participated, listen to some of their local music and it is open to everyone (it is not just for women). Everyone is invited to come and share in and learn about the life of this distant land for a brief hour at 7.30p.m. on Friday 6th March.

Mothering Sunday

As in past years the Church will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on the preceding Saturday 21st which will be a time for private prayer and also

Churchyard

When the decision was taken it was hoped that the work to level the church yard would be completed before Mothering Sunday, but at the time of writing with the churchyard under snow, and this work could be delayed, please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused during this work, but we hope you will appreciate it is work that will need to be completed when the weather conditions are right.

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

The total paid into our Fabric Fund in January was £48.30 all from small change collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed. The jars will be in Church for the rest of the year. It is amazing just how a few pence from a lot of people soon add up to an encouraging sum.

The Church Fabric

The workmen have arrived to commence the repairs the church and is expected to be before completion . They will commence with the inside work which includes repairs to the plaster on the South side of the nave and the North aisle as well as work on the pews on the South side and other repairs around the church. Most of the soft furnishings have been packed away to protect them from the dust etc. so the church looks quite different to its normal state. It is anticipated that the work to the outside will be carried out last, but as always with building work the weather will have a big influence on this part of the project.

St. John's

It was October 2004 when we first asked the people of Ansley Common what was needed in The Common to help the residents and what they saw was required with St. John's Church Hall as it was the only public building in the area.

It was with theses results that work has been continuing ever since to come up with a plan and then raise the funds to carry out the work. Now with the plans and funding in place the work is beginning on 23rd February with completion expected mid July.

We have received notification in January that the project has received £10,000 for the Coal Fields Regeneration Trust to dry line the walls which will make the building warmer and improve it's internal appearance. We also have been advised that the Parish Council will provide a grant of £1337 plus VAT to pay for a damp proof course for the existing part of the building. We are grateful to both organisations for their support.

Christmas Quiz

The quiz was well supported and of those returned the correct answers ranged from 37-47, with three scoring 47. The three names were put into a hat and our vicar drew out the winner – Mrs Eileen Bygrave who won a box of Milk Tray chocolates. Many thanks to all who supported the quiz . A list of the answers has been placed in the Church porch.

Stressful Times

In these difficult financial and stressful times please remember that we are always here for you, should you be in need of a confidential listening ear.

Prayer Requests

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

March 2009

When I have seen pictures of the memorial to the American Presidents at Mount Rushmore, I have often wondered at the skill of the sculptor and wondered who he was. Well, now I know. His name was Gutzon Borglum and when asked if he considered his to work be perfect he is supposedly replied "Not today. The nose of President Washington is an inch too long; it's better that way though. It will erode and be exactly right in 10,000 years.

We were sorting our after New Year - early Spring clean, and found a commemorative copy of 'Midland Counties Tribune' dated September 28th 1907. It was fascinating to read. There was a whole section on the front page on 'Domestic Servants'. One read 'Good strong general servant wanted at once for business house - apply, The Lord Nelson, Ansley'. There were lots of Situations Vacant adverts, but very few properties for sale, and Warwickshire Education was advertising classes in Coal Mining at various Nuneaton schools, including Arithmetic and Elementary Science, as applied to mining. How work and education have changed!

As we all battled through over two weeks of snow at the beginning of February, it was amazing to see the weather as headlines in national newspapers and dominating T.V. news. I know we English are always talking about the weather but this took precedent over the world economy, wars, war victims and personal tragedies. Of course the snow had an affect on many, many people from the elderly who dare not set food outside on icy paths, the roads where a half hour journey turned into one and half to two hours; rail and air transport where passengers were stranded and of course thousands of children who had never seen so much snow, and were off school. We saw many sledging and some fantastic snowmen, so at least the snow gave lots of young people a winter to remember, and after seeing the heartrending pictures of fires in Australia where whole communities were in ruins and many died, I much prefer the snow, which will eventually disappear for another year.

March is here, and so comes Spring; I wonder what this month will bring.
Coughs and sneezes we have had a plenty, The bird food leaving our pockets empty.
Of snow and frost we have had our fill, with even more winter still.
So March is here and what do we see, some signs of new life on bush and tree.
The snow may cover all around, but still shoots of bulbs can still be found.
The trials and worries of February are over and past.
Perhaps March will bring new life, new weather and hope of spring at last.

Marie Cove.