

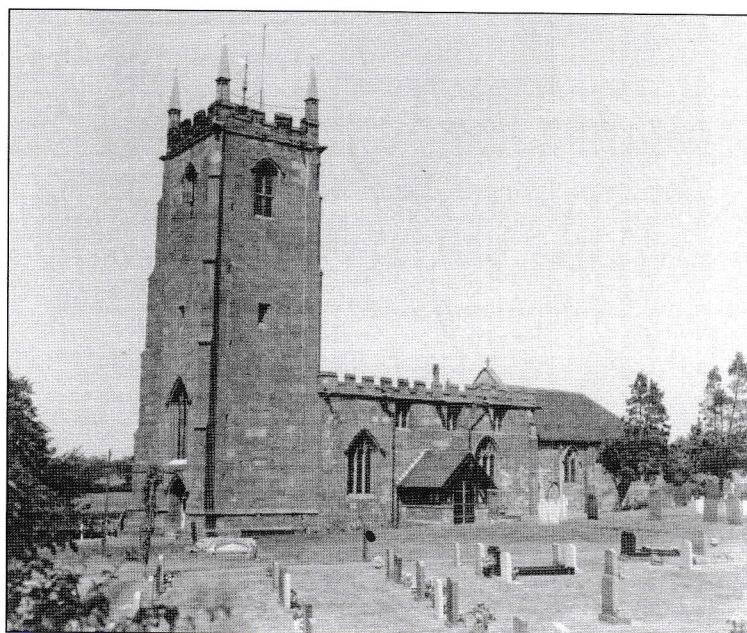
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Lent

I don't really like Lent.

Somehow it all seems so dull, so dreary. All this thought of giving up, going without, making sacrifices. Few would want to side step Easter or Christmas but Lent. Can't we just quietly ignore it?

We can do. Maybe we do.

Perhaps we should just enjoy the good things without making the effort.

The truth is that it's the effort that makes the joy complete.

If you do nothing special for Lent, Easter will be like a ready meal.

Good ingredients certainly but somehow not quite as special as that real home cooked food.

So let's prepare for Easter. Make sacrifices and take time - to reflect, to be still, to pray, to let God speak. In particular please pray for all of us, and join us if you can, as we gather each Thursday night to discover what God is saying to us as a Church. Then Easter will be so very much more special.

A VERY GOOD LENT TO YOU ALL,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

March, St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 7 th	Lent 3	10 30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	4 O'Clock Club Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th	Mothering	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	Sunday	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 21 st	Passion Sunday	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th	Palm Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Joint Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 7 th	Lent 3	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 14 th	Mothering Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st	Passion Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	4 O' Clock Club
Sunday 28 th	Palm Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St. Laurence

Discussing the parables Monday 1st - 7.30 p.m. 46 Nuthurst Crescent

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

From the Registers

Funerals

On 10th December the funeral of Eddie Smith took place at St. Anne's Church followed by interment in Ansley Churchyard. Eddie, who was born in Ansley, was well known for his lifelong work in the community. He did his utmost to ensure fairness to all and helped anyone who was in need. He was passionate about football and was a devoted Aston Villa supporter. Eddie will be greatly missed not only by his wife and family, but by the whole community.

The funeral of Ralph Winspeare (82) took place on Wednesday 6th January at St. Laurence Church and Heart of England Crematorium, followed on Sunday January 24th, by interment in the churchyard. Ralph loved Ansley where he spent most of his life and gave much to our village. His gardening skills and his exemplary allotments will remain an inspiration to many. A great family man with a wonderful sense of humour he will be deeply missed by his wife Audrey, his family and his many friends.

The funeral of Peggy Jones took place at St. Laurence Church on February 3rd followed by cremation at Heart of England Crematorium and interment in Ansley Churchyard. Peggy was renowned throughout Ansley Village for the ready and hospitable welcome that she gave to adults and children alike when they visited the family home in Birmingham Road. Full of warmth, affection and good humour for her family and friends Peggy was deeply saddened by the loss of her beloved Cyril (Ciggy) last year. She will be greatly missed.

Lent meetings

Each Thursday evening during Lent we will continue to hold discussion meetings in the annexe commencing at 7.30 p.m. Everyone is most welcome to attend where ever you are

on your journey you will be most welcome to any or all these meetings. We will be seeing God's guidance for the future of our work in Ansley starting with where our journey has been where it is now and then looking to the future.

Women's World Day of Prayer

This year's service has been prepared by the Christian women of Cameroon. The Republic of Cameroon is "Africa in miniature", except for its Atlantic coast line on the Gulf of Guinea, it is bordered by some of the larger countries of west and central Africa.

There are three main religious groups in Cameroon: 60% Christianity, 20% Islam and 20% indigenous beliefs. The Christian women form 60% of church membership and they shine in religious activities. There are fellowship groups, where they carryout seminars and workshops to fight against poverty. They teach other small scale projects like soap production, preparation of smoked fish, fruit preservation, production of natural juice and tie-dyeing fabric. They support their sisters who are ordained ministers or are theologians awaiting ordination.

This year's service looks to be a very interesting and an exciting service so I do hope you will come and join us on Friday 5th March at 7.30 p.m. in St. Laurence followed by refreshments.

If you can help by saying some of the parts in the service (which are very short in length) it will make the service really interesting and I am sure you will enjoy it all the more.

Yours in Christ Gwyneth 024 7639 8901.

Mothering Sunday

This year Mothering Sunday is on 14th March and at all the services we will be distributing posies of fresh garden flowers to all, These can be given to your mother or accepted as a gift from mother church to her family.

On the previous Saturday 13th the church will be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. for private prayer or just a look round. There will be light refreshments available in the annexe. Many come to visit the churchyard and provided the weather permits we hope it will have had the grass cut and it will have recovered from the harsh winter.

Palm Sunday

28th March this year is Palm Sunday and as in past we will be making this a joint service when the congregation of St. John's make the journey to St. Laurence The congregation from the 4 o'Clock clubs will also be invited as this will be a special service for all ages.

Gift Aid

We are approaching a new tax year and it may be the appropriate time to look at how you give to the church. Gift Aid is easy to use, but there must be a way for the money to be traced, however it does mean that for every £1 you give, the church can claim an extra 25p on your giving from the Inland Revenue. During 2009 the gift aid donations paid into the various church accounts produced the following amount of tax refunding. General account £2725.04, St. John's accounts £49.40, Fabric fund £148.08, and the church yard fund £118.46 a total of £3040.98

Of course any donation however small is so very much appreciated – just look at the £768.50 we have received by the small change collection – However if you are in a position to increase the amount the church receives at no extra cost to yourself, except a bit of paperwork, please consider this option. It will make such a difference to the church's finances which are, as you are aware, exceedingly tight.

Christmas Tree Festival Quiz

We were very pleased with the response to our Christmas Quiz. 20 were returned and the scoring was excellent, with all scores being 41 and over. Congratulations to Mrs Gibson of Nuneaton who scored 48, who has now received her prize of a tin of Quality Street chocolates. Well done to all those who took part and better luck next time.

Thank you

The P.C.C. wish to thank the family of Ralph Winspeare for a very generous donation to the churchyard fund in his memory.

Thank you to everyone who generously gave to the collections we held for the people of Haiti who have suffered so much. We have been able to send £95 from St Laurence and £38 from St. John's.

Prize Bingo

The next Prize Bingo session is to be on Monday 15th March with eyes down at 7 p.m. These are always a time of great fun for all, and there are refreshments after the first four games.

St. Valentine's Dance

The St. Valentine's Dance on Friday 12th February was great fun and enjoyed by all those who attended. The next dance has been arranged for 26th March which will have Easter Bonnet for the theme.

Rotas

We all like to see flowers in church and there is a rota in the porch for the year however there are very few names on this list. Most flowers will last for two weeks and every effort is made to ensure that they are watered and kept fresh however we do need someone to provide them and if possible to put them in the church each time. If you can help even if it is just once in the year it will help greatly, please do have a word with one of the wardens or Margaret Kimberley.

Cleaning the church is another task that when done only a few times a year is a reasonable request for volunteers, however we do need more help if you could spend a few hours 3 or 4 times a year to assist it would be much appreciated again please contact one of the wardens or Margaret Kimberly 024 7638 4680

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

The total paid into our Fabric Fund in January was £29.00, all from the small change collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

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 2010

This is an upside world in many ways. When we are young and are forced to go to school, many youngsters can't see the point and don't want to learn. However, as our children leave the nest and we retire, we of the older generation feel we can't get enough knowledge. I was speaking to lady and she said she is learning French and she must be in her late 70's. We have older people tackling computer courses, and we at St. John's are enjoying Painting classes. It is like doing something for yourself – something perhaps you never imagined you could do, and of course no pressure of exams.

If you can think of things that are completely irrelevant and unwanted I should certainly put on the top of my list 'mini-roundabouts'. They have sprung up all over the place, but especially locally in Stockingford, and in many cases nobody notices them or knows how to use them. At one point there are two of these within about 5 yards of each other. Why the 'Give Way' at the end of side roads and a bit of patience isn't enough I don't know.

Did you know that at the beginning of the Second World War, the stained glass was removed from Coventry Cathedral and sent to various places in Warwickshire for safe keeping. However, some of it turned up in London in 1942 (perhaps having been stolen), where it was sold to an Icelandic Dealer. He took it to Iceland and it was built into churches in Reykjavik and the northern city of Akureyri. As far as is known the Icelanders did not refuse to give it back at the end of the war. However, as Coventry Cathedral had been bombed, the British agreed that the Icelanders could keep the stained glass.

As I see the children going to school it is strange how fashion today likes items hated in the past. We hated thick black stockings, which we had to wear at Grammar School, but now we see most of the girls in mini skirts and the dreaded black tights. Even the youngest of children wear them, and I must confess I now like them myself.

There is an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum about eating during the 2nd World War, where there are tins of dried egg (which we loved). They say how boring the food was, but having never heard of baked beans, burgers etc., we enjoyed what we had, and I can honestly say we were well fed. We were lucky we had hens for fresh eggs; my Granny kept a pig for bacon etc., and our eldest sister's fiancé lived on a farm and his mother sent us butter she had made herself. We did eat a lot of potatoes, but some of the meals they mentioned we still like now. e.g. neck of mutton stew. Also it was during the war that tea became our favourite drink and I still drink 4 or 5 cups a day. In fact the first thing I do every morning is put the kettle on for a cup of tea.

Having just seen a huge clump of Snowdrops and the Crocuses are out, I think we can truly say that Spring is on it's way.

Marie Cove.