

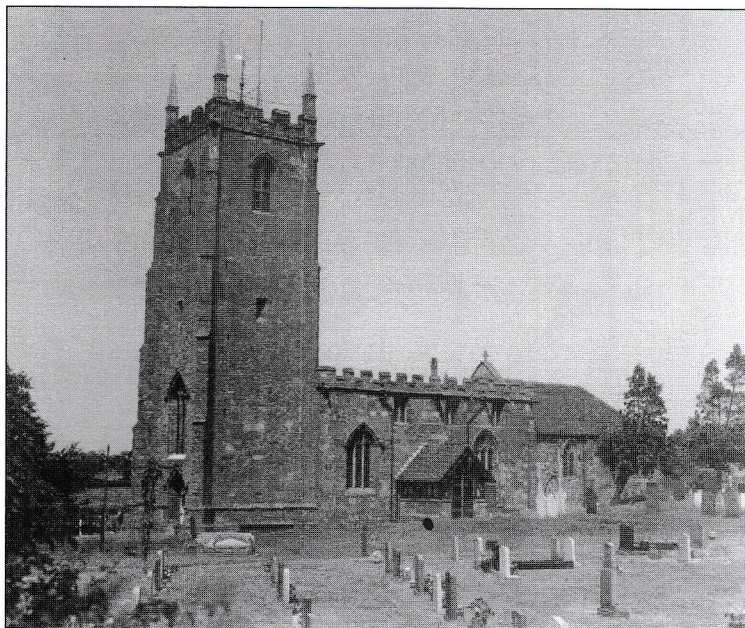
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1022

MARCH 2011

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

Lent.

If I could select one favourite season of the church's year it wouldn't be Lent. But then I can't always have what I want. If we neglect Lent we miss something very important. Most of all we miss the chance to take time to reflect on the things that really matter.

Paul prayed for the Christians at Ephesus in these words.

".. I pray that you being rooted and grounded in love may have power together with all God's people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ..."

In our busy lives this is precisely what we miss.

And nothing could be more important.

So I invite you to join us as we meet this Lent at the annexe to think about prayer and about how as individuals and as a Church we might deepen our spiritual life. We shall meet on Thursday 17, 24, 31 March and 7th April from 7.30-9pm. We shall look at the Bible, learn from other and experience prayer together. The topics covered will be A Pattern of Daily Prayer, A Personal Rule of Life, Praying and Studying the Bible Together, Quiet Days, Retreats, Places where God feels closer and What Happens Next?

There could hardly be a better way of spending a Thursday evening.

I look forward to welcoming you,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

March St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 6 th	Next before	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
	Lent	6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th	Lent 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 20 th	Lent 2	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 th	Lent 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 6 th	Next before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
Sunday 13 th	Lent 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 th	Lent 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 27 th	Lent 3	10.00 p.m.	Holy Communion

Discussion Groups

Discussing the parables - Tuesday 8th at 7 p.m. in St. Johns Church Hall.

'The year through the Bible' Thursday 10th at 7.30 p.m. 128 Birmingham Road.

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

Confirmation classes If you wish to attend please contact the vicar.

From the Registers

At St. Laurence's Church on Sunday February 6th we celebrated the baptism of Lily-Mae Iris Baker and on Sunday 20th February the baptism of Liam Matthew Albutt. We welcomed them into the family of the Church and prayed for them and their families as they begin their journey of faith

Women's World Day of Prayer :-Praying for Chile

How many loaves have you?

Friday 4th March 2011

The Republic of Chile occupies a long narrow strip of land stretching from Peru to Antarctica.

Chile also possesses Easter Island, set in the Pacific 2,200 miles from the mainland.

Chile is a country of incredible contrasts and great natural beauty, it contains the driest desert in the world, a lovely Pacific coastline, impressive mountains, a fertile central valley and fascinating glaciers and ice-fields in Patagonia.

Most of Chile's present day inhabitants are mixed race and indigenous people with a small indigenous population of Mapuche, Aymara and Quechua people. There are many unhealed wounds existing amongst the people following one of Chile's darkest times between 1973 and 1990 under the regime of General Augusto Pinochet and of course the recent earthquake that took place last year.

Chilean women represent a third or more of the workforce and are adept at multi-tasking and juggling work and family commitments. They are also subject to domestic violence and a number of women have been violently attacked and died. The churches offer prevention workshops and provide spiritual support for ill-treated women.

This years theme title 'How many loaves have you?' is an appropriate theme for Chile as bread is eaten at every meal and is very much part of everyday life. The women of Chile offer what it means to them, as they share this service with us. I do hope you will come along to the service and if possible volunteer for a speaking part (not compulsory). I need specifically four brave ladies who will wear a brightly coloured skirt, blouse and shawl to represent 4 Chilean women who will have a small action part to play during the service. Any volunteers ? Please let me know if you're interested it is not very onerous. (promise!!) Hope to see you on the 4th March.

Gwyneth

Lent Discussion Group

Following from the 2010 Lent discussion where our Parish Prayer and four aims were developed, this year the focus will be on 'Deepening our spiritual life'. The meetings will be on Thursday 17th, 24th and 31st March and 7th April at 7.30 p.m. in the annexe and everyone is invited.

Prize Bingo

St. John's next prize bingo session is on March 28th at 7 p.m. £50 of the proceeds will be given to the Red Cross. This fun session will have Easter as part of the theme.

Gift Aid

In April 2000 the "Gift Aid" scheme was launched to help charities gain as much benefit as possible from their donors gifts.

I am pleased to report that Ansley's first decade of tax received on such donations amounted to £29,795.10, which has, over the years been a "Life saver" on more than one occasion.

Could you consider being a Gift Aider – not necessarily on a regular basis? Some people just give only at Flower Festival and Christmas Tree Festival times. These small totals – anything from just £1 inside a suitably signed brown envelope, found just inside the church door, will be gratefully received – and if you wish your gift to be used for Fabric Fund, or Churchyard Fund it only has to be specified.

Last Financial Year the Fabric Fund benefitted by a Tax Refund of £186.68, the Churchyard by £125.64, St John's by £698.14 and the General by £2607.71, on donations given by about 40 contributors.

St. John's Heating

The hall users at St John's had been experiencing problems with the heating for a few weeks and the engineer diagnosed a leak in the system, although the heating was still working the hall committee knew that very soon work would need to be carried out to find the leak. As it happened one Sunday there appeared a bump in the kitchen flooring – the leak had been found, but in probably the worst possible place - in the pipes that had been buried in the concrete kitchen floor some years ago and had now corroded.

New pipe work had to be rerouted around the kitchen and then reconnected. Unfortunately it was necessary to close the hall for three days to enable the work to be completed, but now the hall has been cleaned and the heating working efficiently. There is just a bill to be paid!!

Some not so good news

Unfortunately we have to let you know that there have been two attempted burglaries at the church although a window will have to be repaired and other work carried out, fortunately

nothing was taken. The security systems in place were effective and the perpetrators were disturbed and left in haste!

The P.C.C. would ask anyone when visiting the church to be vigilant and report anything that is suspicious to the wardens as soon as possible.

Valentines Dance

The dance organised on Friday 11th February was a great success. With jacket potatoes and various fillings to eat and plenty of dancing everyone had a good time. The total raised for hall funds was £100.30. Thank you to those who organised and also to those who so loyally support these events.

Advertising

There will be space available shortly in the magazine for advertising if anyone is interested or knows of someone who may be interested please contact Margaret Antill 01827 874520 for details.

Church flowers

If you would like to contribute to the flowers in church week by week there is plenty of spaces on the list, If you would like to put the flowers in church yourself that will be a great help, alternatively a donation would be equally appreciated. Please speak to one of the wardens.

Thank you

The P.C.C. members are very grateful for the bequest of £500 left by the late Margaret Silver. To be given to the church to purchase something in her memory. The P.C.C. will with the family the various suggestions made.

The Church is always grateful for any bequest and if any one would like to remember the church in their will please do so. However please ensure that the will is correctly worded (perhaps have a word with one of the wardens) to ensure that your wishes will be able to proceed without undue legal complications or delay.

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

It has been decided to continue with this small change collection and anyone who would like a collecting tin please ask and one can be organised. The total paid into our Fabric Fund in January was £38. 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

I suppose if we looked at people today, you have really made it if you have an enormous flat screen T.V., Sky, a touch screen mobile 'phone and Broadband. When we were children I always thought people who owned a Barometer or a Globe of the World were rich. We had a globe in our Geography Room at Grammar School and we also had a stuffed Armadillo, which absolutely fascinated me, but the Globe was my favourite. However, I suppose there have been so many name changes to countries all over the world, the original globe could not be used for Geography lessons.

I had three great books for Christmas. One was 'Favourite Flowers' one was 'The Book of Lost Countryside Wisdom' and the other was 'Memory Magic', which was not about magic. It is tools, tips and exercises to help you remember everything. Some of the spelling ones were really funny. Take the initial letter of each word to spell some words people find tricky, e.g. Necessary – Never Eat Crisps, Eat Salad Sandwiches And Remain Young. Because – Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants. These are just two examples, but as with all spelling aids you have to remember the acronyms.

February 9th was 'National Sing Up Day' and the T.V. was asking if singing could make people, especially children, happy. Well, they have no need to ask this as it obviously does. We had Music Lessons in Infant and Middle School and we sang the old folk songs like 'Barbara Allen', 'The Minstrel Boy' etc., and I can still remember all the words. We also sang in the air raid shelter when we always sang 'Ten Green Bottle' or 'One man went to mow', but the happiest singing time in our family was when our brother returned from the war having spent years in Africa, and when he came home from College, he taught us some really silly songs like 'My Baby had gone down the plug hole' and 'On top of Spaghetti' and he also recited 'Albert and the Lion' and 'Sam Pick up thee musket'. Our little back kitchen just rang with laughter. I am pleased to say every Sunday morning at St. John's we sing out hearts out and you would think there were 50 people there instead of 15, so I can really recommend singing to make you happy.

I always thought surnames had been around for ever, but apparently these did not exist in England until the Norman Conquest of 1066. French Noblemen then began adding "de" followed by the name of the place they came from as a sign of their Lordship. Then it started to catch on in England when descriptive words of occupations began to be used. The word "surname" meaning "additional name" did not appear in our language until about 1330. My maiden name was "Fletcher", meaning an arrow maker, and my sister said when you see all the hundreds of arrows flying in battles, our ancestors should have been really rich.

Marie Cove