

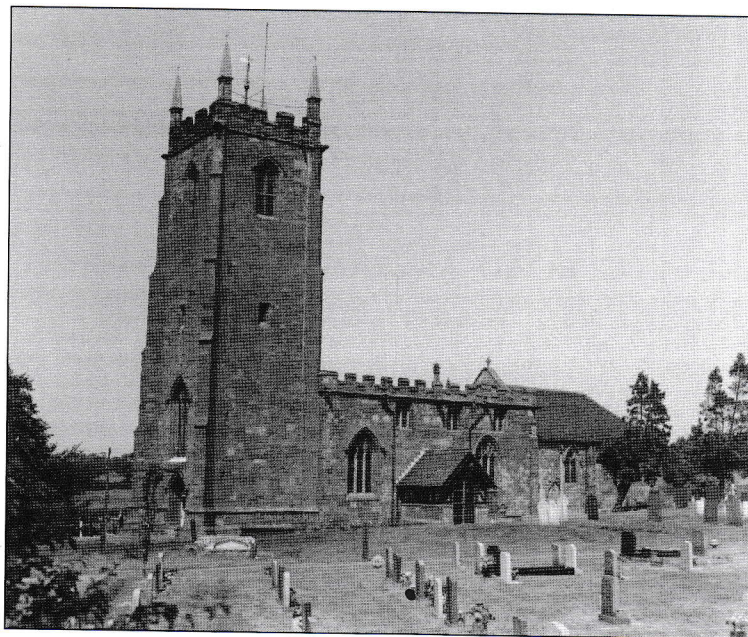
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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Vicar:

REV. PETER ALLAN

Tel: 024 7639 9070

Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL
MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 01827 874520
Tel: 024 7638 1833

St. Johns Leaders

MARIE COVE
JOHN COX

Tel: 024 7639 4114
Tel: 024 7639 4802

Lay Reader:

MANDY WATTS
GWYNETH HICKMAN

Tel: 024 7639 7654
Tel: 024 7639 8901

www.ansleychurch.org

Print Centre 0800 389 4089

Two cheers for 6 years!

At Easter I come to an end of my six year term as Area Dean of Nuneaton. I share with you the final speech I made at my last Synod as Area Dean.

"I can remember the early months clearly. Money in the Diocese was short. There was a two-fold crisis. There were too many clergy and too little money to pay them. At my first meeting I was asked had I been appointed to manage decline. NO, I answered emphatically but at the back of my mind I was beginning to wonder.

Still we set about the challenges with as much vigour as we could muster. Having been told how many clergy posts we had to lose, we tried to keep the consultations moving steadily towards an answer. We decided to keep Parish Share discussions out of Synod and instead focussed on reasons to celebrate. Within the Diocese I sought to fly the flag for the Deanery celebrating our many achievements.

Much has been achieved- sermon classes for lay worship leaders, alteration of parish boundaries, the establishment of the clergy Cell group and a variety of great clergy appointments. That the Archbishop of Canterbury is visiting Nuneaton Deanery for five hours as part of his visit to the Diocese speaks volumes as to how the Deanery is being regarded. And there is much to celebrate. There has been a veritable proliferation of new community buildings inspired by our churches and four new congregations: Messy Church has started this year at Arley, Hartshill, St. Nicolas and Stockingford. When I started the talk was of closing churches! There are many challenges that must be addressed (which is why I said took *Two Cheers* as my title) but let us never forget there is much to celebrate.

And finally Thank You to all who have worked with me on this task in particular the Standing Committee and especially Kim Atkins (Synod Secretary) Peter Rogers (Lay Chair) and Richard Hare (Associate Area Dean).

To you all Thank You. I won't be with you as Area Dean but I hope to continue as a faithful Synod member for some time after my move to the backbenches!"

Taking off my Area Dean hat and addressing you as Vicar may I strongly encourage you to join us for our Lent Groups. We shall be exploring The Story of the Prodigal Son in the company of one of the greatest painters and one of the most reflective prayerful men of the twentieth century. This is a series not to be missed. It will be held in the annexe on 1, 8, 15 and 22 March. I look forward to meeting you there,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

March St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 4 th	Lent 2	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 th	Lent 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18 th	Mothering	10.30 a.m.	Special service
	Sunday	6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th	Passion Sunday	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 4 th	Lent 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 11 th	Lent 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 th	Mothering Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 25 th	Passion Sunday	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion

Discussion Groups

Discussing the parables – Tuesday 13th March at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

The Village discussion group will next meet on Thursday 3rd May due to Lent meetings and Holy Week services.

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

From the Registers

Baptisms

On Sunday 15 January we celebrated the baptism of Evie Mae Elizabeth Skelton daughter of Jamey and Lianne. We rejoiced at her birth and pray that she will grow in love and discover the source of that love in Jesus himself.

Funerals

The funeral of Sheila Williams took place at the Heart of England Crematorium on February 1st followed by the interment of her mortal remains to rejoin her beloved Degga two weeks later.

Sheila will be especially remembered with affection in Ansley Common where she spent so much of her adult life. She is mourned by family and friends alike.

The funeral of Freda Toon took place at St Laurence's Church on Monday 6th February followed by interment in the churchyard. We celebrated a long life lived to the full. She is sadly missed by her children Ingrid and Richard, by all her family and her many friends.

The funeral of Jennifer Woolliscroft took place at St. Laurence's Church on Tuesday 14th February followed by interment in the churchyard. Midday on Valentine's Day was truly the right time for the church to be packed to the full to remember with thanksgiving a sensitive and wonderful lady of deep faith and love who did so much for her farm, her family and her friends. Her dear husband Peter, her children and all her family and friends mourn her passing after a long and difficult illness.

Lent Meetings

For four consecutive Thursday's during Lent there will be a discussion held in the annexe at 7.30 p.m. The first of them will be on Thursday 1st March and the discussions will be on the theme of "Grace"

The PCC have decided that during Lent this year the retiring collection will be in aid of Tear Fund.

Women's World Day of Prayer

This annual service will be on Friday 2nd March at St. Laurence at 7.30 p.m.

"Let Justice Prevail"

This year we are travelling to Malaysia where there are mountains, islands, lush tropical rain forests and sandy shores.

However, greed and corruption prevail leaving the rainforests under threat, together with their flora and fauna.

Malaysia attracts both business and tourism. Many products such as timber, rubber, palm oil and many fruits come from Malaysia. Yet, as the title of this years service suggests, there are many controversial unjust actions endured today, especially by women.

We will be praying for these complex issues in our service.

Please come and join us in prayer and hear what the women have to say....

Gwyneth.

Mothering Sunday & Saturday

This year Mothering Sunday is the 18th March and as is our custom everyone will be given a posy of fresh flowers from 'Mother Church' at all services. The morning services at both St. Laurence and St. John's will be special services for the day. On Saturday 17th the church will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and there will be a "cuppa" available in the annexe. Everyone is most welcome.

Quiz Night

After the success of our Quiz Night last year it has been decided to have further such events and we will be holding our second Quiz Night on Friday 23rd March. It will start at 7.15 and questions will commence promptly at 7.30 p.m. Teams of 4-6 members each, (If you are not in a group but wish to participate please come along and there will be teams you can join.

After the first session of 5 rounds there will be a "soup supper" of vegetable soup with bread and a dessert of pie or cake. This will be followed by a further session of 5 rounds. Answers will be given after each session. There will be prizes for the highest scoring team as well as a booby prize for the lowest. There will also be a raffle and proceeds will be split between church funds and the Air Ambulance. Please book your tickets, from Sue Rickets or church members.

Holy Week and Easter

This year Holy week starts on Sunday 1st April with Palm Sunday and Easter Day is on the 8th. It is hoped you will have received your April magazine in good time with the full details, but if you do not, full details which will follow the usual format will be on the church web site www.ansleychurch.org

History workshop

The popular history workshop about Medieval Ansley by Dr. John Hunt will be presented again in the annexe on Wednesday 9th May. If you wish to book a place please contact Margaret Antill on 01827 874520

St. John's Hall

It is disappointing that there has been some damage done to St. John's Hall, and it has been agreed that the builder carrying out these repair also be asked to complete some of the outstanding issues on the hall following the refurbishment in 2009.

Table Top Sale, Lunch in the Annexe and St. John's St. Valentines Event
Reports next month

Live & Local.

Our second Live & Local performance will be on Saturday 3rd March at 7.30pm at Ansley Village Church Hall CV10 9PS. The band "Heretique" consists of three talented young Englishmen who play a range of musical styles, including Anglo-French traditional dance, a little jazz, some contemporary classical music with references to pop, film and TV. They sing and play a mix of instruments such as accordion, bagpipes, hurdy gurdy, guitar and recorder. They provide a lively and enjoyable evening's entertainment. The tickets are adult £8, child £6 [10-15]. please contact Diana Kealey on 024 7639 5089 to book your place.

Christmas Tree Festival Quiz results

We had a good response to our Christmas Tree Festival Quiz. The highest scores out of 39 questions were 2 @ 39, 3 @ 38 and several at 37. So well done to you all. The names of the two with 39, were put in a hat and the winner drawn at our Senior Citizens meeting by a member of the Arc School. The winner was declared as Roger McQuade on Nuneaton, who was a warded with W.H. Smiths voucher card.

The Queen's Jubilee,

Plans for Ansley's celebration of the Queen's Jubilee are beginning to take shape. It is hoped that a meal can be provided in the two church halls and on the rec. in Birchley Heath, followed by entertainment from community singing to fancy dress competitions etc. If you have other ideas please let it be known so that the programmes can evolve to include as much as possible of local talent etc.

On 26th May

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 , 2012

For those of us who have grown up with Kodak cameras, printed photographs and, of course, photo albums, it was sad to see the demise of Kodak. We have albums starting with our earliest days, our Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchild. These albums are so precious and the younger generation love to look at them and marvel that we were young once. People today seem to take lots and lots of photos, but the result is generally an image on a mobile 'phone, which you very rarely see again. Let us hope that other makers of films for ordinary cameras continue their supply.

If you could define 'happiness, I think we would say it is a feeling of contentment mixed with wonder, and a warm feeling inside, e.g. what gives me happiness in the grey dreary days of winter, is to see the first Snowdrops and Crocuses in bloom. Also to see the children as Spring approaches when they emerge from their computers, play stations etc., and can play outside , and the elderly see the days getting longer. In fact Spring is the season of happiness as winter begins to release it's icy grip and new life is all around us.

My friends and family know that I am an ardent football fan (and cricket too), but how these games have changed. When I watched a Test Match recently I was horrified at the noise all around the ground and even on the pitch, especially the wicket keeper. It used to be such a relaxing game. Also in football matches there is hardly a game when a player isn't stretchered off, hobbles off or is sent off, as the culture of falling down increases. This is definitely not as games were in the past when players like George Best and Stanley Matthews would skip over tackles or trip and pick themselves up and in many cases go on to score.

On February 7th there was a celebration of the birth of Charles Dickens 200 years ago. I am very fond of his novels and when I returned to work part-time after almost 20 years at home with the children, over many weeks I bought a complete set of his works (32 books in all) including "A child's history of England" which has been a very useful reference book over the years. I have read them all, except for a couple which I just couldn't get into. His characters are brilliant – some really funny and his description of how the poor lived is taken from his own childhood, and tells us how it is possible to use our God-given talents to rise from abject poverty to success.

Winter is losing her icy grip, as Spring brings forth her glory.
New growth, new life is all around, even before Winter's final fury.

Marie Cove.