

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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Lent

Last week I was asked to go to Nursery Hill School to talk about Lent. It was difficult to know where to start. The obvious place was *when* it was. You have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, you have chocolate eggs on Easter Day and the time in between is Lent.

But *what* is Lent?

It is a six week season in quiet preparation for the great festival that is Easter. Traditionally it is a time of giving up something that we like – perhaps chocolate, cake or sugar in our tea. A useful enough exercise. We might find we don't want chocolate anymore and that'll save us a few pounds (in both senses of the word!). But it all seems rather superficial. The world is tearing itself apart in hate. And in response I give up eating chocolate. We praise God that He is God of all things great and small. No sacrificial response goes unnoticed but just giving up can never be enough.

So *how* do we mark Lent?

- Come to hear the Bishop of Coventry lead us in worship on March 2nd (St. Laurence's 10.30am) and hear him speak to us in the annexe on our walk with God. (A shared lunch follows.). Let his thoughts inspire you.
- Come to the united Ash Wednesday service on March 5th at St. Wilfrid's, Old Arley, at 7.30pm and dedicate yourself to keeping a holy Lent.
- Come to our Lent Group where we are thinking about how the approaches of the saints of much earlier years have great value for us today. (13th, 20th, 27th March, 3rd, 10th April at 7.30pm in the annexe.)
- Make a particular point of dedicating a specific time each day for prayer and Bible Study.
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And *why* do we mark it?

Perhaps Lent is most of all a chance to focus on what is really important - to ensure, in the time honoured words of the Book of Common Prayer, " that in the changes and chances of this wicked world our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found".

Have a great Lent,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

March St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday	2 nd	1 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion Bishop's visit and meal
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9 th	Lent 1	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	16 th	Lent 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	23 rd	Lent 3	10.30 a.m.	Baptism
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	30 th	Mothering	10.30 a.m.	Special Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday	2 nd	Joint at St L.	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion Bishop's visit and meal.
Sunday	9 th	Lent 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	16 th	Lent 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	23 rd	2 before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	30 th	Mothering	10.30 a.m.	Special Service

Discussion Group

Fellowship Group – Tuesday 11th March at 10.00 a.m., in St John's Church Hall.

Bishops visit on Sunday 2nd March

Please note that the Bishop of Coventry, the Rt. Rev. Christopher Cocksworth will preside at this service and speak to us after tea and coffee in the annexe. We will then share a buffet lunch with him and hope both St Laurence's and St John's members will be able to join us for this joint service. Everyone is very welcome there will be enough food for all. This will be the first time that Bishop Christopher will have been to St. Laurence's.

From the Registers

On Friday, 21st February, the funeral took place in St. Laurence's Church of Ron Brown, husband of Ann, father of Julie and Dave. Not a man to chop and change unnecessarily, he enjoyed his home in Stockingford, where he lived for 50 years, and his work at Dunlop, from which he retired after nearly 40 years' service. A deeply loving husband and father, he faced life from beginning to end with humour, courage and determination. He will be sadly missed. His mortal remains will be interred in the family grave in St. Laurence's Churchyard.

Ash Wednesday

This year we meet at St Wilfrid's, Old Arley on 5th March at 7.30p.m. for a united service to mark the beginning of Lent.

Women's World Day of Prayer

There will be a special service on Friday 7th March in St Laurence's at 10.30 a.m. There will be services around the world on this day on the theme of women's lives in Egypt. Everyone will be made very welcome – you do not have to be female!

Mothering Sunday

On Sunday 30th March there will be special services both at St Laurence's and St John's. A posy of fresh flowers will be given to everyone during each service as a gift from "Mother church".

Table top sale on Saturday 15th February

Unfortunately this had to be cancelled because of the bad weather.

Lent

There will be a meeting each Thursday from 13th March to 10th April in the annexe starting at 7.30p.m., when we shall have the opportunity to study the theme, "A pattern of life and a rhythm of prayer."

A collection plate will be placed by the cross aisles at each service during Lent for donations towards providing wells in Kaduna, Nigeria. The link

http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/index.php?page_ref=1061&item=54 shows pictures and gives details of this project. Clean water is very precious in communities where many children die young from disease or are unable to go to school because they have to spend many hours each day collecting water for their families. A new well costs around £600 so any sum we can raise to put towards this would be very welcome.

Tear Fund

At a recent meeting the P.C.C. discussed our giving to Tear Fund, which was down during 2013. The meeting decided to continue supporting Tear Fund, but felt it needed a higher profile and asked for someone to take on this role. After deliberation I agreed to do this for the next twelve months. I will be holding two to three Coffee Mornings during the year and the collection box will be out every Sunday, rather than just on the first Sunday of the month. I hope you will continue to support Tear Fund and help to increase our giving. Thank you in anticipation.

Moreen Freestone

Live and Local Date for your Diary

The group "Baltic Crossing" will be providing the entertainment on Friday, 11th April in Ansley Village Church Hall, (CV10 9PS) starting at 7.30 p.m. Five lively performers from Finland, Denmark and the UK will bring a breathtaking blend of fiery folk music, dynamic stage presence and light humour to the hall! Tickets will be £9.00 for adults and £6.00 for older children (12-15). Light refreshments will be available. Please contact Diana Kealey on 02476395089 to book seats or for answers to queries. Live and Local is an organisation that facilitates live performances in smaller, often rural, settings. It receives government and council grants to enable subsidised performances to take place. Their website is www.liveandlocal.org.uk.

Christmas Bird Quiz

At last all entries have been checked. The winner with a score of 79 is Mr Alan Dandy of Snarestone and his £10 voucher has been sent to him. We had two in joint second place with a score of 75 – Enid Bailey of Ansley and Pip Parkinson from Arley. The rest had scores ranging from 62 to 72. All have been notified. Many thanks to everyone who took part.
M. Freestone

St John's Hall Bingo

The next bingo session at St. John's church Hall will be on Monday 10th March and will follow the usual format with eyes down at 7 p.m.

St John's Valentine's Day Social report

All the tickets were sold out well in advance and everyone had a great time. Everyone had a lovely evening and all enjoyed the change of menu which this time included chips.
A surplus of £80 was made for hall funds.

Painting the church.

It was back in the 2006 that the PCC submitted an application to the diocese to give permission to paint the church interior when it was estimated the cost would be in the region of £10,000. (It had last been painted in 1982 at a cost of £1472). However events have intervened and the walls, some of which are now raw plaster, are still awaiting a coat of paint. At the recent PCC meeting it was agreed that we should now try to address this and plan to decorate the church. Whilst there are some funds available to do this work there are not sufficient. It was agreed that we try and raise £6,000 and as soon as this figure has been reached we will then obtain the necessary permissions and quotations to paint a grade II* listed building.

It will be lovely to see the church particularly the interior looking at its best and if you would like to donate to this cost please forward your gift by sending your donation to a member of the church congregation, post it to the treasurer at Heanley View, Hurley Common, Atherstone CV9 2LR or follow the link. <https://my.give.net/ansleypccfabricfund>

In the mean time we will be spring cleaning the church over the two weeks of 16th and 23rd June. If you wish to help please do come along especially the second week. (Please ring beforehand to be certain of the times when there will be some one there)

Prayer Requests

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

March, 2014

Well, despite the terrible weather, floods and gale force winds, signs of Spring are all around us as bulbs are through, there are buds on shrubs, and Snowdrops, Crocuses and Primulas are lending colour to the drab landscape. All we need now is to say goodbye to the wind and rain and welcome the sunshine.

There was a time when you had to be famous and dead to have streets named after you, as the streets in Galley Common are; they are named after famous writers and poets. The Wards at the George Eliot Hospital are named after characters from George Eliot novels. However, Stoke on Trent is making a trail and naming two streets after Robbie Williams for his 40th birthday. Whereas famous writers live on generation after generation, in years to come people will ask the question "Who exactly was Robbie Williams?"

As I was buying yet another pen for charity – this time for Sports Relief, I wondered if over the years I should have made a collection which would be like a social history. I have my first fountain pen, a Schaeffer Roller Ball (a present from one of my sons many years ago), a fold up pen, pens with my name on and numerous others, so I have now decided to put them all in a box, and keep them safe.

I thought I had heard it all, when a gardening magazine told about Black Tomatoes, but then in another edition there was an article on 'White Strawberries'. There had been a competition to name this new Strawberry and the winner was 'Strawbino'. What about 'Strawberry Red' and 'Tomato Red' - well, the present generations will always hold fast to these colour descriptions as Tomato Black and Strawberry White certainly don't sound right.

Just for a laugh: One day a chicken was introduced to a farm. The duck, who was the main bird in charge, shows the new chicken around. "This is where you go to get fed, this is the water trough and that is the coop. Chickens hang out near the fence, us ducks near the pond and the geese near the gate. We're pretty friendly but we keep to our own. Oh, but whatever you do, DO NOT cross that road! You'll never hear the end of it".

Welcome March, despite its wind and cold. A month to banish the winter of old.
Welcome March as it heralds the flowers, and makes the way for next month's showers.

Marie Cove