

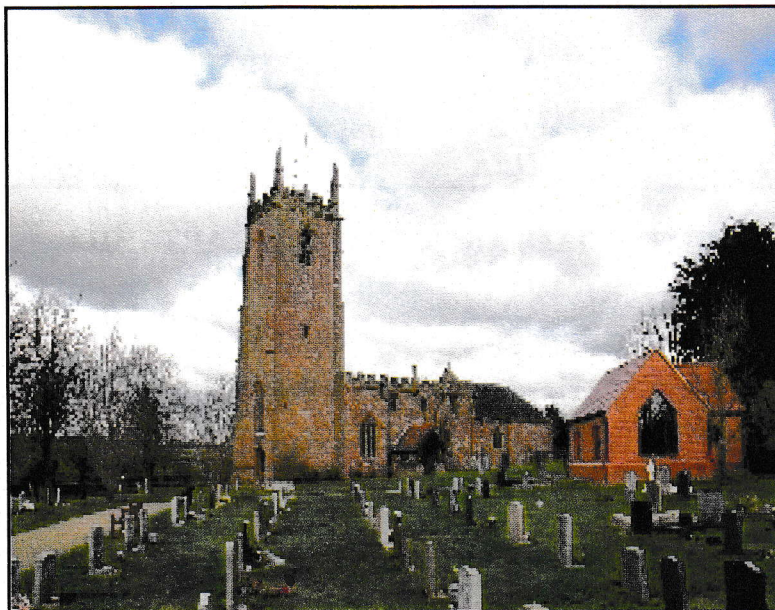
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1081

MARCH 2016

Price 30p



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A Lenten People, An Easter People

Most of us at some time or another experience discouragement - life does not go as we wish and the changes we experience are not the changes we would have longed for. This can lead us either to despair or to a desperate effort to prove to ourselves things are not as bad as they seem.

There is however a very different way.

We can look the problems in the face, search out the darkness and know even in the midst of the failure there is Jesus sharing in our loss AND there is Jesus, our Risen Lord and Saviour showing us that death is swallowed up in victory, that sins are forgiven, that light can never be extinguished by darkness and that love ultimately conquers hate.

Lent is an honest reflection on sacrifice and hardship. But it need not make us sad for we see everything from the other side of the Cross. Before March is over we'll be celebrating:

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

March St. Laurence's Church Services

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Sunday 6 th | Mothering Sunday | 10.30 a.m. | Special Service |
| | | 6.30 p.m. | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 13 th | Passion Sunday | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| | | 6.30 p.m. | Evensong |
| Sunday 20 th | Palm Sunday | 10.30 a.m. | Special Service |
| | | 6.30 p.m. | Holy Communion |
| Friday 25 th | Good Friday | 7.30 p.m. | Special Service |
| Sunday 27 th | Easter Day | 8.00 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| | | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| | | 6.30 p.m. | Evensong |

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Sunday 6 th | Mothering Sunday | 10.30 a.m. | Family Service |
| Sunday 13 th | Passion Sunday | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 20 th | Palm Sunday | 10.30 a.m. | Family Service |
| Thursday 24 th | Maundy Thursday | 7.00 p.m. | Special Service |
| Sunday 27 th | Easter Day | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |

From the Registers

No entries this month.

Lent Course

The Lent course continues with meetings in the Annexe on the following Thursdays: - 3rd, 10th and 17th March at 7.30 p.m. You are very welcome to come to all or any of these meetings as Peter shares his thoughts and invites discussion on Purpose, Prayer and People.

Women's World Day of Prayer

A service, prepared by the women of Cuba, will be held on Friday 4th March, at 10.30 a.m. in St Laurence's church. The title this year is "Receive children, receive me." This is an informal service, offering opportunity to take part [no rehearsals needed!] Men as well as women may join in and refreshments will be available in the annexe afterwards, with a few materials on display to look at and/or purchase. Do come along if you can.

Mothering Sunday Weekend

The church will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Saturday 5th March, so visitors to the churchyard may have the opportunity to benefit from the peaceful atmosphere of this ancient building and to spend some time in prayer or reflection. Refreshments will be available in the annexe. If you have some time available we would be grateful for help in annexe during the open hours.

Special Services will be held at St John's and St Laurence's at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 6th March [Mothering Sunday]. Following our tradition, posies of spring flowers will be handed out to all members of the congregations as a token gift from "Mother Church." This service also provides an opportunity for us to remember our mothers and to thank God for the love and care they give us day by day, or have given us in the past.

Girls' Brigade Parade

St John's congregation will be welcoming the Girls' Brigade to the 10.30 a.m. service on Palm Sunday.

A Special Announcement

As you know, Peter is due to retire shortly. The parish of St. Laurence's Ansley and St. Wilfrid's Arley will then be in what is known as "interregnum" – the period during which we think of the configuration of the post and the process which leads to the appointment of the next Priest-in-Charge by the Bishop of Coventry. The Archdeacon Missioner (Morris Rodham) runs this process and tries to make it as transparent as possible for everyone.

We are therefore holding a special open meeting on **Tuesday 22nd March at St. Michael's, New Arley**, when Morris will explain the process and try to answer any questions people may have about it. The meeting has been arranged so we can understand and start the process promptly.

We encourage as many people as possible from our congregations at St Laurence's and St John's to come to this meeting. As it is Holy Week, the meeting will commence with a brief act of worship at **7.15 p.m.**, with the main business starting at **7.30 p.m.**

If you need help with transport, do let a churchwarden know, so arrangements can be made.

Holy Week and Easter

You are very welcome to come along on **Maundy Thursday** [24th March] to St John's at 7.00 p.m., to share a meal of bread, soup and a glass of wine or fruit juice. This simple food enables us to remember and reflect on Jesus blessing the bread and wine at the Last Supper.

You are also invited to a vigil at St Laurence's on **Good Friday** at 7.30 p.m. Prayers, readings, hymns and contemplation will be used as we commemorate what our Saviour endured for our sake.

Easter Confirmation at cathedral

On **Holy Saturday**, from 9.00 a.m. the church will be decorated ready for the Easter Sunday services. We would be very grateful if you could help to arrange the flower displays. Donations towards the cost of lilies and other seasonal flowers would be much appreciated.

Easter Day

Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!

Local confirmation candidates will be confirmed at dawn at Coventry Cathedral. We pray for them as they join in the Easter celebrations as members of the body of Christ and wish them well as they continue their life journeys in the faith of Christ. All are welcome to attend this service.

Please feel welcome at any of the following local services. There will be Holy Communion at St Laurence's at 8.00 a.m., followed by Holy Communion services at St Laurence's and St John's, both at 10.30 a.m. The Easter celebrations will conclude with Evensong at 6.30 p.m. in St Laurence's church.

We hope you will be able to join us in our celebration of this important festival.

Advance Notices

- Easter Bonnet Social at St John's

St John's will be hosting an Easter Bonnet social evening on Friday 1st April at 7.00 p.m. The cost of tickets is £4 and they must be booked in advance. There will be a choice of sausages or faggots on the menu, followed by dessert. A warm, friendly welcome awaits you.

- Live and Local Show at Ansley Village Church Hall

You are invited to a musical evening, entitled "Songs from the Radio Ballads" on Friday 15th April at Ansley Village Church Hall [CV10 9PS]. The performance starts at 7.30 p.m. and tickets cost £8.50 for adults and £6.50 for 10 to 15 year olds. The solo performer is the well known singer/songwriter Jez Lowe, a radio 2 Folk Awards nominee in 2015. His narrative songs are folk influenced and have featured on BBC2's "Radio Ballads" series. More information about Jez can be found on his website www.jezlowe.com.

Light refreshments will be available during the interval and a raffle will be held for hall funds. This should be an entertaining and very enjoyable evening. Tickets can be obtained from Diana Kealey 02476395089.

The altar crib set

The crib figures, which are arranged on the altar as part of the Christmas displays, have been suffering from the effects of time, despite the great care taken to store them safely. They were brought back from the Holy Land in 1960 when the Reverend E. Jarvis and members of our congregation went there on pilgrimage.

Over the past fifty plus years the plaster figures have been knocked, rubbed, lost some paint and/or had bits broken off. They are a particularly lovely set, so some research was done to find out the cost of repair and restoration. The amount comes to approximately £500 and the PCC have agreed to have this work done. •

Donations towards the cost of restoring these fine Nativity figures will be very welcome. It will be lovely to see them as looking as good as new next Christmas.

Dementia Cafe

There is an opportunity for families and carers of people with dementia to meet up, to chat and relax in a friendly atmosphere at Arley and St Michael's Community Centre [CV7 8HA]. The first meeting was held on 3rd February from 2.00 p.m. to 4 p.m. The sessions are free, with tea, coffee and biscuits available for purchase. The venue has a wheelchair accessible toilet. Please phone Libby on 01676542753 for further details.

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, 2016

Every day when I get up I look out of the window to see what the weather is like and also to see how many birds are visiting us. The last few weeks there have been lots and lots of Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Sparrows and others, including the Robin. I know we all think these are the same characters who come back year after year, so I was disappointed to know that the little birds only live about two years.

Can you believe that in China some people are selling English fresh air for £80 a jar? The buyers can choose from really fresh air from Yorkshire or Devon salty air. What a fraud, as some gullible people are buying these jars for presents and as soon as the jar is opened out comes the fresh air.

As we now seem to have taken up the idea of naming storms, a newspaper was asked who chooses the names of these UK storms. It seems that we began naming storms last year and the Meteorological Office asked members of the public to suggest names. From these suggestions they go through the alphabet alternating between male and female names. They will end with Vernon and Wendy but no X, Y or Z.

If Hilary Clinton becomes President of the United States, what title will her husband be known as? On a U.S. chat show Hilary Clinton was asked this and she admitted this is very complicated because as an ex-president he is still addressed as Mr. President, but she said she would really have to work on this – perhaps, she suggested First Mate or First Gentleman – who knows?

March we welcome you as nights grow lighter, Crocuses and Snowdrops are blooming, Catkins hang from the trees, and generally there is an air of anticipation for the joys of Spring.

Marie Cove.