

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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That voice sounds familiar!

We can hear so many accents, dialects and languages around us these days, whether it's on the radio, TV, on the phone, in our local shops, up and down the street listening to snatches of other people's conversations as we pass by, or maybe when we go on holiday in the UK or abroad. Living in Coventry gives us the opportunity to hear many languages from around the world.

I'm sure you try to recognize where the person speaking might come from. It's probably one of the first things that cross my mind when I encounter someone. Other than being able to judge them by how they look, a person's voice shapes our opinion of them.

Hearing someone over the phone or on the radio for the first time can immediately conjure up a mental picture of that person. It's only when you meet them or get to know them better that your first impressions can be completely wrong. Our association with an accent adds to our impression. I was born and brought up in Glasgow in the late 1950s, and left home at 18 to work in London. My accent isn't as strong a Glaswegian one as you might expect, but when I say I am originally from Glasgow, people can be rather surprised that they can understand what I say!

A number of years ago, my wife, Frances, was involved in sorting out her late mother's will with a solicitor in Chelmsford, Essex. There had been numerous phone calls, and when they finally met, the solicitor immediately exclaimed, "I thought you were a blonde!" My wife is dark haired – the solicitor obviously thought she had a blonde voice! But she is an Essex girl!

It's so easy to make false judgments and wrong assumptions about people because of their accents, dialect or language. Prejudice means pre-judging others, and it has caused a great deal of the strife so widespread in our world today.

As a Church minister, and more importantly, a fellow human being, these words from the Bible about judging others have a great resonance about them:

'Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way as you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.'

(Matthew 7:1-3)

John Langlands

March St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 4 th	Lent 3	10.30 a.m.	Lent Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 th	Mothering	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18 th	Passion	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th	Palm	10.30 a.m.	Special Service
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 4 th	Lent 3	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St John's
Sunday 11 th	Mothering Sun	10.30 a.m.	Family Service/Girls' Brigade
Sunday 18 th	Passion Sun	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 25 th	Palm Sun	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Holy Week

Thursday 29 th	Maundy Thurs	7.00 p.m.	At St John's Details below.
Friday 30 th	Good Friday	12.00 to 5.00 p.m.	At St Laurence's Details below.

Please Note

During the interregnum it may be necessary to change the pattern of services from time to time at fairly short notice. This would be to enable visiting clergy to hold a communion service.

From the Registers

Funeral

The funeral of John Sturgess took place on Friday 16th February. He was born in Ridge Lane, lived at Ansley Hall Cottages, enjoyed sports, especially tennis and football. He worked at Ansley Hall Colliery. He met his wife, Kate, in 1952, married her in 1955 and moved to Weddington. They had two daughters. The family moved to Ansley Common in 1970, living opposite John's parents, until their deaths. The family donated a silver pyx to St John's, which is used regularly at Communion services.

John moved to Eastbourne, working as Head of Caretaking at Eastbourne School and Colleges. He spent his retirement years with his family in Eastbourne, until his death at the age of 85. John had two grand children and two great grand children. They and all his family will miss him greatly.

Lent Course

The Lent course, "On the Third Day," continues at the annexe, St Laurence's, Ansley. This course is open to all within the local parishes. Come along to study God's word at this special time of the year. You are very welcome whether you enjoy joining in discussions or prefer to listen and reflect privately on what you hear. If you cannot attend each Thursday, come along when you can, or ask Margaret Antill for a booklet for personal study at a time and place to suit you. The final meeting at the Annexe will be on Thursday 22nd March.

Lent giving

The retiring collection plate will be at the cross aisles to collect towards providing clean water wells for the people of Kaduna in Nigeria.

Women's World Day of Prayer 2018

You are warmly invited to a Women's World Day of Prayer service at St Laurence's Church on Friday 2nd March at 10.30 a.m. The service this year has been prepared by the women of Suriname and has the title, "All God's Creation is very good." Everyone is welcome to attend and refreshments will be available after the service.

Holy Week and Easter 2018

Palm Sunday 25th March

The congregation at St Laurence's will meet in the Annexe for the start of the Palm Sunday service and then progress to the church.

Maundy Thursday, 29th March

You are all invited to St John's Hall at 7.00 p.m. to join in remembering this special day. A meal of bread and wine will be shared to mark the Last Supper, when Jesus and his disciples met to celebrate the Jewish festival of Passover.

Good Friday, 30th March

There is a different arrangement for Good Friday at St Laurence's this year. The church will be open from 12.00 to 5.00 p.m. You are warmly invited to come along when you wish during this time and to stay for a while, as suits you. Suggestions for Bible readings, meditation and prayer will be available, or you may wish to rest in the peace of the church with your own reflections.

Holy Saturday 31st March

Do come along from 9.00 a.m. to help decorate the church for Easter Day. The church will need to be cleaned after the flowers are in place, so hopefully, you will find a job to do, whether arranging flowers or helping to dust! It is lovely to see the church bright with flowers and "spick and span" for Easter Sunday.

Easter Flowers

Any donations towards the cost of flowers to decorate the church for Easter will be very much appreciated.

Easter Sunday 1st April

There will be services of Holy Communion at St Laurence's and St John's, both at 10.30 a.m. Evensong will be held at St Laurence's at 6.30 p.m. You are very welcome to join us in worship on this special day.

St John's February Social

A singer/entertainer was booked for an evening of music from the Fifties and Sixties. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the evening, taking part in some community singing and dancing to the music. A sign of the evening's great success is that the same entertainer has been booked for their Christmas 2018 Social. £100 was raised for Hall Funds.

Memorial Service

This service provided a special opportunity to remember loved ones with grateful hearts. Thank you to all who gave towards the ongoing maintenance of the churchyard. A sum of £62.80 from this collection has been placed in the churchyard account.

Donation to St John's

An anonymous donation of £500 has been given to St John's. All the people there would like to express their gratitude for this generous gift.

From the PCC

Finance

The 2017 accounts have now been audited and will be discussed fully by the PCC once they have been returned.

The expenditure exceeded income in the general account by £2,000. The most marked reductions were from collections at services, funeral and wedding fees and also a lack of bequests to the general account. The December income was considerably less than in 2016, partly due to the bad weather, as some services were cancelled and one day of the Christmas Tree Festival was also badly affected by the heavy snowfall. The pattern of services over Christmas was different because of the calendar last year. The usual Sunday Services did not take place because of Christmas Day falling on the Monday. Our total expenditure was also lower. This was mainly due to a reduction in our Parish Share figure, because there were more weddings and funerals in 2016. The fees from these services are sent to the Diocese and a proportion of them deducted from the next year's Parish Share. The electricity bill, which includes the heating costs, continues, unsurprisingly, to increase!

The Churchyard account incurred some additional cost for work carried out on the trees. It should be noted that we have just received permission from the Archdeacon to carry out more work on the eight lime trees to remove the dead wood and other growth from the crown area. This is specialist work and at a height so will have to be paid for.

In 2017 no work was done on St Laurence's Church building, so the fabric fund showed a surplus. However we did have the quinquennial survey and have now received permission to have some repairs carried out on the ground gutters and the aisle quarry tiles. Our architect is now asking for quotes to carry out this necessary work when the better weather comes. It is important that we keep the damp out of the church foundations and also that there are no trip hazards in the aisles.

The churchwardens and PCC would like to thank everyone from the community who gave support in some way to the church during 2017. There are so many of you!

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 a warden. Phone numbers are on the front page of this magazine. Please remember that a visit can be arranged to anyone who is sick, but the wardens do need to know, so again please ring.

Please pray for who is.....

March 2018

We British are certainly a hardy breed as the weather is ever-changing. One day in February we awoke to quite a lot of snow, but within just over an hour, it disappeared and we were left with blue skies and sunshine, but bitterly cold. There are, however signs that Spring is on its way, as there are lots of Catkins on the trees and the bulbs are through.

If anyone loves to see the moon in the night sky as I do, they will know that this year there have been some beautiful sights – huge Full Moon, a Blue Moon and although we couldn't see it in the West, there was a Red Moon which is a total eclipse. My mother told us never to look at the New Moon through glass – hard luck on those of us who wear glasses. She also told us that when there is a Full Moon some people go mad – thus the word lunatic from lunar.

Recently I watched a debate on television asking if marriage should expire if required after 20 years. What a load of rubbish! If people want to treat the marriage service like a mortgage or an insurance policy, why get married and take the vows that promise, 'Till death us do part'?

I recycle when I can – buy green bags for food waste and putting cardboard and paper in the red bin together with tins, bottles etc. However, it isn't always that people don't recycle, it is because they can't as a lot of plastic can't be recycled and just recently as I was opening a box of Bisto and preparing to put the empty one in the red bin, I read the label on the side and it said that the bag containing the Bisto could not yet be recycled. How on earth do people know what they can or cannot recycle?

An Irish wish;

May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you."

Marie Cove