

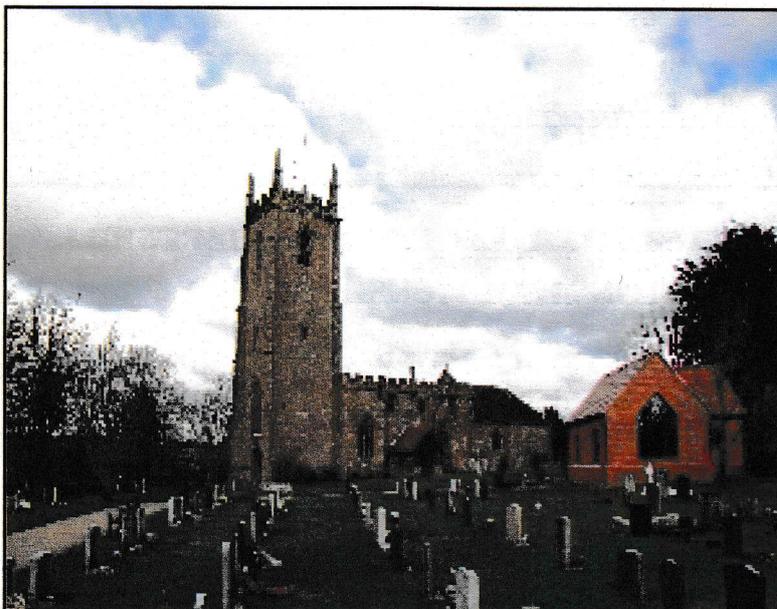
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Price 30p



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Rev. John's Jottings

At St Laurence car-park there is a new addition! It is something that will be for the benefit of those who are helped through the work of the Salvation Army – it is a secure clothes bank collection container. It will provide a number of benefits to those who are struggling to provide the basic needs of life for themselves, as well as an opportunity to recycle used items of clothes.

I don't know about you, but it never ceases to amaze me that in our country today there are still seriously high numbers of people who struggle to find a roof over their head, food on the table and clothes to keep warm.

It was the great William Booth who founded the Salvation Army in 1865, over 150 years ago, and it is still going strong today. He probably would never have imagined from the slums of Victorian Britain that his organisation would be needed just as much today as it was when he founded it! Today the Salvation Army operates in 111 nations and is one of the largest distributors of food and humanitarian aid in the world.

Though William Booth was born into a relatively wealthy family, he soon learned what it was to be poor. After some bad financial investments by his father, the family was plunged into poverty. It was his Christian faith that was to be the driving force in establishing the Salvation Army.

It's so easy to condemn or brush aside those who are less fortunate than us. 'Stuff' happens in life and none of us know what is round the corner. It's so easy to take all of life's benefits for granted. The basis of much of the charitable works that exist in our country today is because of people of faith like William Booth. Such people's lives are always a challenge to my own meagre faith and response to those in need.

I hope together we can share in the task of reaching out to those in need. Like the new addition to St Laurence's car-park - what seems one small step, can be the means of a larger step to demonstrate love and care in action to our fellow human beings.

With all good wishes.

Rev John

March St Laurence's Church, Ansley Services

Sunday 3 rd	Next before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th	Lent 1	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 17 th	Lent 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 24 th	Lent 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 31 st	Mothering Sun.	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Songs of Praise
Wed 6 th	Ash Wednesday	7.30 p.m.	Joint Benefice Service

St John's Church Hall, Ansley Common Services

Sunday 3 rd	Next before Lent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 10 th	Lent 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th	Lent 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 24 th	Lent 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 31 st	Mothering Sun.	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship

From the Registers

See next month.

Lent 2019

Ash Wednesday

New Arley, Old Arley and St John's congregations are warmly invited to a Joint Benefice service on Ash Wednesday, 6th March at St Laurence's, starting at 7.30 p.m.

Lent Collection

During Lent, a plate will be placed at the cross aisle in St Laurence's church for those wishing to contribute to the provision of clean water wells in Kaduna Province, Nigeria.

Lent Reflections

The Reverend John will be leading a series of reflections during Lent. These will rotate around the parishes, as detailed below.

The first will be held at St John's on Wednesday 20th March between 2.00 and 3.00 p.m.

The second will be at St Wilfrid's on Wednesday 27th March at 7.15 p.m.

The third will be at St Laurence's on Wednesday 3rd April at 7.15 p.m.

The fourth will be at St John's on Wednesday 10th April from 2.00 to 3.00 p.m.

The fifth will be at St Michael's on Wednesday 17th April at 7.15 p.m.

You will be very welcome at any of the venues whether you can attend them all or not.

Ansley Prayer Meeting

The next prayer meeting will be on Tuesday 26th March in the Annexe from 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

St John's Children's After School Club

This group will meet on Tuesday 26th March from 3.45 to 4.45 p.m. in St John's Hall.

Children's Holiday Club Ansley Village Church Hall

The next meeting is on Thursday 18th April from 10.00 to 11.30 a.m.

Open Church

The church will be open to visitors on Saturday 30th March, the day before Mothering Sunday, from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Advance Notices

The AGM of the PCC will be held on Tuesday 9th April in the Annexe. This year the Electoral Roll has to be redone. Completed forms should be handed in by 17th March. The forms have to be completed by those who have been on the roll for the last six years as well as by those who have not been on before but would like to be included this time.

Easter – Palm Sunday, 14th April, the service will begin in the Annexe and then process to the church. Maundy Thursday, 18th April, a service of Holy Communion, soup and bread at St John's, 7.00 p.m., Good Friday, open church at St Laurence for individual reflection plus one hour led by the Rev. John. (Time to be confirmed). Easter Saturday, help would be appreciated with decorating the church. Easter Sunday there will be Holy Communion at St Laurence's at 8.00 a.m. as well as the normal service pattern.

Christmas Tree Festival Quiz

I would like to thank everyone who took part in the quiz. I am pleased to announce that the winner of the £10 voucher for the highest number of correct answers (40) is Mrs Councill. M. Freestone

World Day of Prayer

Report next month

From the PCC

Finance

God has been very good to us. By the end of the year we had not been able to pay £1080.40 of the parish share. However by the time of the PCC meeting on the 22nd January we had received a very generous anonymous donation and, with other funds that had come in early in the New Year, the PCC were able to make the decision to pay that outstanding amount.

We had made our possible shortfall on the Parish Share clear back in the autumn, not only to the congregation and the people of Ansley but also to those who set the budget at deanery level. The other Warwickshire deaneries are helping Nuneaton deanery which has enabled Nuneaton deanery to reduce the amount they are asking us to pay in 2019. The amount we are being asked to pay is £20,000, which is a reduction of £4,594 on the amount asked for in 2018. This £20,000 equates to the total cost allocated for 0.25 of a vicar which includes not just John's salary but a share of other Diocesan expenditure as

well. If you wish to know in more detail how these figures are calculated please do have a word.

We are very grateful to all who have responded to the situation that has arisen and have increased their giving in one way or another. But please do remember that our situation is still not good as we are now without any reserves to meet any unexpected or increased costs that may occur.

God has provided for us and we are confident of his goodness to us.

Items of note in the accounts

General account: Overall our figures are very much the same as last year. As mentioned above we no longer had the reserves to carry forward to meet all our needs.

Of concern is that the magazine is not paying its way, having a deficit of £120. The production costs have not increased for some years, but sales are reducing. It is not known how long we can continue with this situation. It is however noted that the website is being used increasingly and the information that people want is being found from there. However we still need to produce some form of paper communication.

Our heating costs are also going to continue increasing but they are monitored very closely.

Churchyard Fund: Having paid for the £4,100 worth of work carried out on the trees from the Buckler Churchyard Bequest Account, this account just managed to pay all the bills without drawing on the deposit account. The final position was a deficit of £262. The delay in starting the grass cutting because of the harsh winter at the beginning of 2018 resulted in £520 reduction in the grass cutting bill to £4,240. This helped the position immensely.

Fabric Fund: We have spent just over £8,000 on the church fabric in 2018. However, like all work on the building, it will we hope be a case of "a stitch in time." As with all old buildings maintenance and repairs are ongoing issues.

Other accounts: Both the hall accounts and St. John's Services account have made a surplus, which is ensuring they remain on a secure footing. St. John's Services account has also contributed £1,175 towards the parish share.

You are welcome to see a full copy of the accounts once they have been inspected. There will be a copy in the church porch for about 6 weeks or please do have a word.
Policies

The February PCC meeting was devoted to reviewing and updating church policies. A printed copy of the updated policies will be placed in the files. There is a policy file at church, in the vestry and in St John's Hall and Ansley Village Hall.

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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 cover 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 forwho is.....

March, 2019

When I was updating my Christmas card list, as so many people have moved house etc., I asked my son if he had our grandson's address. He said he didn't but he could give me his E-Mail address. Looks as if posting letters and sending cards is becoming extinct like the dinosaurs.

I often wonder why I hate being untidy in my dress and then I was watching films from the 40's and 50's and realised when we were young we had very few clothes but dressed very neat and tidy and this has rubbed off on me. On Sundays we wore our best clothes all day, we went to church in them and then to Sunday School and then put a pinafore over them when we returned home. We were not allowed to knit or sew on Sundays, but we could read. Sunday was a very quiet day but in the summer we went for a walk with our Mam and Dad.

Every now and then I have a blitz on things like clothes, magazines etc, which I throw out. My quest is never very successful, though, as everything seems so precious. A lady on the T.V. said nobody should keep more than 20 books. This horrified me as a book lover. When I started a part time job after being a full time housewife and mother for twenty years, I bought a set of Charles Dickens books (32), which I bought by monthly payment. I have already passed the 20 mark without my Jane Austen, George Eliot, Bronte titles and books I have received as presents. So, no way could I ever get down to 20 books and I don't want to as I still regularly go back to my old favourites and read them again.

Walt Disney was sacked by his employers at the newspaper where he worked because they said he had no imagination. Can you believe this of a man who has delighted children for over 60 years with his wonderful characters?

Marie Cove.