

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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## APRIL NEWSLETTER

Arley Rectory,  
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Dear friends,

A very happy Easter to you all!

Recently one of the newspapers did a survey to see how many children knew what Easter meant. Most of them talked about Easter eggs, Spring and Easter bunnies. None of them knew that it is about the most amazing happening in the history of the world: somebody coming back to life. What's more, He did not come back just to this life that we already experience. Jesus returned with a completely new kind of life, with a new kind of body—Resurrection life.

Why is this so important to Christians? Jesus was a remarkable person who suffered an unjust and untimely death. Even his enemies had to admit that he had done nothing wrong. But because of their jealousy of his popularity, their desire for power, their fear of what others might think, they manipulated the legal system (does it sound familiar to us today?) in order to get what they wanted—the execution of Jesus.

If Jesus had died and simply been buried, it would have been a terrible pity. People would have remembered him and honoured his memory, but he would not have been able to save us. Death, the ultimate enemy, would have won. It would have remained a locked door—locked, barred and bolted by our sins, refusing anyone entry into heaven.

But Jesus rose from the dead, and that was the first time it had ever happened. As C. S. Lewis says, 'he has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the king of death, the devil. Everything is different because Jesus has done so. He is the beginning of the New Creation.'

It is a new life that Jesus, the Son of God, offers to all those who believe in and worship him. What is truly amazing is that even we can share his risen life. To believe in Jesus is to choose, celebrate and experience the life of God himself.

Now there's a reason for rejoicing this Easter.

In his love,  
Gill and Geoff.

## **SERVICES IN APRIL**

### **At St. Laurence:**

April 5: Family Service with Baptism at 10.30 a.m.,  
6.30 p.m., Traditional Holy Communion.

April 9: **Maundy Thursday** supper and Communion in the Church Hall at 7.45 p.m.

April 10: **Good Friday Vigil** at 8.00 p.m.

### **April 12: EASTER SUNDAY**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Festival Evensong.

April 19: 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer.

6.30 p.m. Holy Communion (Celebrant: Rev. Martin Hathaway, curate at Weddington).

April 26: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

### **At St. John's:**

April 12: **Easter Sunday Communion** by extension at 10.15 a.m.

April 26: Family Service at 10.15 a.m.

### **MID-WEEK SERVICES ON THURSDAYS:**

April 2: 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion in St. John's Hall.

April 9: No morning service, Maundy Thursday service in Ansley Church Hall (see above).

April 16: Morning Prayer in St. John's Hall at 9.15 a.m.

April 23: Night Prayer in St. Laurence's at 7.30 p.m.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

See Holy Week events.

April 2: 7.45 p.m. AGM in Ansley Church Hall.

April 5: The new Bishop of Coventry, the Rt. Rev. Colin Bennetts, is installed in the Cathedral at 3.00 p.m. Do pray for him and his family.

April 30: 7.45 p.m. The new PCC meets in St. John's. We shall start with a Communion service.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

—To May 9th, when there will be a study for everyone in Corley Village Hall.

Theme: '**Adventures in Prayer**,' led by Revs. Michael and Sharon Simpson.

Those who met Michael on our Pause for Thought Quiet Day will know that we are in for a treat!

Bus details for 6.30 p.m. Evening Service.

Ansley Village turn 6.00 p.m.

Ansley Common St. John's 6.20 p.m.

Return journey from Parish Church 7.30 p.m.

St. John's Children's Club: Every Tuesday 6.30-7.30 p.m.

To book St. John's Hall: Contact Pat Barnes, 69 Ansley Common.



## CHURCHYARDS AND GRAVES

Not everyone knows that the diocese of Coventry has rules about memorials in churchyards. We hope that it will be of interest and help if we quote some of them, so that readers will know the reasons for some of the decisions that are taken about gravestones and churchyards.

So here are some extracts from 'Guidelines and Rules for the Care and Management of Churchyards':

'Parishes are encouraged to consider the implications for future maintenance in the layout and design of monuments. For this reason raised kerbs and other encumbrances to grass cutting are expressly banned.

'The diocese encourages an imaginative approach to the design of memorials in churchyards.'

However—

'The colour of gravestones should match those of the established pattern in the churchyard. In general these are buff and light grey. Black granites are unsuitably intrusive . . .

' . . . polished finishes, particularly the high-polish often supplied as standard, is inappropriate.'

(But part-polished stones are acceptable).

'Photographs, as part of the monument, are considered inappropriate.

'For cremated remains, vertical headstones are not permitted.'

This may all sound negative, but the upkeep of churchyards requires an enormous amount of work, and we are required to keep them looking neat so that they are restful places for people to visit.

Stonemasons and funeral directors are able to give guidance on the type of gravestones that are acceptable.

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St Laurence's Church gratefully acknowledges a bequest from Miss Veasey, given for the fabric of the church, Miss Veasey was organist at the church for many years.

**ANSLEY 2000**—"Nostalgia Evening" and Bring and Buy Sale will be held on Friday, 15th May at 7.30 p.m., in Ansley Village Church Hall. Come along and learn what Ansley Parish can do for the Millennium. Bring along old photographs, objects and stories.

**The church** will be decorated for Easter on Saturday, 11th April from 10.00 a.m. onwards. Anyone who can help will be welcome.

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

### Deaths

**Amy Allton (nee James).** Amy was well known and loved in Ansley. She was born in Ansley Village and after courting Albert from the age of 14, they married 63 years ago and went to live in Birmingham Road. They kept the Petrol Station in Ansley and afterwards the Village Shop.

She and Albert regularly attended the Village Chapel where Amy preached. She also talked to the M.U., and was a true Christian lady as she was at home in church or chapel. We will all miss her for her wit and her lively character but we are confident she is in God's care. We extend our condolences to Albert and her family.

**Samuel James Phillips.** Sam died recently and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him. In his earlier days he had a true zest for life and was well known both in Ansley Village and Ansley Common. He was born in Ansley Common and worked for many years as a miner at Ansley Hall Colliery. He and his wife moved to Ansley Village after they were married and after moving back to the Common they returned to the Village.

We send our regrets and sadness to his wife and family in their loss.

28 Nuthurst Crescent  
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Telephone: 01203 394114  
1st April, 1998

Dear Friends,

Mothering Sunday has come and gone but what memories this day can hold. When we were children we earned precious pennies by running errands to buy Mam a bunch of violets. There were no fancy cards or boxes of chocolates; our cards were given to us at the afternoon Mothering Sunday Service. This was a very proud day for our Mam as the Vicar called out the family with the most children first. This was us and what a lovely feeling when we collected our cards and took them to Mam in church and each gave her a hug and kiss. How proud we all felt of that little lady.

On this day we can think of the most privileged mother of all—Mary the mother of Jesus. God chose well and with great wisdom the mother of Jesus. She had to be what every mother strives to be—loving, selfless, patient, firm, a shining example, a teacher of scriptures and warm hearted.

Some women have all the attributes of a mother but never have any children of their own. Especially we remember Mother Teresa who gave love, food and shelter to thousands of orphans. To them she was the mother they never had.

To us whose mothers are no longer with us we have memories which never fade, and as we receive cards and flowers, we know that women everywhere are shedding a few tears as they remember Mothering Sundays of the past.

Life throws up many challengers and many beautiful moments, and if we recall Mary's fear when Jesus was lost and they found Him in the Temple, what a relief! What a natural reaction to rebuke her Son, but also those words "His mother treasured all these things in her heart." Just like mothers now and from ages past Mary had a heart large enough to store all the memories, kind enough to forgive and gentle enough to love and cherish.

May we all, men and women, extend a hand to children who need us as their memories are being made today and how they see this world is how they themselves are treated.

"If God could keep all children in the hollow of His Hand, peace would be a reality in this torn and troubled land."

God Bless,  
Marie.