

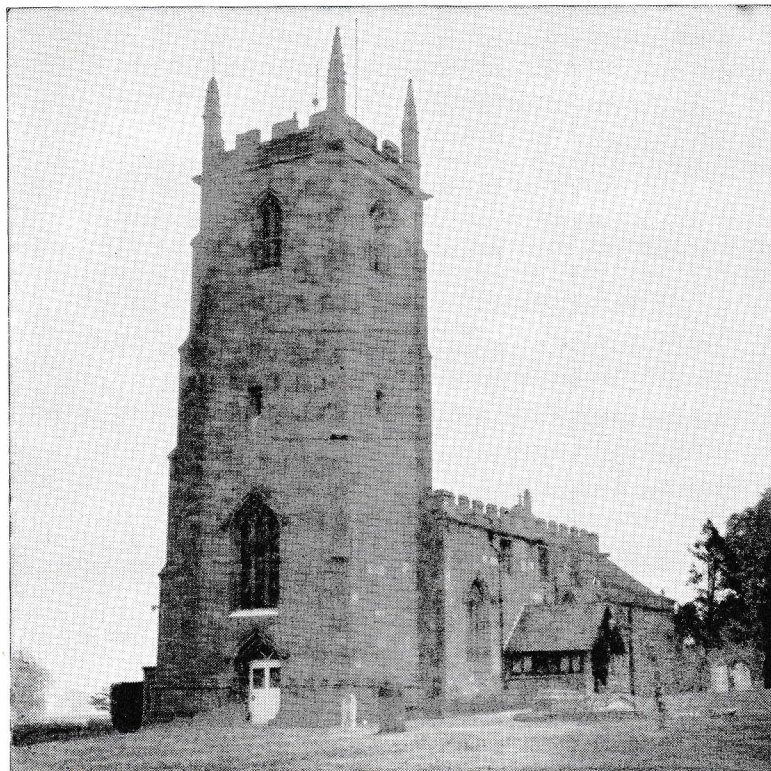
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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EASTER NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Last month the plants in the window-box were just showing green shoots. Now the trough is crowded with crocuses in yellow, purple and white, and three kinds of tulips with striped petals and leaves. They are a wonderful splash of colour, as well as reminding us of our far-away daughter! Yet for months there was only bare earth in the box, and we had to remind ourselves that there really were bulbs buried in there.

The death of Jesus on the cross was devastating for his friends. They honestly believed that it was all over, that their hopes were in ruins, and that there was nothing left to show for the three marvellous years when Jesus was with them. None of them was expecting Jesus to rise again.

Many people these days in the west find it hard to believe in the resurrection. Some people have even set out to prove that it could not possibly have happened. The women must have gone to the wrong tomb, they've said. But don't forget that there was an official guard on the tomb from the governing authorities.

Or maybe Jesus just went into a deep unconsciousness, we're told, then recovered and came out of the tomb. In that case, he would have to get past the guard. And anyone that ill, who had been flogged and crucified, would be very unlikely to have the strength to move the stone from over the entrance.

With nobody expecting the resurrection, people were very hard to convince. When the women met the resurrected Jesus on Easter morning, they went rushing home to tell the disciples. None of them believed. Peter and John even went to the tomb to check for themselves. They found the stone rolled away, and the graveclothes still lying there, but no body. They were very puzzled.

The authorities were told by the wretched guards that the body had gone. They could offer no explanation. If they had taken the body themselves, they would have produced it later when the disciples started saying that Jesus had risen from the dead, in order to prove them wrong.

The biggest proof of all is the change in the hearts and minds of the disciples. From being frightened and hiding away, they went out on the streets, full of joy and power, to preach the good news that Jesus is indeed the Son of God, crucified for our sins, but risen from death to open the way to heaven for all those who put their trust in him.

His death led to new life, both for him and for his followers, not only at the time, but also for us today. Just as our bulbs grew and blossomed and remind us of someone we love who is absent, so Easter does the same. It reminds us that death is not the end. It rejoices in the new life Jesus is able to share with his followers. And it is a sign of the Saviour who loves us, and who calls us to love him and live his risen life.

May you and your family worship and rejoice in the presence of the living Lord Jesus this Easter!

In God's love,

Gill and Geoff,

SERVICES FOR APRIL Theme: Discoveries

There will only be one service at St. John's Hall this month, on 9th April at 10.15 a.m. On 23rd April there will be a united service at the church for Easter.

Services at St. Laurence's are at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

April 2—MOTHERING SUNDAY services at both morning and evening times.

April 9—am Holy Communion,
pm Evening Prayer.

April 16—am Palm Sunday Morning Prayer.
pm Palm Sunday Holy Communion.

April 23—EASTER DAY.

8.00 am Holy Communion.

10.30 am Holy Communion.

6.30 pm Festival Evensong.

April 30—am Holy Communion with Rev. Derek Jupe.
pm Evening Prayer with Donald Parr.

Mid-week service

April 18th 9.30 a.m. in the Village Church Hall: Holy Communion by Extension for Easter. Please note that St. John's congregation has decided to suspend the monthly Tuesday Communion services. Instead, there will be Holy Communion by Extension once a month on Sunday morning, alternating with the usual Family Service.

Home Communions this month will be on Tuesday, April 11th.

April events

Every Monday except school holidays: LINKS children's club in the Village Hall for ages 7-11.

April 1st: St. Laurence's will be open all day from 10.00 a.m., serving refreshments. If you are visiting the churchyard in preparation for Mothering Sunday, do pop in. There will also be a small craft exhibition.

April 4th 7.30 p.m. at the Rectory: Planning Meeting for Fellowship Day.

April 5th & 12th: Lent course in St. Wilfrid's Upper Room.

Session 4: Telling our story—and God's,

Session 5: How to talk about our faith: and how not to!

April 5th: at Lea Lodge, Monwode Lea 10.30-12.30 Christian Unity coffee morning. Proceeds will be shared between St. Joseph's, Arley; St. Laurence's, Ansley and St. Leonard's, Over Whitacre. Bring and Buy, Raffle, all welcome.

April 7th 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall: Ansley 2000 event, when Mr. Roundtree will be showing cine film of the 1966 Pageant and other notable occasions in Ansley.

Thursday, April 13th at 7.45 p.m.: AGM at St. John's Hall.

Saturday, April 15th 10.00 a.m.-3.30 p.m.: Fellowship Day in the Village Hall. Guest Speaker: Mike Stewart from Coventry City Mission on 'How to give away your faith!' Tickets £3.50 including lunch and refreshments. Please book in advance to help us with catering.

Tuesday, April 18th 7.30 p.m.: Morning Worship team meets at the Rectory.

Maundy Thursday, April 20th at 10.30 a.m.: Special service in the cathedral.

7.30 p.m. 'Last Supper' event in St. John's Hall.

Good Friday, April 21st 7.30 p.m.: 'At the Foot of the Cross' Vigil, with prayers, readings, meditations and hymns, at church.

Saturday, April 22nd from 10.00 a.m.: Please come and help decorate the church for Easter. Donations for Easter flowers are most welcome, to Margaret Antill or Margaret Kimberley.

April 28th-May 1st at the Royal Norfolk Showground: Living Water, a lively event of worship and teaching. There is still time to book! Bring tents or caravans, or book into a hotel or bed and breakfast guest houses in nearby Norwich. The University of East Anglia has special rates for those attending LivingWater. See Gill for more details. Special events for children and young people, who have their own programme.

Thank you to the social committee, for organising the fun we had at the Quiz Evening!

FROM THE REGISTERS

We welcome William Sutton, who was christened last month.

From the Kimberley family

To: All our Ansley Church Family,

Margaret, Ray, Jane and Martin send their heartfelt thanks for all the prayerful support, beautiful cards, letters, donations, loving care and practical help plus your attendance at the wonderful service on 16th February, all of which have helped to sustain them during these past few painful weeks.

From the hundreds of tributes received it is clear that Ian had achieved much, but more importantly had influenced, helped and enriched many lives other than his own family's, God bless you all!

Gill Kimber.

On behalf of all the young people and children in Ansley Village and Birchley Heath, a big thank you to Ansley Parish Council for installing new play equipment in the recreation grounds. This will be very well used and appreciated by all, especially as the weather improves and nights get lighter.

On the 21st February we said farewell and thanked God for Henry Truelove, who had lived in Ansley 80 of his 90 years. Following in his father's footsteps, Dad, a life long farmer nurtured the soil and cared for his animals. A committed family man, he was always supportive of Edith and his extended relations and friends. Henry had a strong faith and was committed to the church, which meant so much to him, particularly in retirement when he was able to spend many happy hours working in the churchyard.

Thank you for the very generous donations given in his memory, which will be divided between the church and Arley Stroke Club, both of which were so good to him in his later years.

The Children's Society

Following recent controversial decisions by the Children's Society, the PCC has decided to withdraw support. This has involved much heart-searching and discussion. We are aware that the issues are complex, that the Society continues to do much excellent work, and that we wish to support those who are trying to help children. However, in the end we felt that we must take a stand for what we consider to be God's best plan for families.

Accordingly, after looking at various organisations, we have agreed to support **Spurgeon's Child Care**. This is a long-standing charity which has over 50 projects in this country, and is also developing work amongst needy children abroad. It provides playgroups, school clubs, holiday play schemes, activities and counselling services for children, working with parents, schools and other churches.

It also provides support for families, parents and single parents, by working with social services to provide friendship, training and ways of meeting practical needs. We were particularly impressed with their work amongst young people, tackling youth homelessness, group work for those excluded from school, an advocacy service, youth justice and bail support, advice and practical help as disadvantaged young people seek to establish themselves independently with work and a home.

I would like to thank Margaret Oliver for all her hard work arranging support for the Children's Society over many years, and I'm delighted that she is happy to continue in this role for Spurgeon's.

EDITORIAL

1st April, 2000

As friends and acquaintances of mine know, I have always been an avid knitter. Anyone mention having a baby and out come my patterns, but I have for some time considered that knitting is becoming a lost art. I have taught my grandchildren to knit but they are not particularly interested. However, in our Sunday Magazine at the beginning of March there was an article on the comeback of knitting. Apparently famous film stars have been seen knitting between scenes and it also said that knitting workshops had been set up for people to learn how to knit. Having loved knitting since I was 4 years old, this was music to my ears and simply great to think interest was going to be renewed, but best of all that the skill would not die out.

For anyone who doesn't like pressing the finished garment after knitting, I would advise you put a clean piece of paper under your chair cushion, lay out the pieces of knitting, put another piece of paper over the top and sit on it. This works really great.

Have you gone metric? I heard on the radio that the United States of America have not gone metric and don't intend to. They still work in the good old feet and inches, ounces and pounds. It seems there is a real generation split between those of us who learned our weights and measures at school before metrification and find it very hard to forget this, and youngsters of today who have known nothing else but metric, in fact they could not tell you how many inches to a foot or ounces to a pound. We were on a walk one day and my grand-daughter said that her brother was a metre behind. This sounded really strange to me. Also what do we change 'give him an inch and he takes a mile' to—perhaps 'give him a metre and he'll take a kilometre.' Somehow it doesn't have the same ring.

This also reminded me of how cooks of today measure everything. When I was at home my mother never owned a pair of scales and even now I very rarely weigh anything. For everyday cooking we used to measure in teaspoons and tablespoons, and my mother made scrumptious cakes and pastry without any scales. If anyone has a Mrs. Beaton's cookery book the television cooks of today would cringe as she uses lard, butter, sugar, and everything in huge quantities. She gives a recipe for 'Rook Pie, using 6 young rooks and when she makes shortbread she used one whole pound of butter. However, I can assure you just reading the recipes makes your mouth water.

I was given the following which was found in the very ancient church of Eastwell Village in Leicestershire:

If ought thou has to give or lend this simple village church befriend.
If poor but of spirit willing, out with your purse and give a shilling.
But if it's depth should be profound, think of thy God and give a pound.

Look for no record to be given, but trust to thy receipt from Heaven.
It seemed strange I should be given this as I had previously been talking about not going metric.

A very happy Easter to you all, God bless.

Marie Cove.