

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

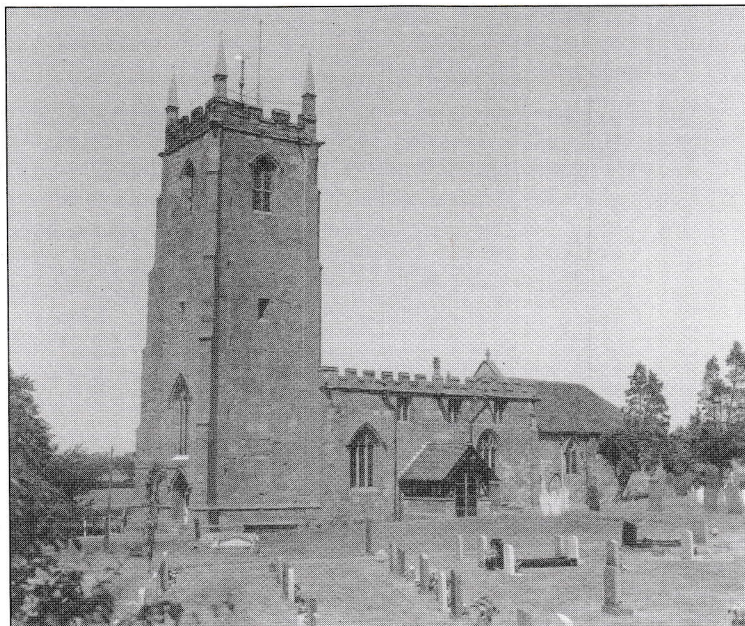
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## To Lend or to Give?

May I welcome you to join us in worship at our Holy Week and Easter Services. We shall start Holy Week at 10.30a.m on 4 April with a Palm Sunday procession at St. Laurence. This will be followed by a reading of the Passion Story. On Maundy Thursday 8 April you are invited to share in the celebration of Holy Communion at St. John's at 7.30 p.m. There will also be a Palm Sunday Service at St. John's. We shall mark Good Friday with a vigil at St. Laurence at 7.30 p.m.

There will be five quite contrasting services to celebrate the wonderful resurrection of Jesus from the dead. At 8p.m. on Easter Eve - 10 April - we shall be holding the Service of First Light at St. Michael's. This is an ancient tradition and a very dramatic service. On Easter Day there will be an 8 o'clock service of Holy Communion at St. Laurence, Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m. at St. Laurence and St. John's and Evensong at 6.30 p.m. at St. Laurence. I very much hope you will be able to join us both in Holy Week and at Easter. Should you be unable to attend church and Easter, please let me know so that we can arrange for you to receive your Easter Communion.

I would like to end this article with a short reflection.

Jesus was born in a borrowed stable,  
Preached from a borrowed boat,  
Rode into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey  
and was buried in a borrowed tomb.  
And now he asks if He might borrow you.  
For He has no body on earth but yours, no feet but yours, no hands but yours.  
Yours are the arms that reach out in love,  
Yours are the lips that sing God's praise.  
But why only lend yourself to Jesus?  
Why not give yourself to Him that He may keep you safe for all eternity?

Your friend and Vicar,  
Peter

St John's Hall Ansley Common.

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30a.m.	Palm Sunday	Family service
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.00a.m.		Holy Communion.
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30a.m.	Easter Day.	Special Service
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.00a.m.		Morning Prayer.
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30a.m.	Easter 1	Family service

St. Laurence's Church Sunday services 10.30 a.m. & 6.30. p.m.

April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday	a.m. Special Service
		p.m. B.C.P. Holy Communion
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Day	8 a.m. B.C.P. Holy Communion
		a.m. Holy Communion
		p.m. Festival Evensong
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 1	a.m. All age Worship
		p.m. Holy Communion
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 2	a.m. The Lord is Here Communion
		p.m. Evensong

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>		Links Leaders meeting
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>		Links group meet.
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer in the Village Church Hall. Followed by Senior Citizens.
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>		Prayer group meets at 10 Nuthurst Cres. at 2.p.m.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>		Wednesday Fellowship meets.
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>		Ansley Common Fellowship.
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 a.m.	Maundy Thursday Morning prayer at St. Laurence's.
	7.30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday supper at St John's.
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Good Friday Vigil.
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m.	Decorating.

#### **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

**Palm Sunday** This most important time to Christians commences with the special services at 10.30 at both St. John's and St. Laurence's when we will have a dramatic reading of the passion story read by different members of the congregation, and a procession.

**Maundy Thursday** At 9 a.m. Mandy will be leading a service of Morning Prayer in Church. And in the evening at 7.30 there will be a celebration of the Last Supper at St. John's, when we will have a supper to eat before partaking in the breaking of the bread and sharing of the wine.

**Good Friday** Commencing at 7.30 p.m. there will be a Good Friday vigil in Church, when we will remember the cost to our Lord of our salvation.

**Holy Saturday** From 9.30.a.m. we will be decorating the Church ready for Easter Day., Anyone with time please help there is decorating, cleaning and just giving a helping hand by making a drink, and giving support All help is most welcome.

The flowers, as in previous years, will be purchased from any donations received. Anyone wishing to make a donation in memory of a loved one or just to decorate our lovely Church at Easter please hand your gift to any member of the P.C.C. Thank you.

**Easter Day.** 8.00 a.m. Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion.  
10.30 a.m. Common Worship Holy Communion.  
6.30 p.m. Festival Evensong.

#### **From the Registers**

##### **Baptisms:**

On February 29<sup>th</sup> we welcomed Cerys Jayne Salisbury and Carys Anna Jones into the family of the Church in Holy Baptism. Both children were as good as gold and we were

very pleased that they, and their families joined us for refreshments in the annexe after the service.

Owen Summers was baptised during the morning service on 14<sup>th</sup> March. He was very comfortable in the vicars arms and was happy to look at everyone.

#### **Funerals:**

The funeral took place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February of Kathleen Phillips aged 84. Known affectionately to all of us as 'Kit Newman', having spent much of her life in Ansley Village. She was always a joy to be with and through out her life was good company to both her family and her friends. She will thus be sorely missed especially by those who knew her best.

"He worked hard and played harder." Thus the Nuneaton Tribune described the life and work of George Hodgkins of 163 Birmingham Road, who died at the age of 95 and whose funeral took place at St. Laurence's on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Dedicated in his work, especially as shaftsman and an accomplished violinist George's great passions were football and cricket – both as spectator and participant. On his retirement he continued to serve his church and his community not least in his care for our churchyard. He is greatly missed by his family and friends especially his daughters Pauline and Margaret.

#### **Thank you.**

This year at the memorial service which was particularly well attended, a donation of £400 was gratefully received. It was discussed with the family and this sum will be used towards the purchase of tables for the annexe.

**The Nostalgia evening** held in St. John's Hall was great fun. Those who did the organising had gone to a lot of trouble and decorated the room and provided excellent food. A profit of £40 was made and this was added to the hall funds to meet the cost of the kitchen floor.

**The Tearfund Coffee evening** at Mandy's house raised £41 on a very wet and misty evening. This money will be used for work with children at risk around the world.

**The Blue Peter** sale held by the Links children raised £37.

**The jumble sale** at St. John's raised £129 for the work that is much needed on the hall.

#### **Grave Stones**

Under instructions from our insurers we have checked all the gravestones to ensure they are safe. It has been found that there are many that are a cause for concern. If you have a family grave in the Churchyard please note that the wardens will be placing a letter on those graves that the stone mason considered unsafe. If you could please contact one of the wardens and let them know your wishes regarding the grave so that the matter can be resolved. Those that are considered dangerous are being laid down. Unless they are restored and made safe, they will need to be moved to a safe position elsewhere in the Churchyard. Please remember that gravestones are the responsibility of the family. Thank you.

#### **Church buildings.**

After a year with our efforts focused on the annexe it is now time to look again at the Church fabric, there are still a few repairs still outstanding in our quinquennial (five yearly) architects report. The P.C.C. are now considering which of the remaining tasks will be carried out this year. As with all old buildings it is important that these jobs are undertaken to keep our lovely Church in good repair.

It is also hoped that we can obtain some outside funding to bring the two Church halls up to a 21<sup>st</sup> century standard. This work will also have to be done one bit at a time.

However if anyone would like to see a particular facility available in the halls please let us know while we are in the planning stages. It is important that we get things right and that we try to meet the needs of the community.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS: New Parish Noticeboard at Ansley Common has been completed. Maintenance work at Ansley Village Rec. Ground to play equipment, installation of new swings. Also returfing works done to ground under the swings and re-installation of the litter bin. Survey of Public Footpaths: A project by Warwickshire C.C. underway to establish any public footpaths within the Parish which are currently obstructed. Plans will then be made to rectify any problems found. New Clerk to Parish Council: had been appointed, Nicola Anderson as from 1st March 2004 and may be contacted at 27 Brookfield Drive, Wolvey, Hinckley. Leics.LE10 3LT. Tel:01145 220157 or Emailing ansley.parish.council@btinternet.com. Purley Chase Hotel: Planning permission refused by Secretary of State in opposition to enquiry inspectors decision to grant permission. N.W.B.C. advise the applicant has right to appeal within 6 weeks. Mobile Police Station: Following contribution of £500 by Parish Council to Warwickshire Police Authority, plans nearing completion for this and hope to see mobile police station in parish in due course. Next meeting dates: April 8th, May 13th, June 3rd, July 8th.

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1st April, 2004

Coca Cola seem to have caused an uproar in introducing bottled water which is purified tap water. This made me smile as if you read some labels on bottled water, it says 'filtered through volcanic mountain streams for 4000 years - use within 3 days.' I have always drunk water from the tap and it has never done me any harm. We used to make full use of all available water when we were young. We had an outside rain water tank and my mother used this to wash our hair, put in the copper to wash the clothes and also for us to have a bath, because she thought rain water was best. Personally the best water I have ever tasted was from a well. When we had been blackberrying or long walk, we would call at a house where we knew they had a well, and ask if we could have a drink of water and I can almost taste it now - it was icy cold and delicious. Can you imagine 5 or 6 children nowadays knocking on a door and asking if they could please have a drink of water - I don't think so!

I found an old church magazine from August 1958 and Rev. Jarvis was talking about St. Lawrence Day (notice the spelling) which is on August 10th. He also listed the proceeds from the Fete which amounted to £100.8s. which was a great deal of money for 1958. There were details of the St. John's Sunday School Outing to Wickstead Park and a Flower Show, Carnival and Field Day at St. John's but prior to this there was a Social for schoolchildren to choose the Carnival Queen and Attendants (boys and girls). It seems that both churches were very busy, and I wish we could see some photographs of these past events.

When I watch the News these days, I keep waiting for the 'good news', but it very rarely materialises. It seems to be a catalogue of war, crime of every kind miscarriages of justice, death and destruction. It is no wonder that England winning the Rugby World Cup was greeted with such elation - everyone whether they are sporty or not, love good news and achievement. Perhaps all news programmes should be obliged to include at least one item of happy news. So why don't we have the good news - achievements like Jason Gardner winning the 60 metre world title, and acts of kindness and perseverance given the same importance as doom and gloom. I realise the News has to reflect what is happening in the World, but good things happen too, so I wrote the following:

Into each life some rain must fall, but sunshine comes too to one and all.  
God sends us the sunrise each day after darkest night,  
God pours out His light and makes gloomy days bright.  
So when things look dark and nights are long, lean on God to make you strong.  
His own Good News will brighten your days, in many, heartening, glorious ways.  
Marie Cove.