

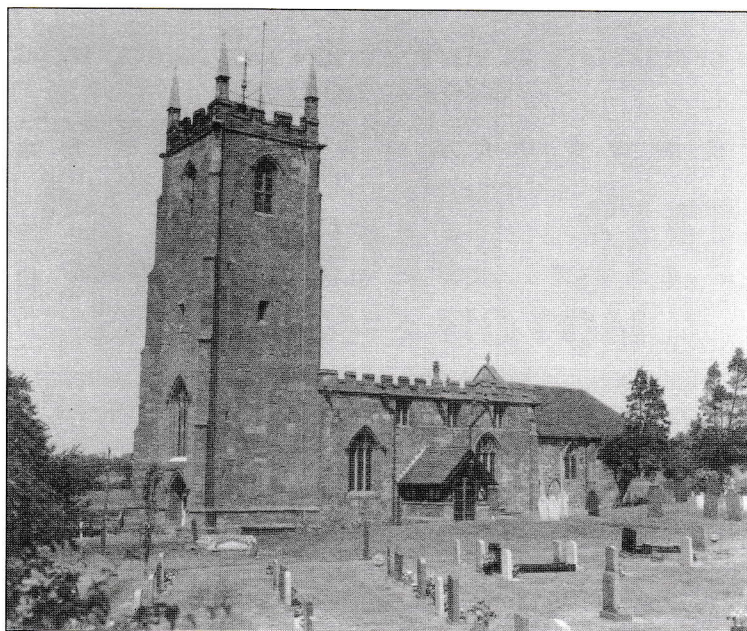
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Price 25p



Vicar:

REV. PETER ALLAN

Tel: 024 7639 9070

Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL

Tel: 01827 874520

MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 024 7638 1833

St. Johns Leaders

DAVID & MARIE COVE

Tel: 024 7639 4114

Print Centre 0800 389 4089

Time to celebrate

Holy Week

A deeply sad time, but a celebration all the same. Sad as we remember and seek to share in the sufferings of Jesus. A celebration as we recall the wonderful love of Jesus who lived and died for us. We invite you to share with us as we mark Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Easter

We celebrate how God snatched victory from the hands of defeat and death and beat the forces of evil, oppression and injustice. We shall rejoice together on Easter Eve and Easter Day .

But what are the signs of resurrection in our midst?

We celebrate the strength of goodness and love in the face of adversity:

Lives transformed, love given and received.

Hope in our community and joy in our life together.

For me a real source of joy at this time is that thanks to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, The Diocese of Coventry, the Garfield Weston Foundation, a variety of local and regional bodies and, most importantly, a generous grant from Ansley Parish Council we have been able to appoint a full-time youth worker to serve for three years in Ansley, Arley and Fillongley. This is a most exciting new development. Full details of the appointment will be given in the next issue.

Also next month, I hope to announce the launch of Ansley Church website so you will be able to get our news and details of our activities at the click of a mouse.

Finally please pray for me as my responsibilities grow. On April 1 I shall be taking over from Don Jones as Rural Dean of Nuneaton

Have a very happy Easter,

Your friend and vicar,

Peter

April What's On

St. Laurence's Church

Sunday 2 nd	Passion	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship and Godly Play
□	Sunday	4.00 p.m.	Family Service
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 th	Palm	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Healing Service
	Sunday	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Friday 14 th	Good Friday	7.30 p.m.	Vigil
Sunday 16 th	Easter Day	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong.
Sunday 23 rd	Easter 2	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 30 th	Easter 3	10.30 p.m.	Baptism
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 2 nd	Lent 5	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Wednesday 5 th		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 th	Palm Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Sunday School
Thursday 13 th	Maundy Thursday	7.30 p.m.	Last Supper
Sunday 16 th	Easter Day	10.30 a.m.	Joint service at St. Laurence
Sunday 23 rd	Easter 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 30 th	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Songs of Praise

Other Activities at St. John's Church Hall

Mondays alternate	7.00 p.m.	Indoor Bowls
Monday 24 th	7.00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Tuesdays	9.00 – 12.00 a.m.	Krazy Kettle Kafé
Wednesdays	6.30 p.m.	A.C.Y.C.
Thursdays	9.00 – 12.00 a.m.	Krazy Kettle Kafé
Thursdays	7.00 p.m.	Youth Club
Friday 28 th	7.00 p.m.	Quiz

Activities at Village Church Hall

Mondays	7.00 p.m.	Links - Youth Club
Tuesdays	10.00 a.m.	Senior Citizens
Wednesdays	10.00 – 11.30 a.m.	Ansley's Little Angels
Wednesdays	2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	Community Café
Wednesday 5 th & 19 th	7.30 p.m.	Bingo
Thursday 6 th	7.30 p.m.	Annual General Meeting
Thursday 27 th	7.30 p.m.	P.C.C. Meeting

Other Parish activities

Tuesdays	10.00 a.m.	Family History Class (Annexe)
Thursday 27 th	7.30 p.m.	Ansley Common Fellowship
Fridays	1.00 p.m.	Art Classes at the Club

From the Registers

Baptisms

On 19th March at the new time of 4 p.m. Felicity Holly Price (born 19th December 2005) and Eva Charlotte Cooley (born 22nd November 2005) were baptised with their many friends and family present.

Funerals

The funeral took place of Joy Allton (68 years) at the Heart of England Crematorium on Monday 27th February, her ashes were interred in St. Laurence Churchyard. Joy was born in Whaplode, Lincolnshire, the heart of tulip country and moved to Birchley Heath in 1987. Joy was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother, and will be greatly missed by her husband Tony and her family.

The funeral of Mark Brandrick of Ansley Common took place at St. Laurence Church on 27th February and was followed by committal at the Heart of England Crematorium. Called 'Ab' by his many friends, he had the remarkable ability to draw people together. A fervent football supporter he spent most of his working life at Coventry Colliery. He is greatly missed by his wife Sue, by family and friends.

The funeral of Sheila Payne was held at St. Laurence on March 3rd followed by burial in the Churchyard. Sheila was a farmer's daughter and always enjoyed life on the farm. Latterly she moved to Ansley to be cared for by her daughter, Rosemary Spence who, with all the family will miss her greatly.

The funeral of Phyllis May Reader aged 94 years took place at St Laurence Church, on the 21st of March. She will be interred with her beloved husband Bill. Phyllis and Bill married at St Laurence Church in 1930 and started their married life in Ansley Common. Phyllis spent much of her life nursing and serving in the Red Cross. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her especially her children and grandchildren.

Sunday Afternoon Services

The first of our Sunday afternoon services on 5th March was a very lively affair. It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents coming with their children, aged from tiny babies to 7 years meeting together in the annexe. The children enjoyed the musical instruments and the puppets, that they were encouraged to use, during the 40 minute service. There was time for a chat and something to eat afterwards. The Church was open for those who wished to have a time in there.

This was a very encouraging start for this new service, which we will now be holding on the first Sunday of each month April's is on the 3rd.

Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week commences with Palm Sunday on 9th April when as a reminder of our Lord triumphal entry into Jerusalem, palm crosses will be distributed to the members of the congregation at each service.

Tuesday there will be a short service of Holy Communion at 10.a.m. in the Village Church Hall followed by Senior Citizens. Every one is welcome.

On Maundy Thursday we will celebrate the Last Supper at St. John's at 7.30 p.m. when we will share a simple meal of soup and rolls, and partake in Holy Communion. Please bring a dish, a glass and a spoon.

We will keep vigil at 7.30 p.m. on Good Friday at St. Laurence.

From 9.30 on Holy Saturday we will be decorating the Church in readiness for Easter Day. We are always grateful for help both to decorate, provide refreshments and clean. It is lovely to see the Church decked in the lovely spring flowers especially after the long winter months. If anyone would like to contribute to the cost of the Easter flowers, there will be a plate in Church for the two weeks before or give your donation to one of the P.C.C. members.

At 8.00 p.m. at St. Michael's New Arley there will be a service of First Light.

Easter Day

We celebrate Easter at St. Laurence by holding joint services that day. If transport is required please do contact one of the wardens and it will be arranged. The services are

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

6.30 p.m. Evensong.

We wish everyone a very happy Easter.

The Church Tower

The tower, as you may have already seen, will be shrouded in scaffolding for 8 weeks or so. We pray that the work will progress smoothly and that there will be no unforeseen circumstances.

Churchyard

It has come to our attention that flowers, together with the metal containers are disappearing. We are concerned and will do our best to resolve this matter. We are sorry this has happened.

St. John's Events: Valentine Dance.

The people who attended had a great fun evening, one young girl said she had never laughed so much. Not only did everyone enjoy the evening, there was a surplus of £90.

Prize Bingo.

On a cold evening the people who came were able to enjoy the games and £60 has been paid into the hall account. Thank you to everyone who helps organise this event each time, those who provide the prizes and to Alan Lavis for calling.

Quiz night.

The Quiz on 28th will commence at 7.p.m. with the teams of 4 and entrance will be £1 each.

Annual General Meeting.

This is the main business meeting of the year when the Church's governing body the Parochial Church Council present their accounts and reports upon the past year's life of the church. This is a public meeting and any one on the Church electoral roll is entitled to vote for P.C.C. members and any parishioner can vote for the wardens.

April, 2006

I noticed when in a chemist recently that some of the old makes of toiletries from the past were still going strong - Radox and Palmolive and more, and I realised just how our bathing habits had changed. It was a luxury for us to have some bath salts in glass jars or bath cubes given to us for Christmas and we smelled those delicious aromas instead of plain soap. Now we splash in luxurious bubbles and we never give it a second thought.

It's well known that I love football, but what really amuses me is all the statistics the commentators give out. One said the other day that one of the goal keepers had kept a clean sheet for 6 hours. Where on earth do they get this information? It would not seem so incredible if the top teams only were commented on, but the same detailed information is available when foreign teams are playing or even lower division teams. It must be someone's job to amass all these statistics, but the commentators seem to always have it at their finger tips, so someone good at communicating too.

Whatever happened to buttons? I have a button box full of memories - buttons with ducks on, baby buttons, blazer buttons, coat buttons, in fact all sorts, shapes and sizes but unfortunately most of these are odd ones and not sets. Many years ago we had a rummage sale at the Church Hall and after it was all over there was stacks left, so we cut off all the buttons. These we sewed in sets onto cardboard and sold them at a later event. There was a brilliant stall on Nuneaton Market, which has now gone, but the buttons were so cheap and they had so many, I used to buy 3 or 4 lots at a time because I felt guilty only spending a few pence.

Where is Spring? That was the question being asked right past the middle of March, as we battled against bitter cold East winds, turning the heater up and wondering when it would end, but this didn't deter the birds as they started building their nests and carried on as usual.

What a wonderful time this Season of Spring,
The birds are building and joyfully sing.
No matter how cold or biting the wind.
The birds still know this season of Spring.

The Blackbirds are busy their nest to build.
The garden is buzzing with Sparrows filled.
The Goldfinches ignore the Thrush and feed,
Their special seed is all they need.

So every day what pleasure they afford.
With birds in the garden you never get bored.
So feed the birds, leave them water too,
Their presence, their song will be reward for you.

Marie Cove.