

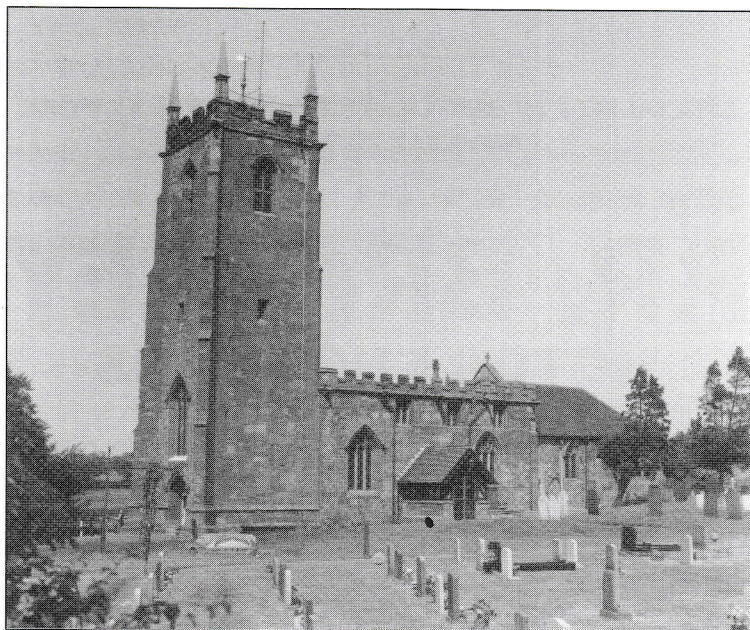
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Hossanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Christ died for our sins in his body on the Cross.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

What a wonderful journey we have ahead as we celebrate Palm Sunday, share in the passion of Christ in Holy Week, then in a dramatic change of mood -beautifully symbolised in the Service of First Light (St. Michael's, New Arley April 7 8pm) – we rejoice at Easter. Do not miss out on the journey. Of course you can simply fast-track to Easter and not mark Holy Week at all. But then you would be really missing out. If you cannot enter into the pain of Holy Week you will not be able to truly experience the joy and contrast of Easter. So do come and join us for Easter. You are all most welcome. But join us on Palm Sunday and in Holy Week too.

Easter is not a one day event. We are an Easter people. Sunday by Sunday, day by day we celebrate the risen life and power of Jesus that is ours to enjoy. Sometimes it doesn't feel like that. We can too easily take for granted things that diminish and restrict our lives. On 28 April at Holy Trinity Attleborough (NB change of venue) John, Bishop of Warwick will lead us in our Away Day "Healing is for Everyone". (10am-4pm, bring and share lunch, drinks provided, no charge, retiring collection). Do come to enjoy Jesus' tender yet powerful touch. Come to hear of and experience all that Jesus longs to bring. All are welcome.

HAVE A WONDERFUL EASTER,

Your friend and vicar,

Peter

St. Laurence's Church - Services

Sunday 1 st	Palm Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Friday 6 th	Good Friday	7.30 p.m.	Vigil
Sunday 8 th	Easter Day	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 15 th	Easter 2	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 22 nd	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 29 th	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 1 st	Palm Sunday		Joint at St. Laurence
			Transport will be provided upon request
Thursday 5 th	Maundy Thursday	7.00 p.m.	The Last Supper
Sunday 8 th	Easter Day	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th	Easter 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Wednesday 18 th		9.00 a.m.	Holy communion
Sunday 22 nd	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Sunday School
Sunday 29 th	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Songs of Praise

Other regular activities

These continue as normal full details on the noticeboards.

Away Day

Please remember the Away Day on Saturday 28th at Attleborough Church commencing at 10 a.m. when our guest speaker Bishop John will be talking about healing. Please bring your, 'bring and share' lunch with you and let the Vicar know if you wish to attend to ensure there is sufficient space for all. Please note the change of venue.

From the Registers

Funerals

The funeral of Lionel Toon took place at St. Laurence's on February 14th followed by burial in the churchyard. As a boy he was an amazing practical joker and it was a characteristic he never lost. From latrines in Egypt, while on National Service, to major projects in Coventry and Warwickshire, Lionel took great pride in all his building works. In his life, he brought great joy to the lives of all his family and friends and is dearly missed by them all.

The P.C.C. are very grateful for the very generous donations to the Churchyard Fund in memory of Lionel.

On 6th March the ashes of Kathleen Osborn aged 80 of Ansley Common were interred in a family grave.

Holy Week

Holy Week commences on the 1st of the month with Palm Sunday when we shall be having a joint service 10.30 a.m. at St. Laurence. Palm Crosses will be distributed to remind us of the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

We will celebrate the Last supper at St. John's at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 5th. We will partake in a bowl of soup and sing hymns as did the disciples during the first 'Last Supper'. Please bring a bowl, spoon and glass.

On Good Friday we will meditate on the meaning of the sacrifice of our Lord when we join together at St. Laurence at 7.30 p.m. for the special Good Friday service. There will be hymns, readings, and time for reflection.

The decorating of the church for Easter will commence at 9 a.m. on Saturday. any offers of help will be much appreciated, as there is much to do in a short time, Easter decorating has to be done on that day as there are no flowers in church for Good Friday. Anyone who would like to contribute to the Easter lilies and flowers please put your donations either on the appropriate plate in church or hand it to one of the wardens or a member of the P.C.C.

The service of First Light on Easter Saturday commences at 8.p.m at St. Michaels New Arley. It is at this service that those who have attended the group meetings over the previous six weeks can renew their baptism promises and those young people who have attended preparation classes will receive their First Communion

EASTER DAY

We will commence our celebration of our Lord's resurrection with the 8 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Laurence. At 10 30 there will be Holy Communion services at St. Laurence and St. John's and Festival evensong at 6.30 p.m.

Whether you are at home or on holiday please celebrate this wonderful festival by attending a service near you. Thank God for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

St. John's

Services

On Wednesday 18th and every two weeks thereafter, there will be a service at 9 a.m. These will alternate between Holy Communion and Morning Prayer, the first being Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome at these short mid week services.

House groups

The house groups that started at the beginning of lent will continue to meet fortnightly after Easter. These will commence on the 24th at 7 p.m. at the home of Dave & Marie Cove, 28 Nuthurst Crescent and two weeks later at the home of Hetty Sharman 189 Ansley Common. Full details will be on the noticeboards each month.

The Hall

The hall looks so much better for its coat of paint, the new curtains and poles are now in situ. Sure Start have had a door fitted on the old 'wash house' to store some of their equipment.

However we were unsuccessful in our funding application for the hall improvements and extension. We are told that it was a good bid, but that the funding had been greatly over subscribed. There are other grant providers and applications will be submitted over the next few months.

We should not be discouraged remember we were discussing and fundraising for the annexe project over many years, but in God's good time it came to fruition. Please remember the St. John's project in you prayers.

Valentine's Dance

The Valentine's dance held on 16th February in St. John's church hall was great fun and a total of £106 was raised for hall funds.

Church Fabric

We are pleased to say that the work on the roof has been completed and that both the tower and roof projects were completed at the original price. However it must be remembered that the funds in the fabric account have been much depleted by all this work and as with all old buildings there is nearly always some repair work required. Any donations to the fabric fund are always much appreciated.

Electrical Roll and Annual General Meeting.

The annual general meeting is to be held on 19th April in the Village Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. This is an open meeting and any one can attend, but to vote you must be on the electoral roll. It is at this meeting that the reports for the last twelve months are presented along with the accounts for the last calendar year.

The church wardens and P.C.C. members are elected at this meeting. Nomination forms are in the Church porch and at St. John's

Altar frontal

The white altar frontal which was dedicated in 1907 has started to show its age. This frontal was hand made by Mrs Heaton the wife of the then vicar it took her 10 years to make, and is known as Mrs Heaton's cloth to many of the older members of the congregation. Apparently Mrs Heaton used to show different groups, especially the younger people, the progress she was making every now and again.

Over the years various pieces have been repaired, the embroidery was repaired by the Royal School of Needlework 40 or 50 years ago and other less extensive repairs made at other times.

At the last P.C.C. meeting it was decided to purchase new fabric and remount the embroidery along with new fringes and other repairs. Gwyneth Hickman (a member of the Guild of Embroidery) has very kindly agreed to undertake this very time consuming task. She has managed to find a replacement fabric which so very closely matches the original. It has been agreed this should be purchased once the exact quantity is known. There will also be, fringes and tapes to be matched and new lining and backing to be purchased.

It is not known how long this task will take, but all are in agreement that the job needs to be done well, to enable the frontal to survive for a further 100 years!

Ansley Village Youth Club

Our Youth worker Vicky is organising a drop in café in the Village Church Hall on alternate Wednesdays from 8 – 9 p.m. In April the dates will be 11th and 25th **for young people from Ansley in school years 9, 10 & 11**. If there are any adults who would wish to offer support to this or any other part of youth work in our parish please contact Vicky on 01676 542752

Have you noticed, it doesn't matter which firm or organisation you 'phone, you can never speak face to face with anyone. First they give you about five alternatives and buttons to press, and you can be sure none of the options relate to what you want to speak about. Then they want reference numbers (which may or may not exist) and all sorts of irrelevant details. The 'phone calls last ages as you have to wait while they play hideous music, whereas the answer you need could only take seconds from a sensible person. Where is the service, the courtesy and the old fashioned personal contact? The answer is 'non-existent'.

Hearing all the talk about recycling made me realise that those who lived through the 1930's and 1940's were the masters of recycling, although they had never heard the word. 'Pop' bottles were taken back to shops and 2d received back; milk was delivered from churn to milk jug; there were no plastic bottles or containers, and no food was wasted. The pig man collected potato and vegetable peelings every week; left over bread was made into delicious bread pudding; clothes were handed down until completely unusable and then they were cut up and made into pegged rag rugs. Even old towels were cut up and used as dusters or dish cloths; socks darned and woollies unravelled and re-knitted. Newspapers were used to light the fire; leaf mould was collected from the woods for Dad's garden (horror of horror today). How's that for recycling and we really lived up to the saying 'Waste not, want not'.

To finish my letter today, I would like to pay tribute in verse to all those who have helped in any way towards the renewal of St. John's Hall.

Gone are the spiders, cobwebs and mice.
Gone are those huge splinters your foot might slice.
Gone is the hole in the kitchen floor,
Where you felt you could disappear for evermore.

Now there is a shiny new kitchen and floor,
The Hall is transformed more and more.
Instead of a dingy, ill-lit room you might dread.
Now it is bright, new and glorious instead.

Yes, this is St. John's Hall, Ansley Common, no less.
Which God has chosen with great talents to possess.
So thank you workers and worshippers one and all,
For finance, for talents and of course your prayer and your toil.

Marie Cove.