

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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## April Editorial

Easter is here!

Like Christmas we can feel that the celebration of Easter is for one day only. But of course Easter doesn't stop at midnight. The Easter season continues to Ascension Day - which we celebrate on May 1 at a United Service of Holy Communion at St. Wilfrid's, Arley But we shall carry on celebrating until we change our emphasis and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Easter, of course, is not just for the Easter season. Every Sunday on the first day of the week we meet to worship God who on the first day of the week raised Jesus from the dead. But it does not stop there. Our whole lives are an offering of worship to the God who defeated sin and death on that first Easter Day. As you read this I will be about to go on retreat. For the inside of the week I shall be spending time in quiet reading, prayer and contemplation - to enjoy the peace that God longs that we enjoy. I immensely appreciate your understanding that has made my sabbatical possible and hope that you too will find moments of peace in your lives -time for prayer and quiet contemplation in your busy schedules. Whilst I am away Barry Jacques will be looking after the Sunday services that I would have taken, all baptisms, weddings and most funerals. He can be contacted on 024 76353400. Barry will also be taking bookings for baptisms or weddings from July onwards. Gwyneth Hickman will be looking after funeral services at St. Laurence's. For all other matters please contact the churchwardens.

Your friend and Vicar,  
Peter

### St. Laurence's Church - Services

Sunday 6th	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service in Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 13th	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 20th	Easter 5	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 27th	Rogation Day	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

### St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Wednesday 2nd		9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 6th	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 13th	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 16th		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 20th	Easter 5	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 27th	Rogation Day	10.30 a.m.	Holy communion

### Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards

### From the Registers

#### Baptisms

On 17th February at St. Laurence Church we celebrated the baptism of Charlotte Rose Pardoe, daughter to Christopher and Rosemary. We noted how baptism like birth itself marks a new beginning and enjoyed an impromptu singing of 'Thank you Lord for this new day'.

Joe Peter Geoffrey was baptised at St. Laurence on Sunday 9th April. Joe was a very content little boy who was happy in the vicar's arms and to greet all the congregation both after his baptism and also at the end of the service.

### Ascension Day

This year Ascension Day falls on 1st April and there will be a special service at St. Wilfrid's Old Arley commencing at 7.30 p.m.

### Youth Clubs

It is good news that at the first youth club meeting in Ansley Village in March that there were 20 young people who came from 5 – 6 p.m. This club will now continue to meet each week in the Village Church Hall.

The opening of the club in Ansley Common will commence shortly and will probably be from 5-6 p.m. each Friday evening.

Our Youth worker is hoping from these small beginnings that the young people of Ansley will find a time of enjoyment and encouragement.

### Annual General Meeting

This year we will be holding our Annual General Meeting on 17th April at 7.30 p.m. in the Annexe. The first part of the meeting is open to all who live in the parish and those on the



church electoral roll. It is at this part of the meeting that the Churchwardens are elected. The accounts and reports of the past year are presented to the public. To take part in the election of Parochial Church Council members, which forms the second part of the meeting it will be necessary to be on the electoral roll.

If you are not already on the electoral roll please complete a form and return it to Margaret Silver as soon as possible, the closing date is 10th April. Please remember being on the electoral roll isn't a matter of commitment not only to vote but also to support the work of the Church in Ansley.

PPC members are elected to serve for three years, with four people needing to be elected each year. Do pray and think whether you might be called by God to serve either as a PCC member or to act as a Sidesperson. Sidespersons are appointed at this meeting and are expected to greet people and to take and count the collection on a rota basis. If you want more details please ask the wardens.

### Financial

Our accounts this year reflect the extra expenditure to keep the church running and in good repair, with a considerable reduction in our assets both in the general and fabric funds. However we are pleased to say that the churchyard account had paid its way this year and we are very grateful to all who have contributed to this and to all who have given to the Church in any way both in time and money.

### Gift Aid

It was encouraging to receive notification that the rate recoverable from the government is to remain at the present 28% i.e. for every £1 given through the gift aid scheme the Church can claim 28p. This is of considerable benefit to our funds and if anyone who pays tax, either on their earnings, pension or savings can see their way of giving in this way please do have a word with either of the Wardens or Margaret Kimberley.

Think a £5 donation through Gift Aid would give the Church £6.40

### The New Bishop of Coventry.

It has been announced that the next bishop of Coventry will be The Revd. Canon Christopher Cocksworth. He has been Principal of Ridley Hall a Theological College in Cambridge for almost seven years and a co-leader of Cambridge Federation of Theological Colleges. Through his training of ordinands, he has enjoyed widespread contact with parishes in every kind of context across the Church of England and is looking forward to the rich variety of church and parish life in this Diocese. As a teacher, preacher and writer, he has a deep commitment of holding together evangelical, catholic and charismatic principals in one holistic vision of Christian faith. He has been involved in dialogue with scholars and leaders of both Christian and Muslim Faiths.

We will be welcoming him to Coventry in the autumn.

### St. John's Socials

St. John's Hall Committee has arranged to have a social event in the hall each month. They are thinking of having a different focus each month. The aim of these gatherings is to have a good chat and enjoy the company of neighbours and friends. The first of these will be on Friday 11th April commencing at 7 p.m. There will be a charge of £1 entrance in aid of the hall restorations. Bring your own drinks, tea and coffee will be available at a nominal price.

### Rummage Sale

There will be a rummage sale in St. John's Church Hall at 2 p.m. on Saturday 26th April. There are some good items that have already been given for the sale. There may be a good bargain to be found. There will be light refreshments on sale and a raffle. All proceeds will be used towards St. John's Hall refurbishment.

### Plant sale

Advance notice - this year's plant sale will be held in the Village Church Hall on 9th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on 10th May from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. there will be a good selection of bedding, trailing and other plants for sale. Please save space in your garden. All proceeds in aid of Hall funds.

### Table top sale

The table top sale held in the Village Church Hall on Saturday 23rd February was very well attended and over £50 pounds was raised from the refreshments served, and after the costs for advertising had been deducted the event raised £101.44 for hall funds. Thank you to all who helped with this event.

### Snippets

Quote from the a 1908 Ansley Church Magazine

'At a well attended meeting it was decided to hold a Congregational Tea Party, to be followed by a Concert,.....The Wardens showed that a debt of about £10 remained due in connection with the recent beautifying of our Church'.

At this stage in our present fabric repairs it is to be wondered how much the debt will be once the church has again been 'beautified'.

Remember the old proverb ' Ne'er cast a clout, Till May is out'

But a Quote from a 1958 Ansley Church Magazine

'If with wool you have been clouted ,

You can shed if, I don't doubt it

Any woollen jumpers, vests or socks?

Cast them now, into the Church porch box!'

It was a different form of recycling, the old wool was to be sold and the proceeds used towards the Bishop's Appeal

### Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence and St. John's please hand the slip below to a member of the Church Congregation or contact Barry Jacques on 024 76353400. Please remember the vicar would be pleased to visit anyone who is sick, but he does need to know again please ring.

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Please pray for .....who is .....

April, 2008

How many times, especially when you are very young, have you heard someone say "Good night, sleep tight". I always thought it meant close your eyes tight, but it comes from in Shakespeare's time when mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase 'good night, sleep tight'.

As Spring started to unfold at the beginning of March, I don't know if you are like us but we eagerly look for different flowers, the Blackthorn etc., but it is amazing that on the outskirts of Coventry, only 7 or 8 miles away, blossom is out, Daffodils are flowering at least two weeks before our garden in Ansley, so probably in the Southern Counties the Daffodils are over and gone as ours start to bloom.

The English Dictionary must now be very different from years ago as more and more words, and slang are added to it. At the end of a T.V. programme there were just a few words after the credits, which, as we had recorded it, we went back and looked at it again. This said 'this programme's carbon footprint is ...' How on earth do you measure the carbon footprint of a T.V. programme or in fact of anything or anyone? My daughter said it is about how many people watch it and other factors, but how can they know this before the programme is even watched?

Although there are many new words in the dictionary, I hope now that all the so called abbreviations are not included, as everyone seems to abbreviate everything today. I was so surprised when listening to the football results when I heard 'Scottish Div 1' Why on earth abbreviate 'division'. Then in Home Words in our magazine John King, who is the main writer, used the letters GSOH (good sense of humour) and WLTM (would like to meet). I realise he was only using these to illustrate something, but he got me flummoxed and I had to ask others what the letters meant.

Fair April is a month to stir the soul. A month when Spring begins to unfold.  
Sun and showers and lighter days. Rainbow shining through watery rays.

Flowers appear in wood, field and lane. Trees show bud and shoots again.  
New born lambs and chicks abound. In fact new life is all around.

That is why April is loved by all. The cuckoo starts his familiar call.  
And now this month gives promise anew. A herald of summer for me and you.

Marie Cove.