

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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WAIT!

'You must wait in the city until the power from above comes down upon you.' Luke 24:49

Those were Jesus' last words before he ascended into heaven.

Wait!

But why am I talking about the Ascension now. Isn't Easter just around the corner? Haven't I got ahead of myself?

I have chosen this verse because I am speaking of our Church.

Yes Easter is absolutely vital. We live in the power of the Risen Lord Jesus. We are an Easter people. Alleluia is our song. We must never forget this.

But sometimes we are also a waiting people.

Over the past weeks during Lent the PCC and church members have been seeking God's will for the Church. We are seeking to discover what God has in store for us and what God is calling us to do.

Soon we'll share our thoughts with all to take the process further. In the meantime please pray. Pray that when God calls us to wait we shall do so. Pray that when the dream comes from God we shall truly recognise it. And pray that when dreams spur us to action we shall be full of the Holy Spirit-the power that comes from above.

Have a very happy Easter,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

### April, St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Day	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion

Please note the changes to the service format especially at the evening services

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

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Day	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	4 O' Clock Club
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Discussing the parables Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - 7.30 p.m. 46 Nuthurst Crescent please note the change to the second Monday because of the holidays.

### Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

### From the Registers

#### Baptism

The baptism of Oli Jeffery took place at St Laurence on February 28<sup>th</sup> he much preferred the arms of his parents to those of the vicar but was very observant of all around. Oli was supported by his many family and friends and we pray that he will grow in the Faith.

#### Funerals

On Tuesday March 2nd the funeral took place at St. Laurence's Church of Peter Barnes. It was followed by burial in the churchyard. A lifelong resident of Ansley Common, Peter had a great sense of humour and a deep sense of caring. This was demonstrated in his love for friends and family and in his work, especially in the Ambulance Service of which he was immensely proud. The gentle giant who delighted in his garden will be deeply missed by friends and family alike

### Holy Week

#### Maundy Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup>

This is very important time for Christians on Maundy Thursday we commemorate the Last Supper with our special service at St. John's commencing at 7 p.m. when we will celebrate Holy Communion and also eat a supper of bread and soup. After we will sing hymns just as we are told the disciples did and reflect on the full meaning of the sacrifice we commemorate. Please bring a bowl, spoon and glass.



### Good Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup>

The Good Friday service at 7.30 at St Laurence will take the form of a vigil with readings, quiet contemplation, reflection and prayer. It is a time to think of the suffering endured for our salvation and to reflect on our actions in the world to endeavour to bring this message to others.

### Easter Day

This year we will be able to celebrate Easter in our lovely Church, you will remember that last year we were having major work done on the church plaster and it was a "bit of a mess" a real understatement.

We will be decorating the church in preparation for the celebrations on Saturday from 9 a.m. donations towards the flowers will be much appreciated the lilies are particularly expensive and after this last winter it could be that there will be few flowers in the gardens that can be used. Please also come and help it takes quite a time to decorate the whole church and if we can have any help even if for only half an hour it is much appreciated - you don't need to be an expert. As always there will be the cleaning up after that needs to be done to ensure the church is clean and tidy. Please do not wait to be asked just come along there is always time for a quick chat and a cuppa half way through.

The services commence with the 8 a.m. celebration of Holy Communion. The celebrations continue with the family Holy Communion services at 10.30 a.m. at both St Laurence and St John's and the day culminates with Evensong at 6.30 p.m. at St. Laurence.

Easter is a time to celebrate the Resurrection of our Saviour do please make time to thank and celebrate this wonderful fact on this very special day.

### AGM

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 p.m. in the annexe we will be reviewing the life of the church in Ansley in 2009. when our financial accounts, which will show in monetary terms the situation the church faces in our area. We will also be giving an account of the major events of the past year and how the day to day running of the church and the various activities that take place in the four buildings have fared during 2009.

This first part of the meeting is open to every resident of Ansley and those on the church electoral roll. This first part is known as the vestry meeting and it is during this session of the meeting that the wardens are elected. After it reverts to being the AGM of the PCC which is open to all, but only those on the electoral roll are eligible to vote. If you would like to be on the electoral roll there will be forms available in church please ask for one and return it to Margaret Silver upon completion.

Nomination forms for the positions can be found both at church and St John's.

At this meeting there will be time set aside to discuss any issue that people may wish to raise regarding the life of the church in Ansley.

If you would like to know more about the running of the church and the various activities that happen do come along. The accounts will be presented as will the annual report.

### St John's St. George's Day Dance.

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> the hall committee are organising a fancy dress dance for St. George's day so do come along with your flag and have a good time. Tickets are £1.50 (please bring your own food and drink). There will also be a raffle. This fun event will commence at 7.30 p.m.

### St. John's Hall

It is disappointing to have to report that the dancing classes that commenced in January have had to finish due to lack of support for the sequence dancing part of the session. This does leave that hall with very few bookings on a regular basis which is such a shame after all the work that was carried out last year. It has also been disappointing that some of the activities that were, for various reasons, active in the hall before the refurbishment, have not been able to recommence.

If you know of an activity that would appreciate the use of a good hall please do contact Donna Salisbury on 024 7639 3967 whether for a one off e.g. a family party or celebration. For an ongoing activity more detailed information will need to be discussed.

### Women's World Day of Prayer

It was a cold evening for this service, but a warm church awaited and although few in number it was very interesting to hear and read of the various activities and life in general of the women in Cameroon.

### Mothering Sunday

There were many visitors to the church yard on the Saturday and quite a few were very appreciative of a warm drink in the annexe. At all the services we had time to give thanks for our mothers and all they have done for us and the posies were distributed. We are grateful to Marie for making them and to Peter Wolliscroft for providing the heather the winter made it very difficult for flowers but they were beautiful.

### Prize Bingo

The prize bingo session on the 15<sup>th</sup> March was great fun with a good crowd attending. We are very grateful to the ladies who do the organising. Appropriately there was a large number of Easter eggs to be won! A profit of £230 was made on the evening thank you to all who supported this fun event.

### 'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'

The total paid into our Fabric Fund in February was £27.00, bringing the total to £56 so far this year all from the small change collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

### Advertising

There will shortly be space available to advertise in this magazine if you would like further details please contact Margaret Antill 01827 784520

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### 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 the Vicar on 024 7639 9070. 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 2010

I have always hated News programmes from a small child when, during World War 2, we had to have complete silence every time the news was on the radio. Now we have 24 hour news, and I like it even less, but it is amazing how communication has changed. Now graphic pictures from all over the world are dispatched immediately to our screens, whereas when there was only Radio, we heard the news regularly, but delayed, and we saw the News on Pathe News at the cinema. However, sometimes I believe that no news is good news and at the moment all the news seems to be bad. Wouldn't it be nice to switch on the news and be told a really happy, heartwarming story?

Recently on T.V. there are lots of old songs played as background to advertisements. We have Andy Williams for the 6 Nations Rugby; Jim Reeves for holidays, Dean Martin for fruit juice but I couldn't place the Sky advert that starts 'Come with me and you'll be in a world of pure imagination'. However, someone else wanted to know this and wrote to the newspaper and the answer was – it was sung by Gene Wilder in the 1971 film of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.

I read a hilarious article on how to solve some of the small niggles that drive us mad, e.g. 'ironing a shirt' – they suggest you iron the front and wear a jacket all day. 'How to change a duvet cover' – they suggest you try the chimney sweep method by taking two small children, give them a corner each of the duvet and send them inside the cover. After they have reached the corners button up the duvet cover and shake it down, checking first there are no children left inside, as this could cause the duvet to be very lumpy. The writer certainly has a good sense of humour.

I have started to read all the old Ansley Parish Magazines from 1899 and I am really enjoying this as they are very interesting. It is amazing how history repeats itself as many of their fund raising ideas are still carried on, e.g. in 1907 it was announced that pots of Orange Marmalade could be obtained at the Vicarage or from Mrs. H. Bailey at 6d. and 7d. a jar. That is approximately 2.1/2p in metric – all profits were given to the Church Missionary Society.

However, most of the magazines ended very sadly as among the burials hardly a month went by that didn't include a baby or young child, and also many people died in their 30's. If we read the present day magazines it shows how health and care has improved.

As we welcome April, the words of the old song are certainly true 'When April showers they come your way, they bring the flowers that bloom in May, so when it's raining have no regrets because it isn't raining rain you know, it's raining violets'. This is certainly true but have you noticed that most of the early flowers of Spring are yellow or blue. Perhaps this is easing us into the explosion of colour we anticipate in May and beyond.

Marie Cove.