

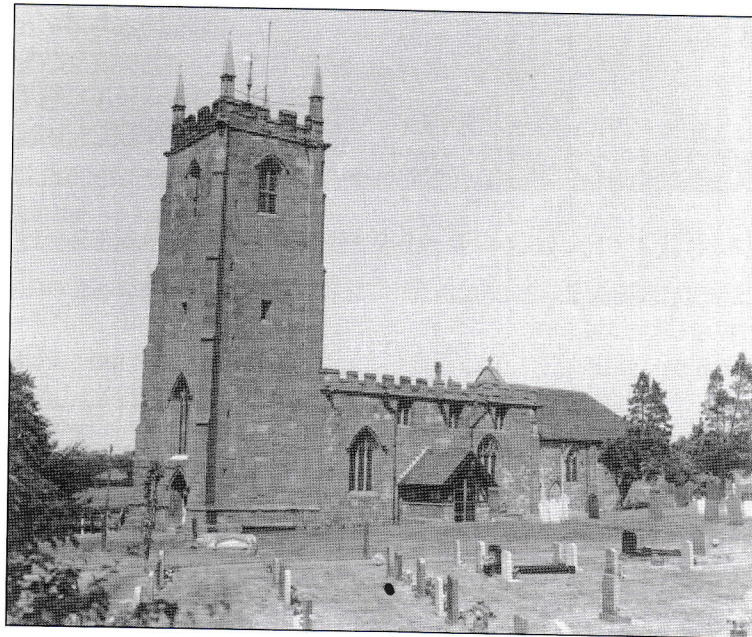
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1033

April 2012

Price 30p



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Waiting.

Do you like waiting?

Waiting for the kettle to boil can be annoying.

Waiting for the bus-irritating?

Waiting for a parcel to arrive so you can get out shopping? Frustrating.

But then this is good waiting.

Waiting for Christmas the steady build-up to the great day!

Waiting for the summer holiday-all that planning and preparing, living the holiday before it begins.

Waiting for Easter. Lent will be over, we shall mark Holy Week and then Easter!

Truly wonderful.

The disciples were waiting too. After Good Friday they gathered together in fear and grief and waited. They expected nothing good. They were not quite sure what the worst would be but they feared the worst. Then God stepped in. He raised Jesus from the dead. Life was transformed - totally, utterly, completely.

They waited in fear that we might wait in hope. Their lives were transformed. May we know the transformation of our lives this Easter.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

April St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 1 st	Palm Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Special Service
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
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 Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd	Easter 3	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 29 th	Easter 4	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 1 st	Palm Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Thursday 5 th	Maundy Thursday	7.00 p.m.	Special Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th	Easter Day	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th	Easter 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 22 nd	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 th	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Songs of Praise

Discussion Groups

The next discussion groups will be in May due to the Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

From the Registers

Baptisms

The baptism of Joshua Webb took place at our morning service on February 26th.

We rejoiced at Joshua's birth, celebrated God's care for him as we sang "He's got Joshua Webb in his hands" and welcomed him into the family of the church.

Funerals

The funeral of Gerald Freestone took place at St Laurence Church on Friday 9th March followed by interment in the churchyard. Gerald had been ill with Alzheimer's for fifteen years, the last two of which he spent at Baron's Park Care Home where he died in his sleep. Over the years, Gerald made many, many friends and it was so lovely to see so many gathered together in church to celebrate and give thanks for a life well lived. In good times Gerald was always smiling and laughing, he was a very happy man, and it was felt the service reflected this. He was a loving, kind gentleman, who had a deep faith and boundless love for his wife Moreen, family and friends. He is now at peace with his Lord.

The funeral of John Northall took place at the Heart of England Crematorium on February 28. John was not able to do much that most of us take for granted. Yet- perhaps even because of his disabilities - all that we value most of all shone through, the love of father and son and son for father, deep friendship, laughter, joy and wonder. John was a great fighter and lived so much longer than had been expected but his passing at the age of 32 came as a great shock. John who was deeply loved will be sorely missed.

It has been a sad time for the Northall family as on March 21 the funeral took place at the Heart of England Crematorium of John's grandmother, Gwen Northall. Gwen loved her home and garden and delighted in her holidays. In her work and in her care for her late husband, John, her children Mick, Enid and Stephen, her grandchildren and her great grandchildren she gave her all. She passed away peacefully in her sleep mourned by all who loved her.

Holy Week and Easter

We start April with **Palm Sunday** celebrating the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem when the congregation of St John's travel to St. Laurence for one of our joint services. We will meet at 10.30 a.m. in the Annexe for the start of the service and then process into the Church for the remainder of this special service.

On Maundy Thursday we will commemorate the Last Supper at St. John's at 7 p.m. with a shared meal of bread and soup and a glass of juice or wine. (Those attending will be able to use the new bowls etc. that the hall committee have acquired.)

At 7.30 p.m. on **Good Friday** the congregation will hold a vigil in St. Laurence's with a series of prayers, readings, hymns and time of contemplation to reflect on what our Saviour endured for us.

From 9 a.m. on Holy Saturday we will be decorating the church in readiness to celebrate the coming of Easter.

We would appreciate any help to put the flowers into church.

If you would like to make a donation to enable us to buy the lilies and other flowers that so typify Easter, it would be much appreciated.

Easter Day

Hallelujah Christ is Risen.

We start our celebrations with 8 a.m. Holy Communion at St Laurence's. This will be followed by Holy Communion at 10.30 at both St. Laurence and St. John's and the day will conclude with Evensong at 6.30 p.m.

Do come and join in the celebrations and commemorations of this very important week.

Gift Aid

It is realised that this type of giving is mentioned every year, but its importance cannot be over estimated to the finances of the church. If you pay income tax, on bank and building society accounts or from your earnings, by giving through this method the church is able to recover from the Government the basic rate of tax on the amount that you have given. In 2011 we received just over £3,000 which is such an immense boost to the funds. Please, please consider giving in this way if you can, by having a word with one of the wardens or the treasurer.

Appointments and AGM

As with many walks of life today it is increasingly necessary to submit information "On line" and as Margaret Kimberley, our very loyal and hard working treasurer of 8 years, does not have the internet it is considered time for a change and that she relinquish her position of treasurer.

Margaret will continue to do what she can and use her many other talents for the benefit of the church not least as organist, a task she has performed for over 50 years.

The position of treasurer will be taken over by Margaret Antill, but in order to allow this to happen there will be a redistribution of some of the other tasks. The PCC have decided to appoint two deputy wardens and Diana Kealey and Margaret Oliver have agreed to take up these positions to help in the efficient running of the church in Ansley.

These appointments will formally take place at the meeting to be held on Thursday April 12th at 7.30 p.m. in the annexe.

It will be at the Vestry meeting, the first of the official three meetings, that the wardens will be appointed. This meeting is open to anyone who is resident in the parish or on the church electoral roll.

Following the AGM the new PCC will be elected and the account and reports of 2011 will be presented. This part is open to all on the church electoral roll.

At the close of the AGM there will be a short meeting of the new PCC members to appoint it's officers and discuss any urgent business.

If you would like to be on the Church Electoral Roll please contact Diana Kealey on 024 7639 5089 or ask for a form at a service.

(Please don't worry if you contact the wrong 'Margaret' they do speak to one another and anything will be forwarded to the correct one)

St. John's Hall

It is pleasing to record that some of the repairs required to the hall have been carried out free of charge. Everyone on the hall committee is very grateful for this and a letter of thanks has been sent to those concerned. There is still some other work to be carried out, which will be taking place as funds and time permits.

St. John's Eggstravigansor

This will be on Friday 13th April in St. John's Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. included in the £3.50 ticket will be a hot meal and entertainment. If you would like to attend please be sure to book your ticket to avoid disappointment.

Reports of past events

Table Top Sale.

This now annual event was again well worth the effort with eleven tables sold and despite the downpour at opening time everyone seemed well satisfied with the result they made and the church and hall benefited by £140 from the sale of food and tables.

Lunch in the Annexe

Seventeen people stayed and enjoyed this meal together. Everyone had brought a dish which was put on the table and all were able to help themselves to the lovely array of food.

It was a lovely time of fellowship together, which the PCC will consider again for next year.

St. John's St. Valentines Event

Even though only £1 was charged for entrance and following the payment of the cost of the food and with the raffle this event was great fun and raised £55 for hall funds.

Live & Local.

Our second Live & Local performance on 3rd March was almost a sell out and everyone enjoyed the band "Heretique". The three talented young Englishmen sang and played a range of musical styles on instruments such as accordion, bagpipes, hurdy gurdy, guitar and recorder. It was pleasing to see so many people. both local and visitors, enjoying a very entertaining evening..

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.

Please pray forwho is

April, 2012

I was listening to the Radio and they were discussing some of the really mad Health & Safety Regulations, but in fact the man from that organisation said most of those mentioned are not from them. There was one which wanted to ban hot coffee from coffee mornings, as children might get burnt, and he thought this was ludicrous and only needed common sense. This made me wonder how we ever lived to grow up in Camp Hill Road. We were surrounded by deep quarries, some of which were still in use and some not; in our kitchen we had an open fire with the kettle always on; we had a fireguard not fixed to the wall; we had flat irons which were also heated on the fire and we have a copper with a fire underneath to do the washing and heat the water, together with five children or seven if we were all there. We took picnics off into fields and woods, except we were not allowed near Stubb's Pool or the unused quarry; we climbed trees, built camps in the hedges; drank from streams – in fact we have real freedom. However, I must agree that we live in much more dangerous times, where children can no longer drink from streams; they cannot go on picnics because there are so many dangerous people around, but I am so glad we were able to enjoy our freedom and are left with many happy memories.

Have you ever wondered how different areas get their nicknames, e.g. we call people from Liverpool 'Scousers'. Well apparently there is a meat and vegetable stew which is traditional in Liverpool called 'Scouse'. This was a Norwegian name for a popular stew, called labskaus or lobsouse among Scandinavian sailors. They brought it to Liverpool where the name was shortened to skaus or scouse, and this led to all sailors becoming known as 'scousers' and the name soon spread to all Liverpudlians.

I was reading an article where the writer was talking about today's fashions and what a difference there is, mainly in casual clothes. He said that when he was young the men wore suits, ties and hats most of the time. My Dad wore a cloth cap for work and a trilby on weekends, and he blew away the myth that wearing a hat causes baldness, as he had a lovely thick head of hair until the day he died. In fact, no man ever wore a football shirt, unless he was playing in a football team and there were very few men who wore casual clothes. My Dad never owned a pair of shorts or a casual shirt and my mother wore lisle stockings all the year round. The arrival of Jeans and T-shirts completely changed the way we dress, but sometimes I wish there was more elegance.

Those of us of a certain age remember the song 'When April showers they come your way; they bring the flowers that bloom in May'. So if it's raining have no regrets because it isn't raining rain you know, it's raining Violets' How very true of April, my favourite month, because it is a month of promise but also when we think of new life, our Lord's resurrection and His promise to us that seed time and harvest will never fail, and we can now see His promise coming true.

Marie Cove.