

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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24/7

Perhaps 24/7 is an overused term these days.

In Norfolk we used to have an electricity supply company called 24/7. The idea was that every hour, every day they were ensuring that they were providing you with electricity. Then the gales came! Some people were without electricity for up to a week. The local paper ran the headline 24/7 - 7 days each 24 hours long that's the time it took to provide electricity. Not long after that the company changed its name!

But there is a place for 24/7 and that's when we talk about the Christian life. It's not one hour on a Sunday or even just for Sundays. It's about the whole of our lives - 24/7. As the hymn puts it, "Seven whole days, not one in seven, I would praise thee."

What difference does it make to you that you are a Christian? How does faith inspire your life? What difference would you like it to make?

As a Church we are beginning to think about adopting A Way Of Life. We are seeking to develop a few simple guidelines to help us live our lives as Christians. What do you think marks out the Christian approach to life? How can we adopt a pattern of living that will help us to put God first? What simple guidelines might help you?

These are many questions. I hope they will promote much discussion but, whatever we decide, we will forever need to keep in mind the Lord Jesus, who gave himself for us utterly and totally upon the Cross and was raised in glory on Easter Day.

Enter into Christ's passion.

Have a wonderful Easter,

Your friend and Vicar,  
Peter

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

Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Passion	10.30 a.m.	Lent Format
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Special Service
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Friday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday	7.30 p.m.	Vigil
Sunday	20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Day	08.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
			10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong

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

Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Passion	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Thursday	17 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy	7.00 p.m.	Maundy Service
Sunday	20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Day	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

#### From the Registers

The baptism of Lexi Jane Smedley took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> February during our morning service.

The baptism of Theo Thomas Evans took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> February in the afternoon.

Both were quite delightful occasions as we celebrated the birth of Lexi and Theo and, using the words of the proposed new form of service, committed ourselves to trust in God and to serve him forever.

The funeral of Jessie Rosser of Ansley Common was held at The Heart of England Crematorium on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Born near Manchester and brought up in Anglesey, she spent the latter years of World War Two working as a draughtswoman on the Isle of Wight. However almost all her working life was spent as a primary school teacher. She served in Essex and around Kenilworth. Her husband Trevor's appointment as Head of Ansley Common County School brought the family to Ansley and Jessie taught in Nuneaton and surrounding areas. It was a career she loved. She leaves her beloved husband Trevor and son Dillwyn who deeply mourn her passing.

#### Holy Week and Easter

Our celebration of Easter will begin on **Palm Sunday** with Holy Communion at St John's and a special service at St Laurence's. We will remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

You are warmly invited to a shared meal of bread, soup and a glass of fruit juice or wine on **Maundy Thursday** at St. John's at 7.00 p.m. to reflect on the Last Supper, when Jesus blessed the bread and wine.

At 7.30 p.m. on **Good Friday** a vigil will be held in St. Laurence's, to remember what our Saviour endured for us, with prayers, readings, hymns and contemplation.



The church will be decorated from 9.00 a.m. on **Holy Saturday** ready for the Easter Sunday celebrations. We would appreciate any help in arranging the flowers. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of lilies and other seasonal flowers, we would be very grateful.

### **Easter Day**

Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!

Please feel welcome to attend a service. There will be Holy Communion at St Laurence's at 8.00 a.m., followed by Holy Communion services at St Laurence's and St John's, both at 10.30 a.m. The Easter celebrations will conclude with Evensong at 6.30 p.m. in St Laurence's church.

We hope you will be able to join us in our celebration of this important festival.

### **Bishops visit on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

The congregation of St Laurence's welcomed the Bishop of Coventry, the Right Reverend Christopher Cocksworth, and members of St John's congregation to the morning service of Holy Communion. It was lovely to have time to chat over tea and coffee, followed by a talk from the Bishop and then lunch. Thank you to everyone who came and to all who contributed to the refreshments.

### **Women's World Day of Prayer**

The service this year, prepared by Christian women from Egypt, had the theme of streams of water. It was an opportunity to reflect on the experiences of women from a very different culture, but with similar hopes and aspirations. A sum of £72 was donated for the work of the organisation.

### **Lent appeal**

Lent meetings began on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March and will continue every Thursday until 10<sup>th</sup> April. The meetings start at 7.30 p.m. and are on the theme "A pattern of life and a rhythm of prayer."

A collection plate will be placed by the cross aisles at each service during Lent for donations towards providing wells in Kaduna, Nigeria. The link

[http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/index.php?page\\_ref=1061&item=54](http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/index.php?page_ref=1061&item=54)

shows pictures and gives details of this project. Clean water is very precious in communities where many children die young from disease or are unable to go to school because they have to spend many hours each day collecting water for their families. A new well costs around £600 so any sum we can raise to put towards this would be very welcome.

### **Coffee Morning, Bring and Buy, Raffle**

Members of Ansley Senior Citizens will be helping Moreen Freestone to organise this event. It will take place in Ansley Village Church Hall on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Proceeds will be donated to Tear Fund, which works with partners in many countries around the world to support people in need. Please come along and support this first fund raising event of the year for Tear Fund.

### Live and Local Concert

Tickets can still be bought for Baltic Crossing's entertainment on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> April in Ansley Village Church Hall, (CV10 9PS) starting at 7.30 p.m. The cost is £9.00 for adults and £6.00 for older children (12-15). Light refreshments will be available. Please contact Diana Kealey on 02476395089 to book seats or for answers to queries. The website for Live and Local is [www.liveandlocal.org.uk](http://www.liveandlocal.org.uk). We have had excellent reports from people who saw this group last year.

### St John's Hall Bingo

Over 30 people attended the Bingo last month. There were some lovely prizes to be won, including Easter eggs, which proved popular. Everyone enjoyed the evening and £100 was made for hall funds. The next session will be on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

### Gift Aid Report

We have received £5623.09 from the Government as a result of gift aid giving in 2013. This sum is the 25% that can be claimed on the total given by this method over the year. Thank you to everyone who was able to use this scheme. Some people gave by standing order, having completed the appropriate form. Others used the box of regular weekly gift aid envelopes or the pink individual gift aid envelopes available in church.

The above sum has been allocated as follows:-

The general fund received £4908.87, St. John's received £295.94, The Fabric fund £257.28, and the Church Yard Fund £179.00.

As the church benefits to the extent of an extra 25% of the original donation, it is well worth considering giving in this way if you meet the requirements.

To join the scheme the only criteria is that you pay some form of income tax on what you receive. i.e. building society interest etc. and that the figure you pay in tax is equal to or more than what the church receives from your giving.

The church also receives the maximum benefit from the small donations scheme so any giving using the envelopes will increase the amount the church receives.

As with any matter financial confidentiality is paramount and any information would only be divulged as required by the HMRC.

If you have any questions or need more information, please have a word with one of the wardens.

### Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence's and at 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, 2014.

Well, what a wonderful Spring we are having – flowers galore, birds nesting, blossom trees a beautiful sight and although sometimes a little chilly, we have had lots and lots of sunshine and now the nights are a lot lighter. It is certainly a time of hope and a time to look forward to summer. Last year we despaired as we had ice and snow over and over again right through to the end of March and we thought some of our shrubs would not stand this, but nature is very resilient and our Camellias are a picture, and everything else has not only survived but thrived.

We love wildlife programmes but how much better to see some of these animals in real life. I saw in a newspaper if you want to see Puffins, head to Dumfries and Galloway in Scotland. I wouldn't count on it. We went to Scotland and on a bus trip we were told, 'As you go round the bay you will see lots of seals.' How many did we see? – none! Then we went on a ferry around various islands and when we got to the Isle of Eigg we were given the choice to spend some time there or carry on and perhaps see Whales. We opted to stay and explore the island and took photographs which Dave painted later. The others who stayed on the boat saw nothing. At least the Wildlife Presenters are now admitting just how hard it is to actually find the animals to film, so watching wildlife programmes seems to be our best option.

Have you noticed how people continually abbreviate words e.g. when watching the Curling – they refer to the skipper as 'skip'. Even the National Geographic Society they abbreviate to 'Natgeo'. I suppose this is a side shoot from E-mails where to me the youngsters speak another language. It is no wonder spelling is deteriorating as children must be confused. However, whereas Christian names used to always be shortened, now lots of children are being given double names and one of our Great Granddaughters is called 'Emmagrace', which I just cannot get my head around and wonder how she will get on when she starts to write her name.

Just for a laugh:

A little boy opens the family bible. He is fascinated as he fingers through the old pages. Suddenly something falls out of the Bible. He picks up the object and looks at it. What he can see is an old leaf which had been pressed between the pages. 'Mum, look what I've found.'  
'What have you got there?' his mother asks. With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answers,  
'I think it's Adam's underwear.'

Fair April, 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.  
As New born lambs and chicks abound, new life of Spring is all around.

Marie Cove.