

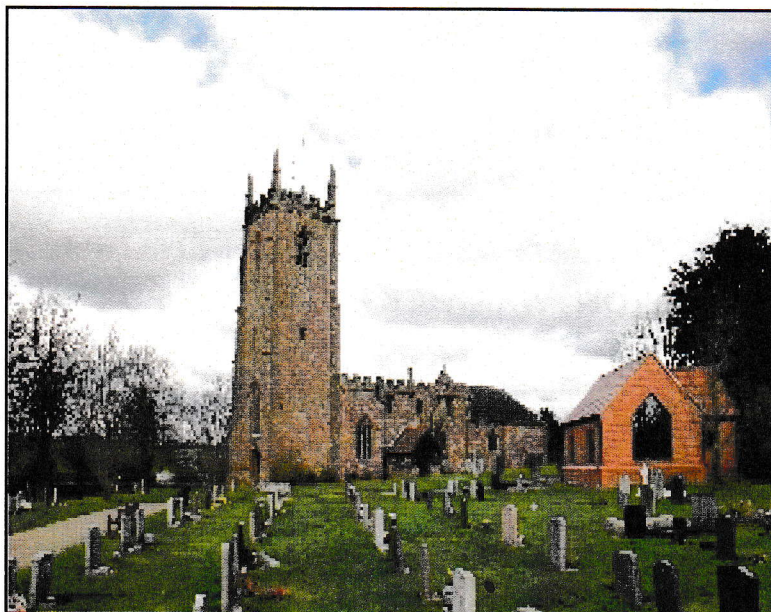
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1070

APRIL 2015

Price 30p



Vicar:

REV. PETER ALLAN

Tel: 024 7639 9070

Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL
MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 01827 874520
Tel: 024 7638 1833

St. Johns Leaders

MARIE COVE
JOHN COX

Tel: 024 7639 4114
Tel: 024 7639 4802

Lay Reader:

MANDY WATTS
GWYNETH HICKMAN

Tel: 024 7639 7654
Tel: 024 7639 8901

www.ansleychurch.org

Print Centre 024 7638 6017

Delighting in the Eclipse

As I write this I have just come from watching the eclipse - seeing its effects in my garden and at the same time watching the television to see other people's experience. It's been a truly special time that has drawn the country together.

I do love a celebration particularly when we are **all** involved. How often we just do our own thing. How much we lose!

As you read this, Easter will be fast approaching. As far as I am concerned Easter is **the** celebration of the Christian year. I really want you to make the most of it.

Every Easter morning I take confirmation candidates to Coventry Cathedral. The service begins before dawn and we see and feel the sunrise as the service progresses. Every year on the Saturday before Easter I wish I had made life easier for myself by having confirmations at a much more sensible time and thus giving myself a gentler Easter Day. Every year as Easter Day draws to its close I feel tired but really satisfied I made the effort.

I know I won't be saying this as I wake up at 4 am on Easter morning but it really is worth making the effort to have a good Easter.

So here is how you can do it:

1. Attend at least one service in Holy Week either on Palm Sunday or on Maundy Thursday (or even both). You can't easily appreciate Easter without feeling the suffering that Jesus went through. No pain, no gain!
2. Get ready. Take time on the Saturday before Easter to read Mark Chapter 15.
- 3 Get to an Easter service or even two. Easter is not an occasion to celebrate alone! You could join us at the Cathedral at 5.30 a.m. but you don't need to go that far! There will be three services at St. Laurence's and a service at St. John's. Do join us!

Easter is **the** celebration of the victory of life over death and love over hate. Celebrate in style!

Have a good Easter,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

April St. Laurence's Church Services

Friday	3 rd	Good Friday	7.30 p.m.	Vigil
Sunday	5 th	Easter Day	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
			10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	12 th	Easter 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	19 th	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Easter Service
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	26 th	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Thursday	2 nd	Maundy Thurs	7.00 p.m.	Maundy Reflection
Sunday	5 th	Easter Day	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	12 th	Easter 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	19 th	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	26 th	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

From the Registers

On Monday February 23rd the funeral of Miriam Richardson took place at St. Laurence's Church. A loving mother and grandmother, a very talented tennis player and pianist, very able secretary and administrator, faithful and much loved member of our Church, Miriam will be sorely missed by us all. After the funeral Miriam was buried in the churchyard rejoining her beloved husband Alec.

On Friday March 6th the funeral of Alf Bailey took place in St. Laurence's Church. Brother to Mary, Nellie and Dennis, uncle and friend to many, Alf's entire life (with the exception of the final two months) was spent in the same house. The pattern of the year shaped his life and Alf was absolutely content. Ansley Village through and through, Alf was always a steady and reliable worker and adored his animals. We shall miss him.

On Friday February 20th the mortal remains of Alec Cashmore were interred in St. Laurence's Churchyard. His passing was sadly followed by that of his wife Jean whose mortal remains were interred in the same plot on Friday March 13th.

Holy Week and Easter

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 the Easter 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.

Advance Notices

Invitation to Coventry Cathedral

Members of the congregations of St Laurence's and St John's, along with St Michael's and St Wilfrid's in Arley have been invited to join the Holy Communion service at 10.30 a.m. in Coventry cathedral on Sunday 3rd May. Our parishes will be prayed for during this service and it would be lovely to have members of our churches there to represent us. We anticipate at the moment that there will be a morning service somewhere in Ansley, but this will be reviewed when interest has been established, so please check that you have correct information nearer this date.

Ascension Day A joint service for Ascension Day will be held at St John's on Thursday 14th May at 7.30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come along and commemorate this special day in the church calendar.

Lent appeal

The Reverend Mishael Andy, who visited Coventry Diocese in Autumn 2014, is the Vicar of Goni Gora just south of Kaduna and his village received a clean water well sponsored by Finham Primary School in 2005.

While in Warwickshire he asked that Coventry Diocese continue to support the provision of more wells. They cost £680 each and our Lent collection last year contributed around £380 to this cause.

The PCC decided to support clean water wells for Kaduna province in Nigeria again this Lent. With a further two weeks to go at the time of writing the total amount raised will be in the May magazine.

To find out more click on the link below, then on "ebulletin" at the bottom of the page and key "Kaduna Wells" into the search box at the top of the next page.

<http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/>

Lent Meetings

During the Thursday Lent meetings discussions were held on the themes of Hope, Love, Faith and Sharing Faith, with the support of Bible readings. We were able to welcome Martin Saxby back to present the results of the recent survey completed by St Laurence's morning congregation. Each of the eight areas of "Growing Healthy Churches" had

improved. The differences between our first survey and this second one were highlighted, with much positive progress to celebrate but of course some poorer results to address too. This process has helped Peter and the PCC to choose to focus during the coming year on Need Orientated Evangelism while continuing to keep Passionate Spirituality in mind.

Women's World Day of Prayer

The service was much enjoyed by those who attended. It reminded us that concerns in the Bahamas are similar to those in the UK and around the world, but also gave a flavour of life in a very different geographic location. £70 was donated to the organisation.

The Voice of Flowers

The extensive and colourful display of photographs and publicity from 50 years of flower festivals made a real impact in the church over the Mothering Sunday weekend. Memories were stirred of people's contributions over the years. It was lovely to welcome visitors and to hear their thoughts too. As this was an entirely new thing we had no idea how many people to expect but we were kept busy both in church and in the annexe from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The display was left in place for a further week so people would not miss out. It was also very pleasing to note that there were donations made over the open time that amounted to over £110. Thank you to those who gave so generously. The photographs, leaflets and press cuttings will be filed safely away for future reference. In all this event was much appreciated.

Mothering Sunday

We would like to thank Marie Cove for organising the posies for Mothering Sunday. The daffodils were still in bud, which gave the pleasure of seeing them unfurl during the following days.

Readers of Lessons and Leaders of Intercessions

Thank you to all who contribute to services by reading the lessons and/or leading the prayers. This is much appreciated. A refresher meeting will be offered in the near future as it has been some years since any training or sharing of ideas has taken place. It will also be an opportunity for other members of the congregation to consider taking on these roles.

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.

Please pray for who is

April, 2015

We know Spring is with us when we pass the Spring Equinox and then of course we had the partial eclipse, which unfortunately we were not in the best place to see, but the best sign of Spring must be the bird song morning and evening, and of course they are very busy nest building. April is my favourite month, not only because I was born in April but because so many flowers bloom and our garden has come alive from brown, cold earth to green shoots and blossoms.

I was amazed when they said it was 50 years since 'The Sound of Music' was released. I can remember singing the songs to my daughter and infant son. Nowadays people regard it as 'cheesy', but we loved it. It was pure fun and we soon learned the songs, which we have never forgotten. Christopher Plummer, who took the part of Captain von Trapp was very disparaging about it and described working with Julie Andrews as like 'being hit over the head with a big Valentine's card every day.'

I have made lots of jam over the year, of all sorts, but have never heard of adding a knob of butter to get rid of the scum. Someone wrote to the newspaper about this and the answer was that you don't need a knob of butter as the scum is just air bubbles, but just taking the jam off the heat and stirring will get rid of the scum too.

My mother had many sayings and rules of life, and I was reminded of one in the newspaper recently, when someone was referring to 'kids'. My mother said, "Nanny goats have kids, human mothers have children." I never forgot it.

As we enjoy Spring I would like to share this saying – 'Days of stress, sadness or disappointment can be smoothed out as you look at the perfect structure of a flower.'

Marie Cove