

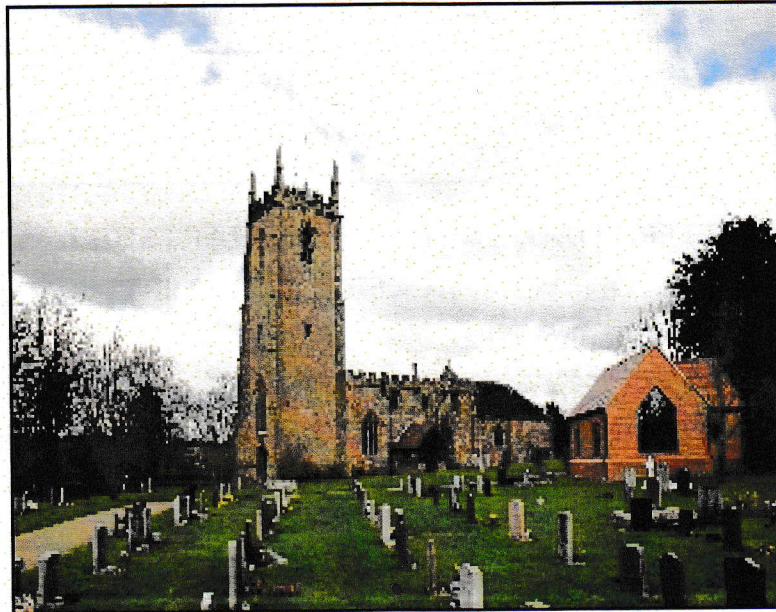
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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April

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly each month passes by. As we begin a new month, we have much to contemplate as we draw closer to Easter.

A small group of people have joined me during March to consider issues relating to our Christian life and the world that we live in. How we live our lives is essential to our faith. How we think, how we react to situations are both important in our Christian beliefs. Some of the issues discussed in our Lent group are quite challenging regarding our attitudes towards the homeless, the starving, poverty and other issues are still to come. At the point of writing this month's letter for April's magazine, we are about to discuss Session 3 (of 5), 'Receiving Christ in Holy Communion,' Session 4, 'Receiving Christ through Prayer and Fellowship,' and lastly Session 5, 'Christ in You, the Hope of Glory.' All sessions are welcoming and, even if you just turn up to one, it will set your thoughts toward God and create a sense of Peace in your heart in time for Easter. Do join us in the Annexe on Thursdays at 7.30 p. m.

Hope in Christ is open to us all and as we reflect on Easter and re-enact the Passion throughout Holy Week, it is important for all Christians to feel God's presence in thankfulness for His Son's amazing, courageous sacrifice that He faced on our behalf. I hope all of us can take this very special time in the Christian year seriously, soak up the atmosphere and give Christ due honour by being present at the selection of services for Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Wishing you a very happy and Holy Easter,

Gwyneth.

April St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 2 nd	Passion Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Lent Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 th	Palm Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Special Service
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Friday 14 th	Good Friday	7.30 p.m.	Vigil
Sunday 16 th	Easter Day	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 23 rd	Easter 2	10.30 a.m.	Easter Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 30 th	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Songs of Praise

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 2 nd	Passion Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 9 th	Palm Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Thursday 13 th	Maundy Thursday	7.00 p.m.	Shared meal
Sunday 16 th	Easter Day	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 rd	Easter 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 30 th	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Family Service

Please Note

During the interregnum it may be necessary to change the pattern of services from time to time at fairly short notice. This would be to enable visiting clergy to hold a communion service.

From the Registers

The ashes of Mollie Whitmore, aged 85, were interred in a family grave on Friday 17th March.

Easter Services

Palm Sunday

Please remember that the congregation will gather in the Annexe and then process to the church to continue the service.

Holy Week and Easter

Come along on **Maundy Thursday** [13th April] to St John's at 7.00 p.m., to share a meal of bread, soup and a glass of wine or fruit juice. You will be very welcome. This simple food helps us to remember and reflect on Jesus blessing the bread and wine at the Last Supper.

You are also invited to a vigil at St Laurence's on **Good Friday** [14th April] at 7.30 p.m. Prayers, readings, hymns and contemplation will be used as we commemorate what our Saviour endured for our sake.

On **Holy Saturday** [15th April], from 9.00 a.m. the church will be decorated ready for the Easter Sunday services. We would be very grateful if you could help to arrange the flower

displays. Donations towards the cost of lilies and other seasonal flowers would be much appreciated.

Easter Day

Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!

Please feel welcome at any of the following local services. 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.

Easter Bonnet Social at St John's

This event takes place on Friday 7th April at 7.00 p.m. in St John's Hall. Please book a place in advance. A very enjoyable evening is anticipated.

Girls' Brigade Parade

The next parade will be on Sunday 30th April, when the girls will join St John's congregation for the morning service. It is always interesting to discover what has been going on and to celebrate the girls' achievements.

Reports

Women's World Day of Prayer

A small group gathered at St Laurence's on Friday 3rd March, to hold a service prepared by the church in the Philippines. The music, songs and photos helped in setting the scene, and the voices of the people were presented through the readings. The service closed with tea and cake in the annexe. Thank you Gwyneth! A donation of £75 has been sent to the organisation.

Lent Lunch

Also on Friday 3rd March, a Lent lunch of soup and bread was provided in the annexe for a donation of £1.00. The money collected will be added to the sum from the collection plate placed at the cross aisles each Sunday during Lent. The final amount will be sent to Coventry Diocese to be used to create safe water wells in Kaduna Province in Nigeria.

Gift Aid

Most years about this time Gift Aid is brought to your attention.

This is a valuable source of income for the church. A significant sum (25%) can be claimed by the church from regular donations made by taxpayers. In the calendar year 2016 we received a total of £7340.97 from this, some of which had to be split between the different accounts.

This amount of money is a life saver for our funds. If you do pay tax in any form and/or are not sure how this works, please do have a word, it makes such a difference to our income. Please remember, as your circumstances change make sure that if you are already giving by Gift Aid that you are paying enough tax to cover the amount that can be claimed.

If you have any query about Gift Aid please have a confidential word with the treasurer.

An unexpected gift

Following a visit to our 2016 Christmas Tree Festival a Coventry church has kindly donated some beautiful crib figures. We are very grateful and look forward to seeing them at next year's festival.

Moles

Having tried with voluntary help to clear the moles from the churchyard, the PCC are now employing someone to do this on their behalf. A lot of moles have been caught over the last twelve months, but there are still some that are eluding our efforts. Volunteers are visiting the churchyard when time permits to flatten the hills and fill in the many runs, where the ground has sunk. This is proving to be an on-going battle. It is fully appreciated that to find a mole hill next to a grave or a flower container pushed out of place is very upsetting, but please be assured that we are doing the best we can.

Electoral Roll Reminder

Names can be added to the parochial electoral roll at any time. If you wish to check whether your name is already on, or want to have it added, please speak to a member of the PCC. A form will need to be filled in. Anyone who lives in the parish and is over 16 years old may register, or anyone who is a regular worshipper at the church. The roll is revised annually but you do not have to fill in a form each year. Every six years everyone has to reapply if they wish to be on the electoral roll, (2019). Those on the electoral roll have the right to elect members of the PCC, vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Parochial Church Council and/or raise matters for discussion at the AGM. They need to be on the electoral roll to stand for election to the PCC. A person wishing to be involved in wider decision making in the church, for example as a member of the Deanery or Diocesan Synod also needs to be on the electoral roll and is appointed by the PCC.

Parish Profile

It seems a long time ago that we bade Peter farewell. The representatives from the Benefice of Arley and Ansley have been working hard to produce the Parish Profile that has to be agreed before advertising for a new incumbent. The latest draft has been seen by the two PCCs and is being sent back to the Diocese for their comments. The PCC trusts and prays that the care and consultation taken at this stage may ensure that the best person for the post will be appointed in due course.

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 a warden. Phone numbers are on the front page of this magazine. Please remember that a visit can be arranged to anyone who is sick, but the wardens do need to know, so again please ring.

Please pray for who is

April, 2017.

Every year I look for the Blackthorn Blossom, and there it was this week. There are quite a few trees just outside Bedworth, and although it doesn't have a pretty name. to me it is the sign that Spring is here.

There was an article in a National newspaper listing certain things parents should teach their children. There were obvious ones like making a cup of tea, and some absolutely ridiculous like basic car maintenance. One of the presenters on T.V. said it didn't matter if children knew basic sewing because if the hem comes down on trousers you can take them to the Dry Cleaners and they will repair it for £10 or £11. I wonder how much they charge for sewing on a button? Anyway if you have a hem repaired professionally it takes days but if you have a needle and thread you can repair it easily instantly.

There was a man who had been in prison in America for 32 years, wrongly accused of murder. The pupils at his local University had worked tirelessly and campaigned for his release. Now he is free and he was so upbeat; held no resentment to those who had judged him wrongly, but just wanted to get on with his life. What a refreshing change in this world where there is so much spite and bad feeling. I hope he has many years of freedom and enjoys the rest of his life.

A lady's 4 year old granddaughter dropped something on the ground and raised it to her mouth, so her grandmother took it from her and told her not to do it 'Why?' asked the child. Her grandmother said that it was dirty and had germs. 'How do you know all this stuff?' her granddaughter asked. Her grandmother said that all grandmothers know this stuff. It's on the grandmother test. After a couple of minutes the child beamed, 'I get it! If you don't pass the test you have to be a Grandpa.'

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. New life all around both animals and flowers.. This is why April is loved by all, as now this month gives promise anew. A herald of summer for me and you.

Marie Cove.