

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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## Building bridges at Easter

It has been said that, 'An Englishman's home is his castle'. Amongst other things, does that mean a person who has built a wall to keep people out, or a bridge over the moat to let people in? Often it is easier to pull up the drawbridge and close the door to others and the world than it is to be a bridge builder and let others into our space and lives.

There are times when we need to put up a wall to preserve and protect us. For example, one anonymous writer has described marriage as being like a 'Walled Garden':

*Your marriage should have within it a secret and protected space, open to you alone. Imagine it to be a walled garden, entered by a door to which only you hold the key. Within this garden you will cease to be a mother, father, employee, homemaker or any other of the roles which you fulfil in daily life. Here you can be yourselves, two people who love each other. Here you can concentrate on one another's needs. So take each other's hands and go forth to your garden. The time you spend together is not wasted but invested – invested in your future and the nurture of your love.*

However, there are times that require us to be bridge builders. Often there is cost involved, not necessarily in terms of money, but in time, effort and sacrifice as well as being misunderstood and rejected by others. Do you remember one of the songs that children used to sing in school assemblies?

*When I needed a neighbour were you there, were you there?*

*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?*

As Easter approaches, we can remind ourselves that when Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday, at the moment of his death, the Curtain in the Temple in Jerusalem was amazingly torn in two from top to bottom. It was a symbol of a dividing wall coming down between us and God. A way of forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration was opened up for humanity to discover that there is a bridge over which divided human beings could find peace with God and peace with each other.

Being a bridge builder is not for cowards and may not be easy, but by taking one small step to being a bridge builder, it can be like taking one giant step for mankind.

Wishing you all a very meaningful Easter.

Rev'd John



## April St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Day	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 2	10.30 a.m.	Easter Screen
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Easter Screen
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 5	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Songs of Praise

## St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Day	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 5	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

#### Interment of Ashes

The ashes of Mr Keith Burnham were interred in St Laurence's churchyard on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March, in the grave of his wife and his son, Guy.

### Easter Day

You will be most welcome at our Easter celebrations on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Holy Communion at St Laurence's and St John's, both at 10.30 a.m.

Evensong at St Laurence's at 6.30 p.m.

### Annual General Meeting of the PCC

This will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April in the Annexe at 7.30 p.m. You are all invited to attend to discuss the life of the church over the past year. The PCC and officers will be elected and the Electoral Roll will be reviewed. If you cannot come on the night but would like an input, please look for the voting sheets and information displayed at your place of worship.

### Bhopal Gas Disaster 1984

The recent collection for victims still suffering thirty four years after this disaster came to £113. Thank you to everyone who donated to this cause.

## Advance Notices

### COVENTRY DIOCESAN CENTENARY FESTIVAL

The year 2018 marks the centenary of Coventry Diocese. The Centenary Festival will be held on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> May from 10.30 – 16.00 at the Cathedral and in the ruins. There will be entertainment and activities to suit all ages

"Ask the Archbishop" is an event for people in their 20s and 30s at All Saints Church, Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May. It starts at 7.30 p.m. and includes an opportunity for questions from the audience.

### A PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESE

God of time and eternity,  
We thank you that all our times are in your hands.  
Rejoicing in your faithfulness over the last one hundred years,  
we celebrate the life of our diocese:  
in stories of faith and hope,  
in worship offered, disciples gathered  
and communities transformed by your reconciling love.  
As we give you thanks and praise,  
Give us your vision for this place we cherish,  
Help us to walk your way with its people  
And pour upon us those gifts we need to work with you  
That, filled with your Spirit,  
Your Church may serve you here with strength and joy;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### TEARFUND'S JUBILEE CELEBRATION – MARKING 50 YEARS

A special service has been arranged at Coventry Cathedral on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30 a.m. to mark this anniversary. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury is the guest speaker and the Midlands Choir will be singing at the event. (This choir will be performing a fortnight later at the Royal wedding.) Refreshments will be served after the service, so do make sure you order a ticket for these by contacting a church member.

### ASCENSION DAY

This year our Benefice Ascension Day service will be held at St Michael's, New Arley, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> May.

### St John's Social

St John's will be holding a social evening on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00 p.m. More details are available from St John's. Do make sure you book your ticket.

### Women's World Day of Prayer 2018

Report next month.

### From the PCC

The members of the PCC would like to thank all who helped to clear the churchyard of wreaths and other items. This is done to give the mower an unobstructed path around the gravestones, when grass cutting resumes.

Following an inspection in May 2017 it became clear that work would be required on the lime trees in the churchyard. Permission has now been obtained and the work will soon begin to clear the crowns of debris. If you visit the churchyard during the works, do please keep clear of the area to avoid accidents.

Permission has also been granted to repair the ground gutters outside the building and broken quarry tiles inside the church.

### St John's Church Hall, Ansley Common, Annual Report for 2017

It is very encouraging that, during 2017, there was a steady increase in demand for use of the hall by groups or organisations. Sing and Learn and a dance group were examples of new groups. More private lets resulted in an increase of almost £1,000 in rental income. Fundraising sessions of Bingo and Friday social events continued and ensured there were sufficient funds to run the hall, raising a total of £1,127. The community continued to offer support and the committee arranged a free social for invited supporters which created much goodwill. Many thanks are due to those who have organised these events which are much appreciated by the community.

The Christmas Fair raised £100 and was a great credit to all involved. Proceeds from Marie's Stall of £100 were divided equally between Child Line and the Acorn Children's Hospice.

The hall floor was resealed in August at a cost of £2,160. The hall committee received a grant of £1,000 from the Borough Councillor's Fund towards this cost. The work on the floor has much improved the appearance of the hall. A new radiator was fitted in the kitchen at a cost of £302 which has improved the warmth there.

Thank you to Wendy cooper who continued to work hard as caretaker. By the end of the year the hall account had a balance of £4,700, an increase of over £1,054.

Thank you to everyone for help and support over the year.

An Easter Greeting

Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

### 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, 2018

As I look out of the window (middle of March), gone are the memories of last month and beginning of March when we were snowed in. My Granddaughter came to see if we needed anything and as she had come on the main road, it was clear. Of course when she turned into our Crescent, there was all the crisp snow and all the cars parked in the driveways. She said "Has all of Nuthurst Crescent hunkered down until the snow has gone?" Well, I don't know about the others, but we had.

Anyone who knows me knows what a sweet tooth I have. I'm not fond of cakes or biscuits or even chocolate, except two sorts of chocolate which I love – Fry's Cream Bar and Cadbury's Fruit and Nut, but now there's only one left as whereas Fruit & Nut was a thick chunk with whole hazel nuts, now it is very thin with just small bits of nut. Why does everything have to change and not for the better? I'm told it is because it is no longer made at Cadbury's but in Poland.

We spend lots on bird food and are rewarded with the many types of birds which visit our garden. However, just lately, there has been a Kestrel and it seems to frighten away the little birds. It is a lovely bird but we would rather have the Blue Tits, Coal Tits, Goldfinches and Chaffinches.

We associate Easter with eggs, as they signify new life. I always get Easter Eggs for my children grandchildren and now great grandchildren, but the most famous Easter Eggs were made by Peter Carl Faberge, a French jeweller. In 1883 he was commissioned by Russian Tsar Alexander to make a special gift for Empress Marie. He made the first Faberge egg, which had a shell of platinum enamelled white and opened to reveal a small Gold egg; this then opened to display a golden chicken and a jewelled replica of the imperial crown. 57 Faberge eggs were made in total. The ritual has survived as children hunt for coloured and decorated eggs to fill their baskets.

The year begins with ice and cold,  
Piercing both young and old.  
But as Snowdrops begin to peep,  
God's promise of Spring, He soon will keep.

Marie Cove