

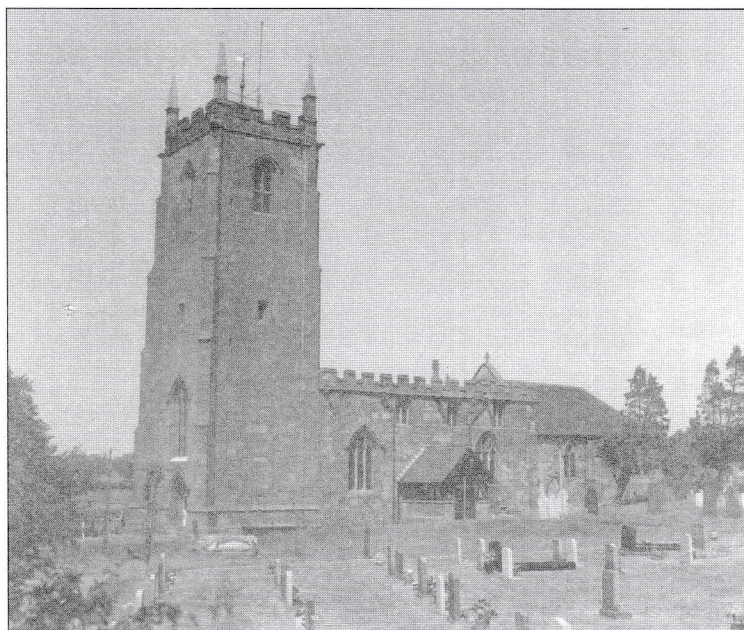
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 959

MAY 2005

Price 25p



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May

There can be little doubt that autumn is a lovely season - the golds, browns and reds of the whirling leaves and the joys of harvest. In some ways it is even more beautiful than spring. But autumn has one serious drawback - it heralds winter's cold and icy blasts, long nights and short days. Spring with its assortment of beautiful flowers and the natural world full of activity is a taste of the warmth and long days ahead (we hope!).

This month is also the time for elections. On May 5 we shall be choosing a Member of Parliament and a County Councillor and on May 26 a Parish Councillor. I hope that you will vote. What an amazing privilege it is, a privilege that sadly the majority of the world does not enjoy: In a secret ballot we can, if we so choose, remove our representatives from office and overturn our government.

I began by talking of May as the season of hope. Sadly elections can so easily degenerate. We are encouraged not to vote to choose the person or party that will help us realise the dreams that we have for ourselves, for our community and for our world. Rather we are constantly reminded of the faults of the other parties and encouraged to vote against the party we fear most. I hope that you will find someone who will give you something to hope for, something to long for, something to dream about.

The Church too deals in hope. With faith and love, hope lies at the heart of what we believe. May we be a people of spring. May it be our unceasing prayer that in our lives we give something to dream about, something to hope for. May the fulfilment of our earthly dreams be a foretaste of heaven. May justice roll down the mountains and righteousness as an ever-flowing stream.

Your friend and vicar,
Peter

May What's On

St. Laurence's Church

Sunday 1 st	Rogation Day	10.30 a.m.	NO SERVICE (At St. Michael's)
		6.30 p.m.	B.C.P. Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th	Ascension 1	10.30 a.m.	Baptism & Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 15 th	Whit Sunday	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Baptism & Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 29 th	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion

St John's Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 1 st	Rogation Day	10.30 a.m.	Family Worship & Sunday School
Wednesday 4 th		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th	Ascension 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Sunday School
Sunday 15 th	Whit Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Family Worship
Wednesday 18 th		9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 22 nd	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Sunday School
Sunday 29 th	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Songs of Praise

Other Activities at St. John's Church Hall

Monday 16 th	7.00 p.m.	Indoor Bowls.
Tuesdays	9.00 a.m.	Krazy Kettle Kafé & I.T. Classes
Tuesdays	7.30 p.m.	Line Dancing
Wednesdays	6.00 p.m.	A.C.Y.C.
Thursdays 5 th & 26 th	All Day.	Elections
Thursday 12 th & 19 th	7.00 p.m.	Youth Club
Friday 4 th , 11 th & 18 th	7.30 p.m.	Ball Room Dancing
Friday 6 th May	7.30 p.m.	V.E. Day Social

Activities at Village Church Hall

Mondays	7.00 p.m.	Links - Youth Club
Tuesdays	10.00 a.m.	Senior Citizens
Wednesdays	10.30 – 12.30 p.m.	Community Café
Wednesday 4 th 18 th	7.30 p.m.	Bingo
Thursday 5 th & 26 th	All Day.	Elections
Thursday 12 th	7.30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Friday 20 th	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Plant Sale
Saturday 21 st	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Plant Sale

Other Parish activities

Monday 2 nd & 16 th	2.30 p.m.	Prayer Group meet 10 Nuthurst Crescent.
Wednesday 11 th & 25 th	7.30 p.m.	Wednesday Fellowship meet 10 Nuthurst Cres.
Thursday 12 th	7.30 p.m.	Deanery Meeting
Thursday 19 th	7.30 p.m.	Arch Deacons Visitation at Hartshill
Thursday 12 th & 26 th	7.30 p.m.	Ansley Common Fellowship.

From the Registers

Baptisms.

On 10th April Aaliyah Douglas and Kieran Wheeler were christened at the morning service. Both children were very alert and were looking at everything that was happening.

Harriett Stevenson made her vows with her two godparents and was baptised during the evening service on the same day.

Wedding

On 26th March Mary Clew-Phillips married Victor Saul Tuck. They had first entered St. Laurence on Easter Saturday 2004 and thought how lovely it would be to be married in the church when it was decorated for Easter. Mary & Saul were delighted that their dream date was possible. The Church looked lovely for their special day. We wish them every happiness in their new life together.

Funerals

Margaret Rowland died on February 8th after a long battle fighting cancer. During her married life she lived at Robinson's end Farm, with her husband Tim. There she had four children, who gave her 12 grandchildren of whom she was very proud. She was always ready to give them encouragement and help in what ever they were doing. Her ashes were interred in the Church yard on 6th April.

Annual General Meeting

On Thursday 7th April we held our Annual General Meeting it was a time of looking back over and reviewing the last twelve months and then looking forward to the future. Thinking of what had gone well and looking at what was not quite 'right'. 2004 was a very busy year for the Church, both at Church and particularly the planning work being carried out to improve the two church halls.

There were no new members elected to the P.C.C. and there being no more nominations the officers were re-elected for a further 12 months. A copy of the accounts and the reports has been placed in the Church Porch.

Thank you

Thank you to those who gave so generously towards the Easter flowers, and also to those who came and helped to decorate the Church. Also to the children from St. John's who made the Easter garden that the vicar used in his morning sermon to demonstrate what a difference a transformation can make.

1st May

Please note there will be **NO** 10.30 service at St. Laurence on 1st May to enable us all to attend the service at St. Michael's where Peter Privett will give a talk and demonstration on Godly Play.

St. John's Church Hall

The tiles for the kitchen and the paint are to be purchased with the proceeds from the prize bingo held on 18th April. The work will only take a few days. It will be good to see this part of the halls upgrade completed. Thank you to all concerned.

Celebrations - V.E. day .

These will commence with the decoration of St. John's Hall on 2nd May, from 10 a.m. with bunting, flags, pictures etc.

Tuesday 3rd May the Krazy Kettle Kafe will serve refreshments at approximately 1945 prices. With the ladies suitably dressed for the period. This is at the usual time of 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Friday 6th May – Dance at 7.30 p.m. 1940's music, fancy dress from the 1940's and a supper of either sausage and mash or faggot and peas. To assist with catering this needs to be a ticket only event, price £2 and available from H. Sharman, M. Cove and J. Pethic.

This will be a great way to celebrate this very important anniversary.

Plant Sale

This very popular event will take place over Friday 20th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. & Saturday 21st 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. There will be the usual array of bedding plants, and other plants etc. The proceeds from this event are as usual for the Village Church Hall funds. The allotment association will be selling their usual vegetable plants and produce for their funds.

The Village Church Hall.

Back in last summer after the questionnaires were completed and analysed a list of work required on the hall was compiled. Quotations have been obtained and it is expected that the work will cost £37700 to bring the hall up to 2005 standards. This includes with new doors, windows kitchen, toilets, floor, storage areas, improvements to the heating and electrical work, better access and external play area for children and general improvements to the appearance of the hall. Last autumn an application was submitted to WREN and late March we learnt that we had been awarded £16223 towards this work. The proviso is that we do not start the work until all the funding is in place. Other applications have been submitted and hopefully further funding will be forthcoming. It is also important that we also raise funds towards this project. Some of the hall users are actively trying to get funds towards this work and some donations have already been received. All contributions are very welcome. Many thanks to all concerned from the Hall committee members. We hope that in the not too distant future work will commence on the Village Church Hall for the benefit of the whole community.

Could You Help In 2005

During 2004 we were able to claim a total of £2375.10 from the Inland Revenue on our Gift Aid Envelopes and donations.

The General Fund received	2088.91
The Building Fund	182.48
The Churchyard Fund	78.97
St. John's Church Fund	24.74

Could you help us raise even more during 2005 by using the Gift Aid envelopes from the shelf in church – providing you are a taxpayer – or encouraging any visitors to our church to do the same?

Last year the Government introduced a new scheme through their Self Assessment Tax Return, which allows individuals to nominate a charity to receive part, or all of any tax repayments which may be due to them. Such anonymous donors have to quote the name of their chosen charity and it's unique number. Should you wish our church to receive through this scheme you must quote our charity's name – St. Laurence Church Ansley – and the number – YAJ7ING- on your Tax Return. We were lucky enough to receive an amount in this way last year.

However whether you give via Gift Aid, The Freewill Offering Envelope Scheme, or just cash on the collection plate please accept the P.C.C.'s grateful thanks for helping us to cope with the ever increasing yearly costs.

N.B. Our Parish Quota to be paid to Coventry this year is £16,707 which means we need to raise £1392.25 per month!

PARISH COUNCIL; Bye-election for Parish Councillor delayed until 26th May. So far 3 candidates, but anyone else to register contact David Harris on 01827 719222. Nomination forms to be completed and returned by Noon on 28th April, 2005.

"The Guns": Mr. Len Horton, Arley, says War Memorial at Church End, Ansley, there were once two guns situated either side of memorial. These taken away for scrap at start of Second World War and Len would like to start a campaign to get these reinstated through War Memorials Trust. He is looking to set up a committee of local volunteers and anyone offering support please telephone Len on 01676 532992.

Council Tax Bills: Amount asked by Parish Council risen by 25% this year, necessary to cover anticipated costs for Traffic Calming planned for Ansley Village, although most of costs are being met via a grant from the County Council. Other areas of Parish feel they too have a need for traffic calming, but unless the County Council feel that it is high priority, it is unlikely any further grants will be available in near future.

Mobile Police Unit: Ansley Common, One Stop 9am-12noon 3/5/05, Ridge Lane, Car Park 3.30p.m.-6.30p.m.5/5/05, Ansley Club 9am-12noon 6/5/05. If anyone needs police other than an emergency please telephone 02476 641111.

Next meetings: 12th May, 9th June, 14th July. Trying to arrange for the June meeting to take place at Ansley Common. Please check in next month's newsletter.

May, 2005

As we watch the seasons unfold, at this time of year the hedgerows and fields are so beautiful. Wild flowers grow in abundance, and there are fields full of lambs, and in some cases piglets and calves. This year, despite some very cold days, the Daffodils and Tulips have been a glorious sight and now in the garden many more flowers come to replace them. We have a bed of Celandines in our garden, and although I have been told they are weeds, every year I look for them and make sure they are safe. I am told it won't get any warmer until all the Daffodils have gone, so it will soon be warmer.

A friend and I were laughing as we came out of a shop in Atherstone, and an elderly lady said 'It's lovely to hear someone laughing'. This made me think how gloomy this country has become, with lots and lots of noise but not a sound of laughter. The T.V. doesn't help as the programmes are mainly crime and violence and soaps which give people more gloom from fictional people's troubles. Even many of the adverts are so complicated, you don't even know what they are for. Years ago we had Norman Wisdom, Morecambe and Wise and Dick Emery, to name a few, and we would laugh until our sides ached. Now even sports and games are not fun but must be won at all costs. The words from an old song perhaps give us a message 'When you're smiling, the whole world smiles with you. When you're laughing the sun comes shining through'. That's what we need more sunshine and less gloom.

As we prepare to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of V.E. Day, many of us will remember those few days in 1945 when the whole world seemed to rejoice, church bells rang, we no longer had to carry our gas masks to school and the young men and women started to come home to those they loved. I think my mother shed nearly as many tears of joy at that time as she had in sorrow. My dad was able to fill in the air raid shelter and build another greenhouse and life could get back to some semblance of normality. It certainly was something to celebrate and never forget.

Marie Cove.