

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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No: 993

May

2008

Price 25p

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## May Editorial

When you read this I will (I hope) be back from South Africa having enjoyed a holiday that I have thought about for many years.

I look forward to sharing with you the news of my holiday and my whole sabbatical when I get back to at the end of next month.

My sabbatical is not simply about having a good time, relaxing and chilling out - about coming back reinvigorated and refreshed. It is also coming back with new thoughts and plans to share and discuss with you all.

In the past four and a half years we have concentrated on serving the parish. We (I use the word loosely for it was finished before I arrived) have opened the Annexe after many years of prayer and negotiation. We have seen the improvements to and much increased use of the Village Church Hall and St. John's Hall. We have been involved in the setting up of Ansley Common Senior Youth Club (which we hope to revive soon) and the Ley Group Young People's Project. There is much to be completed and, in particular, we think about the development of youth work in the Village and on the Common and the refurbishment and extension to St. John's Hall.

But as a Church there is still a greater work to do.

We are absolutely delighted to have played our part in reviving the community and are pleased to welcome everyone to share in all we provide. But we believe we do people an injustice if that is where we stop. During the next two months please thank God for all that has been achieved. Thank God for our four services - in the morning and evening at St. Laurence's, at St. John's and the monthly 4 O'clock Club. Pray that God will guide us to help more people know about His wonderful love and share with us the joy of worship.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

PS Whilst I am away please address all enquiries about baptisms or weddings to Rev. Barry Jacques tel 024 76353400



### St. Laurence's Church - Services

Sunday 4th	Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service in Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 11th	Whitsun	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18th	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 25th	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion and Baptism
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

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

Sunday 4th	Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Wednesday 7th		9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 11th	Whitsun	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 16th		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 25th	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

### Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards

### From the Registers

Renewal of Marriage vows

On Saturday 29th March Rev. Barry Jacques officiated at a lovely service for the renewal of the marriage vows between Peter and Jean Wells who had been married at the same date and time in St. Laurence's 50 years earlier.

### Ascension Day

This year Ascension Day falls on 1st May and there will be a special service at St. Wilfrid's Old Arley commencing at 7.30 p.m. apologies for putting the incorrect month in the April magazine

### St. John's

We are very pleased to announce that we have been advised of a grant of £50,000 towards the refurbishment of St. John's Church Hall from WREN Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd this sum will be paid directly to the contractor when it is due. We have also had agreement of £10,000 for 3rd party funding from The Church and Community Fund (this will be paid to the Land Fill funders as required by Government legislation as part of the agreement).

This is a wonderful boost to all at St. John's, and we hope that it will encourage other funders to help with this project to whom applications are in the process of being submitted.

There is still a long way to go to reach the target required of £275,000 to provide a small meeting room, a new toilet block which will include a disabled toilet and ensure that the hall will be accessible to all and utilising the derelict land at the rear of the hall. It is also planned to have a new roof as the existing one has problems in several places and repairs to the render which looks so very poor at the present time. At the same time plans

are in place to improve the energy efficiency of the hall which will improve the running costs in the long term.

Provided enough funding is found it is also hoped to be able to provide for the outside area at the front to be resurfaced to ensure children are able to have a safe area outside to play.

Whilst we are applying to outside funders for most of the money we do have to raise a good proportion ourselves and to this end the hall committee have organised a very full programme of social and fund raising events for 2008. A flyer has been distributed to houses in Ansley Common with details of the different dates and activities. Further copies are available if required.

If anyone would like to contribute to this project please contact one of the wardens or any member of the hall committee who will be very happy to help.

Please pray for this project which will help improve the quality of life for all the residents of Ansley Common and all hall users.

### Prize Bingo

On Monday 31st March there was a Prize Bingo session at St. John's which was very well attended and £122 was raised towards the hall improvements. Thank you to all who helped and gave the wonderful display of prizes which included hampers and a fruit basket. Every one very much enjoyed the evening.

### Quiz night

'Get your thinking caps on once again for the St. John's Hall Quiz Night on Friday 30th May at 7.70 p.m. No particular theme this time, but we promise it will be as much fun as usual. Admission £1.50' There will be a raffle and a cup of tea/coffee. Teams of four, but can be arranged when there.

### St. John's Social

This month it will be on 9th May and it will take the form of a Games Night. Do come and have a good time. Admission £1.

### Ansley Common Youth Club

Following the very successful launch of the new Youth Club in Ansley Village on Thursdays with around 20 children attending each week the Ley Group Young Peoples Project (LGYPP) now has capacity to re-launch the Ansley Common Youth Club. This club will now meet on Friday Evenings and starting at 5 p.m. (although this may move forward if the young people so decide).

It will be good to see this very popular club up and running again after a break since Christmas to enable the project to gather volunteers to help run this group.

Children from the age of 7 are welcome. We wish this new venture every success.

Please note that the LGYPP has only 1 full time worker and a trainee, volunteers are very much needed to help with each session that is planned. The project is working towards enabling the young people to help with the running however the more help that is forthcoming the more activities can be arranged e.g. home work club etc. If anyone can help with the youth work in the parish please do contact Sarah Tiffany (our youth worker on 079717 12212) any training etc will be provided.

At this point the P.C.C. wish to thank the previous leaders and helpers of the ACYC who worked so hard with the young people over quite a few years



### Plant sale NOTE Change of date due to cold weather

The plant sale will be held in the Village Church Hall on 23rd from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on 24th May from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. There will also be a cuppa available, time to discuss gardening issues and for a chat. There will be a good selection of bedding trailing and an assortment of other plants for sale. The Village Allotment Association will be providing vegetable plants and produce, as well as advice on their subjects. Please save space in your garden. All proceeds in aid of Hall funds.

### Ansley Senior Citizens

Over the last few months the Senior Citizens have been going to the Annexe every 5 to 6 weeks during term time to be entertained by the pupils of the Old School. This is both good for the students and the members, who enjoy their cooking (the young people sometimes make cakes etc) and hospitality. It also helps the young people to communicate and help the older members of society. (Intergenerational work is the modern term)

As many of the Senior Citizens members had attended or worked at the school when it was Ansley C of E School it was decided that on 8th of April the Senior Citizens would visit. It was very interesting to see so many of the old features that had been there for so many years were still in place, but likewise so many changes, It was interesting to note that what had been the girl's toilets over many generations is now a library, (the boy's toilets have been demolished!)

The Senior Citizens wish to thank the staff and the pupils for showing the members round their school and their hospitality and look forward to more visits to the annexe in the future.

Please remember Senior Citizens is open to anyone and new faces are always welcome.

### Morris Dancing.

The Morris dancing group that developed from the presentation during the celebrations last September at the Village Church Hall will be dancing on 1st May at 7.30 p.m. hopefully on the grass at the entrance to the St Lawrence Estate, if not it will be in the Village Church Hall, to celebrate May Day the traditional day for Morris Dancing. The group meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Village Church Hall or at Ansley Social Club when the Parish Council are in the Hall. New members are always welcome. Do come and see the presentation, you may want to join in. It will last between 30 to 45 minutes.

### Prayer Requests

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

May, 2008

I couldn't believe it when I saw that a restaurant in Germany had done away with waiters and waitresses and everything, even the cleaning is done by automation. This is supposed to get rid of bad service, surly waiters and it also cuts down on salaries. I would hate this as the magic of a restaurant is that you personally choose the menu, etc. and I am all for the personal service by real people.

Showing off some new gadgets to save 'carbon emissions' one was an MP3 player powered by solar electricity. So, what's new? We have a calculator which is over 20 years old (used by our son at school) and this is solar powered - well it must be as we have never put a battery in it. Also we have lights in our garden which have been coming on every evening during the Winter and Spring when we have had some sun during the day, even if only very brief glimpses.

Have you noticed the advertisements on the T.V. are using really old songs by such artists as Dean Martin and I must say this is a change from the noisy adverts which in the end you have no idea what they are advertising. It also shows how old songs have lasted through many, many years and how through the generations we all have our own favourites. My mother liked Jimmy Young and Donald Peers, whom we used to listen to on the radio. My generation liked Johnny Mathis, Pat Boone, Dean Martin etc. whereas my daughter had her bedroom wall covered in posters of Bay City Rollers and played 'Blondie' continually, but when I hear some of the modern songs I find the tunes and the words are instantly forgettable, if I knew what they were saying in the first place. However, these old songs used by the adverts have certainly stood the test of time and people of a certain age find themselves singing along as they know the words. Perhaps in 30 or 40 years time future generations will remember the pop songs when they were young just like us. .

Despite the heavy snow and frost which we had at the beginning of April, I don't think I have ever seen such a display of Spring flowers. From the Celandines and Wood Anemone in the woodland and by the wayside, to the stately Tulips, there was shape and colour everywhere. I have also never seen so many varied shapes and colours of Daffodils, which have flowered over a long period. It seemed as if one lot flowered and died to be followed by another. What a wonderful Springtime in spite of the cold weather! I hope everyone enjoys the Spring in anticipation of the summer to come. .

Marie Cove.