

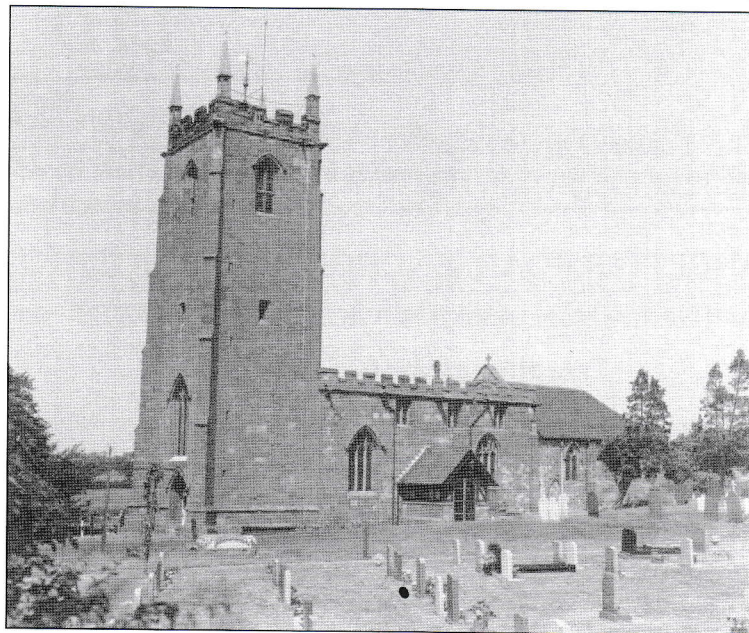
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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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 0800 389 4089

Time to celebrate

Two things seem lacking today.
Celebration of what has been
Hope for what will be.

But this year there's opportunity for both!

We celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth and give thanks for her loving and faithful service to our nation.

We shall be holding our own celebrations in all three villages. Please accept my apologies that I will not be with you for the celebrations on May 26 as I shall be meeting the Archbishop of Canterbury in Arley, but I know that you will have a great time and encourage everyone to join in.

We celebrate the Olympics, taking place not only in London but across the country including Coventry. At our annual Flower Festival at August Bank Holiday weekend we shall be celebrating all who have given in so many different ways. Come and enjoy.

I hope for you this will be a year to celebrate. But, what about the future? My prayer is that times of sadness are few and far between. But if they do occur may you, nonetheless, be able to celebrate that Jesus' love is continuing to support and strengthen you.

We don't just hope for a great time of celebration this year. We hope that *every* year will give us cause for celebration. That's where the Christian faith comes in. It's about celebrating and hoping all the time.

As Sunday by Sunday we break bread and share the wine together, we both celebrate what Jesus has done for us and we look forward in hope to His great return in glory. Or to use the words of St. Paul "We remember Christ's death until He comes".

My prayer is that in 2012 you will find much to celebrate and that you will see dreams come true and hopes fulfilled. But don't let it stop there. Following Jesus is for ever.....

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

May St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 6 th	Easter 5	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th	Rogation day	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 20 th	After Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 th	Pentecost	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 6 th	Easter 5	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 13 th	Rogation Day	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Thursday 17 th	Ascension Day	7.30 a.m.	Special service
Sunday 20 th	After Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 27 th	Pentecost	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Discussion Groups

The year through the Bible' Thursday 3rd May 7.30 p.m. 10 Nuthurst Crescent.
Discussing the parables – Tuesday 8th May at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

From the Registers

Baptisms

The baptism of Jude Thomas Adkins took place at St. Laurence's Church on March 25. In this wonderful occasion we welcomed Jude into the family of the church. He was just over six months old. Represented in that church were people of all ages and many generations. Together we shared in the joy of new life on this beautiful day

Ascension Day

Ascension Day is on Thursday May 17th and this year it is the turn for the combined service to be held at St. John's. They will be pleased to welcome everyone and especially the congregations from Arley as well as St Laurence. The service will commence at 7.30 p.m.

Spirit of the Country side.

On Sunday 27th May the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury will be presiding at a service and picnic at the NAC Stoneleigh at 12 noon which will include a Hog roast and other refreshments or bring your own picnic. There will be entertainments including vintage tractors, steel pans, ukulele groups, Morris dancers and young voices.

Ansley History

On 9th May at 7 p.m. Dr. John Hunt will be presenting for the third time his History workshop. What did medieval Ansley look like on the eve of the Black Death; how many people lived there, and how did they make their living; what traces remain of Ansley's medieval landscape? These questions, and others, will be discussed in this short workshop exploring aspects of medieval Ansley to reconstruct the nature of life in the medieval manor of Ansley. We will also look at the lordship of the manor and particular attention will be given to St Laurence's Church, including a visit to look at the medieval fabric of the building.
Please contact Margaret Antill on 01827 874520 to book your place.

Plant Sale

This year the plant sale in the Village Church Hall will be on Friday 18th May from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturday 19th May from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. It will take its usual format with bedding plants and trailers together with assorted plants for sale. The Village Allotment Association will also have their stall with vegetable plants and produce for sale.

There will be advice and time for a chat over a cuppa

AGM

At the AGM on 12th April the usual reports were presented covering the work of the church in Ansley over the last twelve months. 2011 was a busy year with many different activities taking place especially with the start of several to reach out to the community.

Financially we did a bit better than in 2010, but we still spent more than we received, and there will soon come a time when the reserves will no longer be there to help us meet our commitments. Whilst every effort is made to keep our outgoings to a minimum increases in running costs continue to have an impact.

The Churchyard Fund also fared better last year although just not quite meeting the full cost of maintaining it as we would like.

The Fabric Fund however did have to meet the cost of the repairs to the chancel last year, and at some point soon the boundary wall will have to be repaired once all concerned have agreed on the action to be taken.

The Village Church Hall, after excluding the cost of the work carried out earlier in 2011 is paying its way. St. John's thanks to the good bingo sessions and social events is also covering its running costs.

Whilst it is difficult for all in these hard economic times we would ask that you please consider increasing your giving if you can, or as mentioned last month, consider Gift Aid if that is possible.

We all need to have the faith that God will ensure that there will be enough money to meet our needs, but we all have to do our part.

Thank you

The P.C.C. wish to acknowledge and thank the family and friends of Jennifer Woolliscroft for the £672.51 that has been given to the church in her memory.

Thank you also to all who gave money and those who came and decorated the church ready for the Easter celebrations, the church looked lovely with the white lilies and yellow daffodils.

Bell inspection and Ringing Competition

It is the policy of the Coventry Guild to look at the bells in the churches, to ensure there are no hidden problems lurking which, if attended to sooner rather than later, will be beneficial to all.

The inspection at Ansley revealed that although the bells were generally in good order there was a crack in part of the No 2 bell clapper. Those carrying out the inspection were able to remove the clapper, arranged for it to be returned to the bell founders, Taylor's of

Loughborough where the repairs were carried out. The clapper was returned in time to be rung on Easter Sunday. The exact cost of this work is not yet known, but is expected to be about £450, a lot less than if the clapper had caused damage having fallen off before it was discovered.

We are grateful to the guild members for doing this inspection and providing the written report which will form part of our quinquennial inspection due to be carried out by our architect in July this year.

Our tower has been requested to host the Coventry North Guild striking competition this year which will be held on Saturday 19th May starting at 4.15 p.m. How long it will last will depend on the number of towers that enter a team, but it is usually a lovely occasion when you can sit in

the churchyard and enjoy listening to some good ringing. However you will be asked not to go into church while the teams are ringing to avoid distraction but there will be a cup of tea and a biscuit available in the annexe.

Ivy

There has been ivy on the East end of the chancel for as long as anyone can remember. However it was becoming apparent that it was damaging the stone work so it was cut at the base but the ivy itself was left on the wall and slowly it has died. After seeking expert advice we were advised it is now time to cut away the bits that were loose this was attempted recently and to our surprise all the ivy came away in two great pieces, which has now been cleared away. - Thank you to all concerned. - It is however lovely to see the colour of the stone that has been shielded from the light and weather for so many years.

Art Exhibition (advanced notice)

On 16th June there will be an exhibition of art by the members of the two art groups in Ansley Village and Ansley Common. It is the first time we have held an art exhibition, but having seen the quality of some people's work it will be to a high standard. The church will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and there will be light refreshments available in the annexe.

St. John's Bingo and Eggstravigansor

There was a lovely array of Easter Eggs for the prizes of the April bingo session in St. John's Hall and a good time was had by all. A total of £125 was made for hall funds. The Easter bonnets at the Eggstravigansor were amazing and everyone had a very happy time, not only that £140 was raised for hall funds. Thank you to all concerned.

The Queen's Jubilee.

Plans are progressing for Ansley's Jubilee event on Saturday 26th May. Each of our three communities have their own ideas which they will be bringing to fruition on the 26th. Invitations will be delivered to each home in the parish to the event in the respective area, with those living in the outlying houses having the option of attending the event of their choice.

In Ansley Village their event will commence at 12 noon by gathering in the "rec" and processing with Ansley Morris and the participants in fancy dress to the Village Hall for a buffet meal and music through the decades and finishing at 3 p.m. with the National Anthem.

Ansley Common may be meeting in their hall at 2 p.m. for a tea party, games, perhaps teddy bears picnic, and disco and again there will also be fancy dress.

Birchley Heath will be having a Party in the Park to include a dog competition and fancy dress with sandwiches etc.

It is hoped to make these events a memorable time for all as we celebrate this landmark in our nation's history, with perhaps a memento of the occasion for the children.

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.

Please pray for who is

I was listening to the Radio and they were discussing some of the really mad Health & Safety Regulations, but in fact the man from that organisation said most of those mentioned are not from them. There was one which wanted to ban hot coffee from coffee mornings, as children might get burnt, and he thought this was ludicrous and only needed common sense. This made me wonder how we ever lived to grow up in Camp Hill Road. We were surrounded by deep quarries, some of which were still in use and some not; in our kitchen we had an open fire with the kettle always on; we had a fireguard not fixed to the wall; we had flat irons which were also heated on the fire and we had a copper with a fire underneath to do the washing and heat the water, together with five children or seven if we were all there. We took picnics off into fields and woods, except we were not allowed near Stubb's Pool or the unused quarry; we climbed trees, built camps in the hedges; drank from streams – in fact we have real freedom. However, I must agree that we live in much more dangerous times, where children can no longer drink from streams; they cannot go on picnics because there are so many dangerous people around, but I am so glad we were able to enjoy our freedom and are left with many happy memories.

Have you ever wondered how different areas get their nicknames, e.g. we call people from Liverpool 'Scousers'. Well apparently there is a meat and vegetable stew which is traditional in Liverpool called 'Scouse'. This was a Norwegian name for a popular stew, called labskaus or lobskaus among Scandinavian sailors. They brought it to Liverpool where the name was shortened to skaus or scouse, and this led to all sailors becoming known as 'scousers' and the name soon spread to all Liverpudlians.

I was reading an article where the writer was talking about today's fashions and what a difference there is, mainly in casual clothes. He said that when he was young the men wore suits, ties and hats most of the time. My Dad wore a cloth cap for work and a trilby on weekends, and he blew away the myth that wearing a hat causes baldness, as he had a lovely thick head of hair until the day he died. In fact, no man ever wore a football shirt, unless he was playing in a football team and there were very few men who wore casual clothes. My Dad never owned a pair of shorts or a casual shirt and my mother wore lisle stockings all the year round. The arrival of Jeans and T-shirts completely changed the way we dress, but sometimes I wish there was more elegance.

Those of us of a certain age remember the song 'When April showers they come your way; they bring the flowers that bloom in May'. So if it's raining have no regrets because it isn't raining rain you know, it's raining Violets! How very true of April, my favourite month, because it is a month of promise but also when we think of new life, our Lord's resurrection and His promise to us that seed time and harvest will never fail, and we can now see His promise coming true.

Marie Cove.