

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Una

Over the past month at our Lent groups we have been looking at a period of English Church history that has often been forgotten - the time between the departure of the Roman armies and the Norman Conquest. A rather dry study you might think! Yet in this period there was a great flowering of faith. It was a faith based upon humility and service, respect for all creation, not just the great and the good but the tiniest creature and the lowliest human. It was a faith that has a great deal to teach us at the start of the twenty-first century when people are becoming increasingly disillusioned with hierarchies and institutions.

The Christian faith in this period reveals itself in many wonderful stories of the saints and in some beautiful works of art. One of the most celebrated medieval manuscripts is the eighth century Book of Kells produced in honour of St. Columba who died in AD 597. It is a meticulously illustrated manuscript of the Four Gospels.

There is no picture of the resurrection but only the word Una (Latin for one) in the centre of the page to denote the day of resurrection, the first day of the week. Angels guard the capital letter U. Out of the dim gloom they shine gleaming and bright. They look up and out from the page alive and alert. In the top right-hand corner the fierce monster is speeding away out of the picture. Within the letter itself, graceful birds make their home.

This is the story of the resurrection. The message of light and love speaks out of the gloom. Evil is defeated. Nature is in harmony. Darkness and gloom have not gone but the seeds of the new age are bursting through bringing harmony to a divided, wounded world.

May you share that same experience this Easter time.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Your friend and vicar,

Peter

May St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday	4 th	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Easter Format
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	11 th	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	18 th	Easter 5	10.30 a.m.	Easter Format
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	25 th	Rogation	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday	4 th	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	11 th	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	18 th	Easter 5	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	25 th	Easter 6	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

From the Registers

On Sunday 23rd March 2014 at our All-Age Worship at St. Laurence's we welcomed in baptism Henry James Inglis. Both for his own family and for the church family which he was joining it was a wonderful occasion of great celebration.

On Sunday 6th April we welcomed in baptism Isabelle Fraya-Rose Smith, daughter of Dominic and Jade now living in Ansley Common. It was a wonderful occasion, the only sadness being that Grandad John who loved both his own and his church family was not with us to share in the joy.

On Thursday 10th April the funeral took place of Harry Lightfoot. The service was followed by burial in St. Laurence's Churchyard next to Harry's son Robin. Beloved husband of Edna and father of Robin and Shirley, grandfather and great-grandfather, Harry was the backbone of the family and will be sorely missed. A motorbike fanatic, Harry was famed for his generosity, his practical abilities, his willingness to help, his love of animals, his Geordie accent, his sense of humour and his hatred of waste.

Ascension Day Thursday 29th May

Members of St John's and St Laurence's with St Wilfrid's and St Michael's are warmly welcome to join the Methodist congregation for a service for Ascension Day. This will be held at the Methodist Chapel, Old Arley, from 7.30p.m. to 8.30p.m.

Plant Sale

Come along to Ansley Village Hall on Friday 16th or Saturday 17th May to choose from a wide variety of plants for your garden. There will be bedding, trailing plants and more for borders, hanging baskets or containers. Ansley Village Allotment Association will be selling vegetable plants. The sale will be from 10.00a.m. to 3.00p.m. on the Friday and

from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on the Saturday. Advice, time for a chat and refreshments will also be on offer.

Art Exhibition

Ansley Village Hall is the venue for this year's art exhibition by Ansley art group. It will be held from 10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m. on Saturday 7th June. Enjoy a look around the work produced by this local group. Some items will be for sale. Refreshments will be available.

Lent appeal

The purpose of the appeal this year was to raise money towards providing clean water wells for communities in Kaduna, Nigeria. The approximate cost of a well is £500. The sum of £330 has been received from St Laurence's and £53 from St John's. Thank you very much for your support of this cause.

St John's Quiz

This quiz has been devised to challenge the little grey cells! If you have not seen it yet, ask a member of St John's or St Laurence's for a copy. The sum raised by selling the quiz for £1 will be sent to Childline. Entries should be returned to St John's or St Laurence's by 31st May. Good luck!

Coffee Morning in Aid of Tear Fund

This was the first fund raising event of the year for this charity. Moreen Freestone reported that £96 has been sent to Tear Fund to be used for work with children at risk. Thank you to all who helped organise this event and to those who came along or gave a donation.

Live and Local Concert

The concert was excellent. The musicians were superb and formed a relaxed, confident rapport with their audience. This was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The sale of tickets and a raffle made approximately £90 which will be donated to hall funds.

Church Yard Fund

We are very grateful to the person who has given a generous donation to the church yard fund via "Give.net" This is the on line way of giving to the church. As we do not have an address we cannot thank you in person, but please accept our grateful thanks. As has been mentioned previously the church yard fund is struggling to pay its way and any donations are gratefully received. At the time of writing this issue of the magazine with the donations received to date we now have sufficient funds to pay for the grass cutting until September.

The warmth of the last few days has really made the grass grow and our normal grass cutter is on holiday so he has had to ask his brother to lend a hand because it is growing so vigorously. As with our own lawns it is necessary to keep on top of the grass cutting at this time of the year.

AGM of the Parochial Church Council

At the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 10th April the accounts and reports for the last 12 months were presented. It was pleasing to report that the general fund has broken even over the year which is encouraging after running at a deficit for some years. However we cannot be complacent as our running costs like everyone's still keep rising.

The contribution cost for our vicar for the current year is £24,000 and whilst this should be obtainable it will need everyone to do their bit.

As mentioned previously the church yard fund is struggling.

There were a few minor repair jobs carried out in the last 12 months leaving the fabric fund in a satisfactory position to meet such costs. However as previously mentioned there is the need to paint the church interior and upgrade the external lighting of the church, these two longer term projects will be costly and any contributions would be much appreciated.

Following the refurbishment of the two village halls a few years ago it is pleasing to report that they are now running well and are able to fund themselves.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the life of the church in any way it is very much appreciated.

It was at this meeting that the elections took place for positions on the committee and the results were as follows.

Church Wardens Moreen Freestone and Margaret Antill.

Deputy Wardens Diana Kealey and Margaret Oliver.

Secretary and Lay Chair Moreen Freestone

Treasurer Margaret Antill

These offices are for the next twelve months

Deanery Representatives Phil Rees and Anthony Truelove

These offices are for the next three years.

Visitation

On Tuesday 13th May the Wardens will be attending the Archdeacon's Visitation at 7.30 p.m. at All Saints Allesley Park, Coventry. It is at this service that the wardens will officially take their oath of office for the next twelve months. This service is open to everyone, but please let one of the wardens know if you are coming. The wardens would appreciate your prayers as they face the year ahead. No doubt the year will have its low as well as high points, which will be faced with trust, faith and prayer.

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 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

May, 2014.

As we drive to Bedworth through Astley, we see the seasons unfold and during March/April the first trees to blossom are the Blackthorns and what a sight they make – they look as if there has been heavy snow as the branches are encrusted with white. The Daffodils and Primulas are a sight to behold along the wayside. Now the Tulips take over and the other Blossom Trees and eventually the Bluebells, but we don't need to look for the beauty of nature further than out of our dining room window as the Camellias are a sight to behold with their beautiful flowers and dark green shiny leaves. What a wonderful time of the year.

We now take for granted the Post Code which was 40 years old in April, when it was started it was just for delivery of post, but now delivery companies, insurance premiums can all depend on your Post Code. When I started to work many moons ago, I started in the Postal and Filing of a very large engineering firm, while I trained part time to be a Secretary. Then there were no post codes and we sorted the letters, parcels etc., into Counties, and this was a good way for me to learn a lot about geography, and although some of the counties have changed over the years, I never forgot it.

I had never heard about the '5 second rule' stating that if a piece of food falls onto the floor it is safe to eat if picked up within 5 seconds. Then I heard it mentioned twice in a matter of days. This rule varies from 3 seconds to 10 seconds, but it was finally tested by a team from Manchester Metropolitan University. They tested various foods, dropped them to the floor and tested them for harmful bacteria. Biscuits did best proving fairly safe even after 10 seconds. The high salt content of ham and the sugar in bread and jam also helped protect against harmful organisms. Dried fruit and pasta both showed some contamination after only 3 seconds. The main conclusion of the research was that it is best to keep your floor clean and change your mop head every few weeks. I would add that I would think bread and jam would not be edible if dropped jam down!

Just for a laugh: A little boy was asked whether he was excited about the new baby his mother was expecting. "Yes," the 4 year old said, "and I know what we are going to name it, too. If it's a girl we're going to call it Christina, and if it's another boy we are going to call it quits."

'A sight to behold, a sight not to miss, as the Bluebells bloom like a very brief kiss.

They fill woods and forests in carpets of blue. Wave after wave like the sea rolling through.

What a wonderful sight when the Bluebells are here. Bank after bank, so unique and fair.

A sign of Spring and new sounds and sights – the Bluebells are heralds to nature's delights.

Marie Cove.