

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1071

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May 7

It was fifty years ago when Dad came home after a busy day.

"Have you voted yet?" I asked.

He had forgotten. I don't know whether he went out again to vote but I was certainly miffed that he even considered not voting. Now if I had the vote, I thought, I wouldn't have missed. In the end no one vote would have made any difference to the result. The Labour candidate received ten times the vote of the Communist and nobody else had bothered to stand. But for me that didn't matter. It was vital to vote.

My opinions have changed over the past fifty years but on this issue I have never wavered. The freedom that we have to democratically change our government is a freedom that has quite literally been bought with blood. It is a freedom that the vast majority of the world does not enjoy. We need to treasure it.

But how should a Christian vote? That is a much more difficult question. Prayerfully consider each party's policies. Think not of yourself but of the people whom God has placed in your care and on your heart both at home and abroad. Consider each manifesto against Jesus' manifesto and vote accordingly.

But what is Jesus' manifesto? In one sense it is the whole Bible - but an abridged version can be found in Luke chapter 4 which speaks of good news for the poor (which includes a constructive approach to poverty and deprivation), sight for the blind (a constructive approach to sickness and ill health), release for the oppressed (creating a fair world which brings hope to all). Politics cannot of itself deliver a perfect world. Christians know there is much that even the best government cannot deliver. But nonetheless let us use our votes to help create a world that reflects the Kingdom of God.

Being a good citizen is part of our Christian duty. May God guide you as you prepare for the coming elections but most of all - don't forget to vote.

And may the best man or woman win!

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

May St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday	3 rd	Easter 5	10.30 a.m.	Easter Service
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	10 th	Easter 6	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	17 th	After Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Easter Service
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	24 th	Whit Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	31 st	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Songs of Praise

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday	3 rd	Easter 5	10.30 a.m.	No service
Sunday	10 th	Easter 6	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Thursday	14 th	Ascension Day	7.30 p.m.	Ascension Day service
Sunday	17 th	After Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	24 th	Whit Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	31 st	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Family/Parade

From the Registers

No entries this month.

Donations

We would like to thank the family and friends of Miriam Richardson for donations given in her memory. A total of £715 will be shared equally between the Fabric and Churchyard Funds.

Cathedral Service, Sunday 3rd May

Please note that there will be no service at St John's on this date.

There will be a service at 10.30 a.m. at St Laurence's for anyone who is not able to go to the cathedral.

Members of St John's and St Laurence's congregations will be going to the morning service at Coventry Cathedral as our parish will be prayed for during this service.

A coach will call at St John's and then St Laurence's and arrive at the cathedral for 10.15 a.m. The cost is £5 per person. At the time of going to press the pickup times are not known, so please contact a church warden for the exact times. The coach will leave the cathedral at 12.15 p.m. for the return journey.

Ascension Day, Thursday 14th May

You are warmly invited to attend the traditional combined service for Ansley, Ansley Common, New and Old Arley, with the local Methodist congregation, on Thursday, 14th May at St John's from 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

The World of the Staffordshire Hoard

Dr John Hunt will be leading a four week course during May, placing the Staffordshire Hoard in its context, describing it and introducing Anglo-Saxon England at this time and especially the midland kingdom of Mercia.

The meetings will be in the Annexe, CV10 0QR, starting on Tuesday 12th May, from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Further information is available from circulated leaflets advertising this course or from Portcullis History, c/o 11, Hardy Close, Galley Common, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV10 9SG.

Plant Sale

Do come along to the well stocked plant sale in Ansley Village Church Hall on Friday 15th between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. and Saturday 16th May between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon.

Choose from a wide variety of plants for your garden, including summer bedding, trailing and other plants to brighten your borders, hanging baskets or containers.

Ansley Village Allotment Association will be selling a range of vegetable plants.

Advice and refreshments will also be available.

Art Exhibition – Advance Notice

An Art Exhibition of Ansley Village Art group's work will be displayed in Ansley Village Church Hall, CV10 9PS on Saturday 13th June from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Some of the pictures will be for sale. Light refreshments will be served.

St John's Quiz

There is still time to take part in a quiz in aid of St John's funds. The theme is capital cities. The cost per quiz is £1 and the closing date is 1st June. Please return your quiz to Marie Cove or a church member. Good Luck!

Lent appeal

The amount placed on the collection plate in St Laurence's towards providing clean water wells for Kaduna Province in Nigeria was £143.60 and a further £28 was given to this cause by St John's.

Gift Aid Report 2014-2015

Gift Aid - we have just submitted our final claim for the tax year just ended. A total of £6,550 has been received from the HMRC for the donations given by using Gift Aid.

This source of income has been split between the different funds in proportion to the donations given. The General fund receives £5020.66, St. John's £232.73, the Fabric Fund £1042 and Church yard fund £255. As can be seen this form of income has a major impact on our church funds. It will almost pay for a full cut of the churchyard and goes a long way to paying for our insurance and heating costs. If at any time you want to know more about Gift Aid and how it works please do have a word.

Archdeacon's Visitation

The annual visit by the Archdeacon to Nuneaton Deanery takes place on Tuesday 12th May at All Saint's Church, Chilvers Coton. This is when churchwardens take their oath of office for the coming year. The position of churchwarden goes back in time to the middle ages, although it has been changed significantly by more recent legislation.

Churchwardens are answerable to the bishop and are accountable for all the movable furniture and ornaments of the church, amongst other duties and responsibilities. They are given their charge by the Archdeacon, having been elected by their Parochial Church Council. At the end of their term of office, the churchwardens answer such questions as the Bishop or Archdeacon put to them. In recent years they have wanted to know what has gone well over the past year and anything that has not gone so well. They are also interested in knowing of any issues causing concern in the parish which Diocesan officers should be aware of. Your churchwardens appreciate your prayers and support and would welcome it if other church members could join them at Chilvers Coton.

50 years ago – May 1965

The Reverend S. R. Marriott's letter in this magazine focussed on his distress at the proposed closure of Ansley School and asked for support to oppose this intention of Warwickshire Education Committee. Another item advertised an evening coach trip to Cosby to see that church decorated with flowers and mentioned the similar event being planned for the August bank holiday of that year. This was an opportunity to gain ideas for Ansley's first Flower Festival. Other events mentioned included a Sunday School outing to Whipsnade Zoo, a garden fete, a Mother's Union meeting and a Stag Roast to be held in July at Mr Terry's farm. St John's congregation was looking forward to the Sunday School Anniversary and their Mother's Union were due to meet.

100 years ago – May 2015

The parish magazine consisted of two pages during the First World War. The Sunday school were looking forward to Anniversary Services on Trinity Sunday. It was agreed at the Vestry meeting that "beautifying the church" should stand over until the end of the War. Hartshill Choral Society had visited Ansley Common and performed Sir J. Stainer's "Crucifixion" on Good Friday evening. The Reverend C. Heaton's wife had distributed rewards to children at the "Day School", twenty three for efficiency and good conduct and 27 for regular attendance.

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, 2015

Have you ever wished you could freeze a moment in time? Well this is how I felt on my birthday in April. My Granddaughter phoned and she and her three children sang 'Happy Birthday'. It brought tears to my eyes and I wished I could have bottled that moment. However, there are many occasions during our lives when we wish to do this.

I have often wondered how Mount Rushmore was fashioned with the faces of the American Presidents. It is quite a sight, so huge and a real feat of building. I was enlightened when watching an American History programme and apparently Franklin D. Roosevelt came into office during the Great Depression and he put thousands and thousands to work building the infrastructure of the country. Many worked on fashioning Mount Rushmore. What an accomplishment for those men.

In India the "record" for staff absenteeism was set by a biology teacher who didn't turn up for work for 23 years. How ridiculous!

Some wise words penned by Eleanor Roosevelt: To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart. Anger is one letter short of danger. Beautiful young people are accidents of nature; but beautiful old people are works of art.

Just for a laugh: A Sunday School teacher asked the children a question just before she dismissed them to go into church. "Why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Marie Cove