

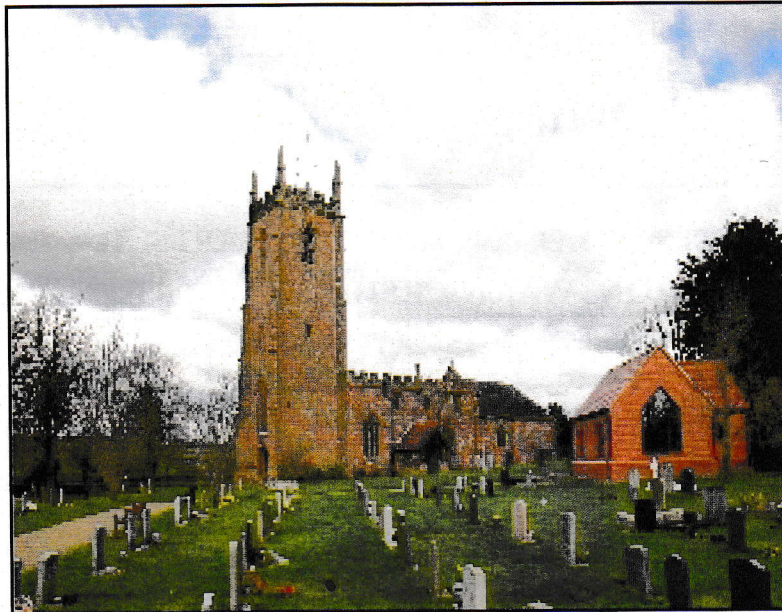
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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Ansley Village, Church End

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For everything that has been "Thanks."
To everything that will be "Yes."

These words written by Dag Hammarskjöld, former United Nations General Secretary, sum up much of my thinking at the moment.

I have been in Ansley longer than I have lived anywhere. There are so many events to celebrate and so many joys we have shared together. May I thank you for sharing in my life as I have shared in yours.

As we look back with Thanksgiving may we also look forward with Hope.

First I invite you all to share in the Diocesan Pilgrimage of Prayer. There will be five prayer walks around the Diocese - north, south, east, west and central. We are on the northern walk. The walk will pass through Ansley on two days. On Tuesday 10th May, the walk will start at Holy Trinity Hartshill with a service at 10.00 a.m. and, using as much of the Centenary Way as possible, journey to St. Wilfrid's Old Arley. On 11th May, a service at St. Wilfrid's at 10.00 a.m. will begin the walk to St. Paul's Stockingford. You are invited to join on either (or both) these days.

Then on Sunday 29th May I shall hold my final service at St. John's at 10.30 a.m. My final evening service at St. Laurence's at 6.30 p.m. that day will be a Songs of Praise at which I will introduce hymns that will tell the story of my life and ministry. My final morning service at St. Laurence's will be at 10.30 a.m. on 5th June. My farewell service for the whole benefice will be on the same day at St. Michael's at 4.00 p.m. This will be followed by refreshments in Arley Community Centre. You are most welcome to any or all of these events. Please do join us.

And so to the future.

No, despite rumours to the contrary, the church is not closing! There is, I am sure, an exciting future ahead - beginning with the celebration of the Queen's Birthday on 12th June, through the interregnum and then on to the appointment of your new Vicar.

To everything that will be YES. Whatever God has in mind may we embrace the future with confidence and faith!

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

May St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 1 st	Easter 6	10.30 a.m.	Easter Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th	After Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Holy communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 15 th	Pentecost	10.30 a.m.	Easter Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 29 th	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary time screen
		6.30 p.m.	Songs of Praise

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 1 st	Easter 6	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 8 th	After Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th	Pentecost	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 22 nd	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 th	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

From the Registers

Wedding

The wedding of Stephen Antill and Jamie-Lee Burke took place at St. Laurence's Church on 9th April. With participants and guests from near and far this was a truly joyous celebration of Stephen and Jamie's love for one another and their love for God who had created them and in his love had brought them together.

Funeral

The funeral took place at St Laurence's on 21st April of Mrs Shirley Prime. She lived in Ansley Common all her seventy years. She was in poor health for many years but endured this bravely, without complaint. She was known to her many friends at work as Nanna. We extend our sincere condolences and sympathy to her husband, Colin her son Allan, her family and friends.

Ascension Day

Everyone is warmly invited to St Wilfrid's, Old Arley, on Thursday 5th May at 7.30 p.m. to celebrate this special day in the church's year.

Reminders

Please note the dates and times of Peter's last services at St John's and St Laurence's, which are detailed in his article for this month.

Pilgrimage of Prayer

Between Ascension and Pentecost Coventry Diocese is holding a pilgrimage of prayer, entitled "Cloud and Fire."

Peter has mentioned that the pilgrimage will pass through Ansley on 10th and 11th May, leaving Hartshill on the 10th at 10.00 a.m. finishing at Old Arley, then leaving Old Arley on the 11th at 10.00 a.m. and finishing at Stockingford. If anyone would like a lift to be able to join Bishop Jonathan on either of these stages, please let a churchwarden know. The pilgrimage culminates in a celebration at Coventry Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday, 15th May at 5.00 p.m.

The intention is to remember how the disciples on the road to Emmaus had their hearts set on fire as Jesus opened the scriptures to them while they walked along. The walkers on each stage will travel along together and listen to His word, asking for the rekindling of the fire within them.

Even if you are unable to join a walk, you could pray at home or in church for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on this mission and across the Diocese.

A Prayer Diary for "Cloud and Fire," with suggestions for prayer, can be downloaded from the Coventry Diocesan News Bulletin.

Archdeacons' Visitations

During May, your churchwardens and deputy churchwardens are required to attend an Archdeacons' Visitation service to be legally appointed to their posts. Members of the congregation are invited to attend to support their churchwardens. This year, because of prior commitments, the churchwardens cannot be at the same service. Margaret Oliver and Moreen Freestone expect to attend St Paul's, Leamington Spa on 11th May at 7.30 p.m. while Margaret Antill and Diana Kealey plan to go to St Andrew's, Shotton on 25th May. Whether you can come to the services or not, your churchwardens would welcome your prayers as they commit to another year's service in their posts.

Open Church

Please note that St Laurence's Church will be open from 12 noon to 6.00 p.m. each Sunday from 1st May to the end of September. The building provides a peaceful space for prayer or quiet contemplation, so do feel welcome to pop in, whether visiting the churchyard, passing by or feeling the need for a break from the busy lives we lead.

St John's Prize Bingo

The next session of bingo will take place on Monday 30th May at 7.00 p.m. Come along and try your luck.

Bishop's Visit to St John's

We had a lovely service on Sunday 10th April, when Bishop Christopher came to bless the cross. This was a great occasion, as St John's was full, people shared their memories and the Bishop enjoyed the social time afterwards. The weather was fine enabling us all to go outside for the blessing.

Marie Cove

Easter Report

Thank you to all who contributed to the cost of flowers and to those who helped to decorate the church. The displays were beautiful and celebrated the joy of Easter. We welcomed Leah Roberts into the church family, following her confirmation at Coventry cathedral early on Easter Sunday and we pray for her as she continues her journey of faith.

Ansley Parochial Church Council AGM 2016

Moreen Freestone and Margaret Antill were re-elected as Churchwardens. Margaret Oliver and Diana Kealey were re-elected as Deputy Churchwardens. Philip Rees and Anthony Truelove continue as Deanery Synod representatives. All the above are members of the PCC and also Sue Pearson, Deborah Smith, Stephen Antill, Margaret Kimberley, David Morley and Terry Askew. Gwyneth Hickman is also a member of the PCC as Lay Reader.

Gwyneth Hickman was elected as Lay Chair and Moreen Freestone as Minutes and Correspondence Secretary. Margaret Antill was re-elected as Treasurer and Diana Kealey as Electoral Roll Officer.

We would like to thank all members of the PCC who served in 2015 for their time and commitment..

The current PCC members would be grateful for your prayers and support during the forthcoming interregnum and the process of appointing a new Vicar.

St John's Easter Bonnet Social

This event was much enjoyed and made £100 for Hall funds. Thank you to everyone who came along and to the organisers.

Live and Local Concert

This performance of songs by Jez Lowe was a great success. The words addressed powerful themes, such as the demise of coal mining in Durham, the First World War and other matters in the lives of the people. Some songs had an element of humour, although the subject matter was serious. The tunes were catchy and Jez's playing and singing demonstrated his skills as both song writer and performer. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the evening's entertainment. Approximately £60 was raised from the sale of tickets, a raffle and donations for refreshments. This sum is for Village Hall funds. Thank you to Jez, our helpers, Live and Local and the national and local bodies and councils whose grants supported this show.

Thank you

We would like to thank Peter for his commitment to the people of Ansley Parish and to the members of the congregations. Many of us share memories of both joyful and sadder times and appreciate the support that Peter has given. Peter officially retires in early June, but we pray now that God may bless him, Pauline and his family as they move into a new home, with fresh challenges and delights ahead.

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 forwho is

May, 2016

What a strange mixture the month of April was – some lovely warm, sunny days, when we thought at last Spring had arrived. Then suddenly it turned cold, the rain came down and we had hail storms. Despite this, however, I have never seen our garden so beautiful with an abundance of Daffodils, Primulas etc., and as the song says, When April showers they come your way, they bring the flowers that bloom in May.

We may think that health and safety rules are of the 21st century, but even our Tudor ancestors issued edicts covering such vital issues as how to mow hay, collect water and climb trees to kill birds. Half of all fatal accidents happened in the workplace. The result of the many tragedies was that a book on safety became widely popular – ‘Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry’ could have been found in almost every one of the 9,000 parishes of England. One of the stupidest pieces of advice was advising cart drivers to carry a bag of snails and to crack them on the wheels to keep them lubricated. It doesn’t bear thinking about. Perhaps our Health & Safety Rules are best after all.

It seems that the Queen’s 90th birthday has produced lots of ‘Union Jack’ products. In fact in our newspaper they listed 6 of the ‘must have’ items – Wall Clock, Storage cases, Camper Watch, Sterling Oven, a Juicer and Bedding. No thank you, they don’t seem like ‘must haves’ to me. However, I have been watching some of the tributes to the Queen and it is amazing how she has influenced and touched so many lives. She has done so many things which we never hear about, but one thing is certain, she has been and still is a wonderful Queen.

As Celandines appear in our garden each year,
We wonder where did they come from,
How did they appear?
They shine like stars but gold, so bright.
They lend colour and magic, as they close each night.

Marie Cove