

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

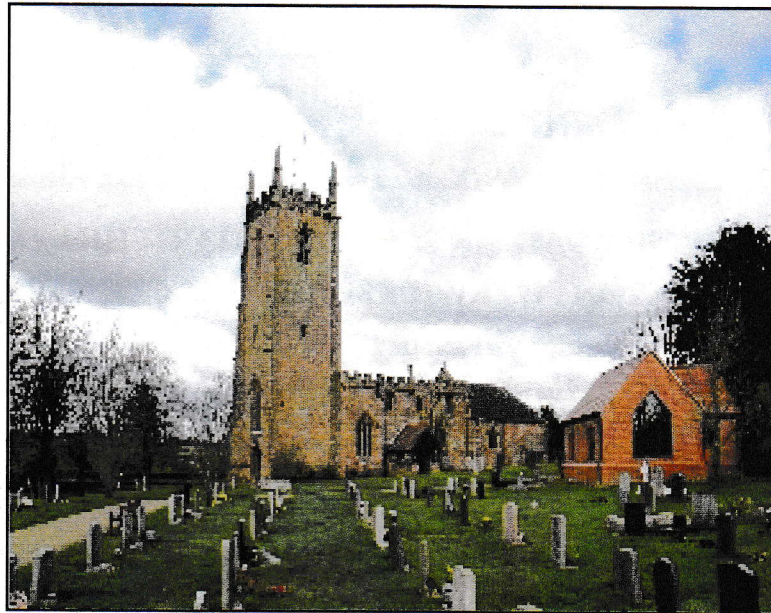
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May 2017

Now is the month of Maying,  
When merry lads are playing, Fa la la la la  
Each with his bonny lass,  
A dancing on the grass, Fa la la la la la  
The Spring clad all in gladness  
Doth laugh at winter sadness, Fa la la la la la  
And to the bagpipes sound,  
The nymphs tread out the ground, Fa la la la la la.

Written by Sir Thomas Morely this is an English Ballett, a light dancelike part song similar to a Madrigal. It was first published in 1595.

It is about Spring dancing but is a metaphor for a more bawdy imagery which we won't go into

However, May is a time for Maypole dancing and other such activities as a release from the Winter blues as we come into a warmer late Spring. (As I write this, the weather forecast is for snow in the last week of April!) – we can look forward though and imagine!)

For the church it is a time for Pentecost and the flames of the Holy Spirit to warm us up – we celebrate the church's birthday on Whitsunday

In Paul's Epistle we read about the gifts of the Spirit. "Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not hasty with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up, and its faith hope and patience never fail." 1 Corinthians 13 v4-7. Find more on the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians Chapters 13 and 14.

#### A Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, give your light  
So that I may walk aright;  
In your wisdom, love and might  
Guide my steps this day.

Make me kind to all around,  
In my life let love abound,  
All your gracious fruits be found  
In your child this day.

Holy Spirit you are one  
With the Father and the Son,  
May the will divine be done  
Now and every day.

By Mary Appleby (1874 – 1929)

Gwyneth Hickman

### May St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Easter Screen
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 5	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Easter 6	10.30 a.m.	Easter Screen
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Thurs	25 <sup>th</sup>	Ascension Day	7.30 p.m.	Special Service
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup>	After Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong

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

Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 5	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Easter 6	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup>	After Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

### Please Note

During the interregnum it may be necessary to change the pattern of services from time to time at fairly short notice. This would be to enable visiting clergy to hold a communion service.

### From the Registers

#### Baptisms

Rosie May Ryan celebrated her Baptism on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017, supported by her parents, Andrew and Emma, her Godparents, family and friends.

On the same day, Charlotte Eliza Aspley also celebrated her baptism, supported by her parents, Christopher and Zoe, her Godparents, family and friends.

These two baptism services were conducted by the Revd. Rick White.

Darcie Law Pickles celebrated her Baptism on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017, supported by her parents, Ryan and Cloey, her Godparents, family and friends.

This Baptism service was conducted by the Revd. Greg Bartlem.

We ask God's blessing on Rosie, Charlotte and Darcie as they set out on the path of faith, with their parents and Godparents to encourage and support them.

#### Wedding

Lily Plowman and Martin Cox tied the knot on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March. We enjoyed worshipping by singing "All things bright and beautiful," "Give me joy in my heart" and "I danced in the morning." The weather held, which enabled photos to be taken outside. The couple looked happy and radiant on their special day.

The Revd. Heather Barnes

We wish Martin and Lily every happiness in the years ahead.



#### Funeral

The funeral service for Mrs Irene May Barnett, aged 83, on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March was one of celebration and thanksgiving. Irene, known simply to those closest to her as "I", grew up in Galley Common. She worked at Listers in Nuneaton, where she met Ray, her husband. They had two children, Raymond and Tina. Irene was also a loving grandmother and great grandmother. She was known as a real character and was full of life. She will be sadly missed, especially by her husband, Ray.

The Revd. Heather Barnes

#### Ascension Day

Parishioners from Old and New Arley, Ansley Village, Birchley Heath and Ansley Common are invited to a joint benefice service at St Laurence's on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 p.m. to mark this special day in the church calendar. Mervyn Roberts will be leading the service as we remember Jesus ascending to heaven on the fortieth day of Easter.

#### Update on new vicar appointment process

The Parish Profile has now been accepted at Coventry. Two people will have been appointed by the PCC at the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April. They will represent Ansley during the next stage of the process. Once Coventry receives these names, the next step will be for the Diocese to advertise the position. So progress is being made, although more slowly than we might wish.

#### St John's Bingo

The next Bingo evening at St John's is on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00 p.m. You will be warmly welcomed to this regular social event.

#### Bequest from Mrs Mary Buckler

It is with very grateful hearts that the PCC members can announce that the church has received a wonderful bequest from the late Mrs Mary Buckler, specifically for work in the church yard, amounting to £30,000.

Mary grew up in Ansley and her father was Ernest Mander, church warden here for 50 years. She moved away when she married her husband, the Revd. Canon Peter Buckler, but she always came back as often as possible. Once they had retired and returned to the local area, they worshipped with us most Sundays. Mary continued to come after Peter's death until ill health prevented her from doing so.

As everyone is aware the maintenance of the churchyard is an ongoing process – the grass and trees keep growing, and, of late, the moles have taken a liking to tunnelling through the church yard as well.

Most years, with the fees from burials and memorials and, with the generous donations of a few people, the churchyard fund pays for the grass cutting. This amounted to £4760 in 2016. It should be noted that the contractor has not increased his prices for some years now.

However, the maintenance of the trees is now an expense that in past years was not an issue. The 48 trees have to be regularly inspected and a written report obtained from an arboreal expert, as directed by our insurers, and this is costly. The work that was required from our last report that could not be done on a voluntary basis

cost £600 in January this year. It should also be noted that the lime trees will need to be inspected in November this year. Some of you will be aware that the lime trees have over the years been pollarded and may have to be done again. This is specialist work and therefore can be costly.

At some point in the future there will also have to be some repairs done to the paths, drains and boundaries, all of which are expected to cost significant amounts.

The PCC decided to put this money in a separate deposit account to be known as the Buckler Churchyard Bequest Account. This will enable the expenditure from this account to be easily scrutinised.

Everyone is extremely grateful for this wonderful bequest and we offer our thanks to God, remembering Mary and Peter with affection and appreciation.

#### St John's Easter Bonnet Social

This enjoyable and much appreciated evening raised £100.

#### Easter 2017

The church was beautifully decorated for the services on Easter Sunday. Thank you to everyone who donated money for flowers and/or who helped to decorate and clean the church. It was lovely to see the fresh flowers in the church yard too, now that Spring is here.

#### Lent Collection 2017

The PCC decided to support the provision of clean water wells for Kaduna Province in Nigeria as the charity appeal for Lent this year.

A sum of £173.50 was donated to this good cause, from the collection plate in church and from the Parish Meal donations.

#### Archdeacon Visitations

During May the Archdeacons visit the deaneries to "swear in" the churchwardens and their assistant churchwardens. Unfortunately this year our churchwardens will be at different services because of other commitments. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend the services in support of their churchwardens. Please let us know if you would like to be there. The churchwardens would appreciate your prayers as they commit to their task for the coming year.

#### Thy Kingdom Come

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York invite us to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for the coming of the Holy Spirit. To find out more, visit [www.thykingdom.co.uk](http://www.thykingdom.co.uk).

#### 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 a warden. Phone numbers are on the front page of this magazine. Please remember that a visit can be arranged to anyone who is sick, but the wardens do need to know, so again please ring.

Please pray for ..... who is .....



May 2017

When I set my Tomato seeds, I couldn't believe how small they are, but within a week they had pushed through the soil and are growing bigger. I counted them as I put them in and every one came through. What a miracle plants are.

We all know that £1 coins are being replaced, but what I didn't know is that paper £5 notes will no longer be legal tender after May 5<sup>th</sup>, but there will be a period when old ones can be traded in.

I was watching a programme on 'Food Poverty, and during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War people got together to persuade people to eat together very cheaply. Now a charity in Liverpool is giving a dinner and pudding for £1, doing the same dishes that would have been served in 1917. They had Beef Stew, Rolls and Rice Pudding on one menu. They said they used cheap cuts of meat and I must say that one of my favourite meals is Shoulder of Lamb roast and mashed potato and veg. My mother used to say, 'The nearer the bone, the sweeter the meat,' and this is certainly true with shoulder of Lamb.

As I was washing up I suddenly wondered how on earth we got rid of the grease before washing up liquid. The grill hadn't been heard of so everything such as Bacon. Eggs etc. were fried in dripping or lard. I take my hat off to whoever first thought of washing up liquid.

This is Bluebell time and we in Warwickshire have some wonderful displays and I felt I had to express how these wonderful flowers make me feel –

What a wonderful sight when the Bluebells are here;

Bank after bank so unique and fair,

A sign of Spring amid new sounds and sight,

The Bluebells are heralds of nature's delights.

When you are looking at the Bluebells, don't forget the Wood Anemone as their pretty white blooms are a wonderful sight.

Marie Cove.