

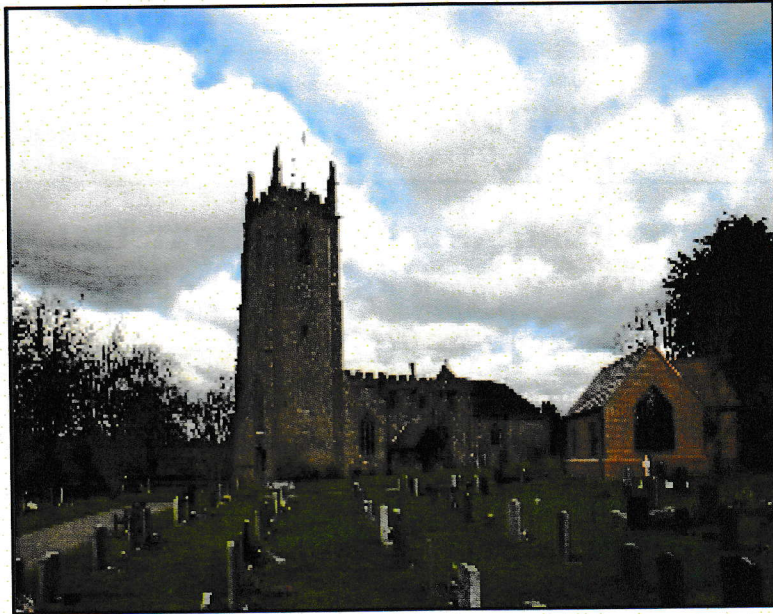
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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MAY 2018

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"One season following another, laden with happiness and tears"

At last, it seems Spring has arrived! Despite being told it's change and new experiences that keep life interesting and exciting, how much do we actually need and rely on routine and predictable things? The year would be disastrous for farmers if they could not plant, sow and harvest at expected times of the year. Our wardrobes would be a jumble of clothes if we did not know what each season's weather would bring. Much of our planning depends on the changing seasons of winter, spring, summer and autumn.

In actual fact our lives could be compared to the seasons. Winter reminds us of times of difficulty, of hard times, death and feelings of coldness and rejection; spring opens up possibilities of new life, new beginnings, renewal and hope for the future; summer reminds us of warmth, rest and refreshment, green pastures and still waters; then autumn speaks to us of harvest and fruitfulness, reward for labour and time to strengthen and prepare for the winter that lies ahead.

There's a phrase that appears a lot in the Bible - 'And It came to pass' - that's just like the seasons! Don't think you will stay in one season all through life! So it is with the churches and communities which I and my wife, France, have come to join. For some you may be in a winter season, for others it will be a different one, but you can be sure when faith and trust in God is involved, there is a consistent spirit at work in you that creates a sense of acceptance and contentment. One hymnwriter spoke of this when he wrote the words of this hymn:

Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ

Sadly our society and culture can encourage us to be dissatisfied, discontented, envious and resentful. However, it's now spring! We have the opportunity to look to new life, new beginnings. We see the plants beginning to sprout, the birds singing and building their nests, the sun shining more and the air around warmer.

I hope you will join me at your local churches when we begin our parish ministry with you in Ansley and Arley. Together we can look forward to sharing in all the possibilities that this season of Spring can bring to our lives! We don't have to stay in winter!

May St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 6 th	Easter 6	10.30 a.m.	Easter Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th	After Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 20 th	Pentecost	10.30 a.m.	Easter Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 th	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 6 th	Easter 6	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 13 th	After Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 th	Pentecost	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 27 th	Trinity	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

Calista Liberty Marie Heart, daughter of Adam and Emma was baptised on 15th April.
Leighton Kenny Hill, son of Michael and Samantha was baptised on 22nd April.
We welcome both children into the church family.

Interments of Ashes

The ashes of Mrs Joan Richardson were brought back to Ansley by her family and interred with her husband on 28th March.

On 12th April the ashes of Mrs Winifred Joan Hall were interred with her husband Alan in the cremation garden.

Ascension Day

This year our Benefice Ascension Day service will be held at St Michael's, New Arley, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 10th May. Everyone is welcome to this special service.

Archdeacon's Visitation

On Tuesday 15th the two wardens and two deputy wardens will officially take office at the special service at Holy Trinity Attleborough. 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.

Women's World Day of Prayer 2018

It was originally planned that this service should have been held on Friday 2nd March, the same day as all participating around the world would normally hold their service. However

because of the snow and very cold weather it was deferred to Monday 19th making publicity difficult. The few who attended focussed their thoughts on the country of Suriname. A total of £85 was forwarded to the organisation. Thank you to those who have given to this cause.

Report on Good Friday

As a change from our usual format the church was open for people to come and go from 12 noon to 5 p.m. There was a selection of suggested readings, hymns and some thought provoking articles, or alternatively people could just come to pray and reflect on the Passion of our Lord. It is not known how many people did come, but this comment was left

"Valued time set aside to meditate and pray."

Easter 2018.

Despite the difficulties created by the cold weather the church was decorated with white lilies and daffodils. Thank you to those who helped provide them. This made our church as lovely as ever. The Easter celebrations at both services at St. Laurence and the one at St. John's proclaimed the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour.

St John's Social

St John's Easter social evening on Friday, 13th April at 7.00 p.m. was much enjoyed by all those who attended. And £100 was raised for the hall funds. Thank you to all those who support and work so hard for these events.

Lent Collection

As in previous years there was a retiring collection for the provision of Clean Water Wells in Kaduna, Nigeria. A project supported by the diocese. A total of £66 has been forwarded.

AGM

Our AGM was held in the annexe on Thursday 12th April. We were able to welcome as a new member to the PCC Mrs Bernice Wilkinson. Most of the officers have continued to be held by the same people, however Margaret Oliver was elected Lay Chair in place of Gwyneth Hickman, who will be on a sabbatical for the next six months commencing the 1st May, and Diana Kealey as deputy. The reports and account for 2017 were presented and are available in the church porch for inspection. The Electoral Roll was updated.

Please do remember the PCC in your prayers as we moved forward into a new era with the guidance of Rev. John Langlands, as he comes to be with us.

Work in the churchyard

Every five years the trees in the churchyard are inspected as legally required to keep them in good order and safe for visitors. The eight lime trees which we think are about 100 years old have needed some attention to remove the dead wood from their crowns. This high level work has been undertaken by professionals during April.

The cold weather did mean that the grass did not need cutting until the April, but undoubtedly like all our gardens the grass will catch up and grow even quicker over the next few months.

The inclement weather of the winter 2017-18

As you are all fully aware the weather this winter has made it difficult for people to get about including coming to church. There has also been a lot of sickness. All this has had an impact on the numbers at our services. It has been much appreciated that when people have missed services, when they have next been able to get to church they have brought with them the donations that they would have made so that the church has not lost out financially.

Please do remember that the church still has to pay its bills even if you cannot come.

COVENTRY DIOCESAN CENTENARY FESTIVAL

The year 2018 marks the centenary of Coventry Diocese. The Centenary Festival will be held on Saturday, 5th May from 10.30 – 16.00 at the Cathedral and in the ruins. There will be entertainment and activities to suit all ages.

"Ask the Archbishop" is an event for people in their 20s and 30s at All Saints Church, Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton on Friday 4th May. It starts at 7.30 p.m. and includes an opportunity for questions from the audience.

Thy Kingdom Come 2018

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are calling Christians to join them in a global time of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost, **10th -20th May** this year. They are asking us all to pray 'Come, Holy Spirit', that we may be empowered as witnesses to Jesus Christ; that God's kingdom may come in our lives, in this nation and beyond.

This period of prayer for the kingdom to come will conclude with a celebration of baptism and confirmations in an informal service at Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 19 May.

To find out more and #Pledge2Pray visit www.thykingdom.co.uk

Sunday 3rd June

Please make a special note in your diary as this day we will welcome Rev. John Langlands as our Minister. There will be a special service at 6.30 p.m. in St. Laurence church. We hope also to welcome some of John's previous work colleagues and supporters from his current church. There will be tea and cake served in the annexe from 5 p.m. to meet both John his wife Francis, and those who will be coming, especially to the service. If you could make a cake it will be much appreciated.

Do please pray for John as starts his ministry with us.

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, 2018

Welcome Spring at last as the Blackthorn blossomed and the trees budded but not until half way through April; the rain calmed down just as the youngsters had to go back to school after half term. However, we weathered the storm and can now look forward to sunshine.

As I see the price of coffee and tea rise, I remember when I was younger and coffee prices went really high. A friend of mine came round and I asked her if she wanted tea or coffee. She said, "Are you still buying coffee at the price it is?"

I explained that a jar of coffee lasted us a long time as we only had one cup a day, if that, as we preferred tea.

I was looking at a really old book called, 'The book of a thousand poems,' which brought back for me memories of my childhood. In those days music, especially singing, sewing and knitting, and nature study were all lessons at the middle school. Then when I went to the Grammar School the girls had a lesson called 'Domestic Science,' The very first lesson was how to scrub a kitchen table. Can you imagine that lesson being remotely relevant in this day and age?

But in all these lessons we were taught discipline, patience and perseverance, and I know they say we shouldn't live in the past but that is what makes us who we are.

There was a piece on T.V. about sleep, and whether you are a lark or an owl. I am definitely a 'lark' as I can get up, get on with it and do everything that needs to be done but the drawback is that after lunch I flag. Then after the evening meal I have to force myself to wash up and make a cup of tea which I don't finish before I drop to sleep. This is in the DNA of my family as we were sent to bed early and got up early. Dave is an 'owl' but so were all his family as they stayed up late and slept very badly and he is now the same. I prefer being a 'lark' as I love my sleep.

Robert Louis Stevenson, the author, wrote,

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. You will later have the pleasure of seeing what your seeds will grow into. So sow the seeds of friendship today without seeking anything in return, and enjoy an unexpected harvest."

Marie Cove