

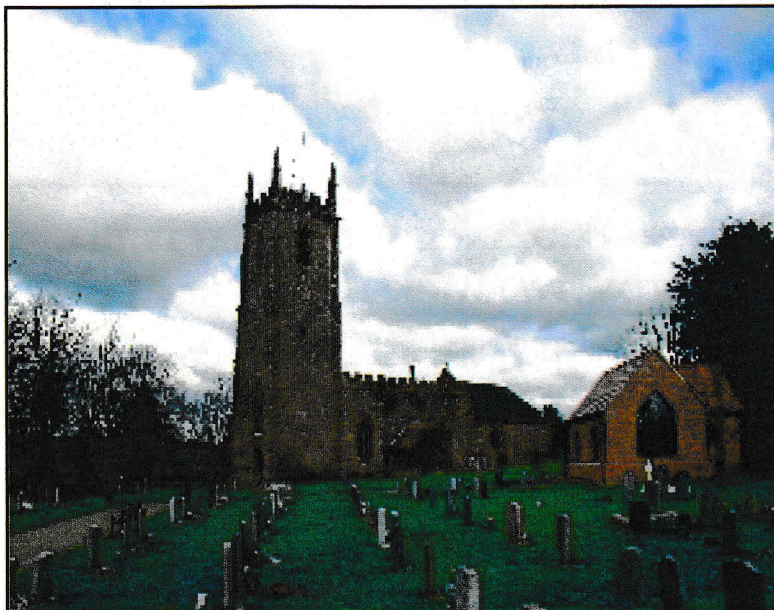
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1117

MAY 2019

Price 30p



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Rev John's Jottings - 'Like a bridge over troubled water'!

How time flies! It will be a year this coming June that I will have been with you as vicar in the parishes of Ansley and Arley. A lot of water has flowed under the bridge as the expression goes, personally, locally, nationally and internationally.

No doubt, we have all been shaken by the recent events in New Zealand, Sri Lanka, not to mention the deliberations over Brexit and even the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral. These events may leave us uncertain about a safe and secure future. No matter how much wealth we amass or walls we build around us, none of us are immune from what lies round the corner. It's easy to take much for granted and consider it our right to have.

It is that song by Simon and Garfunkel back in 1970 which still strikes a chord in many hearts and minds. From a Christian perspective it clearly speaks of the person of Jesus. We have just been celebrating Easter and the life-giving message of resurrection after death and it is truly amazing. This is where the Christian faith rises above man-made philosophies and religions. Over the next months, I and our churches in Arley and Ansley have to take stock and evaluate the future together. Why don't you also consider taking stock of your life, where you're going and what meaning your life has. Who will be by your side as you consider the words of this song?

When you're weary, feeling small
When tears are in your eyes, I'll dry them all •
I'm on your side, oh, when times get rough
And friends just can't be found
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down
Like a bridge over troubled water
I will lay me down

Wishing you God's blessing through another month!

Rev John

May St Laurence's Church, Ansley Services

Sunday 5 th	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Easter Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St John's
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 19 th	Easter 5	10.30 a.m.	Easter Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 th	Easter 6	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall, Ansley Common Services

Sunday 5 th	Easter 3	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 12 th	Easter 4	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 19 th	Easter 5	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 th	Easter 6	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Please Note - Velo Birmingham & Midlands Cycle Event on 12th May

This event is planned to take place on Sunday 12th May and will have an impact on local routes and roads. Access to St Laurence's Church will not be possible between 05.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. The 10.30 a.m. congregation are invited to join St John's congregation that morning, although some members may not be able to reach St John's either! St Laurence's church will be accessible for the evening service as normal. Visitors to the church yard will also be affected during the hours mentioned above. A search on "Road closures near Ansley 12th May" brought up a page showing a detailed map of the route and timings for road closures.

From the Registers

Baptism

The baptism took place on Sunday 28th April of Cleo Elizabeth Green, daughter of Wesley and Alex. Family and friends joined Cleo and her parents to celebrate this special day.

Open Church

St Laurence church will be open on Sundays from 12.00 noon to 6.00 p.m. from May to September. It provides a quiet space to think, pray or meditate, whether for a few minutes or a bit longer.

Prayer meeting at the Annexe, St Laurence

The next prayer meeting will be at 3.00 p.m. on Tuesday 25th May. Please note this is a later start time because of other commitments earlier in the day.

Ascension Day Service

The congregations of St Laurence's, St John's, St Michael's and St Wilfrid's are warmly invited to the Methodist Chapel at Old Arley for a service to mark this special day in the church calendar. The service will be at 7.00 p.m.

After School Club at St John's Hall

The next meeting will be on 21st May at 3.45 p.m. This date is a week earlier than the normal pattern because the following week is the school holiday. Children are invited to come along to have fun and join in a range of activities.

Children's Holiday Club at Ansley Village Church Hall

The next meeting will be on 30th May at 10.00 a.m. Come along and join in craft and other activities.

Lent Collection

Thank you to all who contributed towards providing water wells in Kaduna Province, Nigeria. The sum of £161 has been sent to Coventry Diocese, which sponsors this much needed programme of improvement for the health of the local people.

Easter 2019

Easter morning began very early for the Reverend John Langlands and a confirmation candidate from St John's, Ansley Common as they made their way to Coventry Cathedral for the dawn confirmation service. Other early birds attended 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St Laurence's. The church was beautifully decorated and we thank all who helped by donating towards the cost of flowers, preparing the displays or helping to clean the building.

We would like to offer special thanks to Maureen Webb who supplied a good number of knitted ducklings, each holding a chocolate Easter egg. The sale of these made £60.00 for the fabric fund.

Advance notice – Warwickshire Local History Society

**St Laurence's Church, Ansley and
St John's Church, Berkswell**

**Saturday 6th July 2019
10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.**

Dr Hunt will help us to investigate the developmental sequence of the two churches and find out about their tenorial history and landscape setting, taking account of the medieval communities that these churches served as well as of the buildings themselves.

Price:- £21, including buffet lunch and afternoon tea (£24 non members).

To book a place, please contact Rowan Fisher on 07507293669 or email rowanfisher367@gmail.com or download a booking form from our website - <http://www.warwickshirehistory.org.uk/events.php>

Easter message from Bishop Christopher
from the Coventry Diocesan Bulletin

Early one morning, long ago, two women, with that deep emptiness that only grief can engrave onto hearts, arrived to tend the body of the one they loved and in whom they had put all their hope. He had been cruelly killed, a victim of violence.

Their emptiness met another emptiness – an empty tomb – and an angel who brought them hope. Hope of resurrection, of life, a new future. It filled their emptiness. It sounds impossible.

The angel's promise was proved true when they met the risen Jesus, alive with life and love. The impossible became possible.

Have you seen the Knife Angel standing tall outside the Cathedral? 100 000 knives, some of them used to bring life to an end, reshaped into a massive messenger of peace? It's beautiful and terrifying. The face that's seen suffering and a body that holds out empty hands and beckons us to new ways of living. It sounds impossible.

I've seen something stir in the hearts of those who've come in their thousands to see this angel that's visited Coventry. I've seen dreams form and hope rise. I've seen a new future dawn where love heals hate and peace defeats violence. I've seen the impossible becoming possible. I've seen Jesus risen from the dead saying, "Walk with me in the way of life." I've seen Easter come and emptiness end.

Report on Gift Aid tax year ending 5th April 2019

The total tax refund received, being 25% from our combined Gift Aided Contributions was £6164.12.

This is broken down as follows:-

General Fund	£5344.91
Fabric Fund	£51.31
Churchyard Fund	£214.63
St John's Ansley Common	£553.27

Many thanks to all who use Gift Aid, it makes such a difference for us.

From the APCM

The PCC has retained the same members and officers as last year. Sincere thanks are due to all who play a part in the running of the church, remembering the cleaners, helpers in the churchyard, bell ringers, organists/pianists, flower arrangers, brass cleaners, plus sidesmen (and women). We are especially grateful this year to have had the leadership and support of the Reverend John Langlands and his wife, Frances.

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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 cover 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 forwho is.....

May, 2019

We enjoyed a lovely Easter as the sun shone and families could enjoy outings and we oldies could sit out in the garden, setting the Tomato seeds and Sunflowers , which we now grow on inside.

It never ceases to amaze me what we can learn every day. I read in a newspaper that if you drink coffee from a pink mug it tastes sweeter. If you have a green mug, it tastes more acidic. A survey has been carried out with volunteers and then they are asked the difference in the taste. I can hardly believe this but personally I don't care what the colour of the mug or cup is as long as it is China.

The English are renowned for drinking tea and it seems that a cup of tea is the remedy for all occasions. I was watching "Waterloo" and thousands of English soldiers were offered a cup of tea before the battle began.

When we were children there was no internet , no T.V. advertising , only newspapers and bill boards but mostly people stuck to the suppliers they knew – the local shops, the local market and of course the Betterware man. There were gypsies who sold clothes pegs and occasionally a coloured man who wore a turban with his case full of all sorts. However, by far our favourite shop was at the top of Bucks Hill, Chapel End – Arnolds. They sold everything from groceries, a huge selection of sweets, toys and hardware. In fact everything you could ever want. They had a Christmas Club. We would have a card and pay a couple of pennies a week to buy our Mother a Christmas present. It made me sad when the shop was demolished and built on.

What a wonderful sight when the Bluebells are here,
Bank after bank, so unique and fair.
People stand in wonder and awe,
At the most beautiful sight they ever saw.

Marie Cove.