

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1127

MAY 2020

Price 30p



Vicar:

Rev. John Langlands

Tel: 024 7667 5236

email: jlanglands@sky.com

Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL
MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 01827 874520

Tel: 024 7638 1833

Deputy Wardens

Diana Kealey
Margaret Oliver

Tel: 024 7639 5089

Tel: 01455 822822

St. Johns Leaders

MARIE COVE
JOHN COX

Tel: 024 7639 4114

Tel: 024 7639 4802

www.ansleychurch.org

Print Centre 024 7638 6017

For the majority of people around the world, the coronavirus has brought rapid change in ways of living. One of the greatest impacts must be the social distancing. As human beings, the forbidding of human touch and staying at least two metres apart may not only bring a sense of isolation but at times even a sense of rejection. As someone has said, 'A hug speaks more than a thousand words'!

For those of us who enjoy going to church, there is a part in the service called 'The peace'. It's when each person turns to their nearest neighbour, but more often to the whole congregation and says to each individual, while offering a handshake or an embrace, 'The peace of the Lord be always with you' and the response is given, 'and also with you'!

This tradition goes back many years and it reflects the acknowledgement and appreciation of the person to whom 'the peace' is offered and received. It also reflects the loving and caring relationships that should permeate the church. However, in the current situation we all find ourselves in, sadly our churches are closed and we cannot offer one another 'the peace'. As a sideline, this is a very strong case to remind ourselves that 'church' is not a building but more to do with relationships between people and continues outside the building. So, although our church buildings are closed, 'the church' as people continues outside the building in acts of kindness and practical help to all.

'Peace' is a precious commodity and often in short supply. You can't buy it, you can't pretend you have it, you've either got it or you haven't. In many ways you have to search for it to find it; you have to receive it and share it. The 'peace' that we are talking about in church is, 'The peace of the Lord', because it was said by our Lord to His followers on a number of occasions; especially after the first Easter, which we have been celebrating in the Christian calendar in April this year. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples on numerous occasions and greeted them with those words, 'Peace be with you, do not be afraid'. When all seemed to come to an end at the death of this amazing man, who claimed to be the son of God, the followers had lost heart and even faith. But their faith and joy were restored at our Lord's resurrection from the dead that Easter Sunday morning, proving that He is indeed the son of God.

We may be feeling we are losing heart and even faith during the events of the coronavirus outbreak, which leads to lack of peace. But it's important to remember that there is a peace that can be found. As our Lord said, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. Trust in God, trust also in me.' Perhaps now is the time for you to grasp God's hand – it's probably the only hand outside your household which you can grasp with any confidence!

Wishing you God's blessings as we travel together through this difficult time.

Rev John

May The Church's Year

		Readings	
Sunday 3 rd	Easter 4	Acts 2:42-end	John 10:1-10
Sunday 10 th	Easter 5	Acts 7:55-end	John 14:1-14
Sunday 17 th	Easter 6	Acts 17:22-31	John 14:1 5-21
Thurs 21 st	Ascension Day	Acts 1. 1-11	Luke 24: 44-end
Sunday 24 th	Easter 7	Acts 1:6-14	John 17:1 -11
Sunday 31 st	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	John 20: 19-23

Coronavirus Update 17th April 2020

We learned yesterday that we have a further three weeks of lockdown to face before a decision as to whether to ease restrictions is taken.

As a church we are trying to keep our regular church goers, the readers of this magazine and all in the local community in touch with each other. We have not felt it was appropriate to deliver a paper copy of the magazine during the present situation but most of it, including the Reverend John Langland's message and Marie Cove's regular page, can be seen on the church website, <https://www.ansleychurch.org>, in the left hand box under the heading "News". When the time is right we aim to distribute the delayed magazines. We are aware that our readers may not have access themselves to the internet and hope that family members and/or friends may be able to keep them in touch with church matters. Efforts are being made to contact people by phone to explain the current situation and to keep them up to date with any changes that affect the church.

The churchyard

April's magazine stated that the PCC had agreed to keep the churchyard car park open but soon afterwards the advice changed. We followed advice from the Church of England to lock the gates until further notice. We realise that many people like to visit the churchyard regularly and deeply regret any distress this national church decision may have caused. It is possible that visitors may see tape around a number of graves, to keep people safe. This follows a change to the diocesan churchyard regulations. If a grave is found to be unsafe it must be taped off and permission sort before the church can take action to remedy the problem.

Keep Worshipping

The Reverend John Langlands is sending e-mails containing attachments for Sunday worship in the Parishes of Ansley and Arley. Although we are unable to meet in person we can still join in this act of worship together. His services can also be seen on the church website in the "News" section. Other ways of worshipping during this period are given on the new diocesan website <https://www.coventry.anglican.org>. This new website is for everyone to access, so please let people know. Click on "Church Online" for information about T.V., radio and local streamed services. The bulletin for 19th April included a video message from Bishop Christopher. The website is being updated regularly as new resources are added.

Prayer Support

Sometimes it is hard to find the words to express our thoughts and feelings in prayer. It is sufficient to be still in God's presence. He knows our deepest needs. If you would find it helpful, though, there are suggestions on the diocesan bulletin page for prayer and worship through Eastertide in the Equipping Disciples section. This section also has some prayers from the Church of England about the Coronavirus outbreak.

From the Registers

Funerals

Arthur Alan Rose was born on 29th July 1936. He sadly died on 20th February 2020 at the age of 83. He was married to Rita for almost 60 years. Alan was a miner for 30 years at Daw Mill Colliery, a job that he loved. Later he worked for Dunlop. Alan and Rita met in Blackpool when he was 19 years old and, following that encounter, they travelled each weekend to see each other. Rita and Alan's family include their son Paul and their daughter Linda, along with other family members. All the family would say that his greatest achievement would be – being the best husband and dad. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

Margaret Beddow died on 7th March 2020 in hospital at the age of 85. She has been buried in her husband's grave at St Laurence. She had been looked after by long-standing carers due to her serious illnesses. Our thoughts and prayers are with her son, Harvey, her family, including her grandchildren and her friends.

From the PCC

APCM 2020

Coventry Diocese has informed us that the Annual Parochial Church meeting can now be held up to 31st October 2020. (15th April 2020.) PCC decisions are currently being made through e-mail contact.

Church fabric

Painting of the North Aisle internal walls has been postponed until further notice. The paint is in church so we are ready to proceed as soon as possible.

Finance

Lent Collection for Charity

The amount donated to Water Aid, our Lent charity this year, was £112.50 up to the church closure. This sum has been sent to Water Aid.

Donation

We extend our grateful thanks to the family and friends of Mrs Pat Beale, who have given £625.30 to the church. Of this, £100 has been placed in the General Account and the remaining £525.30 plus an additional £62.50 of Gift Aid have been put in the Fabric Fund. The above sum will help towards continuing the work on the ground gutters at the base of the church's exterior walls. This needs to be done as soon as possible to stop damp penetrating the structure. Permissions have been received from Coventry Diocese. The accepted quotation for this work is £5,670 plus VAT, which we can claim back. We will be clarifying whether this work can be carried out during the current restrictions.

Gift Aid

We have been able to claim back a total of £6,609.39 through Gift Aid during the last financial year. The Gift Aid amounts for each Fund are detailed below.

Fabric Fund	£214.69
Churchyard Fund	£471.43
St John's Services	£595.50
Church General Fund	£5,327.77

This is a wonderful boost to the church funds and helps us to pay our way. Please remember that if you pay tax in any form, we can claim back the tax you would have paid to the Government on donations given to the church. If you would like more details on how to arrange this, do ask a churchwarden.

Bank Holiday Weekend 8th to 10th May 2020

This weekend had been announced as a time to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe. Local and national events had been arranged. At present all scheduled events for VE Day 2020 have been officially cancelled. So, regretfully, Ansley Church Open Weekend, with Ansley 2000 History display has been postponed until next year. Members of the public are being encouraged to take part in the "Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2" from the safety of their own homes. This will take place at 3.00 p.m. on 8th May. (ITV News, 21st April 2020.)

News

Many of you will know Gill Kimber. She has recently written a kindle ebook about her childhood in Tristan da Cunha, the loneliest inhabited island in the world. The link is <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B086WLJRLY>. If you would like to contact Gill, her address is mailto:deacon_gill@yahoo.co.uk. I understand that the book is free to read if you have the kindle app on your device.

Twiddlemuffs – Knitting for people with dementia

Maria Eardley from Nuneaton and Bedworth Dementia Action Alliance has sent us a message requesting help from knitters who may be twiddling their thumbs at the moment. Twiddlemuffs are double knitted or crocheted tubes decorated with bits and bobs to provide a stimulation activity for restless hands. A basic pattern and examples can be seen by searching "Twiddlemuffs" on the web.

Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer during this time of disruption, please make contact by email or phone one of the following.

Rev. J. Langlands 024 7667 5236 email janglands@sky.com
Margaret Antill 01827 874520
Moreen Freestone 024 7638 1833
Margaret Oliver 01455822822
Diana Kealey 02476395089

May, 2020

As we enter into more weeks of isolation, I remember when I was dashing about like a blue tailed fly and wishing I could put my feet up. Now as I look for things to do, I find myself doing jobs I have been putting off. I also wash my hands so much, my hands are really rough.

I remember when we were young my mother was a great believer in "Dettol", and she even put it in our bath. Now I find myself using "Dettol" to wipe the milk bottles (as advised) and after I take my shopping inside I wipe over everything I can and wipe the door handles.

My memories of Dettol are that my mother would send me to Chapel End Chemist and I would skip or play hopscotch on my way. One day I dropped the bottle of Dettol and it smashed. I tried to salvage some of it, as I knew my mother would be hard pressed to afford another bottle, but only succeeded in badly cutting my hand, and then had to face my mother.

At the beginning of April I decided it was time to do some gardening but alas the mice had eaten chunks out of both pairs of my gardening gloves, so I used a pair of woollen gloves and kept washing them. Since then a kind person has left me two pairs of gardening gloves in the porch, but every time I am in the garden I think of those who live in high rise flats or in crowded accommodation with children, and count my blessings.

In our Sunday newspaper people are asked to send snippets of a favourite verse or song from yesterday. This week it was "God's Garden" by Dorothy Frances Gurney (1913). It is lovely but quite long so I'll just share a part of it with you,

"The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer to God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth."

Keep well. Marie Cove.