

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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## Enjoying ourselves together

June Editorial

We have come through the discipline of lent into the joy of Easter and we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and thus reach Trinity Sunday, the pinnacle of the Christian year. On this day which this year is on June 6, we celebrate the worship of the the One True God who as our Father reveals himself to us in creation, as Jesus has come to us in human form and loves us without limit and as the Holy Spirit transforms by his loving power and provides us with the resources - if we allow him - to live like Jesus. There is so much to celebrate as Christians and how often we fail to do so! May our daily lives be full of celebration and at times of pain, sorrow and stress may we know the strength and support of God's everlasting arms. Please pray for me that I may be enabled to help in God's name all who give me that wonderful privilege of sharing in their joy or pain.

The P.C.C. have unanimously agreed to the formation of a Leadership Ministry Team for Arley and Ansley so that men and women chosen from all our churches may meet with me to learn and pray together and to seek out God's purpose for this benefice. This is to complement my ministry and the the work of each P.C.C. and help us continually grow in our mission and service to the parishes we are called to serve. We shall be looking for nominations to this team in the near future.

I wrote last month to thank all who have used and have helped care for St. John's Hall and the Village Chuch Hall and to say that I am very keen to build on that work by increasing community use and improving the facilities. At St. John's we have a grant application for the new kitchen and are seeking to improve storage. At the Village Hall we have received quotes for 20 different items of work to provide a complete renovation costing £31,000. We will be surveying the whole parish, including Church End and Birchley Heath, by distributing simple forms to all homes and also by a face-to-face survey. We will be asking for your views. Only by asking can we find out what people would enjoy doing together. Only by asking can we get grant-giving bodies to give to our village. I do hope that it will be worth a few minutes of your time. It will make a huge difference to our community.

Thanking you in anticipation,  
Your friend and Vicar,  
Peter

St John's Hall Ansley Common.

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.00a.m.		Holy Communion.
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30a.m.	Trinity 1	Family Worship
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.00a.m.		Morning Prayer.
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30a.m.	Trinity 3	Baptism and Holy Communion

St. Laurence's Church Sunday services 10.30 a.m. & 6.30. p.m.

June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity Sunday	a.m. All Age Worship
		p.m. B.C.P. Holy Communion
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 1	a.m. Baptism
		p.m. Evensong
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Father's Day	a.m. Special Service
		p.m. Holy Communion
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 3	a.m. The Lord is Here Communion
		p.m. Evensong

Every Monday		Links Group meet Village Church Hall.
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	2 p.m.	Prayer Group meet 10 Nuthurst Crescent.
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10 a.m.	Morning Prayer in the Village Church Hall. Followed by Senior citizens.
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 – 12.00	Coffee Morning at Marie Cove's
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30	Wednesday Fellowship meet at 10 Nuthurst Cres.
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	P.C.C. Village Church Hall.
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Ansley Common Fellowship.
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Deanery Meeting.
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 – 5.00	Open Church
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	3.00	Great Cake Bake

### **From the Registers**

#### **Baptisms.**

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April we had the joyous occasion of three baptisms Abigail Ruth Sutton who looked so beautiful in her father's arms, Lewis Norman who was as good as gold, and Kieran at four was very keen to be baptised.

#### **Wedding.**

The wedding of Jeffrey Lewis and Kellie Wright took place in church on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **Funerals.**

The funeral of **Iris Streeting** (76 years) took place at the Heart of England Crematorium on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Her ashes were interred with her husbands at Arley. Iris moved to Birmingham Road in 1985, after living most of her life in Arley, where she had a long and distinguished service in the Post Office. She was the Post Lady in Gun Hill for 27 years. Family was so very important to Iris, and she will be sadly missed by her sons, David and Steven and their families.

**Norman Woods** life was Ansley Common, he lived there for all his 76 years, he loved his school days at Nursery Hill School and during recent years helped to make a Historical Record for the school of which he was very proud. Norman worked for the Coal Board, an electrical engineer for 41 years, in the mine and Ansley Workshops. His daughters ensured St Laurence's and the annexe looked lovely for his funeral. We pray for his wife Peggy, her loving family and friends with confidence in the Easter promise, that one day they will be united with those they love.

### **Gift Aid**

During the year to December 2003 the Church was able to reclaim £2399.02 from the Inland Revenue by using the Gift Aid system. This is at no additional cost to the person



making the donation. If you pay any form of income tax and make a donation to a charity simply by completing a simple form the charity to claim an extra 28p for every £1 given. If you wish to use this system please have a word.

#### **Marie's Coffee Morning.**

This happy annual event will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> June. Most years we are able to sit in the sunshine and enjoy the beautiful garden. There will be a bring and buy and plenty of tea and coffee as well as cakes etc. If transport is a problem please have a word with Dave 024 7639 4114.

#### **Open Church**

Each fortnight from 5<sup>th</sup> June until the Flower Festival at the end of August the Church will be open from 2 – 5 p.m. There will be light refreshments available in the annexe. Anyone will be most welcome to come and have a quiet time or just look around.

#### **Home Made Cake Sale**

The annual sale of home made cakes and biscuits will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 3 p.m. in the Village Church Hall. Please come along and enjoy a cup of tea and cake and help support Spurgeon Child Care, an organisation which helps children and their families in this country. All donations of cakes for sale gratefully accepted. Thank you for your continued support. Margaret Oliver 33 Nuthurst Cres. Tel. 7639 5674.

#### **Sponsored hymn sing.**

On the 20/4/04 Ansley Senior Citizens held a Sponsored Hymn Sing in the Church Hall, the proceeds from which to be split equally between the Senior Citizens Group and the Church Hall fund. A superb effort was made by all concerned and a total of £260 was raised. **Special Thanks.** It is well worth noting that since 2001, the Senior Citizens have raised a staggering amount of £946.68. for the Church Hall, from Bring and Buy events, raffles of a doll and a blanket, coffee mornings, the Sponsored Hymn Sing and by donating their small change into a collecting box. This is a wonderful effort and I, on behalf of the Church Hall Committee and the P.C.C. offer to the Senior Citizens our sincere thanks. Moreen Freestone.

#### **Building Work**

The P.C.C. have taken the decision to carry out the following repairs to the Church. The stained glass window on the south side of the Chancel, where the lead is no longer holding the glass in place.

Remove decaying remains of the witch elm tree by the lych gate and rebuild the stone wall.

This work will start as soon as the necessary permissions have been received. The total cost will be in the region of £5,000. If you feel you would like to make a contribution to this work please send your donation payable to the fabric fund.

#### **If stones could talk?**

How many times have we thought this of our lovely old Church. However it is amazing what the stones of the Church can tell. Did you know that there is a Mass Dial at Ansley Church?

A gentleman who visits many churches, looking for mass dials came to our Church at the time of the Flower Festival. He was pleased to tell us that there is one at St. Laurence's, it is not very obvious and it had taken him a long time to find it as he had in fact been to Ansley several times looking for it.

A mass dial is what the monks in pre Reformation times used to tell when to say the different offices of the day, i.e. when to say mass. They are a very primitive sun dial. It is a small circle cut into the stone with a hole at the centre, and a line from the hole to the circle. A stick would be put into the hole and when the shadow was on the line in the circle, then it was time to say mass.

If you wish to see it look on the south nave wall near the tower about 4ft. from the ground, it is about 3 ins in diameter. He thinks Ansley would have had others in the past, but they were lost when much of that wall was repaired with ashlar.

June 2004

It was lovely to see from a picture in the evening paper, that Nursery Hill School are preparing a vegetable plot. Some years ago the children from Church End Church of England School and volunteer parents tended the Abervan Garden in the Churchyard and made a good job of it. I'm sure we all wish the children of Nursery Hill great enjoyment in their garden and a bumper crop of vegetables.

While boys were doing woodwork when I was at Senior School, we girls had Domestic Science where we were taught how to clean and look after a house, especially the kitchen and basic cooking, such as how to prepare and cook all kinds of vegetables and to make different kinds of pastry. Our son's cookery teacher went onto tastier food and to this day I still use his school recipes for Quiche Lorraine and Cheese Scones. Then just recently our Grandson was making a hot Curry at school and our Granddaughter made a Pizza. How times have changed and taste!

We were watching a documentary recently on global warming, and silly me thought this would mean that we would eventually have a climate like Spain, but we were in for a big surprise as the scientists and other experts predict that when the ice cap melts it will cause the Gulf Stream to stop flowing and we will turn into a frozen, iced bound country. They showed you the winter of 1962/63 and it brought back awful memories of when our pipes froze and the ground was so hard with frost after frost, from December to March, so we decided that we would forget all about it and look forward to this summer and warm days and enjoy it, as we are told many things which never do come true.

If you didn't see the Bluebells last month, at Purley Chase and Bentley, you missed a treat. The banks of blue stretched as far as the eye could see, framed by the new bright green of the trees. It was great to see so many people driving up and walking to see this beautiful fleeting sight, and I was inspired to write the following:

A sight to see, a sight not to miss,  
As the bluebells bloom like a very brief kiss.

They fill the woods and forests in carpets of blue;  
Wave after wave like the sea rolling through.

A sign of Spring amid new sounds and sights.  
The Bluebells are heralds to nature's delights.

Marie Cove.