

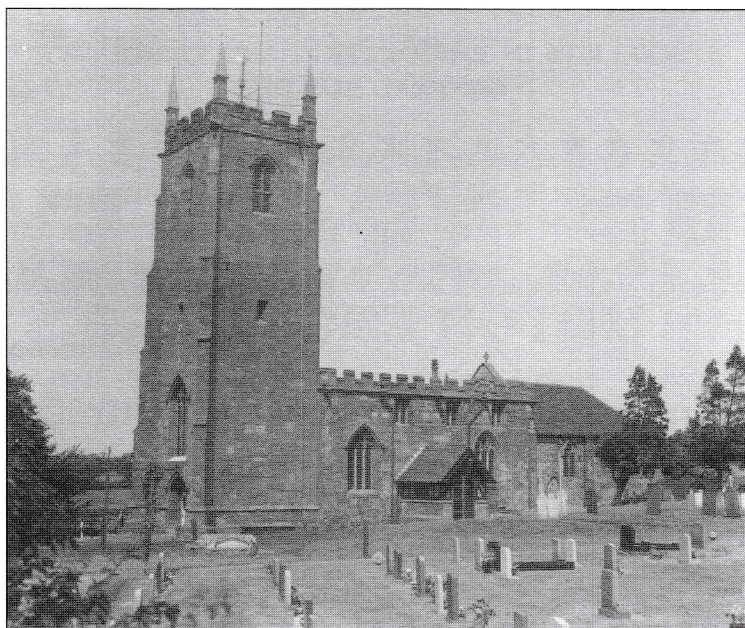
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Price 25p



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An early Harvest,

Harvest is not until the autumn but as a church it seems as if things are already bearing fruit. There is much going on. Do not miss out.

Alpha

This is an excellent way of discovering the Christian faith. Come on June 6 for an informal supper and a chance to find out more. This will be held in the Annexe at 6.30 p.m. To book your place please telephone or just tell me you are coming. The course begins the following week and will be held every Tuesday evening at 7.30p.m. All are welcome.

Youth worker

The appointment came too late for last month's magazine so we are delighted to announce in this issue the appointment of Vicki Ellis. All who met her, both adults and young people, were enormously impressed by her. She starts her work in Ansley, Arley and Fillongley this month. She has recently completed her training at Durham University and has a wide and varied experience of youth work. She has already met some of the young people she will be working with, is looking forward to getting to know them better and to getting to know many more.

4 p.m. service

Many are thoroughly enjoying our informal service on the first Sunday of each month in St. Laurence Annexe. Designed with the younger child and their families very much in mind, it lasts around 30 minutes and is followed by a light buffet tea.

Web-site

Our web-site is now up and running. For loads of information about the church log on to www.ansleychurch.org.

Links

On a sadder note Links finishes at the end of this summer term. Diana Kealey and Margaret Oliver and all their team have done a superb job and we shall all miss Links very much indeed. We shall try to get a new work going for the young people as quickly as we can.

Your friend and vicar,

Peter

June What's On

St. Laurence's Church

Sunday 7 th	Pentecost	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship & Godly Play
□	Whit Sunday	4.00 p.m.	Family Service
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 21 st	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship & Godly Play
		4.00 p.m.	Baptism
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th	Trinity 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 7 th	Pentecost	10.30 a.m.	Family Service & Sunday School
Sunday 14 th	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Sunday School
Sunday 21 st	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 28 th	Trinity 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Sunday School

Other Activities at St. John's Church Hall

Mondays alternate	7.00 p.m.	Indoor Bowls
Monday 12 th	7.00 p.m.	Prize Bingo
Tuesdays	9.00 – 12.00 a.m.	Krazy Kettle Kafé
Wednesdays	6.30 p.m.	A.C.Y.C.
Thursdays	9.00 – 12.00 a.m.	Krazy Kettle Kafé

Activities at Village Church Hall

Tuesdays	10.00 a.m.	Senior Citizens
Wednesdays	10.00 – 11.30 a.m.	Ansley's Little Angels
Wednesdays	2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	Community Café
Wednesday 14 th & 28 th	7.30 p.m.	Bingo
Thursday 8 th	7.30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 15 th	7.30 p.m.	P.C.C. Meeting
Saturday 10 th	3.00 p.m.	Cake Bake

Other Parish activities

Mondays	5.00 & 7.00 p.m.	Sports activities on the recreation grounds
Tuesday 6 th	6.30 p.m.	Alpha Meal in the Annexe
Tuesday 13 th 20 th & 27 th	7.30 p.m.	Alpha in the Annexe
Wednesday 14 th	10.00 – 12.00 noon	Marie's Coffee Morning Nuthurst Crescent
Fridays	1.00 p.m.	Art Classes at the Club
Saturday 3 rd & 17 th	2.00 – 5.00 p.m.	Open Church

From the Registers

Baptisms.

On Sunday 30th April Leah Langley aged 8, with babies Phoebe Dolman and Eve Dyson were baptised during the morning service.

Wedding.

On Saturday 22nd April the wedding of Scott and Stephanie Glover was held in the Church. They were lucky as the weather kept dry and the flowers from Easter had lasted well and created a beautiful setting.

The Church Tower

The stone masons arrived on 18th April and it appears that we have commenced at a critical time, if we had delayed there could have been further problems, many of the louvres fell out like a pack of cards. The merlon (the top of the castellations) stones were removed and taken away to have new ones cut and carved to the same shape. It is because the stone quarry was unable to carry out this work immediately that there has been a delay of a few weeks. If you wish to see the extent of the weathering there is part of one of the stones at the bottom of the tower.

The Village Church Hall

We have continued to make progress with the hall improvements. The new boiler is now in and running, this has made a big improvement to the hall heating. Some of the new storage area has been built, and once completed will be a big asset to the hall. The new kitchen has been ordered and if all goes to plan work to install this will commence immediately after the Whit Bank Holiday. This work is expected to take just over a week therefore a few of the regular events may have to be rearranged.

One disappointment has been that on Easter Monday four of the new windows were broken at the front of the hall. These were repaired under our insurance but we were liable for the excess of £50. If anyone sees anything suspicious at the hall, or any of the Church's property please report this to the wardens or police immediately.

St. John's Church Hall

The planning for the work to be carried out at St. John's is progressing we are awaiting the quotations from the builders to enable us to present our preliminary application at a funders meeting in July. This process will take some time and a lot of work will be required in gathering the information and the presentation of our final application later in the year.

In the meantime the Krazy Kettle Kafé have had some work carried out on the toilets to make them more presentable until the new ones can be built.

It is also disappointing that we have had to spend over £300 to put in security lighting at the front of the hall because youngsters are going around the hall when it is closed and causing problems.

Gift Aid

For the last tax year the Church has been able to recover a total of £2782.29 from the Inland Revenue. This amount is a great asset to the Church finances and it costs the individual nothing. If you pay any form of tax and do not make use of this form of giving and wish to know more, please do have a word with one of the wardens or the treasurer.

Home Made Cake Sale for Spurgeon Child Care

As every year this event is held in the Village Church Hall on 10th June at 3.00 p.m. to raise money for this Christian charity that cares and supports children with all kinds of problems, either long-term care or by providing advice centres for short term problems. All donations of cakes for sale gratefully accepted Saturday morning at 33 Nuthurst Crescent or at the hall in the afternoon.

There will be tea and coffee and cake (to eat) for sale during the afternoon.

Marie's Coffee Morning

This year Marie is holding her coffee morning on 14th June from 10 a.m. This year the proceeds are to go towards 'Child Line'. Those of us from loving homes find it hard to comprehend the terrible trauma that abuse and bullying can cause to so many in our land.

There will be a bring and buy and hopefully the weather will be kind and we can sit in the garden and enjoy their colourful garden.

Plant Sale

Full report next month.

St. John's Activities

The Quiz held on 28th April with questions set on various subjects, was very encouraging, eight teams of four entered and everyone enjoyed the evening.

The report on the Back to School Dance will be in the July Magazine

The next Prize Bingo session will be held on Monday 12th June at 7.00 p.m. This is always a fun evening and there are always a variety of good prizes to be won.

Open Church's St. John's

On Saturday 13th St. John's was open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. as part of the Hartshill and surrounding area Open Church's project of the 8 churches in the area.

By 10 a.m. when entering the hall the smell of bacon and sausage cooking was coming from the kitchen and from then on those cooking did not have time to pause. They cooked 4½ dozen eggs as well as many bacon and sausage butties, endless toast and many mugs of tea and coffee. It was a delight to see so many people especially the children coming into the hall and using the facilities. The Ansley 2000 History was on display and was of great interest to many of the local residents.

Open Church at St. Laurence

As in previous years St. Laurence's will be open from 2 to 5 p.m. on alternate Saturday's from June to the end of August, and from 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. on 7th October (Harvest).

The dates for June are the 3rd and 17th. While the weather makes a great difference to how many visitors we have during these sessions those that do come in are always very appreciative, and pleased to see the Church open for them to have a look or spend a quiet time in prayer.

There will be light refreshments available in the annexe and there is also the opportunity for a chat.

June 2006

When I was asked for a photograph of myself at school for a competition at St. John's School Dance, what memories were invoked. I found an individual photograph but also a class one. The faces were from so far back but looked so familiar but many I could not put a name to. Then I found my Autograph Book which was given to me by Hartshill Sunday School children the Christmas before I left school. Lo and behold there were all the names, including all the teachers and at last I could put a name to many of my past school friends. This started me looking through all my photograph albums and hundreds of loose photographs. I would recommend anyone if they have a few minutes, to look through their old photographs, but I must warn you that a few minutes will not be enough time to absorb and relive all the memories.

Perhaps it is an obvious thing to say but what a lovely time of the year it is. In May when everything started to come alive, we were amazed as more and more plants appeared. Ever year I say I am going to take photographs and do a plan to show where everything is. This year we stopped counting at 32 Lilies which sprouted up. Two huge hostas appeared from nowhere, but what is more amazing are the stones and pebbles. Where on earth do they come from? Alan Titchmarsh on the gardening programme told us to ignore them and not try to get rid of them – does he know something we don't?

Have you noticed the number and the size of the Wasps this year? Time was when Wasps only started appearing when the soft fruits were ripe – especially jam making time. Now they arrived before the weather was even warm and they are so huge.

I thought I had seen everything until I went back in May to where I used to work. There was a notice on the field 'Beware – Emu' I thought it must be a joke but there in the field were two Emus, and you should beware of them because they peck and they also kick. Sounds like a good alternative to a guard dog!

I would like to share these words of Victor Hugo, the author, about Heaven: 'When I go to the grave I can say "my day's work is done". But I cannot say "my life is done". My work will recommence the next morning. The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare. It closes upon the twilight, but it opens upon dawn'. What lovely words!

Marie Cove.