

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1025

JUNE 2011

Price 25p



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Secret Millionaire

Have you ever watched Secret Millionaire on Channel 4?

It places a millionaire (or multi-millionaire) in a poor part of Britain for a week where they cope for themselves without any of the support they have been used to. During that week they join in a variety of community activities. At the end of the week they decide which activities to give money to and how much to give each.

The climax of the programme comes when they reveal that they have been working under false pretences, that they are wealthy and want to give a substantial sum of money to the organisation they have briefly worked for. The sheer appreciation of those community leaders as they receive the cheques brings tears to the eyes. For me the programme on May 17 was particularly moving as the lady was spending time in Islington, London - the borough where Pauline and I met and married.

Was Jesus a Secret Millionaire? Did he pretend to be an ordinary person then at his resurrection reveal himself to be God?

Yes and No.

Yes. Jesus was God. Yes. He has something very special to give, something far more special than money- hope, forgiveness, eternal love. To those to whom he reveals himself the result brings tears to the eyes.

No. Jesus was not just play acting. He was human. He didn't have a get out clause. He experienced all that humans can suffer, even death itself.

Back to the programme. After one of the Secret Millionaires had handed over her cheque and it had been gratefully received, the organiser of the Charity shop she had helped said 'Forget the cheque. It's just been lovely to have you' No she wasn't handing back the money! She was simply thanking the lady for all had had contributed by being there. It's great to think of all the benefits Jesus brings but don't forget to remember him as the one who lived and loved and cared and gave - the man Jesus.

Enjoy the Summer,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

June St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 5 th	After Ascension	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th	Pentecost	10.30 a.m.	Special Service
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 19 th	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 th	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 5 th	After Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 12 th	Pentecost	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 26 th	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Discussion Groups

Discussing the parables – Tuesday 14th June at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

'The year through the Bible' Thursday 9th June at 7.30 p.m. 128 Birmingham Road.

The church will be open on Saturday 18th June 10.00 a.m. – 12.30p.m. for private prayer or quiet contemplation and light refreshments will be available in the annexe

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

From the Registers

WE WELCOMED IN BAPTISM

24 April Philip Jenson Dodd

8 May Penelope Florence Jane Jakson and Finley George Williams

WE REMEMBERED WITH THANKSGIVING

Freda Sutton

On Tuesday 10 May the funeral took place at St. Laurence's Church of Freda Sutton. The service followed by committal at Heart of England Crematorium. From her childhood Freda displayed the gifts that would blossom in her adult life - skills with her hands, ability with figures and a quiet, unassuming confidence. She will be deeply missed by many, especially her great friend Monica Bannister.

Elsie Lockett

On Friday 13 May the funeral took place of Elsie Lockett, followed by interment at the Heart of England Crematorium. Elsie was a loving wife, deeply caring and fun loving mother and a great friend to many in Birchley Heath and beyond; many of whom attended her service. She is greatly missed and sadly mourned.

Midsummer Madness

For a second year we will be running this very entertaining event, but this time it will be held at Ansley Village Social Club on Saturday 18th June from 7 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by "Old Malarkey Ceildh Band" for a Barn Dance. (Don't worry if you do not know the steps, the excellent caller will ensure everyone knows). Refreshments will be in the form of baked potatoes

and various fillings, included in the price. Drinks can be obtained from the bar. There is plenty of parking at the rear of the building. There will be a raffle and any surplus will be for church funds. Tickets are £5 and can be obtained from Ansley Village Post Office, Manor Farm Shop Church End, Steve Mellor Butcher's Shop Chapel End and Church members.

Building Work and Church Security

If all things go to plan building work should commence at the church early July, this work will take place on two parts of the building and hopefully once it has all been completed there will be no more damp patches. There will be no interruption to the interior of the building and services will continue as normal.

When you visit the church you will see the new notices at the entrances, these along with other deterrents are being introduced to protect the building.

The cost of all this work is obviously taking its toll on our reserves, but it is important that each part of the work is done to the highest standard possible

We hope and pray that all this work will ensure the church is kept in good order for future generations to come.

Please remember everyone is most welcome, the church and churchyard are there for you.

St. John's Events

The Easter social event on Friday 15th April at St. John's Church Hall was a very happy occasion and all the tickets were sold. This event also raised a much needed £125 for hall funds.

There will be a social event in the form of a games evening at St. John's hall on Friday 24th June. Entrance will be £1 please bring your own food and drink. The games will be various but you will be sure of an entertaining evening.

Just to let you know that the heating in this hall is now working well and that all the bills have been paid.

Marie's Coffee Morning

You are all invited to Marie and Dave's 28 Nuthurst Crescent for their Coffee Morning on Wednesday 15th June from 10 a.m. There will be tea, coffee and cake available. There will be a bring and buy, raffle, plenty of time for a chat and a look round their garden. Proceeds are for Child Line.

Thank you

At the joint Palm Sunday morning service at St Laurence the two congregations were able to formally say thank you to Dave Cove for his many years of hard work at St. John's. We all hope he will be able to continue to enjoy worshipping at St John's for many years to come. John Cox has agreed to take on more of the services at St. John's, although at the time of writing he is in hospital, we all hope and pray it will not be long before he is up and well.

In Search of Medieval Ansley.

What did medieval Ansley look like on the eve of the Black Death; how many people lived there, and how did they make their living; what traces remain of Ansley's medieval landscape? These questions, and others, will be discussed in this short workshop exploring aspects of medieval Ansley to reconstruct the nature of life in the medieval manor of Ansley. We will also look at the lordship of the manor and particular attention will be given to St Laurence's Church, including a visit to look at the medieval fabric of the building.

The speaker, Dr John Hunt, BA, PhD, FSA, FRHistS, PGCE, is a medieval historian and archaeologist. He is a Fellow in the Institute for Advanced Research in Arts and Social Sciences, and a Research Fellow in the School of Historical Studies, at the University of Birmingham. A member of the Centre for Birmingham and Midlands History at the same University, he teaches on the MA in West Midlands History.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday June 29th 2011; 7.00 – 9.30pm, at the Church Annexe, Ansley.

Please contact Margaret Antill on 01827 874520 to book your place. Other dates could be made available if there is a demand.

Results

The Plant Sale in the village hall, the May Bingo session at St. John's and the Sponsored Hymn Sing at church, all take place after this issue will have gone to press, results will be in the July issue.

Annual General Meeting - Visitation

This meeting which took place on 14th April reviewed the life of the church in Ansley in 2010. Some things are very encouraging and the introduction of the parish prayer at services has given us a focus. However the need to spend so much time on security issues gives rise to anxiety. It is also a great concern that it is proving very difficult to provide for young children and we ask particularly for your prayers that the right way forward will be shown.

The increase in the number of weddings was noted and is a pleasing trend.

Over all the financial position of the church in Ansley is extremely tight and all expenditure is taken seriously. The PCC are extremely grateful to the many people who have given to the church in many different ways over the years. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Thank you.

The church officers have been re-elected and Diana Kealey has taken the vacant position of Electoral Roll Officer, and Rev Rick White became a PCC member. Thank you to all those taking on the various responsibilities which helps the church to function as effectively as possible.

Every year the Church Wardens take an oath of office for the coming year and this year it will take place on Tuesday 7th June at St. Giles Exhall. Please remember both Moreen and Margaret in your prayers as they endeavour to take up the responsibilities for another year.

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

It has been decided to continue with this small change collection and anyone who would like a collecting tin please ask and one can be organised. The total paid into our Fabric Fund in February was £10 bringing the total to £70 so far this year all from the small change collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence and St. John's please hand the slip below to a member of the Church congregation or contact the Vicar on 024 7639 9070. Please remember the vicar would be pleased to visit anyone who is sick, but he does need to know, again please ring.

Please pray forwho is

I would like to express the thanks and appreciation for all the hard work and planning that went into the Nuthurst Royal Wedding Street Party, not only from myself but from everyone who enjoyed the day. We all, young and old, had a fabulous time, and it was great to see the extended families and friends together on such a happy occasion. Thank you ladies and your husbands .

Over the years I have had many Bee Stings, and occasional Wasp stings, especially since we have so many flowers in our garden border. Every time I put cream on, but I didn't know that Bee and Wasp Stings are so different. Wasp stings are alkaline, so use Vinegar as the acid in it neutralizes the poison. Bee Stings are acidic so Bicarbonate of Soda mixed with a little water into a paste, counters the affects. We live and learn but whether Bee or Wasp Stings, they still really hurt and best avoided.

It was unbelievable at Easter when the Met. Office gave a 'Smog' alert for England, in spite of the Government reaching the levels set for clean air. This was due to very still, warm weather and it was noticeable that the air seemed almost 'bad' at times. I always associate smog with winter caused by pollution, e.g. smoking chimneys in the past. We have not, however, heard anything further, so can presume the warning is over.

Have you ever notice how some people have names very appropriate to their profession, e.g. there are gardeners named Bob Flowerdew, Jac Flower and Pippa Greenwood. Then on T.V. there was a man who worked in the car industry and his name was Mr. Tyre. It is just a happy coincidence, I presume, that these people have very apt names.

Our Painting Group at St. John's recently enjoyed a day on The Hargreave Narrowboat. I would recommend others to do likewise, as it is a most relaxing journey, followed by a lovely lunch, We saw so many of Nature's new arrivals, Mallards with their ducklings, Swans with their Signets and Moorhens with their Chicks. One or two of us even saw a Water Vole, and there were, of course lots of flowers and blossom to admire. It was great, but we had to book the following day for next May, as it is so quickly booked up.

I haven't heard the Cuckoo this year, so it seems unlikely I shall now as the rhyme we used to say is: The Cuckoo comes in April, she sings her song in May, she makes a tune in the middle of June and then she flies away'

Marie Cove.