

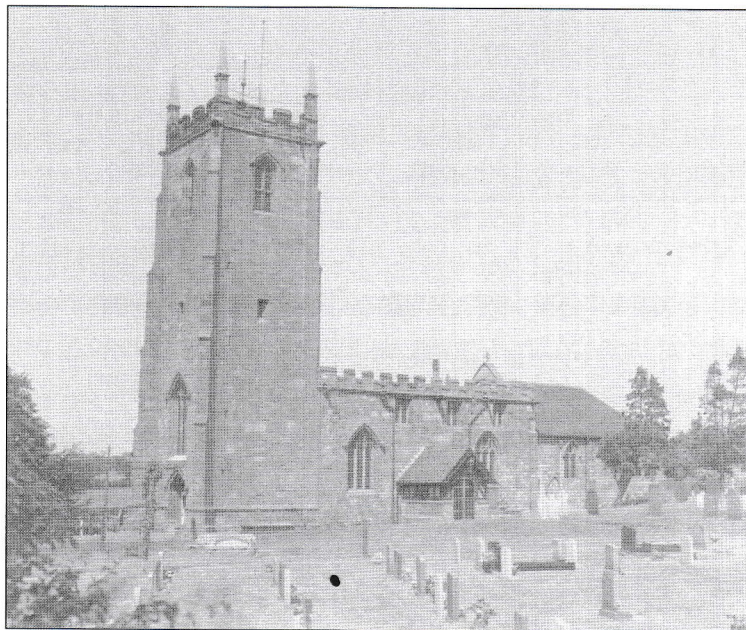
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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God of the Valleys

Many books of the Old Testament deal at length with the stories of Israel as it fought to take and preserve its land in the face of military opposition.

These stories of military conquest and defeat may seem miles away from our (relative) comfort and stability.

What I find so fascinating is that whatever they encountered, the people saw the hand of God at work. And they reflected carefully and prayerfully. They rarely said "Because we are God's people we'll have to win". They knew they had to live their faith not just claim it because of their race, nationality or religious practices. They were constantly reminded of their need to be just and fair in their dealings with each other and the importance of valuing God's name and reputation.

One little story struck me in 1 Kings Chapter 20. Ahab, King of Israel is fighting Ben-Hadad King of Aram. Ben-Hadad's officials advise him to fight Ahab's armies in the valleys because the God of Israel is the God of the mountains. Of course they are right. God is a God of the mountains. He had met Moses on the mountain when He gave the Ten Commandments. He met Elijah on the mountain when Elijah was running for his life. But they were wrong to limit God to the mountain tops. And because of their limited view of Him, God gave the victory to the people of Israel. Do we limit God to the mountain top to the highpoints of celebration and ignore Him when we are down? Or do we do the opposite ignore him when life is good and remember Him when we are low. Or do we limit Him to some areas of our life and ignore Him when we are at work or out with our friends. God is a God of our whole life. Let's share it *all* with Him.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

June St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 3 rd	Trinity Sunday	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 17 th	Trinity 2	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 24 th	Trinity 3 rd	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 3 rd	Trinity Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 10 th	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th	Trinity 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 24 th	Trinity 3 rd	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Discussion Groups

The year through the Bible' Thursday 7th June 7.30 p.m. 10 Nuthurst Crescent.

Discussing the parables – Tuesday 12th June at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

From the Registers

Baptisms

In a delightful service in the morning of April 22 the baptism took place of Jessica Taylor James. Her parents Andrew and Joanne and her brothers Josh, Luke and Liam were immensely proud of her she looked around and was so very good.

In the afternoon of 13 May the baptism took place of Curtis and Cassidy Gladwin. As children they were able to appreciate for themselves the special occasion and we hope they will recall the event with happy memories.

Funerals

Following a funeral service Louis John Stephenson 87 years of Mill Farm Ansley, at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church New Arley, his earthly remains were interred in Ansley Church Yard on 25th April.

The funeral of Frank Edwin (Eddie) Morewood of Birchley Heath took place at St. Laurence's Church on Friday May 4 followed by burial in the churchyard. Eddie had a great sense of humour, a strong belief in hard work, a committed care for his farm and immense love for his beloved wife Greta and all of his children and grandchildren. He is sadly missed.

The funeral of Ron Mellor took place on Wednesday May 2 at the Heart of England Crematorium followed by interment in St. Laurence's Churchyard. Ron was the perfect gentleman who lived a life of service to others. Of particular note was his service to the Scout Movement in Ansley Common and subsequently in Nuneaton which spanned sixty years. He is mourned by his daughter Clare and all his family.

Church External Lighting

Following our risk assessment review and the electrical survey it is clear that the existing external lighting of the church needs a complete over-haul. An enquiry has been made to look into having a new system using "state of the art" LED lighting. This system will use a small fraction of the energy that the old system uses and will be much more durable.

The PCC have agreed to the starting of a fund for this new lighting and will be commencing the process of getting the necessary permissions, and a full specification. If anyone would like to see this work carried out and would like to contribute, it would be much appreciated. Please do not forget that if you pay tax on any income to make your donation go further the Gift Aid system will increase the amount you give by 25% without any further cost to yourself.

(As I will be celebrating a big birthday this year I have decided to ask for donations to this project rather than have presents which I hope will be a good boost to the start of this fund. Margaret Antill)

Archdeacon's Visitation

This year the Church Wardens will take their oath of office at Holy Trinity Priory Row Coventry on Thursday 31st May at 7.30 p.m. Our two wardens will this year be accompanied by one of our new deputy wardens. It is at this service that the wardens are given their charge for the coming year and the service is open to everyone. If you would like to attend please do contact one of the wardens so that the necessary arrangement can be made.

St John's Bingo

The next of the successful Prize Bingo sessions will be on 11th June. Do come to this if you enjoy a game, it is always great fun. The prizes are always interesting and there is a cuppa and a biscuit after the first 4 games.

"Eyes down" is at 7 p.m.

Marie's Coffee Morning

As for many years Marie and Dave Cove will be opening their home to anyone who would like to come for their annual coffee morning. This year it is to be on 20th June commencing at 10 a.m. there will be a bring and buy stall, raffle and plenty of cakes. There will be as many cups of tea and coffee as you want. You can be sure of a warm welcome and provided the rain keeps away the joy of sitting in their lovely garden. The proceeds will be given to the work of Child Line.

Friends of St John's Tea and Cake Afternoon

This now annual event will be on 30th June in St. John's Hall from 2 p.m. There will obviously be lots of lovely cakes to both eat and buy, together with plenty of cups of tea and coffee. As is usual there will be time to meet with others and participate in the raffle, tombola and look at the bric-a-brac stall. Proceeds will be for the hall funds.

Nursery Hill School Summer Fayre

The School have invited everyone to come to their Summer Fayre on 23rd June to be held in the school grounds. There will be the usual array of stalls and games for all ages. The church will be represented by a game of "Guess where Teddy is going on Holiday"

Art Exhibition

On 16th June there will be an exhibition of art by the members of the two art groups in Ansley Village and Ansley Common. It is the first time we have held an art exhibition, but having seen the quality of some people's work it will be to a high standard. The church will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and there will be light refreshments available in the annexe.

Ansley History

The last of Dr John Hunt's the history talks on the 9th May was disappointing in that only 11 people attended despite over 20 having said they would like to attend. This talk has now been given 3 times and each time it has been highly commended. Dr Hunt has said that he is willing to give further talks in more depth over a time span, whilst there has been some interest it has not been sufficient to warrant booking further sessions. However he will be more than willing to come if interest is generated. He is still researching particularly the carving in the Norman Arch along with other aspects of the parish history in his studies.

Magazine

As everyone will now have heard the cost of postage has gone up considerably from the beginning of May it will therefore be necessary to increase the cost of the magazine to those who receive it by post from £8 to £10 per year to cover price rise. This increase for the magazine will become effective from the beginning of next year for those that have already paid. We are sorry to have had to increase the cost again, but as a second class stamp is now 50p we have little alternative.

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

The small change collection continues and anyone who would like a collecting tin please ask and one can be organised. The total paid into our Fabric Fund so far this year amounts to £81 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

June 2012

First of all I would like to apologise that my April letter was repeated in the May issue for some unknown reason – sorry about that.

I have been watching a programme called '1952' and have really enjoyed it, and of course this brought back memories of our Queen's Coronation on 2nd June, 1952. My Dad had purchased our first Television a couple of weeks before, specifically to watch the Coronation. He made us all (7 including Mam and Dad) watch this from beginning to end. We only had a small settee and an easy chair in the kitchen, so most of us had to sit on hard kitchen chairs for the whole day, just to move to the table for sandwiches at dinner and tea. We also sat in the dark with the lights off and curtains drawn as my Dad thought you watched T.V. the same as the cinema. We were very glad when 7 p.m. came and we all went to bed.

1952 was also the year I took my GCSE ('O' level) exams and left school in the July, to start work 2 weeks later at Alfred Herbert. Here I attended a typing school every morning for 10 months, working in the afternoon in the Postal and Filing Department. I really wanted to work with children or be a midwife or any sort of nurse, but in those days your parents decided your future and of course we obeyed. It was strange though because I didn't want to be a secretary, but I took to it like a duck takes to water.

There are some strange Nursery Rhymes and it makes you wonder what on earth they are referring to. The Four and Twenty Blackbirds nursery rhyme was based on a 16th century feast recipe. This involved baking a pie with a large hole in the bottom into which birds (or even frogs) could be put just before serving, to jump or fly out when the pie was cut into. I am relieved to know that they didn't actually cook the birds or frogs.

Well, I can't count how many times I heard people say 'I wish it would rain' recently. I always said that once it starts it will never know when to stop, but now when rivers are bursting their banks and water is running in torrents down the streets, we are told this is the wrong kind of rain. Oh well, you can't please everyone all of the time.

I wish you fresh hope every morning, and friends who will share the new day.
A rainbow to shine through the storm clouds and flowers to dance on your way.

Marie Cove.