

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

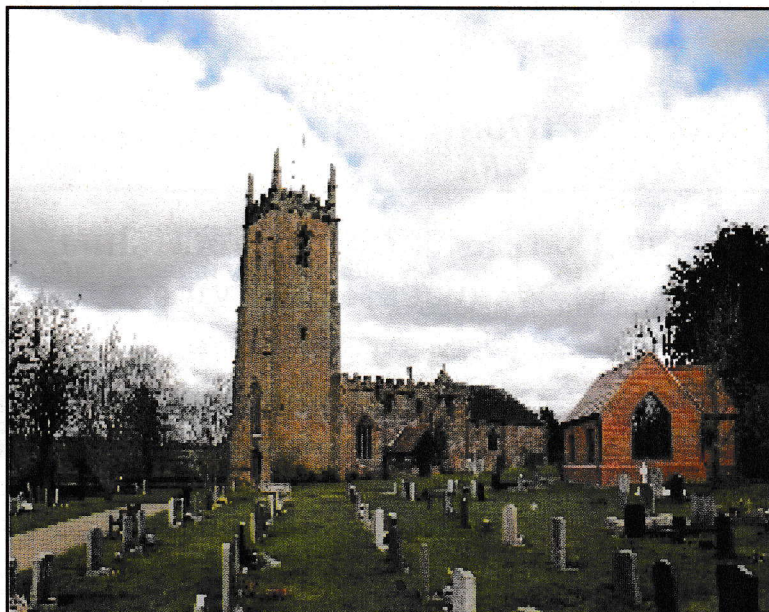
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No: 1060

JUNE 2014

Price 30p

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## Christ died to redeem women

As I have mentioned before there is a fund of spiritual thinking in the stories of the Celtic Church in England in the latter half of the first millennium. One of the most fascinating of these stories comes from The Book of Lismore and tells how the deep truths of God were used to undermine prejudice and stereotyping.

This particular story speaks of the pious and formidable woman called Canair. Whilst praying in her hermit's hut she saw a tall tower of fire arising from the island of Innis Cathaig. She knew God was calling her there. When she arrived she met the equally formidable hermit Senan who welcomed her and then asked her to leave.

"Women," he said, 'do not enter this island.'

But Canair replied,

"How can you say that? Christ came to redeem women no less than men. He suffered for women just as much as he suffered for men.

Women, just as much as men, enter the kingdom of heaven."

Senan accepted these words and gave her Holy Communion and a place on the island.

Thank God for those who throughout history have seen in their faith a challenge to discrimination and oppression. But it raises this question today. How does our faith challenge the generally accepted practices of society? How does that faith influence the way we live, our attitude to others and the manner in which we love?

This is what we are thinking about as a Church. We long to be true to the Gospel in every aspect of our lives living out the words we often sing: 'Seven whole days not one in seven I would praise thee'. Please pray for us as we reflect and feel free to make your contribution.

Enjoy the summer!  
Your friend and Vicar,  
Peter

### June St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup>	After Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Easter Format
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Whitsunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong

### St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup>	After Ascension	10.30 a.m.	Family service
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Whitsunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 2	10.30 a.m.	Songs of Praise

### From the Registers

No entries this month.

### Art Exhibition

Ansley Village Hall is the venue for this year's art exhibition by Ansley art group. It will be held from 10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m. on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Enjoy a look around the work produced by this local group. Some items will be for sale. Refreshments will be available.

### Marie's Coffee Morning

Marie and Dave will be holding their annual coffee morning on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at their home 28 Nuthurst Crescent from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. There will, as always, be plenty of tea and coffee available as well as cakes to eat. It will be a chance to have a look at the garden which will be a mass of colour and interest. Over the years the number of times that it has not been possible to sit outside can be counted on one hand, but whether inside or out there will be plenty of time to chat.

There will be a 'Bring and Buy' stall and raffle and as in recent years the proceeds are for 'Child Line'.

If you have entered or wish to enter the parts of the body quiz this will be the last opportunity to hand in your answers, if you come you may get to know the answers that have been puzzling you for some time!



### Church Spring Clean

It is five years since the church last had a spring clean and the cobwebs are becoming quite noticeable. Therefore a good cleaning session is being arranged for two weeks beginning on Monday June 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. The different parts of the church and the different types of cleaning have been divided up over the two weeks. For example the ceilings and tower will be done first allowing dust to settle before starting on the polishing etc. If you have any time to spare during the two weeks, please add your name to the list that is in church or make contact with Margaret Antill or other church officer. There are a lot of jobs to be done.

We hope and pray that within the next five years that there will be sufficient funds to give the walls a coat of paint before the next time this work will be required again.

The services on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> will be in the annexe.

### St. John's Bingo.

The next Bingo session in St. John's Church Hall is on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June, eyes down will be at 7 p.m.

There will be the usual array of lovely prizes and a raffle of equally good prizes.

We are grateful to all who help with these sessions and the proceeds are used for hall funds which help to maintain the hall in a good condition.

This is a time of fun enjoyed by all who come and much appreciated.

### St. John's Church Hall

In the strong winds and rain of last winter a small section of outside render 'fell off', this has now been repaired and repainted. We are grateful to Wendy Cooper (our caretaker) for organising the painting and at the same time had the gutters cleaned. The cost of the render repair was £100.

### Plant Sale

As in previous years the Village Church Hall was very busy for the first few hours on the Friday and then things go quieter, as people come to get the best choice. The quality of the plants was, as usual, to a high standard and they all sold well. By the end of the Friday all the bills had been paid and we were well on the way to a profit. By the time the sale finished on the Saturday there was very little left to take to the church for those who could not make the sale. In all over £300 was made for hall funds

### Gift Aid

We have now received the final refund for the Gift Aided giving to the church for the last tax year. The totals were as follows:

General account	£4875.85
St. John's	£274.61
Fabric Fund	£284.03
Church Yard	<u>£242.75</u>
Over all total	£5677.24

This was received from a total of £22708.41 donated to the church in this way.

This year the church has benefited from the changes in the Government's legislation of last year by the "Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme". This allowed us to claim a Gift Aid on the first £5,000 of cash donated to the church. This amounted to an extra £1,500.

However it should be pointed out that we did exceed the £5,000 by the second week of January which meant that for over 10 weeks we could not claim on the cash donations. Please remember if you pay tax on any form of income please do consider giving by this method, there are various ways of doing so, just have a word. The P.C.C. are very grateful to everyone who donates to the church in any way, without these funds the church would not be able to operate. It costs over £40,000 a year to operate the general account alone. Please remember every penny to whichever account, in whatever form given is very much appreciated.

#### Visitation Report.

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May the wardens attended the annual Archdeacon's visitation at Allesley. The large congregation were addressed by the Venerable Morris Rodham who charged the wardens to "Have a go" and not be afraid to fail. If we did not fail in anything we would not be doing anything. We have to all do our bit to proclaim God's message to all wherever that may take us. He particularly used the image of someone falling off their bicycle. The most striking part was the fact that in human terms Jesus was a failure as He ended up on a Cross! But we know better!! Do please let us have feedback on what we do so that we can review accurately and thereby meet the needs of all.

#### St. John's Tea and Cake Afternoon

This is an advanced notice to put in your diary on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July St. John's Hall Committee are holding their tea and cake afternoon from 2 p.m. full details next month. Proceeds are in aid of Save the Children U.K.

#### Our 50<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival

Another advanced notice – This year we will be holding our 50<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival over the August Bank Holiday Weekend commencing 6 p.m. Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We all hope and pray that this landmark event will be one to remember.

As usual we will be trying to get the churchyard looking at its best (At the time of writing after a very warm spell the rain is falling and you can almost see the grass and weeds growing). If anyone has time to come and spend in the churchyard there are plenty of those places that need attention particularly the paths and vegetation growing in old unattended curb stones. Please just turn up with a few tools and make a start every little bit done will be much appreciated.

#### Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence's and at 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.

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Please pray for ..... who is .....



June, 2014.

Can you believe it is 20 years since the Channel Tunnel opened? In the past the Channel was a sort of giant moat which was the main defence for England against invasion, especially during the Second World War but also in the past when many sea battles were fought in the Channel. Who would ever have believed that such a marvellous structure could ever have been built under the water, and now the Channel Tunnel has been voted one of the modern wonders of the world.

I am not a great lover of Vegetables, and can only put this down to the fact that my parents wouldn't let you leave the table until you had cleared your plate and I especially hated Carrots, Parsnips and also crinkly Cabbage and Sprouts. If you left anything on your plate it was served to you cold at the next meal. Now I only like Spring Cabbage, Swede and Runner Beans so was interested to read that in the Middle Ages Beans were thought to be the homes of the lost souls of the dead and people were warned not to eat them. Present day throughout Europe various Beans are 'funeral' food. There was also a belief that witches resided in fields of Beans or that in mining districts of the U.K. the flowering of the bean brought more deaths in the coal mining which was possible to counter with a white bean usually worn around the neck. What a load of rubbish! My family were generations of coal miners and every year and now we looked forward to the first meal of 'Kidney Beans' as we called Runner Beans.

Sorting out our cutlery drawer brought back memories for me of parties when I was a child. We didn't have many except for 21<sup>st</sup> Birthdays or Weddings, but on these occasions my mother would loan out her canteen of cutlery to relatives or neighbours. Attached to each item of cutlery was a coloured thread to identity them as my mother's and other women had their own coloured thread.

Just for a laugh : A lady delivered lunches to the elderly housebound, and took her 4 year old daughter on her afternoon rounds. She was intrigued by the canes, zimmer frames and wheelchairs. One day the little girl was staring at a set of false teeth soaking in a glass. Her mother waited for the barrage of questions, but she merely turned and whispered "The tooth fairy will never believe this".

We had some glorious sunny days in May when the garden came in to it's own. Plant appeared which had disappeared in Winter, especially Rhodedendrons, Peonies, Hostas and many, many more. My Peas on the allotment came through in a few days, so let us hope for more sunny days with occasional showers, and let us enjoy Nature at her best.

Marie Cove.