

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1072

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Price 30p



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From the cradle to the grave

Over the centuries the parish church has stood at the centre of community life.

St Laurence's, like all English parish churches, was the place where the community gathered to celebrate, worshipped Sunday by Sunday and marked those vital moments in human existence - birth, marriage and death.

Over the years that I have been ordained there have arisen a variety of new ways of marking and celebrating these events. In many ways I welcome this. I want people who come to the Church to do so freely knowing that there is another choice. But the choice of using the Church is still there and I would encourage everyone to consider it.

Baptisms

If you want your child to grow up in the Christian faith then to have your child baptised is a wonderful way of declaring your intentions and committing him or her to be a follower of Jesus. Your child needs the support of your family but also the support of the whole Christian family. We strongly encourage you to come and worship with us so that we can get to know you and support you in your wonderful but demanding task. Baptisms take place either on most Sunday afternoons or on Sunday mornings on the fourth Sunday of the month. We will do our best to find a date and time to suit you.

Weddings

St Laurence's is a stunning setting for your wedding. Many choose to be married in St Laurence's Church because it is such a beautiful building in a delightful setting. Most speak of wanting that most precious moment of their lives to be in God's house. As we meet we will gently talk about faith together but be assured you do not need to prove your faith. All are welcome! Should one or other of you be divorced do not automatically assume I will say No. Telephone me and we can arrange an appointment to talk it through together. Come and see if a Church wedding is the right way forward. If you don't live in the parish, again do not assume you cannot get married in St. Laurence's. Phone or email and ask. Whatever your circumstances, I will plan the service with you, so that we can create an event that reflects your personalities whilst being a profoundly joyful celebration of love.

Funerals

It is one of the greatest privileges of being a Vicar that I can support people in the time of deepest grief, to journey with them in their pain. Do remember that I am here for all parishioners - not just those who attend Church. If you are planning a service at the crematorium don't think that I cannot help. I can be asked to take services there and will willingly do so. Sometimes the myth is circulated that a service taken by a Vicar will not be a personal celebration of one's loved one's life. I think the opposite is true. If we can look forward with hope in eternal life, it is easier to look back not just with sadness but with joy and laughter. As you plan a loved one's funeral or as you take out a funeral plan you will need to choose carefully, but remember we are here for you.

Life changes. The world moves on. In the midst of it all don't lose out on what has been special for so many centuries and is here for you.

Have a great summer,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

June St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 7 th	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time [Screen]
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th	Trinity 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 21 st	Trinity 3	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 7 th	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 14 th	Trinity 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st	Trinity 3	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 28 th	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

From the Registers

On Friday 24th April the funeral took place at St. Laurence's Church of Robert Stone of Ansley Village. This was followed by burial in the churchyard. Robert was proud of the fact that he had worked for Land Rover for most of his life. A man with a great sense of humour and a strong commitment to family values he is deeply missed by his wife Karen and all his family who, with his many friends, mourn his premature passing.

On Saturday 25th April we celebrated at St. Laurence's Church the marriage of Dennis Cracknell and Linda Murray. This joyous romantic event was a delightful celebration of, and a deep commitment to, the power of love.

On Sunday 26th April we interred the mortal remains of Stan Forryan in the Garden of Peace. In the midst of sadness this was also a reunion of family and friends and for Stan, who so loved Ansley, a true "homecoming."

Advance Notice of Change to Pattern of Morning Service at St Laurence's

Usually the first Sunday in the month is presented using the screen. However the first Sunday in July will be from our service leaflets and the third Sunday in July will use the screen. This is due to holidays. The normal pattern will resume the following month.

Dedication of Cross

A simple, beautifully crafted, wooden cross was dedicated at St Laurence's church on Sunday 17th May. It will be placed on the altar rather than leave the altar empty at times when the brass cross is removed for security reasons.

Donations for Victims of the Earthquakes in Nepal

Donations for this good cause were received recently, of £124 from St Laurence's and £54 from St John's. Many of our congregation members will have given personally to this disaster appeal. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in some way.

Cathedral Service, Sunday 3rd May

Approximately 20 members of the congregations of St Laurence's and St John's, with representatives from Old and New Arley churches, joined the morning congregation at Coventry Cathedral. Seats had been reserved at the front of the cathedral and everyone was able to negotiate the steps to the altar to receive communion. Those who went found it an uplifting experience.

Ascension Day, Thursday 14th May

There was a special sense of fellowship as members of St Laurence's, St John's, St Wilfrid's, St Michael's and Arley Methodist chapel joined in worship to commemorate this important event in the church calendar. All were warmly welcomed into St John's friendly atmosphere.

Plant Sale

The plant sale on Friday and Saturday 15th and 16th May was an enjoyable and successful event. The range and quality of the plants was excellent. Over £200 has been raised for hall funds. We would like to thank Ansley Village Allotment Society for holding their sale of vegetable plants at the same times.

Window

We are pleased to report that the cracked small window in the south chancel wall has now been removed to provide a template for the construction of a new stained glass window. It has taken a lot of time and commitment to gain permission from the diocese and agree the materials to be used. The new window, to be dedicated in memory of Jennifer Woolliscroft, should be ready in about eight weeks. Funds for this work have come from donations in Jennifer's memory and gifts from her family.

The new window is being designed and made by Claire Williamson. Her website is <http://clairewilliamsonglass.co.uk/>. Her studio is based at Dishley Grange Farm in Loughborough and she specialises in the new design, repair or restoration of traditional glass windows. It is well worth visiting her web page and clicking on Ecclesiastical Case Studies to get a flavour of her work. The design for St Laurence's has been approved by the PCC and Jennifer's family. We look forward to seeing it in place.

Wall Repairs

The work needed to repair the churchyard wall opposite Manor Farm should begin shortly. It has had to wait for suitable weather conditions. It will mean traffic controls on the road past the church. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but will be relieved when the wall repair is completed.

Ansley Village Allotment Association

We understand that there may be one or two allotments available for rent on this site. It needs serious commitment to take on one of the allotments, but it should also prove to be very rewarding. Please contact Chris on 07837507521 if you would be interested in growing your own fruit and veg.

Art Exhibition

On Saturday 13th June, Ansley Village Art Group will be holding their fourth Art Exhibition and Sale in Ansley Village Church Hall, Birmingham Road, Ansley Village CV10 9PS. The exhibition will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is free.

Light refreshments will be available and some of the artists will be present to talk to about their work.

The Art Group has been meeting on Friday afternoons in the village for over 10 years.

Some of the media used include oils, water colours, pastels and acrylics.

We are a friendly encouraging group who help and support each other.

Guest artists are invited from time to time to give advice and to demonstrate techniques.

Comments the group have received include:

"Always a high standard of work"

"A vast range of subjects"

"Surprised at the quality of the paintings"

There will be some paintings and drawings for sale.

NEW ARTISTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

WE PAY £2 PER WEEK TO COVER THE COST OF REFRESHMENTS AND HIRE OF THE HALL

WE MEET ON FRIDAYS FROM 1 P.M. – 3 P.M.

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.

Please pray for who is

June, 2015

I saw a notice in a doctor's surgery for 'Singing Therapy' to help people with breathing difficulties. What a lovely therapy.

Did you know that half the nation's children cannot pick out a Bluebell. One tenth couldn't identify a Primrose. Our children and grandchildren are missing out on some simple pleasures e.g. Daisy chains or finding out if they like butter by holding a Buttercup under the chin. 'Plantlife' has urged the public to choose a national flower which runs until June 11th. They are also offering a guide to the most common wild flowers, which is free to download. They are also asking people to vote for a national bird for England.

Those of us of a certain age remember Smith's crisps; each packet containing a blue paper twist containing salt. Some ladies in the crisp factories during the war would put their name and address in the salt twist in the hope that someone would contact them.

In a gardening book they wrote about a book called "The Generall Historie of Plantes", which is crammed full of facts, illustrations and uses for everything grown and known to the 16th century gardener. This fascinates me and I will endeavour to find a copy, as the details are amazing e.g. Dwarf tobacco is listed as useful for drawing out arrowheads and poison darts if you are shot. Also it has 1,700 pages which makes it very heavy, so not suitable for bedtime reading.

'I have seen a Summer's morning, so I know what beauty is,
I have seen a sunset, so I know what grandeur is.
I have lived in a happy home, so I know what love is.
And because I have experienced all this, I know what wealth is.'

Marie Cove