

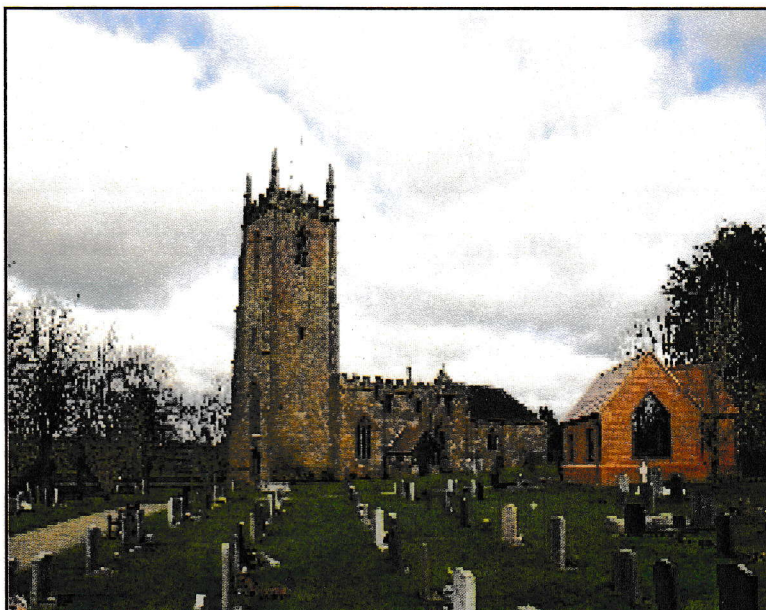
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1096

JUNE 2017

Price 30p



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Holidays

According to the Oxford Dictionary, the word "holiday" is Old English related to Holy Day – and was, long ago, the only time folks would rest up from their daily labours. June, hopefully, will be a time for "fresh air and fun." As we look forward to what we hope will be a lovely summer, we have the opportunity to spend time with our families and to go to far and distant lands, or just a different part of England. We all need refreshment from the daily grind or we would all go crazy.

Where is God in all this? He's right there. Jesus used to find time for refreshment, escaping to high mountains or out to sea. Do you remember the story of the stilling of the storm at sea? (Matthew 8:23 on) and also Jesus walking on the water (Matthew 14:22 on).

Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go off by ourselves to some place where we will be alone and you can rest for a while." (From Mark 6)

Sometimes it was the only way Jesus could have some peace from the demanding crowds. Wherever you go this summer, see if you can find God in his creation – visit churches and sample their worship – but most of all, have a lovely time and come back refreshed. Who knows, we may have a new vicar soon!

Lord of the Sabbath, teach us to enrich our rest and leisure with reverence and with praise. (From "All the Glorious Names")

A holiday prayer for children,

Thank you, God, for holidays

In the lovely summer days, •

For our picnics, for our fun,

For our playing in the sun.

Make us good, with smiling faces, so our homes are friendly places

And the helpful things we do

Make all our mothers happy too. (From The Infant Teacher's Prayer Book)

As we think of our own pleasure this summer, we must also spare a few thoughts for those families involved in the awful atrocity carried out in the city of Manchester recently. Let us remember in our prayers all those mourning the loss of a loved one, a child, a teenager, a mum or dad, a neighbour or a friend who, sadly, will not be sharing time on holiday with each other – this year or ever. For all those injured and coping with the trauma of it all, may God comfort them at this awful time and may He keep everyone safe in the days and months to come. May He give insight to all police and investigators who are seeking out the perpetrators of these terrible crimes and may this period of terror soon come to an end and all peoples everywhere learn to respect and tolerate other people in the world as having the right to live their lives as they wish.

Gwyneth Hickman

June St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 4 th	Pentecost	10.30 a.m.	Easter Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 th	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18 th	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th	Trinity 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 4 th	Pentecost	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 11 th	Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 th	Trinity 1	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 25 th	Trinity 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Please Note

During the interregnum it may be necessary to change the pattern of services from time to time at fairly short notice. This would be to enable visiting clergy to hold a communion service.

From the Registers

Baptisms

Rex Thomas John Green celebrated his baptism on the 7th May 2017, supported by his parents, Wesley and Alexandra, his Godparents, family and friends.

We ask God's blessing on Rex as he sets out on the path of faith, with his parents and Godparents to encourage and support him.

Gwyneth's Page (continued)

A Holiday Prayer

O God, you have preserved me in my journeyings today,
And I offer thanks for this good day:
With its cheerful companionship;
Its pleasant surprises at every turn.
And now that night has come I look forward to rest and sleep;
And a new beginning on the morrow.
I offer thanks for holiday clothes;
I offer thanks for the new variety of foods.
Let nothing that I do or say, or leave behind later, spoil this
Lovely spot for others who will come. Amen.

By Rita Snowden

Report on the process of appointing a new vicar

The PCC are pleased to report that the post is now being advertised in the Church Times and on Diocesan and local church websites. Please join us in prayer that suitable applicants may apply and that we may soon be able to appoint a new vicar. We thank everyone who has been involved in the preparations for and the final wording of the advertisement.

Quinquennial (five yearly) inspection of the church fabric

This inspection by our church architect is due shortly. Some of the work identified at the previous inspection has not been completed. For instance the church has not been redecorated internally because there is an outstanding problem of rainwater entering somewhere between the tower and the nave roof after heavy rain and strong wind from the east or north-east. This will be sorted out as soon as possible and other issues reported this time will be addressed in due course.

Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy

Marie and David Cove invite you to a coffee morning at 32, Nuthurst Crescent on Wednesday 14th June between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon. Funds raised will be sent to the charity Childline. Come along and enjoy delicious cakes and a friendly chat in their beautiful garden.

The Great Community Mural Competition 2017

Our insurers, Ecclesiastical, are running this competition. They would like an original piece of artwork on A3 paper to celebrate the role our church plays in the local community. Entries can be created by anyone with a connection to the church, young or old and collaborations are welcome! Any medium may be used, collage, crayons, chalk, felt-tip, embroidery or other!

The Great Community Mural will be 10 metres long and 3 metres high, featuring as many entries as possible and with the best 5 printed on a larger scale. The overall winner will have pride of place in the centre of the mural.

The winning church will receive £10 000 and four runners up will receive £2 500 each.

The mural will be displayed in London and then tour a select number of cathedrals around the country.

The closing date for entries is 21st August 2017. Please contact a church member if you would like to be involved in this competition.

The Historic Churches' Trust Ride and Stride 2017

We hope to have a representative to take part in this fund-raising event, which will be held on Saturday 9th September 2017. The money raised goes to help keep historic church buildings in good order, with a proportion returned to our own church funds. Cycle routes between churches are produced, with cyclists stamping their sheet at each church visited. We will hope to have our church open to visitors on that day. More participants would be welcome!

Ansley Village Art Group Exhibition and Sale

In recent years, this event has been held in June, but this year the date has been changed to Saturday 23rd September. The event will be held in Ansley Village Hall, from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., with light refreshments available. The artwork has been produced by a group that meets in the hall on Fridays from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. (Weekly fee £2.00) Previous exhibitions have been praised by visitors and have lead to new members joining the group. Most weeks members work on their own projects but visiting tutors lead sessions several times a year.

The Manchester Terrorist Attack

The following statement can be seen on the Coventry Diocese website:-

"Our hearts rage against the assault on life at the Manchester Arena – this murder of the innocents, so many of them young. We stand with the people of Manchester, and towns and cities across the Northwest, in their grief and suffering. We pray for them.

This outbreak of evil seeks to cause fear, sow seeds of distrust between peoples and even drive communities apart. We will resist it. We will turn our rage to good.

We call on all our communities to be one community, united in resolve, showing together that the strength of human goodness overcomes the cowardice of acts of terror.

We stand together in Coventry and Warwickshire for peace in our world and reconciliation between peoples. As leaders of different religious traditions, we stand together in Coventry and Warwickshire to condemn such cowardly acts that are not in any religious teaching, and for peace in our world and reconciliation between peoples."

Joint signatories (at time of going to press)

The statement has been signed by: Christopher Cocksworth - Bishop of Coventry; Abdullah Shehu – Chair, Coventry Muslim Forum; Sanjay Jagatia – Director/Secretary General Hindu Council UK; Bill Rattigan - Baha'i community; Ros Johnson – Jewish community; Mehru Fitter – Zoroastrian community; Harry Hall – Coventry Multi-Faith Forum; Steve Faber – United Reformed Church; Jatinder S Birdi – Chair of the Warwick District Faiths Forum; Hobbs Bashir - The Stratford Upon Avon Muslim Association; Farzana Hannan - On behalf of Hijaz College, Nuneaton

A prayer from the Diocese of Manchester

God of compassion,

you hear the cries of all who are in trouble or distress;

accept our prayers for those whose lives are affected by the bombing in Manchester,

We pray especially for those suddenly facing a future without a child, parent or loved one,

young ones who are in deep distress

those who are injured, traumatized or awaiting news

strengthen them in their hour of need,

grant them perseverance and courage to face the future

and be to them a firm foundation on which to build their lives;

this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 a warden. Phone numbers are on the front page of this magazine. Please remember that a visit can be arranged to anyone who is sick, but the wardens do need to know, so again please ring.

Please pray for who is

I can't believe that I am sitting here writing for the June magazine. It is such a shame that we can't stretch out certain occasions. I love Daffodils and Tulips and wish they could be with us for much longer. This year the Daffodils seem to have been short-lived but the Tulips have been great and last for such a long time as long as you top up the water in the vase. They must be one of the thirstiest of flowers.

We were brought up on a diet of what you might call 'folklore' e.g. 'red sky at night, shepherds' delight; red sky in the morning, shepherds' warning', and mostly this seems to be true, but 'rain before 7, fine before 11'; this doesn't seem to happen. There are others which I cannot say are true or not, e.g. 'when there is dew on the grass; rain will never come to pass'.

One saying which my sisters and I tried out when we were young is, 'if you wrap a piece of wedding cake up and sleep with it under your pillow, it encourages dreams of your future husband,' which never happened. Of course this all goes by the board if you wake up in the night hungry and scoff the lot.

When shopping I went to buy an Iceberg lettuce and saw some which looked exactly the same as the others, half price. There was a label on the cheaper ones which said 'Imperfect Iceberg lettuce.' Then there was a mystery with the cucumbers, but no label, as the thin ones were much dearer than the slightly thicker ones. These are cases where supermarkets only want perfect fruit and salad, but they all taste the same. Never mind, it's their loss and our gain as these two items were bargains.

I have always noticed that when seedlings come up they turn their face to the sun and for this reason we rotate the pot to keep the plant upright. There is a saying – Keep your face always towards the sunshine and the shadows will fall behind you,' and during the dark wet days of May when we didn't see the sun, we are reminded that the sun is still up there, it's just that we can't see it, but we will.

Marie Cove