

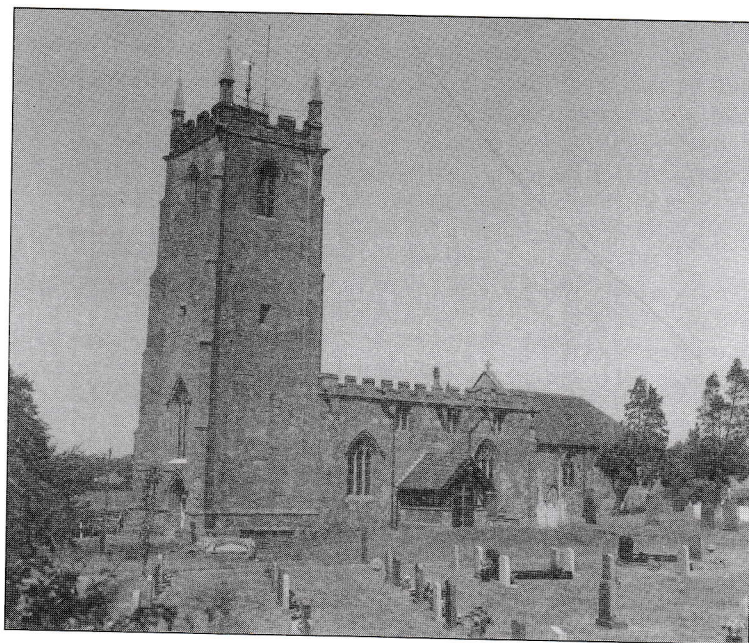
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Price 25p



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HOME MADE CAKE SALE: Thank you very much to all who baked, bought and helped out last month. As usual a mouth-watering selection of cakes was available and together with refreshments, a cheque for 160 Pounds was sent to Spurgeon Child Care. Thank you for your continued support in helping care for children in Britain less fortunate than our own. Margaret Oliver.

EDITORIAL

1st July, 2003

In 1965 experts predicted that in 20 years we would be working a 22 hour week and retire at the age of 40, because computers would do most of the work. My Dad used to tell us that air travel would take the place of road and rail travel with heliports on roofs. Then we had the Orwell book '1984' which showed the world controlled by 'Big Brother'. Well, none of these things have happened. We have had a mighty leap in technology with computers, mobile 'phones and of course the Internet, but the greatest change is more of a step back with young people no longer possessing communication skills except by Text or E-Mail, and the art of conversation is becoming a dead language.

We had some lovely warm sunny weather at the end of May/beginning of June, when the gardens burst into colour. People seem much happier when days are long and nights are short, but one job which is not pleasant when the weather is warm is 'ironing'. Then I saw on television that a shirt had been invented which could be put on while still wet and would dry crisp and ironed. Was this real? Can you just imagine what our mothers and grandmothers would have said when airing was so essential and damp clothes just caused illness. Is this just another sign of the times or is someone playing a trick?

It is hard to believe that on June 2nd 2003 it was the 50th anniversary of our Queen's Coronation. It would seem the Queens of England have stickability as Victoria reigned for 66 years, and as with our Queen during her reign there were great advances in trade, industry and science. Queen Elizabeth the first reigned for 45 years and she achieved great things for England with great strides in trade and literature. Someone told me the other day that the Royal Family are considering changing the rules of succession so that male and female are equal. Perhaps they have been looking at the records of previous Queens of England.

Some words from our Queen in 1947: 'I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great Imperial family to which we all belong.'

Marie Cove

If you require the services of a vicar please have a word with Moreen who is dealing with baptisms and Margaret weddings. Funerals can be arranged with either.

St John's Hall Ansley Common Services 10.30 a.m.

July 13 th	Trinity 4.	Family service.
July 27 th	Trinity 6	Holy Communion.

St. Laurence's Church services 10.30 a.m. & 6.30. p.m.

July 6 th	Trinity 3	a.m. All Age Worship with the Worship Team. p.m. BCP Holy Communion Rev. L. Beard.
July 13 th	Trinity 4	a.m. Holy Communion Rev. P Raine. p.m. Evensong.
July 20 th	Trinity 5	a.m. All Age Worship with the Worship Team. p.m. Holy Communion Rev. M. Vincent.
July 27 th	Trinity 6	a.m. The Lord is Here Communion Rev. R. Barnacle. p.m. Evensong Rev. P. Raine

Monday 7th at 7 p.m. The Links youth club meet. in the Village Church Hall.

Tuesday 22nd at 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer In the Village Church Hall. The Senior Citizens meeting follows, everyone is welcome to this service.

Monday 7 th & 21 st	Ansley Common Fellowship meets
Wednesday 2 nd 16 th 30 th	The Wednesday Fellowship group meet
Wednesday 9 th & 23 rd	The Prayer group meets at 10 Nuthurst Cres. at 2.p.m.
Friday 4 th	Church de cobweb help from 9.30 a.m.
Saturday 12 th & 26 th	Open Church
Thursday 17 th	PCC meeting.
Saturday 16 th	Coventry Guild ringing at Ansley 5.45 – 6.30

Thanks.

The Plant sale in May went very well, we made another record of £370 for the Village Church hall funds. At times it was so busy it was hard to keep pace with all the customers. Thank you to everyone who gave plants, helped on the day and also to those who came and supported this annual event.

From the Registers.

On June 1st the Rev. Jupe baptised Shannon Amy Manton-Curtis and Catherine Louise Farmer. We all enjoyed a lovely service and we welcome Shannon and Catherine to our church family.

10 year old Shannon said the next week that she had enjoyed the day and felt very special. That it was a new beginning and was pleased to see all her family as many live away. Catherine was as good as gold, and looked at Rev. Jupe during her baptism.

Horace Steele's funeral took place at the Church on 9th May, he was 87. After being in the navy before and during the war he lived in Ansley Common working at Ansley Colliery until it closed. As a minor he was an active union member. In the 80s Lawrence the tramp who spent several years in the wood on Nursery Hill could be seen each day at lunch time with his pram outside 133 Ansley Common waiting to be given a meal which Horace had cooked.

The funeral of Harry Smith aged 85 took place at Nuneaton Crematorium on 16th May. He had lived in Ansley Common since 1971. He had worked at Ansley Hall Colliery and then at the slab works Plough Hill Road. He was a very jolly man and was very interested in caged birds and used to show and judge British finches and canaries.

The ashes of Martha (Pat) Beasley aged 87 were laid to rest in her parents grave on 3rd June. She lived for many years in Ansley Common before moving to Ridge Lane in the 1970s. She worked for some years at the box factory at the bottom of Ansley Common.

On Tuesday 10th June, Mrs Annette Louisa Palmer was laid to rest with her husband Roy and mother-in-law 'Becky' at St. Laurence Church. Ann had lived in Birchley Heath, with her husband and 4 children for 49 years. For a number of years she worked as a precision engineer, however, she will be fondly remembered for the pleasure she brought to so many people whilst playing the piano locally and in the surrounding area.

New Room.

The work on the new room has progressed although slowly at times, but the contractor has assured us that it will be completed in time for the Flower Festival. One reason for the delay is that one of the workmen has been in hospital, we wish him well and hope he will soon be back at work. Please continue to remember this project in your prayers.

Sponsored Hymn Sing

This happened too late in June to be able to give you a report and the results this month. We will let you know in August how well we sang, and how much we raised. The funds raised for this event were for the building fund. Please remember we still have a way to go to get the full total of the cost but each pound is making inroads into the outstanding balance.

Home Made Cake Sale

This was a lovely event with £160 raised for Spurgeon Child Care. Margaret Oliver wishes to thank everyone who supported in any way this very enjoyable event.

Below is a letter received from Rev. Peter Allan, who will be licensed as Priest in charge on August 31

We are very much looking forward to joining you all in Ansley and in particular to the licensing on August 31 and to working among you in the years to come. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

As soon as a new Vicar arrives, people want to know what his plans are. Will this change? Will that alter? The honest answer is I know no more than you do. Life and growth always involves change at some time or other. but where God is leading is something we shall all need to discover together.

What I can do is to tell you about myself and my family and how God called us to Ansley.

I was born in 1952 and hence am now fifty. I find it to my surprise an excellent age - neither looking back nor forward but enjoying every precious moment to the full. At the age of five we moved to a new council estate in Swindon. It was a great place for the children, and the boys in particular, but as I discovered later it was a very lonely spot for the adults deprived of their family and friends. I still remember while I was there the news of the death of President Kennedy. It was the first time I had felt an overwhelming desire to pray.

After leaving college I did a variety of jobs including packing chocolates, where my ability to tell long jokes helped pass the time at two in the morning. I was a Junior School Teacher for two years and for three years a Residential Social Worker with ex-offenders in Islington, North London. It was there that two very important things happened in my life. I met Pauline who was then working as a Health Visitor and I received the call to ordination. In 1982 we married and a year later I was ordained Deacon in Derby Cathedral.

I served in Derby Diocese for six years before moving first to Suffolk and then to Norfolk. Thus for the past nine years I have headed a ministry team serving 6,500 people and ten parishes. We have a wide variety of people and patterns of worship in this isolated tourist area. It is probably further from a motorway than anywhere else in England.

After nine years it felt right to see where God might be calling us next. The advert in the Church Times for a quite contrasting situation appealed. The welcome we received when we visited for the interview was wonderful. So it was with pleasure and delight that I received the news that I was being offered the post as your Vicar, which I gladly accepted.

We have two sons Tom (13) who is very keen on fishing is of course coming with us, but Robin (18) is staying in Mundesley for the time being. Sadly both their Granddads have died but both their Nans soldier on. Paulines mother lives in Ipswich and mine near Leicester.

Through my ministry I have worked with very different churches in very varying parishes. People are different, methods and approaches vary but the aim is always the same - to share in words and actions the love of God that has been so wonderfully demonstrated in the life of Jesus.
May God Bless You All.

Peter.