

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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July Editorial
Enlarging the crew

It's nearly four years since I became your vicar and over a year since I became Rural Dean, People often ask me "How do you cope with all you have to do?" The simplest and truest argument is "With difficulty."

Clearly with more to do there is less time and I am sometimes very conscious how much more I could be doing if being Vicar of Ansley was my only responsibility. But there is little point in harping back to a golden age. Rather we must see in the constraints opportunities that would otherwise never happen. In short the fact that I cannot do as much has opened the way to all sorts of people taking their turn.

We are blessed -and it is truly a blessing- with very able leadership in financial and administrative matters and this I greatly appreciate.

We also have a wide variety of people gifted in leading worship. We are particularly grateful to Mandy at St. Laurence's and Dave and Marie at St. John's. But we need to support them in that task.

John Cox is playing an increasing role in the life of St. John's and we all appreciate his input and support. Thank you John.

We welcome Gwyneth Hickman to join Mandy as Reader at St. Laurence's to share in ministry at the morning and evening services. Gwyneth has been with us for about a year first as a member of our churches and then preaching and leading worship. The PCC has decided unanimously to request that she be licensed as Reader at St. Laurence's and this will probably happen at Coventry Cathedral on 15th September. Welcome Gwyneth. We hope you will be very happy with us.

Ken Steane from St. Michael's, New Arley is beginning to test his call to Ordained Local Ministry. He will undertake a selection process over about nine months then, if accepted, as we hope and pray he will start his training in September 2008 he will undertake his first year of training alongside the whole Ministry Leadership Team. When he is ordained his primary responsibility will be for St. Michael's but he will be available to assist us in Ansley as needed.

There are so many gifts and ministries in the life of the church. Whether you have a specific task or whether you are simply there to help and pray: Thank you.
My prayer is that all in leadership, lay or ordained will help you in your God given ministries.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

St. Laurence's Church - Services

Sunday 1 st	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship & Sponsored Hymn Sing
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 8 th	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 15 th	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		4.00 p.m.	Baptism
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 22 nd	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 29 th	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 1 st	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 8 th	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 11 th		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 22 nd	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 25 th		9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 29 th	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Songs of Praise

Other regular activities

These continue as normal full details on the notice boards.

From the Registers

Baptism

Katie Lydia May Jones was baptised on 20th May. A delightful occasion for her family and friends, it was at a particularly appropriate time between Ascension and Pentecost as we celebrated the victory of our ascended Lord Jesus and committed Katie to His service.

Confirmation

Gary Smith and Hazel Brownsword were confirmed by the Bishop at the deanery confirmation service held at Coton Church on Saturday 26th May. We welcome Hazel and Gary as full members of the Church and pray that God will sustain them in their Christian faith and worship.

Wedding

On Friday 25th May Carl Malkin and Elaine Cartmail were married in the presence of their family and friends. Bridesmaid Jessica aged 9 read so very well a prayer asking God to support Carl and Elaine and all the family.

Funerals

Mrs Linda Batey passed away 28th April. The funeral took place at The Heart of England Crematorium in Nuneaton. Linda had lived on the St. Lawrence Estate for over 40 years, and will be missed greatly by her daughters, family and friends.

The funeral of Alf Toon (92) of Malt House Farm Ansley took place in St. Laurence's Church on May 17th. After the service he was buried in the churchyard that he had cared for so faithfully and thus reunited with his dearly beloved wife Rose. Alf will be sadly

missed by his son John, sister Edna, by all his family and by his many friends all of whom will remember with gratitude Alf's deep generosity and unswerving loyalty.

The funeral and internment at St. Laurence of Maisie Mary Willn (85years) from Bretts Hall was a small but a very loving service. Maisie, who we cannot possibly remember without also remembering her husband Bill, her lifelong love, they were married for 63 years. The reading from St Paul's letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 13:1-13) defines real love, a love which was shared between Maisie and Bill. Together again, and so sadly missed by family and friends.

Hymn Sing

On Sunday 1st July at both the morning and evening services at St. Laurence Margaret Kimberley will be leading us in a sponsored Hymn Sing. Every family on the electoral roll will have been sent a sponsor form, and forms have been handed out in church. However if you have not had a form and would like to support this event please contact one of the wardens or Margaret Kimberley.

How it works - everyone is given the opportunity to choose their favourite hymn the numbers are put in a hat and then sung in the order they are taken out. Margaret then leads us and we sing continuously for 20 minutes the first and last verses of each hymn. This is a fun time when everyone can participate.

Time is given to collect your sponsorship which can be returned in an envelope, (there is no need to include the sponsor sheet, but we would ask that the number be placed on the envelope then we can be sure when all participants have returned their money.)

The proceeds from this event will help the general fund which has recently had a £2800 bill for rewiring work in the Church and the appropriate testing required for public buildings.

Open church

As in previous years the church will continue to be open from 2.00 to 5.00 p.m. on alternate Saturdays In July the dates are 14th & 28th There will be light refreshments available in the annexe. This gives an opportunity for a chat in the annexe or a time for quiet reflection and private prayer in our beautiful old church.

The Vicar's licence.

It was welcome news at the P.C.C. meeting held on 10th May, that following meetings and an appraisal the Bishop had confirmed the continuation of the Vicar's licence for a further five years. We thank Peter for all his hard work, look forward to continuing to working with him for the foreseeable future, and pray that God will guide us all in his ways to bring people to know and love Our Lord.

Conkers

The Ley Group Young Peoples Project is organising a first year celebration community trip to Conkers in Derbyshire. This will take place on 4th August there will be space for max 150 people (children will need to be accompanied). Full details will be circulated around the parish at the beginning of the month. This trip is organised to bring the project to people's attention.

Marie's Coffee Morning.

This year proved to be lovely and sunny and we were able to sit in the sunshine and enjoy our tea coffee and cakes in the lovely surroundings of their very colourful garden. Marie showed some of her newspaper cuttings of Ansley events from years past and her

very informative journal in which she keeps notes of when flowers and birds appear including pictures. Everyone had an enjoyable day and a total of £97.49

Cake Bake

Many thanks to all who supported the cake bake on 9th June. There was a wonderful collection of cakes for sale a large number of people must have spent a long time in a hot kitchen on a hot day working hard to produce them all. The number of people who came to the hall was disappointing, but all the cakes were sold and a total of £150 was raised for Spurgeon Child Care.

Plant Sale

As in previous years this was a very busy few days. We are very grateful to all who helped in any way. We think the reason for the reduction in the number of plants sold was due to the change in the seasons, as many told us that they had already got most of their bedding plants in their garden and some even said if they had not cleared all their pots some plants had survived the winter. Never the less this was a very enjoyable event which raised £382 for hall funds.

Air Ambulance Quiz

The quiz which was organised by Sue Ricketts in aid of the local Air Ambulance raised £115 for their funds. Thank you to all who supported this venture. If you want to know the answers please ask.

Archdeacon's Visitation

The Archdeacon has expressed his thanks for our hospitality and warm welcome to the visitation service on 8th May. Thank you to all who helped and provided for the many guests at this special service.

Village Church Hall

In the last month we have completed the work in the small room at the side of the hall and the new tables and chairs are due to arrive at the end of June. Please note details of the thanksgiving service, lunch and party on September 9th will be announced as soon as they have been finalised.

Just Wanton Vandalism

It is with much sadness that it is necessary to write again so soon of a break in to church property. On Sunday 10th it was discovered that the annexe had had a window forced and entry made into the property. The contents of some of the kitchen cupboards had been emptied onto the floor, fortunately they had not pulled out the china and nothing appears to have been taken except the large knife we use for cutting cakes. However they had scored across four of the five pine tables and slashed five of the chairs, also one of the doors has been spoilt. All this can be repaired, but at a cost, not only in money, yes the insurance will cover most of the bill, but in time and energy that has to be spent in sorting things out getting workmen in to carry out the repairs and submitting claims etc. All this and we are still sorting out the losses and work required at St. John's.

We would ask everyone to be vigilant and report anything suspicious however trivial, please remember that all church property is there for the good of all people.

It is so sad that all the hard work being done by so many is spoilt, and so much time which could be better spent on other parish work especially visiting has to be postponed to sort out the ensuing mess.

July, 2007

Recently we were watching an old film - 'King Solomon's Mines' and as you probably know, the hero was a guide for big game hunters. It is incredible to believe that we watched people killing, Lions, Tigers, even Elephants, for trophies. Now we take great pleasure in watching wildlife through camera lens and enjoy seeing animals protected in their natural habitat. In fact we are appalled by poachers who kill any animal for gain.

The cinema played a big part in our childhood, especially the Saturday matinee because as it only cost 3p. (old money), this was easily earned from running errands. We especially loved cowboy films ('Westerns' as they are known now), and inevitably we played at cowboys and Indians when we went home and out into the fields. Nobody wanted to be an Indian because they always lost, except my younger brother who thought they were great because they were so tough. We all wanted to be Roy Rogers or Gene Autrey because in our eyes the Indians were the 'baddies'. How wrong could we be? It's strange though as we all love Tonto who was the companion of the Lone Ranger and he was an Indian.

Despite lots and lots of rain, thunder and lightning during May and June, we seem to have had a record number of baby birds being fed in our garden - Thrush, Starling, Robin, Blackbird and Sparrows, and I can understand how people can be fascinated by birds. They all have different characteristics, but one thing they all seem to have in common is that they are good parents, and as well as feeding their young, they protect them. We have spent lots of money on seed, fat balls and nuts, but have come to the conclusion that many birds prefer bread.

If you go to Garden Centres, you will see that they now sell Wild Flowers. I remember when we were small we would dig deep down under the Cow Parsley for Pig Nuts, which to us were very tasty, but we would probably now find repulsive. Now Cow Parsley can be seen even at Chelsea Flower Show. We would also chew the leaves of a weed, which we called 'sweetmeat', but I don't know the real name. However, we loved our wild flowers and were very astute as from an early age we steered clear of Deadly Nightshade, and knew the difference between Dead Nettles and Stinging Nettles. Now it seems the humble weeds are garden favourites.

I see the Daisies like stars on the ground,
I see the Buttercups and Dandelions all around.
O lovely wild flowers, a joy to behold.
A glorious sight for young and old.

Marie Cove.