

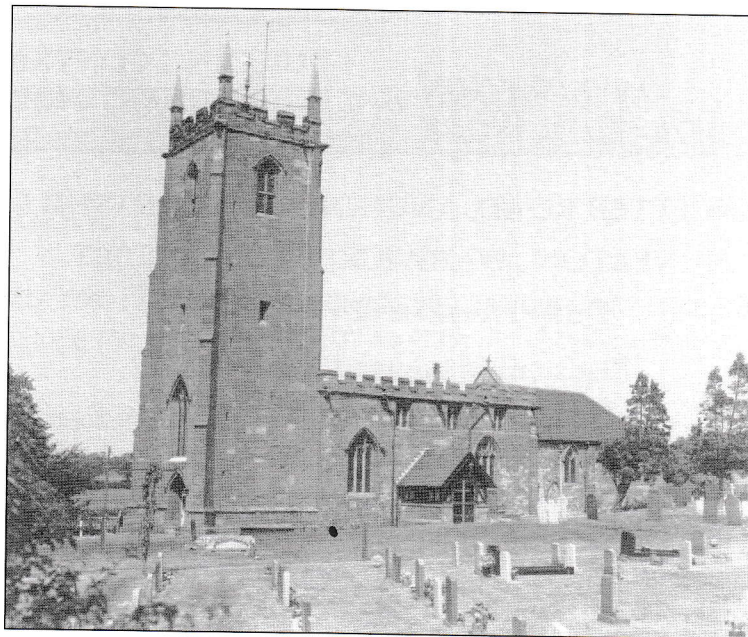
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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July ~~JUNE~~ 2008

Price 25p



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I'm back.

I write this before I start my sabbatical.

You are reading it nearly four months later!

It is very difficult to know what to say!

Except a great BIG THANK YOU to you all for supporting me on my sabbatical and for doing all the extra work you have done in my absence.

So all is back to normal?

In one way Yes. I'll be with you serving you as your Vicar once again and if you telephone me (024 76399070) it will be my voice you'll hear.

But simply back to normal?

I hope not. May we all have learnt through these three months and have a clearer understanding of God's leading than we had four months ago.

But just for once this is not the time to look but simply to say,

THANK YOU,

Your friend and vicar,

Peter

St. Laurence's Church - Services

Sunday 6th	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service in Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 13th	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Holy Baptism
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 20th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 27th	Trinity 10	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Wednesday 2nd		9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 6th	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 13th	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 16th		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 20th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 27th	Trinity 10	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards

From the Registers

Baptism

Charlotte Angela Vida Clark was baptised very sincerely during the morning service on 25th May. Supported by her family we pray that she will grow in faith all her days.

Wedding

On Saturday 7th June Gemma Louise Laye married Martyn Andrew Mills at a lovely family service. The bride entered to "The Prayer" a beautiful solo sang by Louise Claire who also sang at the signing of the registers. We wish them every happiness for their future lives together.

Interment of Ashes

The Ashes of Ada Anne Guild aged 86 were buried in the family grave on 25th May

Open Church

The Church will be open 12th, and 26th July from 2 -5 p.m.;
Light refreshments will be available in the Annexe.

Hall Hire.

Every one is being faced with higher energy costs and the church buildings are no exception. The P.C.C. has made the decision that from the 1st January 2009 the hire of the two halls and the annexe will have to increase. The new rates will be £5 for church and community groups e.g. Youth clubs, senior citizens and Sure Start etc. a rise of 50p per hour and £10 per hour for commercial and private hire an increase of £1. These rates continue to be very competitive with other community buildings in the

area. If you wish to hire any of the buildings please do contact the number on the respective notice boards

Fabric.

If you have been into church recently you will have noticed bits of plaster have been removed, this is to allow the moisture that is within the walls to dry out more quickly. The next part of the project will be to repair the small pinnacle at the North East corner of the nave as one of the stones at its base has cracked and causing water to penetrate. Also in the not too distant future most of the pews on the South side will have to be taken away from the wall to ensure the wall behind is dry and any dry or wet rot is not left to create further problems in the future.

Once all the walls are fully dry the remainder of the damaged plaster, and there are bits all round the church especially in the North Aisle, will be removed and then the new plaster applied. You should be aware that the plaster to be used will be lime mortar which dries very slowly, but will be the best for the stone work and the church in the long term.

Once the plaster is dry then decorating will take place.

Before we can do any work we have to get permission from the diocese and then ensure we have the funds to pay.

The cost of all this is not yet known, and while some bits will be covered by our insurers we will still have a considerable bill to pay. At the present time we do not know if we have sufficient funds in our Fabric fund to pay all these bills, it may be some time before we will be able to decorate.

We will always be grateful for any contributions to the fabric fund at any time.

St John's B.B.Q.

On Saturday 5th July (Independence Day) and a good theme for a good old fashion BBQ. Lots to eat, games and just a good old get together for all the family. Please bring your own food to cook on the BBQ (Help with cooking will be on hand) tea, coffee and squash to drink will be available, Weather permitting outside at the front of the hall. Starting at 6 p.m. with the games, the fun will move inside latter for a dance. The events at Ansley Common are always good fun and proceeds will be for the benefit of the hall.

Please continue to remember the project to improve the hall in your prayers, there has been a lot of planning and preparation put into action, but until the funding is in place we cannot proceed.

St. John's Quiz night

This was held on Friday 30th May those who attended had a great time and as they worked through the questions so quickly the participants were able to have a game of cards to finish. The proceeds amounted to £28 which is in aid of Hall refurbishment.

Plant Sale

Our plant sale delayed by two weeks because of the cold weather was different to previous years in that we are normally rushed off our feet for the first few hours then things ease off. However this year saw a steady flow through out the sale we had a lot of things left on the Friday for the Saturday and it was not necessary to restock. By the end of the event everything that was left was taken to church and by the end of the

Sunday all but a few things had gone and by the next weekend there was nothing left. This happy occasion, when working with the Village Allotment Association raised £383 for the hall funds.

Thank you to all who helped with this event there is a lot of preparation and of course with such an event a lot of cleaning at the end.

Marie and Dave's Coffee Morning

The morning of June 11th started with rain and drizzle, which was such a disappointment. However by 10 a.m. the rain had stopped and by 11 it was sunshine. It was the day of the coffee morning at Dave and Marie's. With lovely spread of cakes and scones and plenty of tea and coffee the many visitors had a lovely morning sitting and talking in the sunshine. The garden was a picture and all who wanted to could have a wander down the path. There was a bring and buy and a raffle with two hanging baskets as prizes a total of £80 was raised and will be sent to the Acorn Children's Hospice. Everyone had a lovely time thank you Dave & Marie.

Flower Festival

An advance notice:- our 44th Flower Festival will open on Friday 22nd and close on Monday 25th August. This is the earliest it can be as we have always followed the Bank Holiday Weekend which this year is the 25th. Please make a note in your diary.

The Vicar's Sabbatical

Now that the Vicar has returned from his sabbatical, he will be dealing with all matters regarding baptism, weddings and funerals, as before. We thank Rev. Barry Jacques for standing in and helping the parish over the last three months, and welcome Peter back.

July, 2008

Don't you love this time of year when we awaken to bird song and it is light so early. Then we have long days as it doesn't get dark until about 9.30 p.m. We are in touch with our neighbours and friends, after the dark winter days have seemed to imprison us in our homes. The gardens are a joy to behold and everything adds to the joy of being alive. It makes you wish summer could just go on and on.

If we are to believe it, fairy stories are no longer popular but comic stories are in, especially if parents can do silly voices and sounds. That is unbelievable, apart from children not getting too excited and animated at bed time, let us hope this does not hale the demise of the traditional stories like 'The 3 pigs', 'Snow White' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. However, when they were very small my children preferred nursery rhymes and songs, which in my case, not only sent the children to sleep but me also.

Did you know, every sport for the 2008 Olympics has it's own specially designed footwear. Can you imagine the amount of luggage? What a

difference from the old running shoes and plimsolls before trainers were thought of, but as a person who loves shoes, and has never owned a pair of trainers, perhaps I am biased. We were even taught as children that 'pumps' were only for P.T. at school or tennis, and were bad for your feet. We wore sandals to play in during the summer but my most hated footwear were Wellingtons, which we only wore in snow or very heavy rain but they left sore red marks on my legs and didn't do my chilblains much good either.

Our daughter asked me the other day why we had a snail in our wheelie bin. Personally I think that was the best place for him, although we hadn't put it there, because over the past few years we haven't seen many slugs, but have been overrun with snails. They come in all sizes and shapes and in some cases are quite attractive colours, but despite this, they are definitely unwanted pests.

What is an 'autobiography'? Well, I always thought it was the story of someone's life written by that person - usually someone famous. I would have thought, however, that the person needed to live a reasonable time to write a life story. This is not so today, as some people are only in their early 20's, and I would ask 'what life?' Then to puzzle us even further, they write another autobiography a few years later.

When my brother in law kept bees I loved to help getting the honey from the honeycomb and putting it in jars, and if anyone saw a swarm of bees they would fetch him, but I wonder if he knew the following saying?

A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay.
A swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon.
A swarm of bees in July is not worth a fly.

Marie Cove.

Prayer Requests

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