

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1005

JULY 2009

Price 25p



Vicar:

REV. PETER ALLAN

Tel: 024 7639 9070

Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL
MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 01827 874520
Tel: 024 7638 1833

St. Johns Leaders

DAVID & MARIE COVE

Tel: 024 7639 4114

Lay Reader:

MANDY WATTS
GWYNETH HICKMAN

Tel: 024 7639 7654
Tel: 024 7639 8901

www.ansleychurch.org

Print Centre 0800 389 4089

How long have you been a Vicar ?

Quite frequently I am asked that question. So what's the answer?

It's just under twenty years since I moved to Suffolk to become a Vicar, twenty six years since I was ordained Deacon in Derby Cathedral.

But the anniversary most clergy celebrities the date they were ordained priest and received that enormous privilege of being able to preside at the Holy Communion. That occurred 25 years ago on July 1st 1984.

So what's changed in the past 25 years?

Leaving aside the increased workload (there are far fewer full-time clergy now than there were then) and the changes in technology (no answer hones, no computers!) the main changes in ministry are best described by reflecting on the mission statement of Coventry Diocese.

Worshipping God

25 years ago worship for us was what you did in the church building on a Sunday (primarily on the Sunday morning). We didn't seriously consider alternative times, venues or target groups e.g. youth looking back there were three opportunities for new services of worship outside the parish church but they were either never considered or slipped through our fingers.

Creating Disciples.

During my first job (as curate at St. Mary's Chaddesden in Derby) many came to a most wonderful faith in Christ some through the great rallies of Mission England led by Billy Graham. Sharing the faith is just as vital today but the method is different. A single sermon however well delivered is not enough. Instead we commend courses such as ALPHA which we are delighted to put on in our churches.

Transforming Community

In my first church there was no commitment to work with, let alone transform, the communities we served. Every time I have moved my commitment to the wider community has increased. God is calling His Church to serve people of all faiths and none. There are ways we can help our communities that couldn't even be contemplated twenty five years ago.

So is the Church of England in a better or a worse state than it was when I was ordained priest twenty five years ago? I find that a very difficult question to answer. There are fewer clergy and, nationally, lower church attendances, but church is a much more exciting place to be. We must never miss a chance to provide new opportunities to worship God where young and old can find a ready welcome and a taste of God's love.

Of course I have travelled around. For those of you who have had the joy of worshipping for many years at the same church for 25 years reflect back. How have things changed? I am sure there are losses that sadden you but look to the future with joy. We live in exciting times!

And if you are only just beginning enjoy the journey! There is much to celebrate.

Peter

July, St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 5 th	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service in Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 19 th	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 th	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Please note All Services will be held at the centre St. John's Close until the work on the hall has been completed

Sunday 5 th	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 12 th	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 26 th	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards. No activities will be taking place in St. John's Hall until the refurbishment is complete.

From the Registers

Baptisms

On the 26th April at the special 4 p.m. service, Harley James Jackson was baptised at a lovely family gathering.

It was at the Communion service on the evening of Sunday 4th June that Micheala Lawson was baptised. This adult baptism was in preparation for her confirmation the next week.

On Sunday 14th at the morning Communion Service Ben Webb was baptised. He was so good (as were all the young children) and after his baptism went to sleep in his push chair.

Confirmation

It was at a wonderfully sincere Deanery service in Wolvey church that, Micheala Lawson, Val & Terry Askew were Confirmed by Bishop David. The Bishop chose the title of 'Home and away' for his talk and asked everyone to think of the Church on earth as a home in this life and Heaven as their eternal home in the life to come. Unfortunately Sarah Ralph's little son was taken ill and she was unable to attend.

Weddings

It was a lovely day for the marriage of Kyrone Dodd and Sarah Tatum on Saturday 23rd May. Three guests read a short article on the lives of Kyrone and Sarah, and while the registers were being signed Sarah's Mother Pat sang Puccini's 'O mio babbino caro' (O my beloved father) and 'Summer time' from 'Porgy and Bess'. Kyrone's mother had arranged some of the flowers.

Funerals

The funeral service of Kate Whitacre took place at the Heart of England Crematorium on Tuesday 26 May. Kate lived life to the full and nothing would get in the way - whether it be losing her job because she left work early to attend the Atherstone Shrove Tuesday football or, in her later years, the hardship of failing health. Her faith became a real source of strength to her, especially after the death of her husband. Her dogged commitment and her great fund of funny stories will be sadly missed by her many friends at St. John's. Truly an inspiration to us all!

The funeral service of Marlene Ellis took place at the Heart of England Crematorium on Tuesday 9 June. Full of life and laughter Marlene brought love and joy to her husband George, to her family and her many friends throughout her life. Together they loved Ansley Common and were delighted to return here in their final years. We give thanks for the lady who made an impact wherever she went and will be remembered with great affection by all who knew her

Open Church

Following the decision to having the church open all day on the Saturday before Father's Day we have changed the dates for the afternoon open churches to every and the remaining dates for this year will be July 11th and 1st August. The church will obviously be open for the Flower Festival over the bank holiday weekend. Also, as in past years it will also be open on Saturday 10th October from 1.00 - 4.00 p.m. when the church will be decorated for Harvest.

Dave & Marie's Coffee Morning

As mentioned Marie's coffee morning is on 2nd July from 10.00 a.m. to noon. At this annual event everyone can enjoy their garden which is packed with many different flowers and shrubs. There will be a 'Bring and Buy' tea, coffee and cakes and also a raffle. This is a lovely time to come and chat and meet with friends in a lovely environment.

St. John's Church Hall

It was with great pleasure that the hall committee received a further grant this time from the Garfield Western Foundation for £3,000. This amount brings the overall total of grants received for this project to £162,628 and with the £10,000 from the St. John's Land Account and the fund raising by the people of Ansley Common this project will provide a venue to be proud of for all hall users in the years to come.

What a difference a few months makes, no one would fail to see the differences being made to the hall even the workmen have commented on what a wonderful asset this will be to the community of Ansley Common. At the time of writing the painting inside is being done, the plumbing and flooring fitted in the new toilets and the outside being worked on. In all, the project is on target for completion by 20th July and with very few problems. One thing that has come to light is the round window in the apex at the front of the hall needs to be replaced, this will add a further £600 to the bill. If possible it is hoped that a fence can be put at the rear of the hall as now the old wash house has gone there is no complete boundary at the back. Lets hope and pray that the funding for these items will be found. It will be wonderful to be able to complete all the little items at the same time. Then on 27th September we can all truly say thank you to all concerned for a job well done and Thank God for his goodness to us.

Last month it was stated that there would be a Tea Afternoon in June. To avoid a clash with an event at Nursery Hill School, the Tea Afternoon will take place on Saturday 4th June at 2.00p.m. at the home of Joy Pethick, 6 Limes Coppice (the house on the right next to the hall when facing the hall). Do come and support this event and as mentioned last month weather permitting you will be sitting outside enjoying the sunshine, and enjoy a good chat as well as tea and cake. As also mentioned last month this event is to pay for the utility bills for the hall which continue to need to be paid.

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

The total paid into our Fabric Fund in May was £102.50 increasing the total to £314.30 all from the small change collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed. The jars will be in Church for the rest of the year

Visitation

The church wardens wish to thank everyone for their continued support and prayers to enable them to carry out their work to the best of their ability. There are many aspects to the life of the church which range from activities that require planning and preparation to the every day requirements of health and safety legislation, which, without the help and support of many would make the tasks much more difficult.

At the Cathedral the Bishop commented that he had now completed his visit to each deanery where he had met with the wardens at informal gatherings and listened to their many concerns and joys. He has been thinking about the different aspects of the requirements of the parishes and is now bringing forward some proposals to be considered. However the Bishop concluded that the first seven months in the Diocese have given him a renewed conviction in the role of prayer as a means by which God implements His will.

Ride and Stride

The Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust will be holding their annual Ride and Stride event to raise funds for churches in the area on 12th September. This is a sponsored walk or cycle to visit as many churches as possible, raising funds for the trust and 50% going to your own church. This advanced notice is for any one interested to obtain further information form M. Antill and start getting sponsors.

Stressful Times Advice from the Arthur Rank Centre

Worried? Troubled? Stressed?

Rural Stress Helpline 0845 094 8286

Email: ruralstresshelpline@rase.org.uk

www.ruralstresshelpline.co.uk

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

July, 2009

Have you noticed that we never quite use all of a bar of soap - there is always a piece left over which if we tried to use sometimes breaks up. I remember my Auntie, who was very thrifty, in fact you could call her a skinflint, had a perforated square container into which she put all her left over pieces of soap, and then it could be closed. She would shake the container into the water and so re-use all her left over pieces of soap. We also had a way of using left over pieces of soap, when we were making items for Church fetes etc. We would cut up pieces of foam into shapes like fish or flowers, put the soap pieces inside and sew the two pieces of foam together, so making a sort of soapy sponge.

If you were asked when the very first supermarket trolley appeared in a Store, when would you say. I certainly wouldn't have thought before the 50's or even 60's, but the first supermarket trolley appeared in a store in Oklahoma in 1937. What a surprise, but when I was shopping recently I noticed that most shoppers have taken a step back in time. Our mothers always took shopping bags or baskets, and now we are doing exactly the same as we discard the carrier bag.

I was reading from an old Church Magazine dated January 1945 and the Church Army Captain in Ansley Common was thanking everyone for the celebrations over Christmas. Among these was a party given by mothers for 50 children who all received a present from Father Christmas. He also thanked everyone for raising £50 for the Forces Fund. What a wonderful achievement for Ansley Common, when you think of the hardship of the war years, and believe me feeding 50 children and raising £50 would have been a mammoth task.

I was watching a man on T.V. who had written a book on 'Clouds' and he had sold thousands of copies and was writing another one, and as he showed some sorts of clouds it was fascinating, and I now find myself looking at the sky to see if I too can spot any of the unusual ones. I reminded me that I had written a poem about clouds some time ago and share it with you now:

I watch the clouds in wonderment like huge banks of snow heaven-sent.
White and fluffy they float on by, brightening up a greying sky.

The clouds go swiftly across the sky, fleeting and soon lost to the eye
The clouds are wondrous, fluffy and clean, the whitest white you have ever seen.

If only those clouds would long stay., but they are gone long before the end of day.
Let's find the time the clouds to admire; their beauty, their whiteness, set our senses afire.

Marie Cove.