

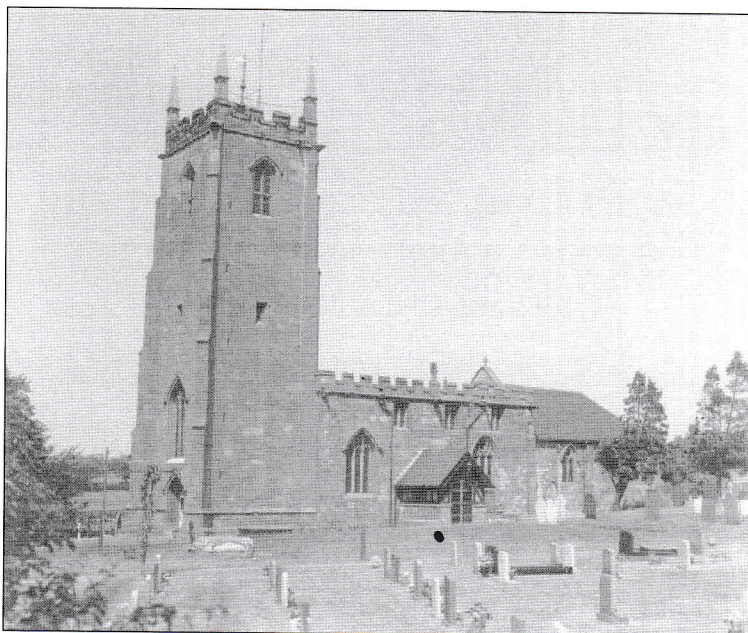
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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July Editorial

As I write this the sun is shining. Hopefully we are in for a Barbeque Summer!
Whatever the weather let us always look for reasons to celebrate.

In the midst of our busy lives may we take time to focus on what is absolutely vital and utterly good – the creative love of God the Father, the restoring love of Jesus and the energising love of the Holy Spirit.

As a Church we are seeking to share that love:

- In deepening our pray life.
- In care for each other especially for those prevented by illness from sharing in our worship.
- In extending our welcome to all especially to families and children.
- In widening our social life to include all parishioners.

Over the next year we shall be considering how to do this and will value you input.

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From June to October we celebrated “Sunday’s after Trinity”. It all sounds boring and the word Trinity is difficult to understand. I suppose that’s like so many things in life difficult to understand – harder to explain. All I can say is that churches truly caught up in the worship of the Trinity, churches which give equal honour to Father, Son and Holy Spirit, churches united truly in and by the love of God – these are the churches that grow in numbers and in the knowledge and love of God. May our four fold aim help us at St. Laurence and St. John to be truly churches of God the Holy Trinity.

Whatever the weather, enjoy the summer.

Your friend and Vicar,
Peter

July, St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 4 th	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 th	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18 th	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 4 th	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
Sunday 11 th	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 th	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	4 O' Clock Club
Sunday 25 th	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Village Church Hall

Sunday 6 th	Trinity 5	4.00 p.m.	4 O' Clock Club
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Discussing the parables Monday 5th - 7.30 p.m. 46 Nuthurst Crescent
Fellowship Group - Tuesday 6th 7.00 p.m. St John's Church Hall

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

From the Registers

Wedding

Nicky Barsby married Kirsty Mercer on Friday 28th May and Richard Mills married Heidi Ridgeway on Friday 4th June. The sun shone for both couples and we pray that they will both be happy together.

Blessing of marriage

On Sunday 23rd May during the morning service there was a short time of blessing for the marriage of Mary & Bob Ewing.

Renewal of vows

Samantha and John Collins renewed their wedding vows on 12th June after 10 years of marriage with their family and friends present and wishing them well for the future.

Funerals

The Funeral of Margaret Silver took place on May 24th followed by interment in the churchyard. We shall all miss Margaret so much – her loving smile, her joyful good humour, her wisdom and the beauty of her flower arranging. Few times have many of us seen both strength and gentleness and skill and humility blended so well in one person. She will be greatly missed by Simon and Andrew and all her family.

Open Church

The church will be open from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday 17th July. There will be light refreshments in the annexe. Please do feel free to come and have a quiet time in our lovely church or a chat in the lovely surroundings.

Prize Bingo

The next of the popular prize bingo sessions at St. John's Church Hall is on Monday 5th July. Eyes down will be 7 p.m. As usual there will be an interval with a good cuppa and a raffle. Proceeds from this event are for the hall funds.

The prizes are always good and great fun is had by all. Do come and join in you will be most welcome.

Joy's Tea & Cake

On Saturday 17th July Joy Pethick will be holding her second tea and cake afternoon at her home 6 Limes Coppice (next door to St. John's) There will be a bring and buy stall and as to be expected plenty of tea and cake. It is always good to get together and have a good chat and share interests. Hopefully again this year everyone will be able to sit outside in the sunshine and this time to see the refurbished hall. The proceeds will be divided equally between St. John's Church Hall and the local Air Ambulance.

Marie's Coffee Morning

As usual it was a wonderful sunny day for Marie's Coffee Morning on 16th June. There was plenty of lovely cakes to eat and tea and coffee to refresh us. There were people coming all through the morning able to enjoy looking at their lovely garden especially the clematis in full flower. It was unfortunate that Dave was ill and unable to join us. With the bring and buy the raffle and sale of some of Dave's plants the whole event raised £130. No one more delighted than Marie about the amount. This has been sent to Child Line as had been agreed, but not as had been put in last month's magazine. Please accept apologies for any confusion.

Gift Aid

Just a belated word of thanks to everyone who gives so generously towards the upkeep of St. Laurence's, whether this be on a regular, or occasional basis in the form of donations, cash at services, Free Will Offering envelopes, Gift Aided planned giving or for our on-going "Small Change Collection". Such generosity proves to be a bonus when another bill arrives! Another bonus received this month has been the last amount of Tax Rebate due on the Gift Aided donations given during the 2009-2010 Tax Year. This brought the final amount received on the total donations-(given by the 43 contributors in varying amounts) – to £2798.12, which has been added to the following accounts, as specified by the donors.

General Fund £3616.50

Churchyard Fund £55.02

Fabric Fund £78.24

St. John's Ansley Common £48.36

Thanks are due to many people.

The past decade has had over £30,000 claimed as a result of Gift Aid giving, which means it is a very profitable way of helping the church. At present 25% of the amount given to church may be claimed as an extra "bonus" in Tax, provided you are a tax payer. If you want any information please see the Church Wardens or Treasurer for more details.

A Gift Aid pledge is not a commitment. Just give if and when you can!

Midsummer Madness

Full report next month.

Plant Sale

What an amazing time we all had, the weather was a total change from last year, with lovely hot sunshine and the plants just seemed to fly off the stalls. There was a good selection of our usual bedding plants and trailers. However because there was absolutely nothing left not even a single poor lonely plant the sale closed early on the Saturday. By 12 noon everything had been cleaned and put away and everyone had gone home. It will be necessary for us to look at how many plants we order for next year as it was a shame that some people were not able to buy all they needed, but it is not easy to get it just right. A total of £364 was raised for hall funds.

St. John's Church Hall

It is pleasing to announce that the final payment for the work on the hall has been made following the completion of all the snagging items (those little items that come to light after the hall has started to be used again.

Now it is our aim to raise enough money to provide a new notice board at the front of the hall and a hot drinks water heater in the kitchen. We will also have to ensure that there is a little in the kitty to pay all the bills! (The insurance for the hall for this year is £669.43)

Visitation

Probably by 'Devine intervention' the wardens and readers from our parish managed to have a seat very near the front. The Bishop spoke about "On the Way" and it was so very encouraging that many of the points he raised were reflected in the four issues that we, as a PCC, have seen as our main issues to be addressed in Ansley. These were identified more fully in the vicar's editorial for June, but briefly they are 1 Deepening our spiritual life. 2 Widening our welcome. 3 Strengthening our Pastoral Care, 4 Celebrating together. Please remember these issues in your prayers and if you have any thoughts please make them known.

Donation

The PCC gratefully acknowledge a very generous donation of £1,000 to fabric fund in May.

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

The total paid into our Fabric Fund in May was £56.00, bringing the total to £133.00 so far this year all from the small change collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

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 2010

Isn't it strange how a very small thing can make you really happy. We were thrilled when we saw the first Butterfly this year in our garden which was an Orange Tip, but more amazing was when I was looking out of the back window and saw a strange bird on one of the feeders. Then I realized it was a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. It was a really beautiful bird and a first for our garden, and it made my heart sing to see it, if only once.

I sometimes wonder at the daft ideas for improving your health. The latest is those who brush their teeth twice a day stand a better chance of not having heart problems. What will they think of next? By this yardstick if you brush your teeth after every meal and before you go to bed, then you will certainly be very, very healthy.

At last while reading the old magazines I recognise some of the names, especially in Baptisms. Also in the 1950's the magazine starts to look more like today's. There is a photograph of the Church on the front cover along with the names of Vicar, Churchwardens and Leader up St. John's, but there the similarity ends. The Church events at this time were very numerous, as there were many different groups associated with the church. This means that there were so many, many children in Sunday School and also adults at the Sunday Services. Also there is a serial which, of course, has a religious theme, but I can't seem to come to grips with that. Perhaps I didn't start reading from the beginning.

As we have been watching the World Cup – I am an avid fan of football, I thought it would be amusing to write down some of the strange remarks made by the commentators, e.g. 'the ball is round'. Do they know it is football where the balls are round? Then one person said 'He knows where the goal is'. How very surprising! Then the most amusing is 'He is really at home in this game, he could play in his bedroom slippers'. However, have you noticed that everyone watching or commentating knows how to play better than the professionals, and this doesn't just apply to football, as we all know the answers to quiz programmes better than the contestants – I don't think so!

It was lovely to sit in the garden and chat to friends when we had a Coffee Morning in June. We had lots of people there and raised money for Child Line, and it seemed just like an event of years ago and I wished, at the time, we could have more events just like that where we sit and enjoy the company of others and just enjoy the garden and the good weather, and of course coffee and cake.

July is the month that children await, when books are locked away and closed the school gate.

The holidays are soon here, six weeks long; these days to children certainly belong.

July days are long with balmy nights. The trees, shrubs and flowers make wondrous sights.

The month of July leaves memories galore. Perhaps next month will bring more and more.

Marie Cove.