

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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No: 1025

JULY 2011

Price 25p

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## **Bishop John Requests the Pleasure of Your Company.**

In 2009 Rt. Rev. Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry, officially opened the newly refurbished St. John's Hall, Ansley Common and the newly completed, Arley and St. Michael's Community Centre. It was a great joy to have him and he told me how much he had appreciated both visits.

But with the exception of a very brief visit nearly six years ago, we have not had a visit from Rt. Rev. John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick. He has particularly asked to come to Arley and Ansley and he will be visiting on two occasions.

The first will be a time for him to meet us, to listen and to learn. On Wednesday September 7 he will be visiting Arley Community Café from 10- 11.45am and visit either Ansley Village Church Hall or St. John's Hall from 12.15pm to 2pm for a light lunch together. (We'll let you know you know the venue in the August magazine.)

The second visit will be a chance for Bishop John to share with us. He will preach and preside at a united benefice service of Holy Communion at 10.30am on Sunday November 6. This will be at St. Wilfrid's, Arley. To enable everyone to share in the celebration, there will not be a service that morning at St. Laurence's, St. Michael's or St. John's.

This is a wonderful opportunity for both our parishes. Our Bishops are a vital part of our lives as members of the Church of England so please put these dates in your diary now and make every effort to attend on both occasions.

Everyone is most welcome.

In the meantime enjoy the summer,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

### July St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Trinity 2	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

### St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Trinity 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Songs of Praise

### Discussion Groups

Discussing the parables – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

'The year through the Bible' Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 p.m. 128 Birmingham Road.

The church will be open on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 10.00 a.m. – 1.00p.m. for private prayer or quiet contemplation and light refreshments will be available in the annexe

### Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

### From the Registers

#### **We Welcomed in Baptism**

On 22 May Olivia Grace Coton of Birmingham Road Ansley

On 19 June Sophie Anita Jasmine Ryan of Birmingham Road Ansley

#### **Marriage**

On 18 June we celebrated the wedding of Thomas (Tom) Evans and Rebecca (Becky) Glover of Birchley Heath

#### **We Remembered with Thanksgiving**

On 8 June we held the funeral of Leonard Steggles which was followed by burial in the churchyard. Always known as Len, he came to the Midlands as a Bevin Boy to assist miners play their crucial part in World War Two. After the war he stayed and settled in Birchley Heath with his dear wife, Nora, and made it his home. A loyal, hard working and deeply unselfish man he will be deeply missed, especially by the many members of his extended family and the close friends to whom he gave so much.

### Building Work

Hopefully, soon after you read this, the building work will have commenced we would ask that if you visit the church or churchyard particularly while this work is being carried out, that you



check everything is in order. The builders will also be confident that we are doing our best to ensure that all their hard work will not be damaged by those with ulterior motives.

### St. John's Events

The next prize bingo session will be on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July, eyes down at 7 p.m., £50 of the proceeds will be for Water Aid. The May session raised £113 for hall funds. These events are always good fun and prove a great asset to the community of Ansley Common. There are always good prizes for all winners and there is a cuppa during the interval. We are always grateful to those who do the work for these sessions and ensure that everything is ready.

### Marie's Coffee Morning

The weather was kind and most of the time the very many visitors were able to sit outside and enjoy the garden that Dave and Marie spend a lot of time tending. Marie lost count of the number of cups of tea and coffee and they had to keep finding more chairs. There was plenty of cake to eat and the items on the stall did not stay there for long, but with people coming and going it was constantly topped up. It was a most enjoyable event and a total of £150 was raised for Child Line.

Thank you to all who supported and to Dave and Marie for organising this event.

### Archdeacon's Visitation

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June the two churchwardens Moreen Freestone and Margaret Antill took their oath of office for the next twelve months in a packed church at St. Giles Exhall. In his address the Arch Deacon talked about the Diocesan aims which are Worshipping God: Making New Disciples: Transforming Communities. These three aims are so like the ones our PCC agreed upon several years ago which are reinforced by our own parish prayer. It is clear that God is asking that these aims continue to be the priority of our parish. Please help us all to strive to bring these aims to fruition and remember them in your prayers as we seek our way forward.

### Midsummer Madness

This was such a happy event that was enjoyed by all who attended. It was a pity there were not more people there, however with the generosity of those who gave money to sponsor the event it ended in a surplus of £104.50 for church funds. Very many thanks to all who helped with this event especially those who cooked and prepared the food. Because not all the food was eaten on the night it was possible to provide lunch in the annexe for those who wished to stay after the morning service.

This whole event was an excellent social time together for those who came.

### Thank you

It is very much appreciated that donations continue to be received for the Churchyard Fund under our "sponsor a cut". All donations to the church of what ever the amount are very much appreciated.

If you have any knowledge of an unmarked envelope containing £50 in cash, found in the vestry at church, please contact the wardens.

### Village Church Hall

At the time of writing the work at the Church Hall is continuing apace and the improvements can already be seen. It has been unfortunate that it has been necessary to close the hall for longer

that originally anticipated because of the need to have some damp proofing work carried out, but work that will be of benefit for the long term of the hall. Once the hall has been spring cleaned it will be a credit to all. The PCC are grateful to the Coal Field's Regeneration Trust for the grant of £4,500 towards this work.

#### In Search of Medieval Ansley.

At the time of writing most places for this event have been booked and a further event is planned for early September, if you are interested please contact Margaret Antill 01827 874520

#### Flower Festival

Our 47<sup>th</sup> annual Flower Festival will be over the August Bank Holiday weekend please put this in your diary and invite others to come and see. This year the theme is "The Bible" in recognition of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James version.

If anyone wishes to assist with this major event please do have a word with Margaret Antill 01827 874520. There are many tasks to be completed and all help is much appreciated, even if it is just making a cuppa to help the others.

#### Results

The Plant Sale in the village church hall, was a very happy time and again there was very little left after the Saturday, and within the next few days all plants had been sold. The weather was favourable and the coming of the rain on the Monday of the holiday week would have given all the plants a refreshing drink. A total of £495.76 was raised for the hall funds. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported this annual event. Let's hope that all the plants establish well and ensure beautiful gardens this summer.

The Sponsored Hymn Sing at church on 29<sup>th</sup> May was enjoyed by all who stayed, there were 28 hymns sung after the Morning and 27 after the Evening services. These much loved favourite hymns, all chosen by people who had sponsored the event will all be sung in full over the next few months at the respective services. A total of £691 has been raised to help to provide increased security at the church. Thank you to everyone who supported this event. It is interesting that since 1988 we have held 7 sponsored hymn sings and the total raised by this method is £5293.07

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

It has been decided to continue with this small change collection and anyone who would like a collecting tin please ask and one can be organised. The total paid into our Fabric Fund in February was £10 bringing the total to £86 so far this year all from the small change collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

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#### 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.

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Please pray for .....who is .....



July, 2011

A few weeks ago C.W.R. Radio were discussing High Street Shopping and how Supermarkets have changed this. Nuneaton was a busy little town when I was young, and there wasn't anything you couldn't buy from tiny buttons to garden tools, butchers, bakers, crockery stalls, greengrocery, chemist, clothes shops, stationery, haberdashers, Woolworths, M & S, J.C. Smiths (now Debenhams), which had a terrific biscuit counter and a restaurant which had a waitress service – you name it you could buy it. I am old enough to remember the 'old' Nuneaton when shopping was an experience, not a chore, and especially on Livestock Market Day, which was midweek and we loved to look at the animals but especially we loved the chicks and goslings. So I can say High Street shopping is not what it used to be, but full of happy memories.

Our younger grandchildren and great grandchild love nothing better than going on a 'bug hunt' and our garden is the perfect place for this. They love anything creepy crawly, so I was happy to know there is a nationwide bug hunt to find out how urban life has affected these creatures.

As a book lover I was horrified to know that one child in three doesn't own a book and one in ten can't read properly when they leave Primary School. Through the years, starting with my first book at Infant School, I have amassed stacks of books, but although my husband thinks it makes the living room look messy, I think that even if you have hundreds of books and these are put away out of sight this doesn't encourage children to look at them, and anyway they are not actually lying about but are in book shelves. I can remember when a little girl up the road asked if I had a book about Mother Teresa, which naturally I had, and when she came round she lay on the rug in front of our coal fire, and she was so happy, not only with the book but with the coal fire as she hadn't seen one before.

No sooner had we enjoyed the Royal Wedding Street Party, than we are thinking about the Queen's Diamond Jubilee – June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012 being the actual date. What an achievement and what a job well done – 60 years as Queen and during those years her Majesty has given us many happy memories and represented our country so perfectly, along of course with Prince Phillip, whom I am sure has been a tower of strength. So already plans are being made for the celebrations nationally and we can all look forward to these.

We all sometimes have a little grumble about the weather. Recently it has not been over too much rain but rather the lack of it, especially in the East of England where the fields look like deserts. However, recently we have had some heavy showers and so perhaps these will be enough. June is sometimes referred to as 'flaming' but it is very rarely warm and sunny, and believe it or not the only time snow stopped play in a Country cricket match was in June 1975 in Buxton (Derbyshire versus Lancashire), So perhaps the weather this year isn't so bad after all!

Marie Cove.