

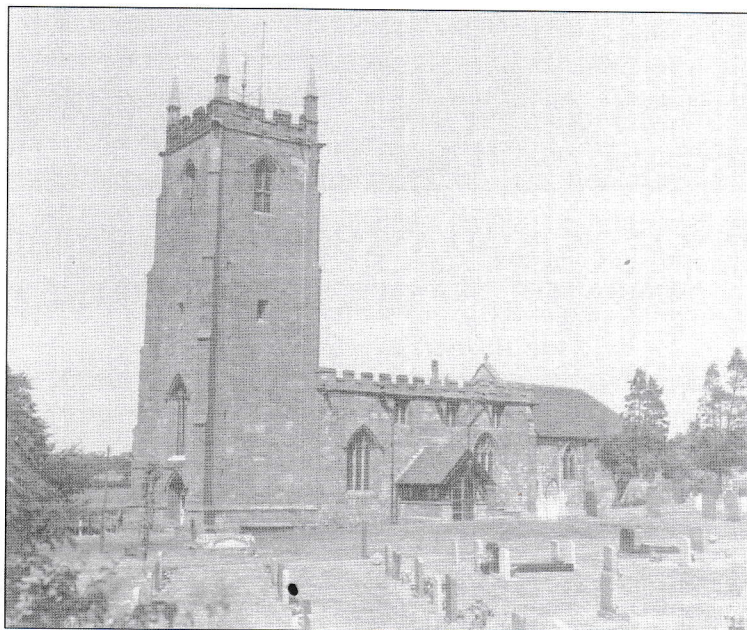
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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It's not only the famous ones

In my last editorial I mentioned the many celebrations of the year: The fiftieth anniversary of the consecration of Coventry Cathedral, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. Truly a year for celebration! But (my apologies) I forgot to mention it was also Margaret Antill's 60th birthday. It seems strange to put these in the same sentence. But for us Margaret is immensely important. We are hugely grateful for all she does and has done for us - for her skills at coping with whatever problem she has to encounter, for her commitment and her sheer energy. Thank you Margaret.

The interesting thing about life is that whilst it is influenced by the well known, the celebrities and the famous, the most important people in our own lives are those who are nearest and dearest to us - our families, our friends and those who sacrificially serve our Church and community.

The Bible is packed full of the stories of ordinary folk. What made them special was not a sudden fortune, an unexpected rise to power or a great stage presence. They became important because they met God. Sometimes we read of a single encounter, such as Simeon and Anna's meeting with Jesus when he was forty days old or the paralysed man who received healing after his friends lowered him through the roof. On other occasions the ordinary folk stay in the story - Peter, Andrew, James and John the fishermen or Mary, Martha and Lazarus who kept home at Bethany.

Whatever happens you can trust God to meet with you, however ordinary you think you are. I doubt if you will ever win X Factor (of course I may be wrong!) . But there is another sort of cross that is not diagonal but has a vertical and a horizontal. It is the Cross of Jesus. It is the offer of forgiveness and new life to everyone, famous internationally, nationally, locally or not famous at all! Everyone is special! Yes that includes YOU!

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

July St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 1 st	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 15 th	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd	Trinity 7	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 29 th	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		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
Sunday 15 th	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 22 nd	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 th	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Songs of Praise

Discussion Groups

The year through the Bible' Thursday 5th July 7.30 p.m. 10 Nuthurst Crescent.
Discussing the parables – Tuesday 10th July at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

From the Registers

Baptisms

On 10 June we celebrated at our morning Communion service the baptism of Charlie Russell Smedley son of Neil and Leanne. It was wonderful for the church family to share in the family's joy on this lovely occasion

On 17 June we celebrated the baptism of Charlie Alexander Evans son of Tom and Becky. As we acted out the story of The Labourers in the Vineyard we reminded ourselves of God's infinite love for us all.

Wedding

On Saturday 9 June celebrated the marriage of Christopher Aspley and Zoe Knight and shared in their wonderful joy.

Funeral

At her funeral on Thursday 7 June we remembered with thanksgiving the life of the dear lady known to us all as Joan Nelson - Molly Arnold's sister. There was much to celebrate in her life of love and laughter and her service at St. Laurence's was something of a homecoming. The committal took place in the church before Joan was taken to Canley Crematorium.

Forthcoming events

After a busy May with just the break for the Jubilee celebrations and further events in June, July has a quieter calendar.

After the holiday period we will be launching into our Flower Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Plans for this are well under way and most of the event will follow the usual format. The theme for 2012 is "To Give". We will be depicting the Jubilee thanking God for our Queen who has given a life of service to our nation, the Olympic athletes who will have given of their best to win a medal as well as our Cathedral who have celebrated their Golden Jubilee since the consecration of the New Cathedral with their theme of "The gift that is yours". The festival will open as usual at 6 p.m. on Friday 24th and will culminate with the Service of Thanksgiving at 6.30 p.m. followed by the party in the annexe on Monday 27th August.

Archdeacon's Visitation

At the Archdeacon's Visitation on Thursday 31st May the two churchwardens took their oath of office to the Bishop for the next twelve months. At the service Archdeacon Morris Rodham expressed the need for churches to focus on the Diocesan Strategy which is made up of three parts "Worshiping God, Making New Disciples and Transforming Communities" these are very similar to our own mission statement which is also reflected in our parish prayer which we say at each service. However he further developed this by saying that to follow our mission we need eight things to ensure the whole of our work is focused.

These eight are Empowering Leadership, Gift-orientated Ministry, Passionate Spirituality, Inspiring Worship, Holistic Small Groups, Need-orientated Outreach, Loving Relationships and Functional Structures.

The PCC will be looking at the first of these at the June meeting to see how best they can all take their part in the leadership of the church here in Ansley. Please continue to pray for the PCC as they seek to do God's will in the parish and find the best way forward to ensure the long term sustainability of the church in Ansley.

St John's Bingo

It was a damp evening on June 11th but as usual everyone who came had a good time and every table had a winner. The event raised £110 for the hall funds. Thank you to everyone who supports these events and also to those who do all the shopping for the prizes and do all the organising.

Marie's Coffee Morning

Everyone received a warm welcome from Dave & Marie at their coffee morning on 20th June, as usual the sun shone most of the time and we were able to sit outside and enjoy the colourful garden. The raffle and stall made a total of £105 which will be forwarded to Child Line. Many thanks to Dave & Marie for arranging these lovely coffee mornings each year.

Art Exhibition

The church was a delight for the Art Exhibition on 16th June, with over 100 paintings and drawings on display. It was a pity that the weather was so wet and cold but a number of people braved the elements and were delighted with what they saw. Whilst this event has only just happened there is talk of holding another one in the future. Please watch for details if this goes ahead it will be well worth a visit as the standard of work was so high.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

With the aid of a £500 grant from North Warwickshire Borough Council and another also of £500 from Ansley Parish Council, the Church was able to take the leading role and provide, with the aid of local residents, a wonderful event in Ansley Common, Ansley Village and Birchley Heath. Each area had a different event to suit their different tastes,

Ansley Village started the day at 12 noon meeting in the recreation ground and then led by Ansley Morris processed to the Village Church Hall stopping for dances on the way. On reaching the hall cool drinks and lunch awaited. Suitably refreshed, more music, dancing and community participation followed. Certificates were presented to all the children, many in fancy dress.

Ansley Common's Teddy Bear's Picnic, for all ages commenced at 2 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall with a game of bingo with suitable "Jubilee Prizes", followed by games for the children, of musical statues, all winning a prize, and musical teddy statues. After a lovely tea with cakes and drinks, further games of bingo were played along with pass the teddy were played and the event culminated with the National Anthem.

In Birchley Heath the church was able to provide 2 gazebos and some tables and along with further tables and another gazebo the residents were able to meet on the recreation ground where a local resident was able to provide music and a microphone. They had fancy dress, cake competition, and a dog show. There were prizes and medals for all participants including biscuits for the dogs.

The money was used to buy the food, prizes and bunting, the church being able to provide the halls and the relevant invitations that were delivered to every home in the parish.

In all, it is estimated that 300 people participated at some point in one of the free events on a glorious sunny day. The comments and thanks received have made all the effort well worthwhile.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

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 2012

Well, what a lot of rain we had in the first two weeks of June, with so many people flooded out of their homes in many parts of the country. This weather also affected the seeds, which germinated and then came to a standstill, but I had great success with my tomato seeds which grew tremendously and are now in pots, tied up and ready to go. All we need now is a long spell of warm sunshine.

When we were children we spent many hours playing in woods and fields, but even if it rained we never played in the house as we turned our shed into a cinema, a post office, a stage, and we had a great time. However, when we played in the fields we sometimes dug for Pignuts. They were hard to find but delicious. Recently I read an article which described Pignuts as a herb known as an Anthony' Nut, named after Anthony the Great, patron saint of swineherd. This was very interesting but what was more enlightening was that it must be picked with caution as its frothy flowers and feathery leaves could be confused with Hemlock, which, as we all know, is a deadly poison. However, a Botanist said to distinguish between the two, the Hemlock smells of mouse urine, while pignut flowers smell floral and sweet. Now we know!

I was looking at all the different perfumes for sale in shops, and recalled how few they were when we were young. I can remember 'Californian Poppy', 'Midnight In Paris, but my sister and I always used 'Gardenia' because it was mild and cheap. We also loved scented cards and when we went to a Perfumery in Italy I was reminded of this as they gave you cards for testers. The main difference today is that you are spoilt for choice as there are so many brands, Still my favourite of all is Chanel No.5, even though I have never owned a bottle of it.

At last someone champion's my cause to pick and press wild flowers, as I have been told off for making daisy chains in the Churchyard and Buttercups and Dead Nettles along the Hedgerow in the Village, but now Alan Tichmarsh says it's good to let children pick wild flowers and get to know their names, but not rare ones. Let's face it, Daisies are mangled by lawnmowers and the other wild flowers are just trodden down, so why not enjoy them either in a vase or pressed in a book?

In this politically correct world, this amused me. One writer said just imagine how the late Roald Dahl would have reacted if he heard that the B.F.G. couldn't be friends with Sophie and take her out on his shoulders as he hadn't been C.R.B. checked.

Marie Cove.