

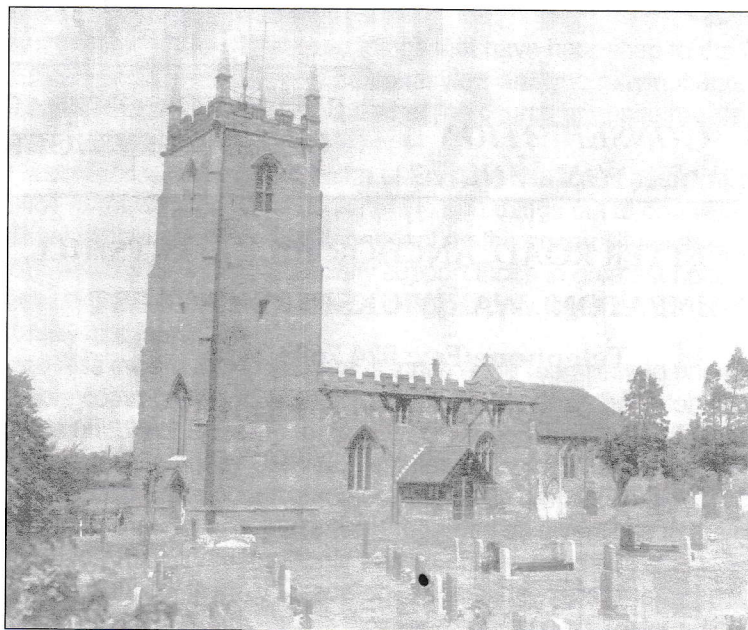
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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Ansley Village, Church End

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3rd July 1983

I remember it well.

It was the day when I was ordained Deacon at Derby Cathedral and so began my ministry within the Church of England.

I could recall my memories of that day. That would not take a page.

Or reflect on what has happened to the Church of England in those past thirty years.

That would take a whole series of articles.

I simply want to recall some of the good things that have happened to the Church of England in those years. This is a very personal view and you may not agree with me!

The Ordination of women has broadened what the church brings to the life of the world and righted an injustice.

The major financial crises that the Church of England has faced has turned a church largely looking to the Church Commissioners to sort things out to one where giving is more sacrificial, where churches are dependent on the generosity of their members and the more wealthy churches financially support those in greatest need.

There is a much greater openness among clergy to pray together and support each other personally and in ministry.

Churches are less inward looking. There is much more readiness to engage in the life of the whole community and to seek to meet the needs of those for whom the public sector is unable or unwilling to provide. Churches are running foodbanks, youth projects and Community Centres. I am not saying this never happened in 1983 but I can only recall coming across one such project in the 1980's. Even the limited number of projects that did take place were regarded as diversions to the real task of evangelism. Jesus' ministry to the whole person - body, mind and soul was limited to an interest in the souls of the lost. Jesus' compassion towards those who were ill, those who were rejected by others and those who were poor was forgotten. Today churches continue to be committed to evangelism but realise that looking to the needs of the whole person assists them in this vital work.

Churches are much more ready to try new methods. If any thought at all was given as to whether the form of worship, the venue or the time were appropriate for those whom the church was seeking to reach, the decisions were made by mature Christians. Those who did not come were not consulted. During my curacies there were two clear opportunities to start new, very different churches in the parish. One was abandoned. The other continued but split away from the parish church. None of the participants joined the life of the parish church. Today I think this would have been approached differently. I am a great believer in Messy Church. It is not the answer to all our needs. Just one small part. But it enshrines the principle that in creating worship we must listen to the needs of those who do not belong. Our regular pattern will continue to give glory to God but alongside this is emerging a new pattern that will I am sure take its place alongside our regular Sunday worship. So let's give thanks and look forward to the future with confidence, with hope but, most of all, with faith.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

July St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 7 th	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	BCP Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 21 st	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 7 th	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 14 th	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 28 th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Discussion Group

Fellowship Group – Tuesday, 2nd July, 7 p.m. in St John's Church Hall.

From the Registers

On June 9 at St. Laurence's Church we celebrated the baptism of Vincent Neil Mountjoy. This beautiful occasion was quite delightful as we recalled Mary's joy at the news that she was pregnant with Jesus - a joy that many would share for generations to come. We thanked God for the joy that Vinny has already brought to his parents and we recalled that the service of baptism is about two joys that we celebrate at the same time - the joy of the birth of a wonderful child and the wonderful joy that Jesus brings.

Archdeacon's Visitation

This took place at Holy Trinity Church, Attleborough. The appointments of churchwardens from the Nuneaton area, including those from St Laurence were made official as part of an inspirational service. Archdeacon John Green spoke on the theme of growing churches through each church evaluating its strengths and building on these to improve areas that would benefit from further development.

Ansley P.C.C. started to look at these eight areas last year and we have made progress. This process will be continuing with another special P.C.C. meeting in July with Rev. Martin Saxby.

For your information the eight areas are:- Empowering leadership, Gift orientated lay ministry, Passionate spirituality, Inspiring worship, Holistic small groups, need orientated outreach, Loving relationships and Functional structures. Please continue pray for the growth of the church.

Father's Day Art Exhibition

Ansley Village Art Group members were pleased to welcome visitors to their second exhibition and sale of art on Saturday 15th June. Approximately one hundred pictures were on display in St Laurence's church and light refreshments were available in the Annexe.

A bolt of lightning and a thunderclap brought a touch of drama to the occasion, causing the electrics to trip out but this was soon sorted.

Visitors praised the high standard of art and enjoyed a chat and a "cuppa". A sum of £57 from donations and refreshments was given to church funds.

Thank you to the artists and everyone who helped with this event.

Ansley Village Art Group meets on Fridays from 1.00 to 3.00pm at Ansley Social Club near Ansley Post Office. If you may be interested in joining this group do come along to meet the members and see if it would suit you.

St John's Diamond Coronation Buffet

This was another very enjoyable event organised by the people of St. John's everyone joined in the celebrations suitably attired and participated in the activities. After a fear that there would not be enough food, these fears were quickly dispelled – there was plenty.

A total of £43 was raised for hall funds. Thank you to everyone for their help and support.

St John's Bingo

The session on 17th June included an unusual situation. It is not uncommon for two people to call full house at the same time or even very occasionally three to do so. When this happens the cards are cut. However for one full house this month **five** people called at the same time on the number "54". When will that happen again? The new team are working well in running the sessions and the evening made £100 towards hall funds. Thanks to all who helped or took part.

Marie's Coffee Morning

Report next month.

Open Farm Sunday

St Laurence's church was open to enable visitors to Manor Farm to have a look around and have a quiet time in the church if they wished. It was lovely weather with over 1500 people enjoying the farm visit and bringing some liveliness to a normally tranquil corner of the parish. The hustle and bustle was a surprise to a group of ramblers passing through after quiet country lanes.

Nursery Hill School Summer Fayre

This will be on Saturday 6th July from 1.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m. The Fayre will take place in the school grounds and everyone is welcome. There will be stalls and games for all. St Laurence church members will be running a game - our challenge is who will be the fastest to blow a ping pong ball along a course with a straw? See you there!

Plant Sale

A successful plant sale was held at the Church Hall in May. Thank you to all who provided, and/or bought plants and to those who organised and ran the sale. The late spring did not help, but hopefully the plants are growing on strongly now.

Although there were some plants left at the end of the sale, within a few days a good home had been found for them all.

It was much appreciated that the Allotment Association from the village again this year supported this event, despite having very little to sell because of the very difficult growing season to date. We all hope and pray that gardens and allotments will be fruitful, all be it, a bit later than normal.

There was over £270 raised for hall funds from this event

Flower Festival August Bank Holiday Weekend 2013

This year will be the 49th Flower Festival, which hardly seems possible. The festival has evolved over the years and there have been many themes. This year it is "House & Home".

The festival will commence on Friday 23rd August at 6 p.m. and will continue all day Saturday 24th, Sunday 25th and Monday 26th August culminating with the service of Thanksgiving and the party in the annexe.

As is usual planning for this takes many months and is now well underway. Each year changes occur for various reasons, not least by people growing older and not being able to do things they have done for years. This year is no exception and if you can help in any way either with the preparations, particularly in the churchyard, during the event or in the clearing up and delivery of the flowers to the sick and house bound afterwards, please don't wait to be asked, but do have a word. You may not think you can do much, but there is always something that will help someone and knowing who can help early in the planning stages will make things a lot easier.

Posters will be appearing early in August, but a word with someone this month will help bring it to the attention of others. There will also be fliers available in the church or from PCC members and if you can distribute them as you meet people it will be a great help. (Fliers can also be posted to you if you contact Margaret Antill on 01827 874520 and leave a message.)

Thank you to all the loyal people who help with this event each year and in advance also to those who will volunteer and help for the first time. Thank you also to those who through the passage of time cannot help this year, but thank you for what you have done in the past.

This has always been a wonderful event which is enjoyed by all who come or get involved please put it in your diary now.

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 , 2013

We have all heard of Blackberries, Strawberries, Raspberries, etc., but have you ever heard of a 'Jostaberry'? Well, I had never heard of it but apparently it is a cross between a Blackcurrant and a Gooseberry. They have no thorns and taste like a dessert Gooseberry, but they look like a large Blackcurrant. They sound delicious.

Whenever I see people cutting Privet hedges with electric cutters, it reminds me of cutting our Privet hedge when we were young. Three of us sisters had to do this and we hated the job as we had a pair of blunt clippers and it seemed as if no sooner had we finished, than it needed cutting again. They used to say this about the Tyne Bridge when it was painted. By the time they got to the end, they had to start again.

Ever wondered how Big Ben stays so accurate? Those perfectly timed bongs are no accident. A Freedom of Information document reveals that between March 2012 and March 2013, no fewer than 2,193 calls were made to the Speaking Clock from the Parliamentary Estate. Clock engineers wind this famous clock several times a week and check its accuracy against the Speaking Clock.

Did you read about a Council in Lincolnshire who wanted to cut down a 400 year old Hawthorn which has branches up to 25ft., to stop children from getting hurt while climbing it? It was pointed out that generations have had fun scrambling up the branches, and as far as it is known there have been no serious injuries, whereas there have in recent time been a number of children injured on climbing frames. It would cost £895 to cut this tree down so I suggest they put down safety matting around the base of the tree which will save the tree and save the Council some money.

It is said that when you grow older you live in the past and remember only the good bits and forget the bad. When I see young mothers with their children, I remember the fun we had watching our children grow, but I also remember the Measles, Chickenpox etc., and am so glad there is a vaccine for Measles. However, we are lucky enough in our old age to have Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren and so we are living through more memories and living in the present as well as the past.

Count your life by smiles, not tears. Count your age by friends, not years.

Marie Cove.