

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

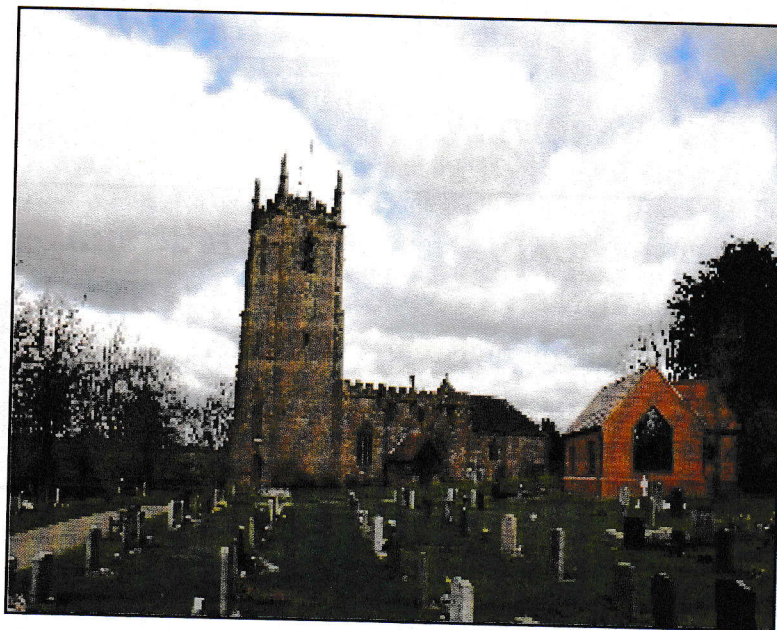
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What's special about holidays?

We took our holiday early and had a beautiful time staying in a house on the edge of Hawkshead in the Lake District.

The scenery was magnificent, the walking superb, the places to visit were varied and fascinating. The wildlife was amazing. It was our particular privilege to see on quite separate occasions a cuckoo and a red squirrel - not in a wild area but racing along the top of a garden wall beside a busy street.

But there was something else that separated the holiday from many other good summer holidays that we have had. It was the people we met. There was the Quaker who had taken to the streets and pulling a truck behind him was calling for the abandonment of all weapons. Whatever you thought about his ideas, you couldn't help at being impressed by his sheer commitment to his beliefs. Then there was Kath and Andrew who were co-ministers of Hawkshead Hill Baptist Chapel. They had opened up the large garden at the rear as a Quiet Garden for all. Having restored the church they provided refreshments for weary walkers throughout the week and on Sunday morning a welcoming fellowship for all. Then there was Catherine. We met her at the Beatrix Potter Gallery one Wednesday afternoon and as it was quiet we chatted at length. When we met again at Beatrix Potter's house at Hill Top she welcomed us as long lost friends and brought us coffee. We felt truly special.

If you do get the chance to go away on holiday I hope that like us you meet people who become friends.

But I hope you won't only make friends on holiday. It is said that people go to church for many reasons but they stay for one reason only - because they make friends. I hope you will find within the church people who will become friends for it is in the love between each other that we best express the love of God.

And thinking of friendship may I thank you all for your prayers, best wishes and practical support during Pauline's two stays in hospital over the past month. It means a lot to us both.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter



### July St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 3	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

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

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 3	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

### From the Registers

#### Baptisms at St Laurence's

On May 25 we celebrated the baptism of Milan Townsend.

On June 1st we celebrated the baptism of Ayva Susanne Russell.

In this season when we celebrate Pentecost Sunday and Trinity Sunday it was wonderful on these occasions to celebrate the start of the new life that is brought by God the Creator, the new life offered by Jesus, God the Son to all who believe in Him and the new life we receive through the transforming love of God the Holy Spirit and to baptise these two lovely children in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Sprit.

#### Funerals at St. Laurence's

On June 3rd we celebrated the life of Jack Evans. Born and brought up in Wales he never lost his Welsh heritage and this was marked by the Welsh songs we heard during the service. He spent most of his life in Ansley Common surrounded by his closely knit family with whom he shared so much. The address was given by his younger brother Victor who also led the committal in the churchyard that followed the funeral service. Jack is deeply missed by all his family and his many friends who will forever cherish his memory.

### Fifth Sunday Evening Service at St Laurence

After discussion with the congregation and agreement by the PCC, it has been decided that the evening service at St Laurence's on fifth Sundays will be a "Songs of Praise" format. The next fifth Sunday is at the end of August, the week after the Flower Festival, so this will be a 'Songs of Praise'. People attending evening services will be invited a few weeks before to choose one of their favourite hymns and there will be ten included in the service. If more hymns are requested they will be included in future evening services. The format of the service will be around Evensong, but instead of the psalm, canticles and sermon we will be singing hymns.

### St. John's tea and Cake Afternoon

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July from 2 p.m. St. John's will be holding their now annual tea and cake afternoon in the hall. There will be cakes to eat tea and coffee to drink as well as time to

chat. There will also be cakes to buy along with a stall and a raffle.  
Proceeds are for Save the Children UK

### Spring Clean

At the time of going to print the spring cleaning is well under way. It was very helpful to be able to borrow a scaffolding tower that enabled easier access to remove the many cobwebs from the ceiling. The church is already looking a lot better and by the time you read this the church will be looking as good as it can ready for the 50<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival. Many thanks to all who have helped.

### Churchyard

Now that the interior of the church is clean and tidy it will be time to focus on the churchyard to get that looking better. The growth of the grass and weeds has been phenomenal following the wet of last winter and spring.

The grass cutter has done his best considering the weather and the much needed dryer conditions has slowed the growth recently.

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August we will commence the trimming of the hedges and trees to tidy the churchyard for the Flower Festival, any assistance to help tidy the churchyard would be very helpful.

The sweeping of the paths and the clearing of the weeds from unattended graves is a very time consuming job which can be done at any time, by any number of people. If you have any spare time and would like to help please do come along with your tools and tidy any bit it would be much appreciated.

The PCC are very grateful, and you will be pleased to know, that with the generous donations that have been received over the last 12 months we will now be able to pay for the grass cutting for this year. Thanks you.

However there will be very little left in the kitty, and if next year we are to continue to maintain the churchyard to its present standard further funds will be required.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival

This year St. Laurence's Church Ansley will be holding its 50<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival over the August Bank Holiday Weekend. To celebrate this land mark the theme chosen is "Gold". At this year's festival a selection of photographs from former years will be displayed. Do please put this date in your diary.

As mentioned above we do hope the churchyard and the church will be all spick and span for this major mile stone event. Please do help in any way you can.

Also required will be produce for the stall and refreshments in the annexe. If you can make a cake or provide some produce please bring it along it will be very much appreciated.

If you can help during the event, manning the stalls or serving refreshments this year please do contact Margaret Antill 01827 874520.

This year the festival will run from 6 p.m. on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August to 8 p.m. and from 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.



### Donation

The church is very grateful for the donation of £235 in memory of the late Mrs Greenway from her family and friends.

### Appeal for jam jars

Margaret Antill would be very grateful for donations of empty one lb or 454g jam jars with good screw lids.

### Art Exhibition Report

The display of artwork produced by Ansley Village Art Group in the village hall on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June invited visitors to appreciate a wide variety of styles and subjects. Delicious cakes, plus tea or coffee, were on offer too. This was an enjoyable occasion, with comments praising the high standard and favourites noted. The sale of refreshments and art made £51 which was donated to church funds.

### Ride and Stride Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September

This event is organised to raise funds for the repair and upkeep of historic church buildings. Cyclists and walkers are sponsored and visit as many churches as they can. The money raised is divided equally between the participants' church and the Warwickshire Historic Churches Trust. Volunteers to walk or cycle needed!

### Coffee Morning in Aid of Childline

Although cloudy, the weather was warm enough for visitors to sit outside and enjoy Marie and David's colourful garden. Marie's article includes a report on this event. The money from the quiz was included in the total given to Childline. Congratulations to Margaret Oliver, the winner.

### St. John's Bingo

All those who attended the latest bingo session on 16<sup>th</sup> June in St John's Church Hall had a very enjoyable evening. The prizes were all of a very high standard and should have been much appreciated by those who won. Many thanks to all who organised this event, and also those who supported, which raised £100 for hall funds.

### Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence's and at 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, 2014.

As I sit typing this, it is a beautiful evening, blue skies, sunshine and warm. We had a great Coffee Morning and raised £140 for 'Childline' and we would like to thank you all who attended or donated - this was a marvellous effort for what I believe is a great charity. Above all it was great to get together, sit in the garden, drink tea or coffee and eat cakes - what could be better. In this busy world we do not have many times when we can just sit, relax and share conversations with friends and family.

As years go by I personally see how life has changed and as more people live into their nineties and even to 100, their store of memories increases and they are like a living history book. This was brought home to me when I went to see my youngest Grandson play in a Cup Match at the Ricoh Stadium and there were 4 generations of our family there, as our Great Grandson also plays for the same team only in a younger league.

It's not only the age of people but also the advances in technology which we have seen. I thought the FAX machine was brilliant when I was at work, but was amazed when we called in to see friends and their son, who lives in Cornwall, said, 'Hello Marie'. I realised he was speaking from the computer and it truly is amazing how people can talk face to face with loved ones all over the world, but I always think, 'How do they do that?'

I was given a pile of knitting magazines and was amazed at the funny things to knit e.g. a Staffordshire Bull Terrier, knitted Christmas trees, a Blue Tit's nest complete with mother and chicks, Snow White and the seven dwarfs (all mice). I do have to admit, though, that there were some lovely sensible and fashionable items to knit.

Just for fun: 'I always try to cheer myself up by singing when I get sad. Most of the time, it turns out that my voice is worse than my problems.'

Marie Cove.