

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

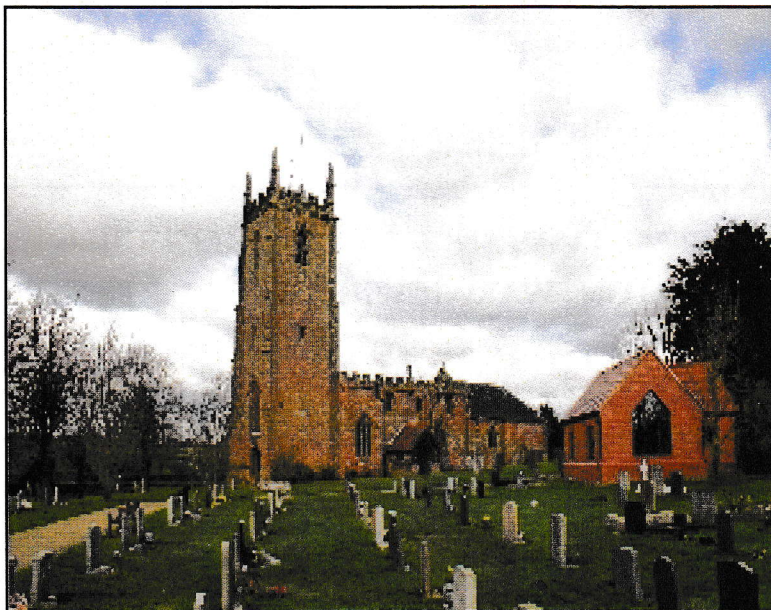
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No: 1097

JULY 2017

Price 30p

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## July

This month our Reader, Gwyneth is on a well deserved holiday from church matters. We wish her an enjoyable, relaxing rest and renewed vigour on her return. We can sometimes forget that volunteers benefit from a break as well as paid clergy/leaders!

It has fallen to me, as editor of this magazine, to write this page.

Recently people have been horrified by the terrorist attacks in Manchester and London, and the devastating fire in Grenfell Tower. There have also been attacks in Europe and the Middle East and the dreadful wildfires in Portugal. The negative feelings left by these tragedies have been countered by the courage of the emergency services and members of the general public and the instinct of people from the local community to draw together and find ways to support the families of victims, the injured and to demonstrate the grief they share with the bereaved. Some of those most closely affected have been clear that the most effective answer to hate is to demonstrate love for each other and to foster a supportive community.

### Bible verses for reflection

Don't be afraid or discouraged for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go.

Joshua, Chapter 1, verse 9.

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a place of safety in times of trouble.

Psalms 9, verse 9.

Do not be afraid – I am with you!  
I am your God – let nothing terrify you!  
I will make you strong and help you;  
I will protect you and save you.

Isaiah, Chapter 41, verse 10.

Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid.

John, Chapter 14, verse 27.

Under very different circumstances, community spirit is clearly at work in Ansley, when members of the local community and others with connections to the church, prepare for and run the annual Flower Festival. Not all helpers are visible over the weekend itself. Some will have been at work tidying the churchyard; others may help to create the flower arrangements, provide produce for sale from gardens or allotments, bake cakes or clean the church or annexe before and after the festival. If you feel able to help with any of these, don't wait to be asked, but come along and offer your help. Selling the produce and refreshments requires volunteers during the festival and of course we like to have stewards in church to greet our visitors. Do let people know about the festival and encourage them to come along. Their donations will help in the running of the church, and a proportion of the takings will be sent to the George Eliot Hospital League of Friends and Acorns Hospice.

Diana Kealey

### July St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Trinity 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Songs of Praise
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

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

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Trinity 3	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Family Service

### Please Note

During the interregnum it may be necessary to change the pattern of services from time to time at fairly short notice. This would be to enable visiting clergy to hold a communion service.

### From the Registers

#### Baptisms

The baptism of Eloise Elizabeth Frances Ingram took place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Eloise was supported by her parents, Ashley and Stacey and by her godparents, family and friends.

Ossie Stuart M<sup>c</sup>Grory celebrated his baptism on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June, supported by his parents, Ian and Laura, his godparents, family and friends. The Reverend Greg Bartlem officiated at this service.

We ask God's blessing on Eloise and Ossie as they set out on the path of faith, with their parents and godparents to encourage and guide them.

### Report on the process of appointing a new vicar

No applications were received for the post of a new vicar before the deadline. The PCCs will be meeting with Archdeacon Morris Rodham towards the end of June to discuss the next steps. This situation is not unusual and we expect to re-advertise the post later in the year. Meanwhile, please pray that the next round of advertising may be more successful and for everyone who is involved in the process.



### Girls' Brigade Presentations at St John's Hall

A presentation evening will be held at St John's Hall on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 6.00 p.m. Girls will be awarded their badges, three young leaders will receive their YL badges and there will be a silver DofE presentation. There will be refreshments after the awards. All are welcome to come along to support the event and/or to find out about the group.

### St John's Tea and Cake Social

A Tea and Cake Social will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July at St John's Hall between 2.00 p.m. and 4 p.m., with stalls. You are warmly invited to this event to enjoy the refreshments, catch up with old(!) friends and make new ones.

### Flower Festival 2017

The theme for Ansley's 53<sup>rd</sup> Flower Festival is "Change" and yes each year there are changes to be made to make each festival unique. However, there are many things that do not change. The festival will be held over the August Bank Holiday Weekend opening at 6.00 p.m. on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August. There will be a short Service of Dedication at 7.00 p.m. The church will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The Sunday services will be 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion and 6.30 p.m. Evensong. The festival will close with a service and reading the prayers from the Prayer Jar at 6.30 p.m. on the Monday evening.

Each year we receive many lovely comments in the visitor's book and it is felt that they are the best way to report what our many visitors think of the event. A few are listed below:

"An absolute triumph of skill and beauty! Truly magical. Thank You," S & B Ash Green.

"Heavenly." C & W R.

"Beautiful show of flowers." E & A B Hampshire

"Absolutely fantastic, so much hard work gives so much pleasure to everyone." MK & TA Corley

"Very beautiful, descriptive and inspiring." C & HB Coventry

"Imaginative and thought provoking." C & A B Birmingham

At the time of writing, (April) most of the flower arrangers have received their title. They include "Through all the changing scenes of life," "The Transfiguration," "No change my heart shall fear," "Change our weak mortal bodies" and "The same yesterday today and forever." Seeds are being planted in local gardens so that as many home grown flowers can be used as possible.

As in previous years, there will be an opportunity to place a stone on a display to represent placing your burdens in God's hands, to place a flower for thanksgiving and/or to bring prayer requests to God by placing them in a jar.

On the Monday afternoon, Ansley Morris will be dancing in the churchyard, weather permitting, or in the church if wet. Last year it was a lovely hot sunny day and many people were able to sit in the churchyard and enjoy the performance with a cup of tea and cake.

Throughout the event there will be refreshments available in the annexe and also a stall of produce provided by local people and the local allotment associations.

There will also be a raffle for a cake.

For many years we have supported the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and the Acorns Children's Hospice, as well as raising money for church funds. We will continue to do so this year. Entrance will be free, but we do invite visitors to place a gift in a collection jar, not only to thank God for the joy of the Flower Festival, but for all the joys that He brings.

As at all the previous 52 festivals, the main aim is to enable visitors to reflect on aspects of the Christian message, through the colourful and thought provoking displays. It is also a time of gathering together with old friends and making new ones. Every visitor is made welcome and can enjoy our beautiful ancient church set in lovely countryside.

#### Report from the PCC on the Cremation Garden

The PCC has been aware for some time of the need to improve the appearance of the cremation garden, to make it tidier and to provide space for future plots.

The PCC realises the situation is the result of well meant past decisions. The priority now is to find the best way forward to make the area more presentable and easier to maintain, ensuring that stones are not hidden under grass or protruding slabs.

Once a proposal has been drafted, the PCC will need to consult with the Coventry Diocese, which is the governing body regarding churchyard graves, stones and memorials. Then formal permission (a faculty) will be sought from the diocese to enable improvements to be made and the area extended. The PCC intends to keep everyone informed of the progress of the development of this area.

In the meantime the PCC sincerely thanks the volunteers who, on hands and knees, have been doing what they can to keep the cremation garden tidy.

#### Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy

£110 was the amount made at the Coffee Morning on 14<sup>th</sup> June for "Childline." We had a glorious day, lots of people and we would like to thank everyone for their support.

Marie and Dave Cove

#### Car Park gateposts

The PCC would like to thank those involved in repairing the gate posts on the car park. You know who you are!

#### 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 a warden. Phone numbers are on the front page of this magazine. Please remember that a visit can be arranged to anyone who is sick, but the wardens do need to know, so again please ring.

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



July, 2017

As we were watering the plants in our garden and the greenhouse, I thought how we take our water for granted, as we see other countries suffering desperately from drought. When my sister, brother and I were young, we had two taps on the sink – hard and soft (but no hot). The soft water was rainwater and my mother used to say it was better for your skin and hair, which with all the pollution couldn't be said today. However, the best water was spring water and when we went blackberrying we would call at a house near the Windmill corner and the lady would give us a drink of water from her well. Can you imagine anyone today welcoming 5 children asking for a drink of water? Of course she got used to us, and the water was delicious.

Many years ago a lady gave me a book called "Pears Shilling Encyclopaedia". It is so interesting and it lives up to its name as an encyclopaedia is a book giving information on all branches of knowledge. It covers lot of subjects, including China marks and London Silver marks for antiques, maps of the world, average wages and average life expectancy, which was very low. There is a picture at the front of Edward VII and another of his son, the Prince of Wales. So the book was published about 1915/16 – a long time ago.

The Norwegians have a folk tale in which Noah's Ark springs a leak midway through its days on the high seas. The story goes that the Dog is asked if he will put his nose between the boards to save its precious cargo from sinking. That is how the Dog became 'man's best friend', they say. It is also why his nose is supposed to have remained cold and wet ever since.

When things go wrong, and they sometimes will,  
When the road you're tramping seems all uphill,  
When funds are low and debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit!

Marie Cove