

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1107

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Price 30p



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Rev John's Jottings

It is now just one month since I started as your new vicar in the parish and it has been a real pleasure for me to be invited to the numerous community activities alongside regular church services and functions around and about.

This month of July will see the start of holidays for schools, colleges and universities. It's a good time to enjoy a break from the usual routine, if you are able, to relax and recharge the batteries. For students, thoughts can be focused on the future and can bring a mixed sense of trepidation or exhilaration as new possibilities lie ahead. For those who are retired, isn't life one long holiday?! Or perhaps it's not quite like that with getting older and health not being quite what it used to be.

For football fans, the prospect of another World Cup final is looming this month and nail-biting times may be lying ahead for England supporters. When I get the chance to watch some of the matches, what struck me is the footballers you may see praying as they come on to the pitch or during the match or at the end of the match. In one instance, I noticed two players of opposing teams joining together in a brief prayer on the pitch at the end of a match. It was a special moment which spoke no doubt to many who saw them, of the power of faith in bringing together two opponents in God's love. We see so much discord and division in our world at home and abroad. More than ever do we need to see relationships transformed by God's love expressed in reconciliation and forgiveness.

So, as the prospect of holidays may be coming for you in July and August, or if you are laid aside with age and illness, it could be a good time to take stock and as a verse in the Bible says, 'Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.' It could bring about an unexpected moment of transformation!

Wishing you a good month, Rev John.

July St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday	1 st	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	8 th	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	15 th	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	22 nd	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	29 th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Songs of Praise

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday	1 st	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	8 th	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	15 th	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	22 nd	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	29 th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Family Service

From the Registers

Wedding

On 26th May Nicola Snade and Matthew Arnold were married. It was a lovely day and we wish them every happiness in their married life together.

Funeral

The funeral took place at St Laurence's this month of Mr Peter Thurman. He lived locally in Birchley Heath all his eighty years. During the last few years sadly he suffered from dementia. He was known to his many friends as Dicky. We extend our sincere condolences and sympathy to his family, particularly his nieces and nephews and to his neighbours and friends, including many at Ridge lane Football Club, which he supported passionately all his life.

Girls' Brigade Presentations at St John's Hall

A presentation evening will be held at St John's Hall on Thursday 5th July at 6.00 p.m. Girls will be awarded their badges. 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 Afternoon.

The people at St. John's will be holding their annual Tea and Cake Afternoon on Saturday 14th July from 2-4 p.m.

As can be expected there will be plenty of cake to buy, but also to eat in the hall with a cuppa and have a chat. There will also be a few stalls and a raffle and a guessing game. It will be a time for people to meet together and have an enjoyable time. The proceeds of the event are for the hall funds. Please do come along you will be most welcome.

St John's Bingo

It was a lovely warm evening when the Bingo session on the 11th June was held in the hall.

Although fewer in number all those that were there had a very enjoyable time and £80 was raised for hall funds.

We need to say a big thank you to everyone who regularly supports this event by doing all the many tasks that are required to make these events the success they are.

Coffee Morning with Bring and Buy

Marie's Coffee morning was as usual held on a sunny day this year the 13th June. It was lovely to sit in their garden and enjoy the flowers and drink tea or coffee and enjoy the good selection of cakes. This event with the added donations raised £105 for "ChildLine" which has been sent directly. Thank you to Dave and Marie for this very happy annual event.

Bell Ringing

During June there have been three different groups visit the church to ring the bells.

On Saturday 16th a band visited from Loughborough. On Saturday 23rd a band from Bulkington came. They rang various methods for the 45 minutes they were with us before going on to another church to ring there.

On Wednesday 20th a band of six ringers came from the Coventry Guild and rang a full peal of 5040 changes of Surprise Minor made up of 24 different methods in 2 hours 41 minutes.

We do try if we have sufficient notice of the booking to make mention of these visits as we are aware that some people like to come and enjoy the sound of the bells.

You may have heard from the "Archers" of Ring for Peace Armistice 100. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers are hoping to encourage 1400 new ringers to learn to ring this year. During WW1 1400 bell ringers gave their lives in the service of our country. If you, or if you know of someone who would like to be one of those 1400 new ringers do please contact Anthony Truelove 01676 541105. It is not difficult to ring but it takes time and it is important that you learn the right technique.

John and Frances

It is so good to have a vicar with us, after exactly two years without one.

By the time you read this John will have lead services for the whole of June. To enable John to spend time at each of his churches, he will be with St. John's on the 2nd Sunday each month. At St Laurence's on the 3rd and 4th Sundays in the morning and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd for the evening services. Frances is also wanting to help with worship and other things including playing the organ at St. John's, leading intercessions and reading lessons at St. Laurence.

The Invitation to meet John and Frances was well attended at St. John's on the 23rd. It was very encouraging to see some faces of people who do not normally come to church. Marie, particularly was very encouraged.

(The one in the Village Church Hall is too late for this issue.)

Please do make yourself known if you see them at an event. The contact details are on the front of the magazine and on the website.

Questionnaires/ 8 Qualities

Some of the members of all three congregations have completed questionnaires as part of the Natural Church Development Survey. From these there will result information regarding our position in 8 different areas. This may sound complicated and a lot of work for what most of us already know, but with the written evidence our new vicar will be able to seek the help and support of a team of six people who are working around the diocese to equip and empower the disciples (people) to work in the parishes.

Church Yard

We are sure you all know it was a very cold winter and then we had rain followed by a lot of warm weather, just the right combination to delay the growth in the grass and then there is the time of catch up. Your own lawns will have been just the same. The grass cutter has done his best to keep on top of the cutting but it has been a very difficult season so far. Hopefully things will ease and the churchyard will start to look better. We will continue to do our best with the funds available.

Also it is becoming apparent that there has been a massive amount of growth on the bushes and on unattended graves. It is looking if we will need to allocate more time to the annual clean-up of the churchyard which we do during the lead up to the Flower Festival. If you are in a position to spend some time and bring your tools tidying the churchyard please do so. It will be very much appreciated.

Flower Festival

Our 54th Flower Festival will commence on Friday 25th August and will run as usual for the Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the Bank Holiday Weekend. The theme is "Reconciliation", in recognition of the centenary of the Diocese of Coventry which is being celebrated this year.

If you are able to help in any way do please let us know, there is always plenty to do. Things that need to be done include, as mentioned above, tidying the churchyard and the surrounding area, cleaning the church and annexe on the Friday. Also serving and making refreshments, and a good supply cakes are always needed. Plus produce for the stall and help selling raffle tickets and stewarding. Donations towards the cost of the flowers are always appreciated.

Publicity is always something that everyone can do, please do tell your friends and neighbours - take fliers and posters, it all helps.

Finally please pray for this event that it will be enjoyed by all who come and that the message of "Reconciliation" will be felt by all who visit.

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 cover 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, 2018

Have you ever had a couple of weeks when everything seems to happen? Well in the middle of May we had a barbecue for Dave's 80th birthday the sun shone and everyone has a lovely time; had a new top put on the carport; had to go up St. John's Hall for installation of new cooker; we had a new fridge/freezer; the Royal Wedding and the F.A. Cup Final. However, amidst all this we went shopping and marvelled at the May blossom which was so magnificent and felt thankful for all our blessings.

When I was putting the fridge magnets back I recollected that they told a story. There were notices of weddings, some brought back from holiday by grandchildren, a school photo, my maiden name family crest, lots and lots of cartoon characters and of course some handmade ones by children and grandchildren. There was a real mixture of past and present.

Thank you to all who supported our Coffee Morning for 'Childline', a charity which is very close to my heart. £105 was raised; the sun shone for us and it was nice to just sit and chat.

The very first thing we English do in a crisis is put the kettle on and make a cup of tea. Rudyard Kipling wrote - "We had a kettle, we let it leak; our not repairing it made it worse. We haven't had any tea for a week; the bottom is out of our universe". A bit of an exaggeration but William Gladstone, the 19th century Prime Minister wrote this about his favourite brew - "If you are cold, tea will warm you. If you are too heated, it will cool you. If you are depressed, it will cheer you. If you are excited it will calm you". To me this rings very true.

The sun is the harbinger of many good things. The lonely take heart, the poor have wings. The sun brings new life, new hope, new joy. Gifts both young and old can enjoy. I am sure you will agree with me that when the sun shines and we have lots of daylight, it cheers everyone.

Marie Cove.