

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

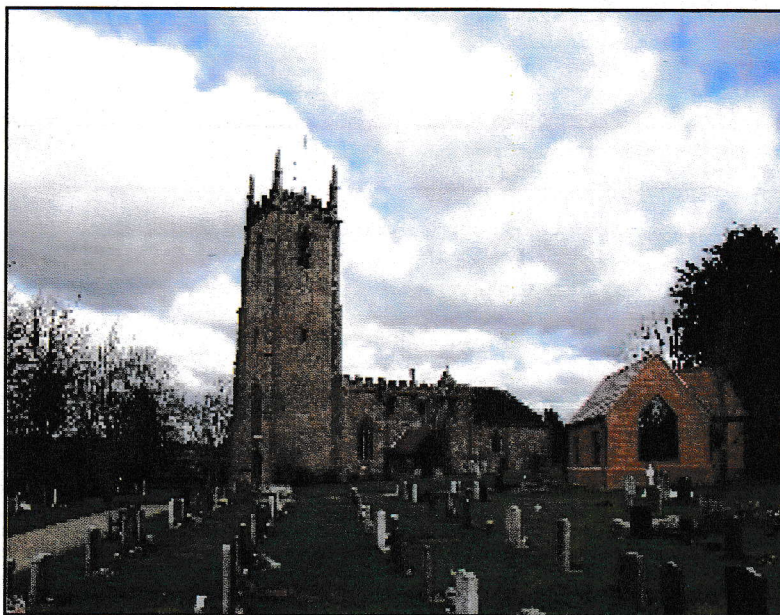
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What price do you pay for Freedom? – cheap and a right, or costly and a privilege?

It was on June 6<sup>th</sup> this year that the D Day landings on that day in 1944 were being commemorated around the country and across Europe, including at Arley and Ansley by the Memorial at St Wilfrid's church. No doubt many of you will have read some of the stories of bravery and inspiration that were written in the national newspapers or seen on television or heard on radio. On that one day alone, casualties were over 10,000, with 4,414 confirmed dead.

This year there was even a song which was to surpass Ed Sheeran on the Amazon best sellers list, written by an ex- serviceman, Jim Radford, now 90 years old. He was a galley boy aged 15 at the time and regarded as the youngest surviving person on D Day. On board a deep-sea tug, he helped to construct artificial harbours in northern France. As he approached the shores of Normandy he described it as, 'being like a war film but you can't switch it off'. He also said, 'The best way we can honour those who fell is, to make sure it doesn't happen again'. The last two verses of his song called 'The Shores of Normandy' are:

For every hero's name that's known, a thousand died as well.  
On stakes and wire their bodies hung, rocked in the ocean swell;  
And many a mother wept that day for the sons they loved so well,  
Men who cracked a joke and cadged a smoke as they stormed the gates of hell.

As the years pass by, I can still recall the men I saw that day  
Who died upon that blood-soaked sand where now sweet children play;  
And those of you who were unborn, who've lived in liberty,  
Remember those who made it so on the shores of Normandy.

It's a solemn thought that many of the 'sweet' children mentioned in the song, are playing war games on their computers, i-Pads and phones. They can switch them off, unlike the reality and devastation of war which Jim Radford describes in his song.

Warfare has become more sophisticated over the years, but nonetheless the cost of freedom from oppression can never be taken for granted. The world has become a more dangerous place to live and I am always amazed how people can go through life without seeking to live at peace and harmony with each other. As another song says, 'Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me'.

Wishing you God's blessings through another month.

Rev John



### July St Laurence's Church, Ansley Services

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 3	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 <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 7 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 3	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Trinity 5	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 6	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

### From the Registers

#### Wedding.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June was the wedding day of Cole Davis and Kirsten Pugh, they were lucky with the weather and everyone was able to enjoy a very happy day. The bride's father was so proud that he was heard saying to the photographer that it was the most exciting day in his life. We wish them a long and happy married life together.

#### Funeral

The funeral of Shirley Ross took place in church on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June followed by cremation in Nuneaton. Shirley was a very caring person and had a great love of animals. One thing that was said was that she had tap danced with Roy Castle. We extend our sympathy and prayers to her family and friends at this sad time.

### Prayer Meeting at the Annexe

This meeting, on 30<sup>th</sup> July, provides an opportunity to meet in a group to share a time of prayer. The Rev John will lead the session. Although you may wish to pray aloud you are equally welcome to listen and keep silence. This is not a set group of people but open to everyone who would like to support the church in this way.

### St Laurence's 55<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival

The 55<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival will soon be upon us. Please advertise it as widely as you can. Posters and flyers are available from church or you may prefer to use social media or word of mouth. Your prayers for the success of this event will be welcome too, especially that we will have enough helpers to prepare and run the event.

### Christmas Concert 2019

This year Jess and Richard Arrowsmith will be bringing the Melrose Quartet to give a concert at St Laurence's Church on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December. As we have limited space and this is a very popular group, we are being asked to book tickets online only. This can be done by searching under Melrose Quartet and then Tour Dates. Tickets are on sale now.

Please ask for help if you want tickets but do not have internet access. Tickets are £10 each plus a £1 booking fee.

#### Marie and Dave Cove's Coffee Morning

Thank you to all who came along to this event, to the providers of refreshments and Bring and Buy items and to those who supported it with donations. Although the garden was bright with flowers as usual, this year the weather did not encourage sitting outside! It is pleasing to note that £94 was raised for Childline. Thank you to Marie and Dave too.

#### St John's Tea and Cake Afternoon

This will take place on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> July at St John's Hall from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. Come along to browse through the stalls and enjoy a pleasant social occasion. Money raised will be for charity.

#### St. John's Bingo

Last month's session raised £100 for St John's Hall funds and raised people's spirits too!

#### From the PCC

##### Ministry

Thank you to those who came to the meeting of members of the churches in the Benefice at St Laurence's on 10<sup>th</sup> June to hear the Rev John review his first year with us, with the help of the recent survey. The Rev John spoke about the past year and handed out photocopies showing what he had been doing in Ansley and Arley other than regular services. He has enjoyed being with us and had received much positive feedback from St Laurence's and St John's. The breakdown of his year shows how busy he has been – certainly more than he could accomplish sticking strictly to "half a post" hours in the Benefice! The Archdeacon, Sue Field, did mention that we should make sure that one day a week (Mondays) is set aside as a day off, when we must not contact him. John is about to take a well deserved holiday. He should also have had six Sundays off during the past year but has taken only one! We pray that he and Frances may enjoy a relaxing holiday and return refreshed. We thank them both for their contributions to our church life since June 2018.

Having now looked back over the year, the Rev John would like us to be involved in planning for the future.

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June he distributed a discussion sheet, asking us to consider our vision and hopes for the future at St Laurence's and St John's. We will be looking at these after taking time to think about the questions individually. All members of our congregations are welcome to contribute their comments and ideas. If you need copies of the papers mentioned, please speak to a churchwarden.

We will be asked to complete an "Eight Essential Qualities" survey again later in the year but we hope to be given some guidance on each quality before then. The Rev John is our Curate in Charge. When his training as a curate is complete, Coventry Diocese will then look to making a permanent appointment to the Benefice. This will involve us updating our



Parish Profile and the results of the "Eight Essential Qualities" survey will be used to help with this profile.

### Finance

We have received notification that our Poppy Appeal in November 2018 made £67.95. The Salvation Army has sent a donation of £5.85 from the sale of goods from the Clothes bank in the car park. This has been placed in the churchyard fund. Please do continue to use the bank as both the Salvation Army and ourselves benefit from the donations.

### Churchyard

A visitor to the churchyard in June found a black rubbish bag lying around. As it was being emptied into the bins, some good quality garden shears were found in it. Please speak to a church member if they are yours and they will be returned to you.

### Fabric

Masonry or mortar bees have been making holes in the south wall of the chancel. Following advice from our architect Peter Sheen and Rugby Pest control, these holes will be filled later in the year, once the bees have left and we have the necessary permission. These bees are supposed to dislike the smell of spearmint, so we will trial growing spearmint in tubs below the wall. Having read this you will be able to answer any questions about why a herb garden has appeared in the churchyard!

The PCC is aware that the painting of internal walls in church is overdue. Permission is being sought to paint the North Aisle walls this September. Volunteers will be appreciated to help with this task. There are some issues with damp in other parts of the church which we hope to solve before completing the rest of the internal paintwork.

### Safeguarding

The members of the PCC have each completed modules C0 and C1 in safeguarding. C2 training will be undertaken by the churchwardens as courses become available. Our Safeguarding Officer (Moreen Freestone) and the Reverend John have already completed C2 training.

### Health and Safety

Two of our bell ringers will be completing a First Aid course organised through the Bell Ringing Guild.

### 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, 2019

I was disappointed watching the Chelsea Flower Show, which was the worst I had ever seen. All the gardens, except for a couple, were either all green or wooden and stone structures, with a distinctive lack of flowers but the pavilion where the growers showed their plants was wonderful. Then, when the experts said that many flowers were out of fashion this year – they mentioned Dahlias, which to me have some beautiful varieties and Pinks which are wonderful too. Where do these people get their ideas? How can flowers be out of fashion?

In our garden wild flowers come up every year, such as Rocket, Feverfew, and Celandines, which bring colour early in the year. These humble flowers make our garden a haven for Bees and Frogs and later on Butterflies and we wouldn't be without them. In fact my other half is scattering seeds from them. Do you remember Thrift? It is a lovely purple flower and then the seeds are inside the leaves and we would rub off the outside of the dried leaves to reveal silver leaves which we loved to display.

In this world which is so broken we should look for certain happy moments, not only in nature but everyday things that cheer us. In late May the recreation ground in Ansley Village rang with laughter as lots of children enjoyed the apparatus. It was lovely to see them enjoying the fresh air and leaving their laptops and mobile 'phones behind.

You think you lack for treasure, just take a look around.  
You'll find the world has riches of taste and touch and sound.

They may not weigh your pockets like gems of worth untold,  
But oh, they'll raise your spirits, much more than any gold.

Marie Cove.