

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

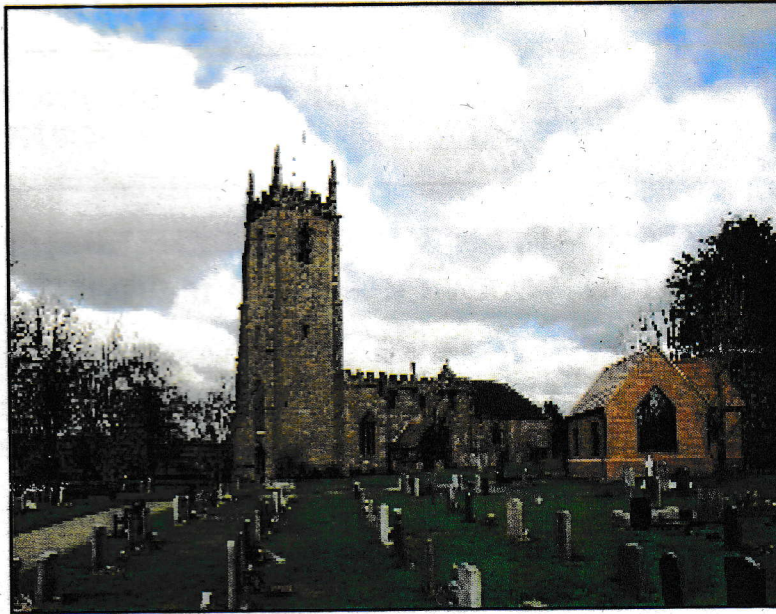
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If you are sometimes asked, 'How has the lockdown been affecting you?' I imagine most of your answers have been around health, food supplies, maybe feeling lonely, being stuck indoors and missing family and friends. As the lockdown begins to ease, as it has been, we are told that things will never get back to what they were and we will have to consider doing things in a different way. So, what will we have learned from it? Will people just pick up from where they left off and carry on with life, eventually to have a memory of 2020 as being the year of Covid-19? Or will it be a wakeup call to consider more pressing questions about life and death, meaning and purpose, chance or providence?

It was Winston Churchill who once said:

**'Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened.'**

Prior to the lockdown, our churches were open and there was a place to come and hear about eternal things, life after death, living a fulfilling life with God, finding peace and contentment and much more. Now they are closed – will they open again? What if they did not – would you care? I am pleased to say they will, but not yet. Who will come back? Who will start to come after a long absence because what has been happening has been speaking to them? At the moment there are many unknown answers. But though our church buildings are closed, the real church, which is people, is actually alive and well! Every week services and mid-week updates are sent out via emails and printed copies are being sent through the post from time to time. Over 70 people across Ansley and Arley are being kept in touch and upheld in prayer along with each villager.

It had been so easy to take so much for granted before the lockdown. However, now is the time to take stock, consider the things in life that really matter and do something about them – and that could even mean church!

Do take care; keep safe, be alert and may God richly bless you.



## July The Church's Year

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 4	Readings Zechariah 9:9-12	Matthew 11:16-19 +25 to end
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 5	Isaiah 55:10-13	Matthew 13:1-9 +18-23
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 6	Isaiah 44:6-8	Matthew 13:24-30 +36-43
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 7	1 Kings 3:5-12	Matthew 13:31-33 +44-52

### From the Registers

#### Funerals

The funeral service for the late Mrs Janet Gibbs of Ansley who died on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020, aged 78, took place at Nuneaton Crematorium on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The interment of ashes will be at St Laurence churchyard at a later date. Those who have been especially close to Janet include: husband Keith; sisters Jean and Avril; daughter Cheryl and husband Garry with Louise, Cory and Grace plus granddaughter Anya and her other granddaughter Taylor; son Richard with Sarah in Canada, along with other family members, friends and neighbours.

The burial service for the late Mr Walter George Williams of Nuneaton who died on the 1st May 2020, aged 88, took place at St Laurence churchyard on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

Those who have been especially close to George include: daughter Christine and husband David with Alannah and Nathaniel; son Steve with wife Quita and Barney and Hamish; along with the nieces and other family members, friends and neighbours.

As a church family we remember Janet and Walter in our prayers and offer their families our sincere condolences.

### Corona Virus Update 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020

If you know someone from our church or community who does not have internet access, please suggest that they phone a churchwarden for the latest information.

#### Prime Minister's further easing of lockdown restrictions, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on further easing of lockdown, made on the date above, the guidance from church authorities on opening churches will be updated during the next few weeks.

Please see below the latest letter from Coventry Diocese's Archdeacon Pastor.

#### **UPDATE from Rev Sue Field regarding unlocking (24/6/20)**

**Worship in church** – the Prime Minister announced yesterday that public worship can resume in churches but please note the Bishop of London's comment yesterday that this does not mean it will in all church buildings from 4 July. We don't yet have the detailed guidance on this but we imagine the numbers attending will be at the discretion of the incumbent and PCC and will be based on a risk assessment of the building and arrangements. If you normally hold more than one service on a Sunday, the building will need to be thoroughly cleaned in between those services. You will need to think through

## St Laurence 56<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival

Towards the end of May a final decision about the practicality of holding the 56<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival at St Laurence over the August Bank Holiday weekend in its traditional format had become more urgent. It did not seem possible to manage the number of visitors under social distancing rules within either the church building or the Annexe.

Although the people of the church at St Laurence had not been able to meet in person, they had been able to communicate by phone, letter or email. By the third week of lockdown it became apparent that the prospect of holding the Flower Festival did not look at all likely.

But God moves in a mysterious way and has inspired church members to organise a virtual festival. The many people who help in one way or another are being invited to take part. Most of us lack the latest technological knowhow and our website was not designed for this type of event but we will do our best. The plan is to post a link to our virtual festival presentation on our website [www.ansleychurch.org.uk](http://www.ansleychurch.org.uk) by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August, and to keep it available to visit over the following month.

Please pray for this project that

- the plans may progress smoothly
- we are able to cope with the technology
- our team will be encouraged by taking part
- visitors to the website will feel it has been worthwhile and will donate generously to our usual charities, Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and Acorn Children's Hospice. (All the proceeds from this virtual event will be shared equally between these two charities.)

Full details of the Virtual Flower Festival will be in our August magazine.

## Archdeacons' Visitation

It is usually around June that the Archdeacons hold a service in each deanery at which newly appointed churchwardens join in an oath of commitment to their role for the year ahead. These services could not be held as churchwardens are voted into office after the APCM, which has been delayed until later in the year. Instead a "zoom" meeting was set up for clergy and churchwardens in Nuneaton Deanery. This was quite a challenge especially as a thunderstorm was in progress at the time. The Venerable Archdeacon Sue Fields gave a talk, there was a brief worship session a short discussion was held in smaller groupings. Some churches had been using the internet to stream services, but this did not seem appropriate for our congregations. May we soon be able to meet with others in our usual way.

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## Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer during this time of disruption, please make contact by email or phone one of the following.

Rev. J. Langlands	024 7667 5236 email <a href="mailto:jlalands@sky.com">jlalands@sky.com</a>
Margaret Antill	018 2787 4520
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July, 2020

As I write this our isolation is starting the 14<sup>th</sup> week. Every morning when I wake up I think that this is a dream, but of course it isn't. Every day seems the same so I decided from the start that I would watch the Sunday service on T.V. and wear my Sunday best, just to keep to some sort of normality. It has been so quiet with no planes flying and little traffic, but there have been some constants - our milkman has never missed a delivery, the post is always delivered, the dustbins are emptied, the hospitals are healing the sick, care homes are looking after the sick and elderly, the police have kept law and order. Food shops have remained open and other key workers, not mentioned here, have continued to provide essential services. All have done this under difficult circumstances, for which we give our thanks and gratitude.

I couldn't find an answer to a crossword clue so I decided to look in my "shilling encyclopaedia" which is over 100 years old, but I got sidetracked and forgot about the clue. It was fascinating as one of the chapters was on diet, and it could have been written today - plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables, avoid greasy and spicy food, cakes and pastry. The only drawback was that this book has really small print, and I mean small.

If there was a programme on T.V. which we really enjoyed it was Springwatch, where it was lovely to see so many kinds of birds as they built their nests, through to when the tiny birds fledged and flew the nest. Some of the nests were works of art whereas others were just like piles of rubbish, but effective anyway.

I couldn't count how much washing up I have done over the years from a small child, where there were 7 of us so we had a washing up rota, to old age (now), so I loved the following.

Thank God for dirty dishes. They have a tale to tell. For it's by this pile that I have here, it seems we are living well. While others they are starving I've not the heart to fuss. For by the pile it's evident God's very good to us.

Marie Cove