

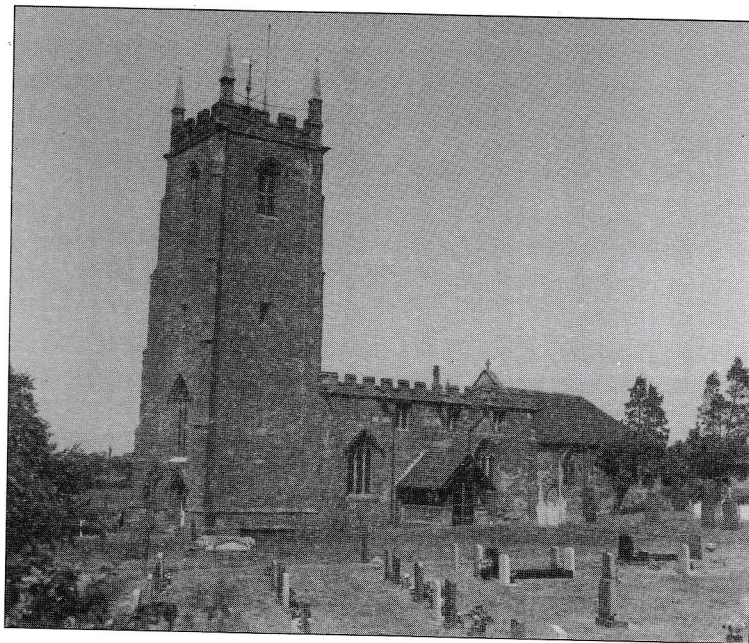
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 938

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Price 25p



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The Coffee Morning held on June 18th was a great success, despite a few showers, and raised 235 pounds for St. John's Hall Kitchen Floor Fund. Many thanks to all who came or sent donations. The ages of those there ranged from 1 year old to 91 years old. This event was very enjoyable and it would be great, especially for the lonely, if these sort of activities could be held on a regular basis.

We saw a lovely sight as we drove past Robinsons End School recently. It was a lovely day and a class of children was in the field. Every one of them was skipping; some with a large rope held by grown ups and some individually. It certainly brought back memories as we spent many, many hours skipping. The schools are encouraging this activity to make children more active but also as it is good for the heart, and both boys and girls are getting involved.

Did you know that the Mothers Union now has 3 Million members. When people know that you belong to this organisation they imagine it is a lot of elderly women making cakes, singing hymns and knitting. This is not the case as for example one of their latest projects is a Literacy Programme which has been very successful and Comic Relief are sponsoring this for the next 5 years. This is very worthwhile and is only one of their activities, and in all their work they are led by Christian guidelines.

St. Swithin, Bishop of Winchester (d.862) commemorated on 15th July, but according to legend if it rains on that day (which it didn't this year), there will be rain for the next 40 days. This has been passed down to us for hundreds of years, and we still note if it does in fact rain on that day. However, there seems to be a solution to all that expected rain, as there is a motto which says 'All the tears St. Swithin can cry St. Bartholomew's mantle wipes them dry'. This sounds very re-assuring. St. Bartholomew was one of the 12 Apostles and his Saint Day is August 24th.

A thought for August: 'Don't love things and use people, use things and love people'.

Marie Cove.

If you require the services of a vicar please have a word with Moreen who is dealing with baptisms and Margaret weddings. Funerals can be arranged with either.

St John's Hall Ansley Common Services 10.30 a.m.

August 10th St. Laurence. Family service.

August 24th Bus will run to St. Laurence for the Flower Festival services.

St. Laurence's Church services 10.30 a.m. & 6.30. p.m.

August 3rd Trinity 7 a.m. All Age Worship with the Worship Team.

p.m. BCP Holy Communion Rev. R. White.

August 10th St. Laurence a.m. Holy Communion Rev. S. Ford.

p.m. Evensong. Rev. A. Welsby

August 17th Trinity 9 a.m. All Age Worship with the Worship Team.

p.m. Holy Communion.

August 24th Flower Festival a.m. The Lord is Here Communion Ven. M. Bryant.

p.m. Evensong Rev. A. Reed

August 31st Trinity 11 a.m. Baptism. Rev. J. Law.

3.p.m. Licensing of our New Vicar Rev. Peter Allan.

Tuesday 19th at 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer In the Village Church Hall. The Senior Citizens meeting follows, everyone is welcome to this service.

Monday 11th Ansley Common Fellowship meets

Monday 11th From 9.30 onwards working party in the Church Yard.

Wednesday 6th & 20th The Prayer group meets at 10 Nuthurst Cres. at 2.p.m.

Saturday 9th Open Church

Saturday 2nd & 16th Weddings

Friday 22nd – Monday 25th Flower Festival

The Links Group will recommence on 15th September.

There will be no Wednesday fellowship meetings in August. The next meeting will be 10th September.

"SPONSORED SING – SONG" 29TH JUNE 2003

Many thanks to everyone
Who sang out "loud 'n long"
And to all who gave so generously
To support our "Sponsored Sing-Song"
To date the total cash received
Is £1798.30 --- which is swell
With a few more promised £'s to come
We can safely say, "Didn't we all do well?"

Congratulations on a wonderful effort to achieve such a magnificent total!. I hope you, too, think it was worth the effort – it surpassed all our expectations. Many thanks!!
Margaret Kimberley.

From the Registers.

It is the first time during the interregnum that there have been no entries in any of the registers for a month.

New Room.

As we anticipate completion in time for the Flower Festival and the contractors have confirmed that it will be finished on time, the service of dedication has been arranged to coincide with the Flower Festival as this is the time that the building will be greatly used. The Dedication will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday 23rd in the Church Yard next to the building (if wet in the Marquee near the Room). It will be conducted by our Arch Deacon the Ven. Mark Bryant. Representatives of the various people associated with the building will be invited to attend and the local papers have all asked to be notified of this service.

We have just been advised that we have been awarded a grant of £1,000 from Coventry Diocese towards the furniture for the room, this is another wonderful boost to our funds.

It was 1913 when the last section of the Ansley Church was built (the North Aisle). It could well be another hundred years before there is another construction on this scale, especially considering the time it has taken get all the necessary permissions and for it to come to fruition. Let us all pray that the building will be used for the Glory of God.

Flower Festival - Preparations.

It hardly seems a year since I was writing about last years Festival. Work will commence on Monday 11th in the Church Yard it all needs a good tidy. It is hoped that the hedges can be cut and the trees trimmed on Monday morning, but then the paths need to be swept and edges tidied. If you have any time please just come along and bring your tools, there is plenty to be done. The work can be done any time up to the 22nd.

If anyone wishes to make a donation towards the cost of the flowers it would be very much appreciated. This will be the 14th year that I have organised the Festival and in all those years only once have I not been given sufficient to pay for all the flowers, advertising and expenses before the commencement of the event. If there is a surplus it is added to the funds.

On Thursday 21st at 7 p.m. we will be putting up the marquee this is to be used for the dedication and also the B.B.Q. on the Monday evening. It would be appreciated if any strong people could come along for about half an hour to get this erected.

Friday afternoon - any help to clean the Church will be much appreciated to get ready by 6 p.m.

There will be refreshments served throughout the event. Offers of help to provide the cakes etc. and also help to serve in the new kitchen will be required please have a word with Marcia Sutton 024 7639 2488 or Diana Kealey 024 7639 5089.

Food for the B.B.Q. will be co-ordinated by Moreen Freestone 024 7638 1833

As usual there will be a produce stall David Cove 024 7639 4114 will be co-ordinating this. If anyone has any garden produce, plants or preserves for sale please bring them along.

Stewards are also required for the Church, if anyone wishes to act as a steward please add your name to the list Diana Kealey 024 7639 5089 will be preparing.

And finally on Wednesday 27th the Church will need to be cleared and everything put away. This will commence from 9.30 a.m. and hopefully by 1 p.m. the Church will be back to normal. Again any help will be much appreciated after a very busy weekend.

Flower Festival Events.

Friday 6 p.m.	The Church will be open for visitors.
7 p.m.	Short service of dedication taken by Church members.
Saturday	Church open all day, refreshments and produce stall.
2 p.m.	Dedication of New Room in the Church Yard and Room.

Sunday	Church open all day, refreshments.
10.30	Holy Communion - led by Arch Deacon M. Bryant. There will be no service at St. John's , but the taxi will run for both services.
6.30 p.m.	Festival Evensong – led by Rev. A. Reed Rector of Sheepy Group.
Monday	Church open all day, refreshments and produce stall.
7 p.m.	Short service of thanksgiving taken by Church members. Followed by a Barbecue.

This is a different ending this year which we hope will be enjoyable and we can use the facilities of the new building to the full. To help with the catering please add your name to the list in good time. There will be no fixed charge but a donation of £3+ to meet the cost of the food will be appreciated.

The Flower Festival

There is a lot to be done, but it is more important that you come and enjoy this our 39th Flower festival with the theme of "TELL".

This year it has again been decided that the proceeds will be divided between the usual charities i.e. 25% to The Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends, 25% to The Acorn Children's Hospice, Selly Oak, and the remaining 50% to the Building Fund.

Please do "tell" everyone of this event it is a wonderful time to meet with acquaintances, come and enjoy the lovely surroundings, spend time in our beautiful Church and this year to be able to use the new room.

New Vicar.

Our new vicar Rev. Peter Allan will be licensed on 31st August at St. Laurence's Church Ansley at 3 p.m.

This service will be conducted by Bishop Anthony, and Arch Deacon Mark Bryant. Although our new vicar wanted to licensing to take place at St. Michael's, Arley, purely for practical reasons, a decision has been taken by the new vicar and the Church wardens of Arley and Ansley, to hold the licensing at Ansley.

There will be refreshments after the service. We will be arranging for transport to and from St. Laurence's. If you will require this, please let the Church wardens know in good time to enable sufficient spaces to be booked.

Please make every effort to welcome our new vicar and his family to our parishes and remember him in your prayers as he comes to minister to us.