

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Rejoicing and Celebration

In Ansley Village

First a Big Thank You to all who contributed to Ansley Village Church Hall survey. Nearly 25% of you returned your forms. This is a staggering total when many organisations are delighted with a 4% return! It all shows how much you value the village and the Hall and would like to see much more happening there and the building improved and modernised. We will do all we can to make these wishes come true. Many thanks to all who have offered to lead or co-ordinate new groups. In September we are hoping that several new groups will be starting. We are also preparing our business plan to submit to grant-giving bodies to enable improvements to begin. Watch this space!

On the Common

We are keen to improve St. John's Hall and to increase its use. In September you will receive a form asking you what you would like to see going on there. Please return these forms so we can help you improve the life of your community. I am delighted to announce that due to popular demand and for the first time for many years from September 5 there will be services at St. John's every Sunday at 10.30. I would to thank Dave and Marie Cove and all the members of St. John's without whose hard work and commitment this wonderful development would not have been possible. Also from September 5 there will be a Sunday School at 10.30 each Sunday. Five Sundays a year, St. John's will join St. Laurence's for Sunday worship. Beginning with Remembrance Sunday on November 14.

At St. Laurence

You will see elsewhere in the magazine details of the children's drama workshops and of our Flower Festival 'Blessings'. Do read about them and do come. I occasionally meet people who have not attended one of our Flower Festivals or have not been for a long time. If last year's Festival is anything like as a good as last year's, you are missing a real treat! I look forward to seeing you there.

In Birchley Heath

I am very much looking forward to spending a day visiting this autumn. Any suggestions for a date and any ideas for what you would like to discover when we send out questionnaires in the spring would be most helpful.

In Ansley and Arley

In September we shall be choosing from St. Laurence's and St. John's approximately five people to share with me and with representatives from Arley in the Ministry Leadership Team. This team, helped by someone from elsewhere in the diocese, will share with me in leading and seeking a vision for our work as a church and will be the place in which members can, with the support of the whole church, further develop their ministry within the parishes, through, for example, Ordained Local Ministry.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

St John's Hall Ansley Common.

Wednesday 4 th	9.00a.m.		Holy Communion.
Sunday 8 th	10.30a.m.	Trinity 9	Family Worship.
Wednesday 18 th	9.00a.m..		Morning Prayer.
Sunday 22 nd	10.30a.m.	Trinity 11	Holy Communion

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

Aug. 1 st	Trinity 8	a.m. All Age Worship. p.m. B.C.P .Holy Communion.
Aug. 8 th	Trinity 9	a.m. Holy Communion. p.m. Evensong.
Aug. 15 th	St. Laurence's	a.m. Special Service. p.m. Holy Communion.
Aug. 22 nd	Trinity 11	a.m. The Lord is Here Communion. p.m. Evensong.
Aug 29 th	Flower Festival	a.m. Holy Communion. p.m. Festival Evensong.

Monday 16 th	from 9.a.m.	Tidying the Churchyard
Tuesday 10 th & 24 th	2 p.m.	Prayer Group meet 10 Nuthurst Crescent.
Tuesday 10 th 17 th & 24 th	1 – 3	Drama Club meet in the Annexe.
Tuesday 17 th	10 a.m.	Morning Prayer in the Village Church Hall. Followed by Senior Citizens.
Thursday 5 th & 19 th	7.30 p.m.	Ansley Common Fellowship.
Saturday 14 th	2.00 – 5.00	Open Church
August 27 th	from 6 p.m.	Flower Festival
28 th 29 th 30 th	all day	Short dedication service 7 p.m. 27 th
Monday 30 th	7.30 p.m.	Closing Service and Anniversary party

From the Registers

Baptism

June 27th, 2004 Maisie Amelia Phillips was baptised at St. John's Along with Mum, Joanne, Dad, Ross and brother, Daniel, and surrounded by family and friends, this was a very happy occasion. Maisie smiled all through the pouring of the water and when the Vicar took her round to meet everyone. We wish God's blessing on Maisie, her family and friends always.

Funerals

During July Ansley mourned the loss of two men much loved by our whole community. Their funeral services were held at the Heart of England Crematorium.

Arthur Platt was born in Salford and married Joan in 1947. In 1955 Arthur and Joan moved to their new home on the Brett's Hall Estate in Ansley Common, where Arthur's work in the Co-op made him a much loved member of our community. Subsequently he worked at Coventry Covard and in retirement with Calvary Church and Athena Windows. Brilliant with both words and numbers he loved his garden and delighted in bowls. He is greatly missed by family and friends.

Donald (Don) Worrall was brought up at 2 Park Cottages. As a youth he sang in St. Laurence Choir, rang the bells and attended the youth group. Though he spent most of his life in Atherstone, the church and community of Ansley was always "home". Coach driving was much more than a job rather his pride and joy. He started by taking the night shift to the pits little realising that the same skill would take him across Europe. His hobbies included gardening, music, photography and carpentry. We are saddened by his premature passing and extend our condolences to his wife Jean, his sons Neil, Gary and Ian and to all Don's family.

Drama Workshop

Games to teach Theatre skills

For five to eleven year olds on August 10th 17th and 24th from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. to be held in the Church Annexe. Come to any one two or three of the workshops. Price 50p per child.

Flower Festival

How the years have gone by. It is our 40th festival this year. Many of you will remember the first festival, when the steel girders were in the Church and how they used to be covered with flowers. One wonders what the authorities would say about the likes of the girders in the church today!

This year we have the theme Blessings, which we must all count, when we think of how God has blessed our festivals over the years and give Him thanks. We hope and pray that this year our festival will again be blessed not only financially, but also with increased fellowship and friendship.

If anyone would like to contribute to the cost of the flower that we need to purchase please contact Margaret Antill 01827 874520

A team will start working on Monday 16th in the Churchyard trimming the trees, cutting the hedges, cleaning the paths and generally tidying. Any one with time to spare will be most welcome, please, bring your tools with you. This work can be done at any time until the festival commences on Friday 27th. Just turn up and start on a job that needs to be done.

From midday on Friday 27th cleaning will need to be done, both in the annexe and the Church to ensure that all is ready for the commencement of the festival at 6 p.m.

Again just bring a duster etc. and do a task that needs to be done. Every bit helps. There will be refreshments served throughout the event. Offers of help to provide the cakes etc. and also help serve will be required, please have a word with Marcia Sutton 024 7639 2488 or Diana Kealey 024 7639 5089.

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 contact Diana Kealey 024 7639 5089 to add your name to the list.

At the end of the event on Wednesday 1st September the Church will need to be cleared and everything put away. This will commence at 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 busy weekend.

This year the Vicar will be leading the services commencing Friday 7 p.m. with the service of dedication. On Sunday the taxi will run from St. John's for both services Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m. and Festival Evensong at 6.30 p.m.

The Church as usual will be open to visitors from 6 p.m. Friday all day Saturday, Sunday and until 7.00 p.m. Monday when we will have a short service of thanksgiving followed by an anniversary party in the annexe.

The proceeds will be divided between the usual charities 25% to The Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends, 25% to The Acorn Children's Hospice, Selly Oak and 50% to the Building Fund.

Please do come and bring your friends to this festival it is a wonderful time to meet with old friends and make new ones. To enjoy the lovely surroundings and spend time in our beautiful Church, and offer thanks to God for his wonderful "Blessings" to us.

PARISH COUNCIL: Traffic Calming: The results of further traffic assessment awaited for both Ansley Village and Birchley Heath.

Provision for Young People - Rev.Allan has been organising activities within the Parish. Enquires have been made and being pursued with N.W.B.C. with regard to more provisions for young people.

Environment Issues; Inappropriate burning of materials which produce plumes of black smoke can be reported free phone 0800 807 060.

Operation Ragwort: Ragwort is very poisonous and can be harmful to both animals and humans. If identified can be reported to hotline 01926 412515.

Allotment Competition Winners: Ansley Allotments voted best site in Nuneaton Federation Allotment Society and awarded Alderman Bates Trophy. Tony Satchwell awarded Alex Ewing Cup for best plot. Parish Council congratulate all involved.

Annual Audit. Thanks to previous and present clerk in maintaining accurate financial records and to Mrs Lynette Biddle for her Internal Audit of the Parish Council Accounts, the Parish Council are happy to report their External Audit has been successfully completed.

Next meetings: 2nd Sept. 14th Oct. 11th Nov. 9th Dec. All residents of Ansley Common are welcome to attend the meetings at Ansley Church Hall.

August 2004

It's August again - the month children love, as they prepare to enjoy long summer days with no school. There was a survey done which came to the conclusion that it can cost parents as much as a thousand pounds to keep their children occupied during the summer holidays. Whatever happened to playing on Recreation Grounds or Parks which are free to everyone or family walks, picnics or bat and ball games? We are very lucky in the Ansley Parish to have 'Recs' which are well used, well maintained and thoroughly enjoyed by many of all ages, and long may this continue.

The telephone has now taken over from face to face conversations and letters, as the most popular means of communication, are by text messages on mobile 'phones, or talking on mobile 'phones. When very few of us had telephones in our homes, we would go to the nearest public 'phone box which was very private. Then, as more of us had telephones installed, we still liked to have personal talks with family and friends. How times have changed! Everywhere young and old carry mobiles and far from having private conversations, everyone seems to want to share their talking with all around them. Even on the beach on holiday people were talking on mobile 'phones so loud, and in different languages, that you couldn't fail to hear every word.

While on holiday in Majora recently our Grandson said 'Wouldn't it be nice for all of us to live here for ever?' Perish the thought! It made me think of the things I would miss most if we left England behind and lived in another country. I would miss church, family, friends and the wildlife and scenery, especially birds, flowers and trees. It is very nice to go away for a break and to enjoy the warm sunshine but it is always nice to come back to England's green and pleasant land, and when we saw our garden, baskets and tubs in full bloom, it was a beautiful welcoming sight. Marie Cove.