

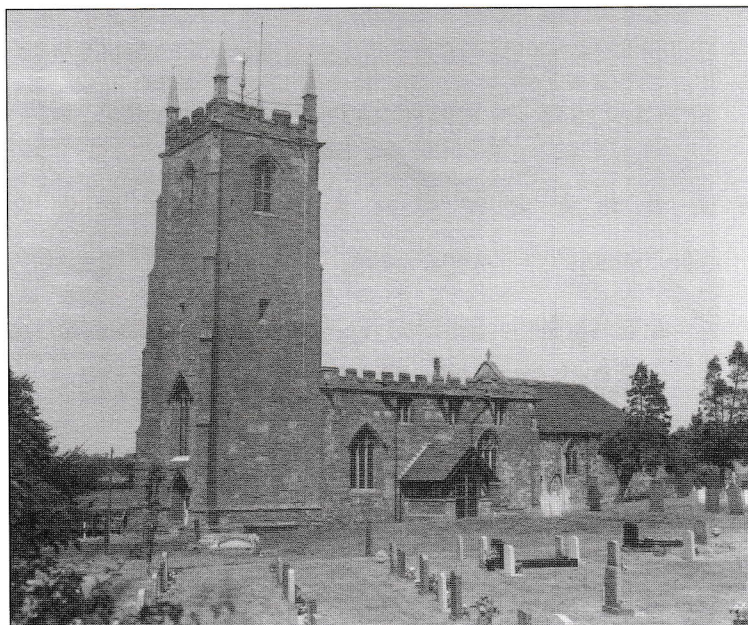
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Unless the Lord builds the city, the labourer works in vain...

There is so much to do and so little time to do it in. As I prepare to go away on holiday, jobs keep popping up all over the place and it all seems such a rush. It's precisely at times like this that we need to take time to ask for God's help. Otherwise we simply end up going round in circles!

I know many of you are a real example of prayer and I know something of the real fulfilment you find there. I would like to spread that joy and encourage all of you to develop your life of prayer. To start the day with a quiet time of prayer and Bible Study certainly helps the day go so much better. That's not surprising really as with God at the centre of our lives there is a clear sense of purpose and direction as well as comfort and strength.

But also what about praying with each other? Here are a few ideas:

- Arrange with a friend or neighbour to meet for prayer for a few minutes every day or just once a week to pray together.
- Join a prayer meeting. That simply means praying with several people on a regular basis. (Once a month?) Contact Mandy Watts if you are interested
- Join the prayer chain. That means you are happy to receive a phone call about someone in need and then pray, phone someone else on the list and promise not to gossip. Tell God not others! Contact Mandy or Margaret Antill.
- Help to compile a monthly prayer letter. We would like to produce an aid to prayer featuring a different need in church and parish for every day of the year. (Let me know if you can help with this.)

Whatever method you use take time to pray and please include in your prayers the needs of the church and community

Our new youth worker Vicky Ellis (who kindly took this slot last month),
The work on St. Laurence Church now nearing completion,
The continuing refurbishment of the Village Church Hall,
The plans to extend and refurbish St. John's
Our regular work of ministry and service.

Most of all I pray that in your life of prayer you come to know better the height and depth of the love of Christ – though that can never be fully known.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

August What's On

St. Laurence's Church

Sunday 6 th	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
□		4.00 p.m.	Family Service
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th	St. Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 20 th	Trinity 10	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Baptism
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Friday 25 th		7.00 p.m.	Dedication Service
Sunday 27 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Festival Evensong
Monday 28 th		7.00 p.m.	Thanksgiving for building work and festival

St John's Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 6 th	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Family Service & Sunday School
Sunday 13 th	St. Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Sunday School
Sunday 20 th	Trinity 10	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 27 th	Flower Festival		Joint Service at St. Laurence

Other Activities at St. John's Church Hall

Mondays alternate	7.00 p.m.	Indoor Bowls
Tuesdays	9.00 – 12.00 a.m.	Krazy Kettle Kafé
Tuesday 15 th	1.00 p.m.	Sure Start
Wednesdays	6.30 p.m.	A.C.Y.C.
Thursdays	9.00 – 12.00 a.m.	Krazy Kettle Kafé

Activities at Village Church Hall

Tuesdays	10.00 a.m.	Senior Citizens
Wednesday 2 nd 9 th & 30 th	10.00 – 11.30 a.m.	Ansley's Little Angels
Tuesday 15 th	10.00 a.m.	Morning Worship before Senior Citizens

Other Parish activities

Monday 14 th onwards	From 9.00 a.m.	Working in the Churchyard
Tuesdays	7.30 p.m.	Alpha in the Annexe
Fridays	1.00 p.m.	Art Classes at the Club
Saturday 12 th	2.00 – 5.00 p.m.	Open Church
Saturday 19 th		Air Ambulance Bric a Brac Sale At New Arley
Friday 25 th	6.00. – 8.00 p.m.	Flower Festival
Saturday 26 th to	10.00.a.m. – 8.00 p.m.	Flower Festival
Monday 28 th		

From the Registers

Baptisms: On 18th June at 4p.m. at St Laurence's, we celebrated the baptism of two sisters Amy and Holly Guise and of baby Samuel Cooper. It was a lovely afternoon appreciated by all. Baptism is a lovely occasion whatever the age. The two young girls clearly enjoyed the occasion which, I hope; they will always remember with pride and pleasure, and for Sam's family it was so good to give Sam the best possible start from the very beginning.

Funerals

- The funeral of William Edward Hammond ('Bill') took place at the Heart of England Crematorium on June 27th. Married to Joan to whom he was devoted, they had five children, Joan, Steven, Paul, Roy and Anthony. Sadly Joan died in 1999 but the family are so grateful to Pamela Cornish who shared Bill's final years and gave him so much pleasure. Having always loved holidays, she took him to places he had never dreamed of. Bill was proud of his years of National Service and spent most of his working life as a steward and carpenter.
- The funeral of Wilfred James Emery ('Jim') took place on July 3rd at St. Laurence followed by burial in the churchyard. Jim will chiefly be remembered in Ansley and Chapel End for his part in the family business 'Emery's Foodmarket'. It was while buying greengroceries that he was to meet Elsie Toon, who, with her family ran their smallholding in Ansley Village. Together with the support of his sister Dorothy and a loyal staff they were to run – until Jim's retirement at the age of 65, a shop and delivery business famed for its quality and reliability. Jim will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.
- The funeral of Megan Ellen Spicer (Meg) took place at the Heart of England crematorium on 4th July.
St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 13: 1-13) defines real love, love which is patient, kind, always hopes and always perseveres; these same words were said of Meg by her family. She will be very sadly missed by Husband Frank, Son Rod his wife Sheila, grandson Jason, granddaughter Jasmine and Jasmynes' father Steve.

Flower Festival –

Since 1965 we have held our annual Flower Festival over the bank holiday weekend each August and this year is no exception. Each year a lot of people put in a lot of time and effort to make this event the success it has always been.

Preparations. Commencing in the Churchyard on 14th August at 9 a.m. with the cutting and tidying of the hedges, sweeping the paths etc. If you can help in any way please turn up, with your tools, if possible, there is plenty to be done. It will not be all completed in one day so please feel free to come any time to suit yourself.

The next plea for help will be on Friday 25th when help with cleaning will be required. We start in the annexe during the morning giving it a good 'Spring clean' and then move into the Church after lunch.

We will also be very grateful for the gift of flowers or for donations to purchase. Please have a word with Margaret Antill 01827 874520.

During the event. As usual the Church needs to have stewards, the annexe needs people to serve refreshments and the produce stall needs to be manned. There will be lists circulating in Church, please add your name if you can help at any time, or contact Diana Kealey on 024 7639 5089.

Refreshments will be available throughout the event and we are always grateful for any donations of cakes etc. for the refreshments (please contact Marcia Sutton 024 7639 2488). We will also be pleased to receive any produce for the produce stall. (please contact Dave Cove 024 7639 4114).

Finally we will need help when the time comes to clear away everything. This will commence on Wednesday 30th at 9.30 a.m. We will also be distributing bunches of flowers to any sick or bereaved in the parish, known to us. Please let us know of anyone you think should have a bunch or if you can help distribute.

Please volunteer to help, we are always grateful for any help offered.

The Event This year the theme is 'Questions', with the various displays depicting questions from the Bible and hymns etc. we hope and pray that our interpretations will enable our visitors to receive answers to questions in their own lives. Also this year we will be offering to pray with and providing a jar for prayer requests to anyone who wishes. Refreshments and the produce stall will be available throughout the event.

Our times of opening and services are as set out in the 'What's On' section. Again this year we will be ending the festival with a Service of Thanksgiving, and it will be at this service that we will bring to God any prayers requests. We shall also be giving thanks for the work carried out over the last few months at the top of the tower. This will be followed by a party in the annexe to which everyone is invited (an idea of numbers is useful, please contact Moreen Freestone on 024 7638 1833)

Please make this event known to your family and friends, to is a wonderful time to meet together in the lovely surroundings of our Church.

The Church Tower

We are very grateful to Mrs M. Pryke and family for the very generous donation of £200 given in memory of her husband Derek, towards the work on the tower.

There will be a full report on the building work in the September issue, but please remember the thanksgiving service on 28th August at 7.00 p.m.

Jane Kimberley's Flute Concert. On a warm Friday 30th June Jane Kimberley and her pupils came and gave a concert in Church. The standard of playing was very high with everyone given a piece to play even the very beginners. Georgina aged 4 did her little piece, as did some of Jane's former pupils who have obtained grade 8 and are now at university. The whole evening finished with all the pupils taking part and playing a compilation from the Sound of Music. It was a wonderful evening of music. Generous donations were given to the Church £140 to the Churchyard fund, £57.50 to the Fabric fund and £57.50 to the General fund.

Thank you everyone for a wonderful evening.

Hospital Visiting – A Ministry For You. The Chaplaincy at the George Eliot Hospital is developing its ministry. The clergy of the different denominations in the area have been forwarded information about commitment to the once a week visitation to the wards of the Hospital by the Lay Visiting Team.

A 9-week Lay Visitors Course (one evening a week) is being run by the Chaplaincy Team from September to prepare any who feel that their ministry may be in the Hospital which serves our communities.

All prospective visitors need to be recommended by their Church Leader before further details are sought. The ministry of care for those in Hospital is the ministry of the whole church. Our Lay Visitors come from Anglican, Catholic and Free Church backgrounds. If you feel called to this ministry and would like to know more please contact Mandy.

From the Air Ambulance. Come and support our stall at Arley Gala Day on Saturday 19th August on the Recreational Ground in New Arley. An assortment of Air Ambulance merchandise will be available. I also need Bric a Brac to sell – anything – let me know Sue Ricketts 024 7639 8324

Sure Start On 15th August at 1.p.m. 'Sure Start' will be holding a Bumps and Babies session in St. John's Church Hall. Full details are available from Cherylynne Harrison 01827 718723.

In the obsession there is now with gardening, aren't we losing sight of the fact that gardens are gardens, where we can see beautiful flowers, shrubs and trees, listen to the songbirds and on warm, balmy days sip a cold drink and ponder this beautiful world. Even at the Chelsea Flower Show this year most of the gardens looked like advertisements for paving, water features and statues, looking more like miniature stately homes than our back or front gardens. Where may I ask have all the flowers gone? Where is the scruffy piece of grass where the children play or the rope to swing on from the old tree? Of course these things don't cost much so the powers that be wouldn't want to advertise them, but it is only my opinion apart from expense of some of the items, gardens are there to be enjoyed. As the saying goes 'take time to smell the roses', and this is what we can do in our garden, and even the weeds can be beautiful as Poppies seed themselves alongside the Fever Few, the Foxgloves and the Forget-me-not, and this year we have some enormous Teasels.

Every time I am in a supermarket and get to the bakery counter I shudder. There are unlimited types of bread, except the one you are looking for. If you want a standard sliced Granary Loaf, be prepared to sift through 'Seeded Granary', 'Granary Multi Seeded', 'Sunflower Granary', 'White Granary' etc. etc. When I asked an assistant she said Asda Brown was what used to be the granary – no way, and by the way it gets even more difficult if you should want a small Granary – I think this is as extinct as the DoDo. They say 'spoilt for choice' and this is certainly the truth where bread is concerned.

Have you ever notice that when we are enjoying some precious warm sunshine, the media delight in telling us of all the drawbacks and the bad news. We are in danger of sun burn, hay fever and now we can look forward to Mosquitoes, Flying Ants, enormous Wasps and Hornets, caused by the extremes of weather. We were also warned to stay inside during the hottest part of the day, and not to drink sugary drinks outside. Gone are the days when we played out in the fields oblivious to dehydration, as we either had bottles of water or even drank from streams; never even heard of sun tan lotion; flying Ants were rare, Wasps and Hornets normal size, and Mosquitoes were only found in the Tropics. The worst thing that worried me, especially when we were blackberrying, was the Newts which made me shudder, and of course steering clear of the Deadly Nightshade. We certainly had the knack of enjoying those summer days, and as I listen to the children in our cul-de-sac playing in the searing heat, I realise it must be a 'young thing'. However, whatever our age, let us hope that we too can enjoy the sunshine without all the pitfalls which await those who dare to venture out. So slap on the suncream, put on the hat, have plenty of cool drinks and enjoy, at last, an English summer.

Marie Cove.