

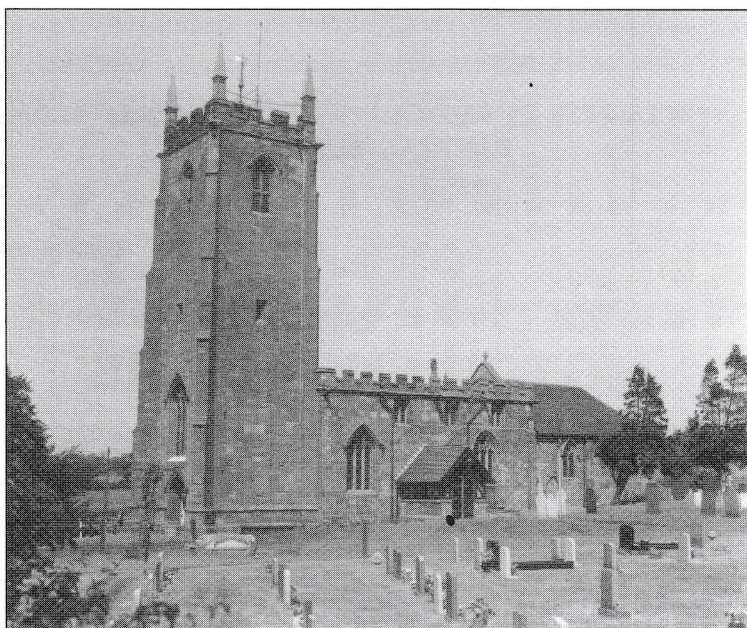
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Light and Darkness

Men preferred darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil (John 3:19). Jesus could have been talking about those who stole the lead from our church roof who deliberately worked under cover of darkness. Contrast our Flower Festival at the end of this month. It will be held in the light, and hopefully the sunshine too, and it will be open to all to come, to look and to enjoy. As a church we do not work in secrecy or in darkness but seek to be welcoming to everyone and in this way to share the light of Christ.

Yet if we are not careful we can fall into "cops and robbers" morality. (Incidentally I used to work with ex-offenders. They enjoyed cops and robbers programmes greatly cheering on the robbers and as the programme drew to its close and the police were inevitably successful they would drift away, chatting to each other or leave the room, their entertainment over!) It's easy to think others are entirely bad and we are the goodies.

Sadly, there is darkness in us all. We hurt and our hurting can come out in unhelpful, even destructive ways. We know that we do not fully live our lives in the manner God intended, but feel helpless to put things right. Or we feel held back, we long to serve God better but feel, rightly or wrongly, that our illness and frailties just seem to get in the way. That is why we have opportunities once a month in each of our services to receive the laying on of hands for help and healing. That is why our Flower Festival will be on the theme of Healing. That is why I invite to enjoy that Flower Festival. That is why I invite you to seek help and healing, physical, spiritual or for the healing of relationships or for any reason you wish at our Morning Communion Service at 10.30 am on 26 August.

Enjoy the light of Christ!

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

St. Laurence's Church - Services

Sunday 5 th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 12 th	St. Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 19 th	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		4.00 p.m.	Baptism
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Friday 24 th	Flower Festival	7.00 p.m.	Dedication service
Sunday 26 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Monday 27 th	Flower Festival	7.00 p.m.	Thanksgiving & Party.

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 5 th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Wednesday 8 th		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th	Trinity 10	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Wednesday 22 nd		9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 26 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St. Laurence

Other regular activities

Please note many of the regular activities will be having a holiday during this month full details are on the notice boards.

From the Registers

Wedding

The marriage of Paul Jackson and Felicity Jagger took place at St. Laurence's on Saturday 23rd June, They were very fortunate to have a dry time for their wedding.

Funerals

On Wednesday 27th June a large crowd gathered at the Heart of England Crematorium to remember the life of Jean Baginskis. The 27th June the day of Jean's 80 birthday which she was greatly looking forward to celebrating with family and friends. Jean was very caring and very much loved by all, she never walked when she could run, and could always be found at the sink when there was washing up to be done. Jean's ashes were interred with husband Verner at St. Laurence, together once more and both greatly missed by family, especially her children and grandchildren and her many friends.

We wish to express our sympathy to the fiancée, family and friends of Christopher Best who was due to be married in Ansley Church next year, but has been tragically killed in a car accident

We wish to acknowledge and thank the family and friends of Alf Toon for the generous donation of £230 to church funds and a new vacuum cleaner for the Annexe given in his memory

Open church

This month the church will be open and light refreshments provided on 11th from 2 – 5 p.m. in the annexe.

Champagne Flutes and Fizzy Flutes' Ensemble

We wish to thank Jane Kimberley for organising a wonderful evening of music on 23rd June. With her students and colleagues they gave an excellent and very varied performance, which was enjoyed by all who came. A total of £379 was raised for the fabric fund.

Village Church Hall

Plans are proceeding for the celebrations on Sunday 9th September these will commence with a Service of Celebration in the hall at 10.30 a.m. there will a cold buffet, a marching band in the village Morris dancing and Chinese Lion Dance. This will be a thank you to all who have helped and a warm welcome is extended to everyone to come and see the improvements.

Nave Roof

While talking to the police having just climbed the tower steps to the roof level and looking out on the utter devastation was a chilling experience.

It was 9.a.m. on Friday 29th June, while having the flood lights repaired for the second time this year that we realised that something was wrong. There was a strange ladder near the boiler house and then walking round to the door the destruction of the recently dug garden then opening the door to pools of water.

One third of the lead was missing about 1½ tons, One third had been ripped up and was flapping about in the wind and whilst the remainder was still in place the water must have penetrated the chipboard and insulation underneath. There was damage to one of the castelations on the parapet wall, the boiler house roof felt has been punctured and inside the walls on the South side are water marked.

The hymn books and prayer books seat covers kneelers hopefully will dry without too many problem.

All the moveable objects were put in the North aisle to prevent further damage and that lunch time emergency tarpaulins were fixed under batons thus keeping out the worst of the weather.

The architect was horrified that the work he had overseen in January had just vanished. There already being several holes in the chipboard where the thieves had been, and knowing that the insulation would be full of water it was fortunately agreed by our insurers, loss adjuster that a complete new roof would be required.

A temporary roof will be put in place while detailed discussions take place as to the best way to proceed, obtain costings and the relevant permissions from the diocese etc.

When the temporary roof was fully fitted the church was cleaned and things put back in place. However the damp smell lingered for some time and the state of the walls will have to be endured until funds are available to redecorate.

It is hard to contemplate what gain the thieves will have received, most of the lead that was taken had been coated with bitumen over 40 years ago (after the previous theft) and was therefore total scrap.

Hymn Sing

As planned this took place on 1st July after both the morning and evening services, however the circumstances were not as had been anticipated. Despite the upheaval the singing of favourite hymns was uplifting and very moving for all. People were aware of the presence of God working his healing power upon us. To date the amount raised is £577 and this will be divided $\frac{1}{3}$ i.e. £192.34 to the general fund and $\frac{2}{3}$ i.e. £384.66 to the fabric fund. Thank you to Margaret Kimberley for organising this event.

Flower Festival

As for the last 42 years we will be holding our 43 Flower Festival over the holiday weekend. This year our theme will be 'Healing'. Planning for this event commences well over 12 months in advance and healing is something we need at this time after so many despicable acts have impinged on life of Ansley Church over the last few months. We pray for one another, so that we all will be healed.

Preparations will commence on Monday 13th in the churchyard when a working party will trim the trees and hedges, sweep the paths and generally tidy up. This will take several days so if you have any time to spare please bring your tools and do any task you can see needs to be done.

Any donations towards the cost of flowers would be very much appreciated, it is always reassuring when all the costs have been met before the event commences.

Donations of refreshments and any produce for the produce stall will also be very welcome.

Help is needed to clean the church and annexe on Friday to serve refreshment, assist on the produce stall and welcome people into the church during the event. If anyone has a few hours to assist please have a word.

We are always very grateful to all who assist in the working of this festival which welcomes so many visitors to our lovely Church.

The festival will commence on Friday 24th at 6 p.m. and the service of dedication will be held at 7 p.m. The church will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Monday. On Sunday at 10.30 we will be having our Festival Holy Communion which will be joint with St. John's (if anyone wants transport to either Sunday service from anywhere within the parish please have a word with Margaret Antill and the taxi will be organised accordingly). In the evening at 6.30 there will be our Festival Evensong. The church will be open to visitors between these times.

The festival will be drawn to a close at 7 p.m. on Monday with a service of thanksgiving and followed by a celebration party in the annexe after.

The proceeds from this event will be equally divided between The Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends, The Acorn Children's Hospice, the Church general and fabric fund.

Please do come and tell all your friends about this event which in previous years has been so much appreciated by so many. Take pleasure in the lovely setting of the country side, enjoy meeting old and new friends and it is our prayer that you will find comfort and healing when ever you visit Ansley church and especially over this festival.

Missed from Last Month

The proceeds of Dave and Marie's coffee morning of £97.49 were in aid of the Acorn Children's Hospice. And we wish to thank all who helped and supported this event.

Jam Jars

I would be grateful for any good 1lb jam jars with lids. Thank you. Margaret Antill

August, 2007

As we have seen the rain falling down, day after day, week after week, we no longer watch the weather forecast for fine or rain during these summer months, we look for a sprinkling of showers as good weather, as mostly for two months we have had torrential rain, hail and thunderstorms, with the very occasional fine day. The weather does, however, affect the mood of people. The sun seems to have 'feel good' factors making people happier. However, despite all the storms and incessant rain during June and July, we have never seen our garden so happy, colourful and vibrant with Lupins, Lilies, Poppies, Dahlias, Delphiniums etc. and at last the hanging baskets and tubs came to life.

Have you ever bought something for a very small amount of money, in fact a bargain, which has proved to be extremely good value and also very useful. About 30 years ago we had a Rummage Sale for the Sunday School and it really was a bumper sale. I bought a velour table cover for 50p which must have originally been very expensive. I still use it every day under the table cloth and I can't tell you how many people have asked me where I bought it. However, after thousands of everyday meals and parties, it is wearing a bit thin but is still as useful. Some years later I also bought a Pyrex meat plate for £1 and use that regularly as it isn't quite as big as usual meat plates. So, although I don't think you would buy either of these items so cheaply now, there must still be plenty of bargains out there, and when I use these items I like to think that perhaps they were also valued by another owner.

Whenever Wimbledon fortnight comes around, I plan to get all the shopping, housework etc. over and done before play starts. This year was terrible as the rain came day after day and matches were prolonged into days instead of hours, and I never seemed to watch a complete match until the finals. This reminded me of when my children were small and the weather was awful one year, so I was quite relieved when the men's final was played on the 3rd Monday, and I had the house to myself, and did the ironing while watching it in peace.

'Consider the postage stamp! It's usefulness consists of it's ability to stick to one thing until it gets there. This is a quotation by American humorist Josh Billings.

Marie Cove.