

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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Editorial:

So what did you do?

I came back to work after my sabbatical in June but had to write the July editorial before I went away so I couldn't get much news. Now I can tell you what I did spend my time doing.

I was told that the main purpose of my time was to chill out, relax and re-charge my batteries so that's precisely what I did. I holidayed in South Africa, in France and in Yorkshire. South Africa was a stunning place to visit. The wildlife was wonderful and the emergence of a new nation from apartheid was both fascinating and humbling. If anyone would like me to speak to any groups -illustrated if you wish- I would be delighted. When I was home I relaxed. It was good to have time, to relax, to walk, simply to be.

But it was not only taking things easy. I spent five days on silent retreat at Douai Abbey (I will feature that in my Ansley News editorial) and visited four churches, which have exciting ministries from which we can learn – Keresley Community Church, St. Mary's Leamington Priors, Page Moss, Huyton, Liverpool and Cable Street, London. It was both humbling and encouraging to see their wonderful witness to Jesus. It also gave me new ideas of working and a renewed vision for sharing the Good News of Jesus.

Now its time to look forward - to our Flower Festival with its fascinating theme of Days, to the Harvest Festival and not too long now to the refurbishment of St. John's. So a BIG "Thank You" to all of you who worked harder to make my sabbatical possible.

Let us look forward to the future reassured by the presence of Jesus and praying for the coming of his kingdom.

Your friend and vicar,

Peter

August St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 3rd	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service in Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 10th	St. Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Holy Baptism
	Day	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 17th	Trinity 13	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Friday 22nd	Dedication	7.00 p.m.	Special Service
Sunday 24th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Monday 25th	Thanksgiving	7.00 p.m.	Special Service
Sunday 31st	Trinity 15	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 3rd	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Wednesday 6th		9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 10th	Trinity 12	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th	Trinity 13	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Wednesday 16th		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 24th	Flower Festival		Joint service at St Laurence
Sunday 31st	Trinity 15	10.30 a.m.	Songs of Praise

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards

From the Registers

Wedding

On Saturday 27th with members of their families and friends present Jamie Arnold married Holly Allen at St Laurence's. This was a very special and happy occasion for the two families also the weather was kind. We wish Jamie and Holly every happiness for the future.

Funeral

Darcy May Edwards was born on 13th May in Nuneaton but died peacefully on 16th after a very short life with her father by her side in Leicester. She had been baptized there and as was said at her funeral on Friday 20th May "She is still alive in the presence of God". We extend our sympathy to her parents Leanne and Keith, brother Jay, Grandparents and all the family.

Burial

On Friday 11th July after a funeral service at St. Joseph's Spring Hill the burial of Maureen Stephenson aged 81 took place at St. Laurence's. Maureen had moved to Mill Farm Ansley with her husband John and family in the 1970's, she was very keen on history and literature and had 13 historical novels published many of which were set in and around Ansley. We extend our sympathy to John her three children and her grandchildren.

Open Church

The Church will be open 9th August from 2 -5 p.m. It will also be open on 23rd which is the Flower Festival weekend.

Light refreshments will be available in the Annexe.

Flower Festival 2008

How the years have gone by this year will be our 44th flower festival, many things have changed in that time, but the wonderful support of the many people (but always changing) who help each year has not, neither has the guidance and workings of our never changing God.

This year our theme is 'Days' challenging - yes - but, as will be seen our God never changes and 'at the end of days we shall see His Face'.

Preparations are already under way as different people are thinking and praying about their respective parts. However much work has yet to be done commencing with the tidying up of the churchyard, we will have a working party on Monday 11th from 9 a.m. any help will be very much appreciated please bring your tools with you, there are hedges to be cut, trees to be trimmed, paths to be swept, gardens to be weeded and graves to be tidied. This work will continue through till the opening of the festival on Friday 22nd. Please do come and lend a hand at any time and just do the job you can see needs to be done.

Help is needed to Spring clean the Annexe on the Friday morning also to clean and tidy the Church in the afternoon ready for the festival to open at 6 p.m. on 22nd.

Please be aware that the festival follows the Bank Holiday and is therefore the earliest it can be this year.

There will be the usual produce stall and refreshments available and donations of both cakes and garden produce will be much appreciated. We will also require volunteers to man the stall and serve refreshments if anyone would like to help please do have a word there is always a job to be done.

Donations towards the cost of the flowers will be much appreciated, it is always reassuring when all the costs have been met before the event commences.

Help to steward in Church will also be required, this event sees many people come each year and they often comment on their warm welcome, please help to make this year the same.

The Festival commences at 6 p.m. on Friday 22nd with the Service of Dedication at 7 p.m. the Church will then be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and on Monday 25th. On the Sunday there will be the Morning Service of Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m. and Evensong at 6.30 p.m. the church being open and refreshments available the remainder of the time.

The morning service is joint with St John's and transport will be available, if you wish to have a lift from any part of the parish please ask Margaret Antill and the taxi will be booked.

During the event a jar for prayer requests will be in the vestry and all prayers placed in the jar will be brought to God during the festival services.

The Ansley Morris Group are planning to put on a display of Morris Dancing on Sunday afternoon this is a very popular pass time and the group will encourage others to join in and 'have a go'

The proceeds this year as mentioned in the June magazine will be for the Church funds. Do please make this event known to your family and friends. If you can display a poster or know of a local shop etc where one can be placed please do ask for some.

If you require any information or are able to help please contact Margaret Antill on 01827 874520 or Moreen Freestone on 024 7638 1833

Remembering always that 'This is the Day; that the Lord has made'.

"Fizzy Flutes" Concert

The concert presented by Atarah Ben-Tovim was a great success as she expressed her enthusiasm for music and the flute in particular. She has held over 1000 different ones at her home in France and her CV is quite something to read. Jane Kimberley with many of her pupils gave a wonderful performance of various pieces that they had played when in France. Atarah played with Jane and others and Atarah's grand daughter (8) who had come over from Canada sang and Georgina (6) played her recorder accompanied by her Grandmother Margaret.

This wonderful event raised £310 for the fabric fund, Thank you to everyone who came and supported this event.

St John's

Unfortunately the B.B.Q. was very poorly attended the weather being very wet that evening.

However we have had good news from Sitatrust that we have been awarded £25,000 towards the hall improvements this brings the confirmed total to £97,000 available for the project. We are still awaiting news from a further three applications and it is hoped that by September we will be in a position to make a decision as to what work can be undertaken and then formal tenders can be sought.

Please continue to remember the project to improve the hall in your prayers, there has been a lot of planning and preparation put into action, but until the funding is in place we cannot proceed.

Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence and St. John's please hand the slip below to a member of the Church Congregation or contact the Vicar on 024 7639 9070. Please remember the vicar would be pleased to visit anyone who is sick, but he does need to know again please ring.

Please pray forwho is

August 2008

We celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary on 28th June, with a large party for family, friends and neighbours, of all ages, and everyone seemed to have a good time, with nostalgic and modern music and lots of enjoyable food. We would like to thank everyone who helped in any way, for those who came to the party, and also for the donations instead of presents which made a magnificent total of £600 (£300 for Childline and £300 for Acorns Children's Hospice). Many, many thanks to you all. Also a special thank you to Peter Alan for the service on Sunday, 29th June, when we renewed our marriage vows with family and friends present. Certainly a weekend to remember and cherish.

I read where a certain very famous footballer paid 1 Million Pounds for his wife's wedding ring. This made me laugh as our wedding ring, in 22 carat gold, cost £7 and with this we were given a free gift of 6 silver teaspoons. I hope that the million pound ring eventually shares as many memories and as much love as our £7 ring.

Did you know the tea bag is 100 years old. How did it happen? Well an American sent samples of tea to his customers in silk bags. Some of them put the bags in the teapot but complained that the flavour didn't come through, so he made them out of gauze. Of course it wasn't until the 1960's that the tea bags as we know them came into their own, because then they started to be used by millions.

The N.H.S. is 60 years old. How on earth did ordinary people manage without out? Well the answer is 'They didn't' as many died prematurely, people went deaf and couldn't do anything about it; many had rotten painful teeth and then the N.H.S. came along. My mother suffered dreadfully with her teeth, and then one day soon after the N.H.S. came into being, we came home from school and my mother didn't say a word; everyone wondered what was the matter. She usually had a cheerful word for everyone. Then she said 'Don't ask me to talk. I've been to the dentist today and had all my teeth out and will very shortly have false ones'. We were amazed because we thought she was afraid of the dentist, but the truth was she couldn't afford it. So I say 'Well done the far seeing people who thought of and put into practice the National Health Service and long may it remain'

Marie Cove.