

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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As I write this it's the morning of Thursday July 9.

On Monday I spent the evening with those newly confirmed who shared their story at St. Laurence's Annex. It was heartening to be together as different people shared or listened - those who had been committed Christians for many years, those confirmed recently, those planning to be confirmed and those still thinking. As we shared our journeys and ate and chatted together there was a real sense of God at work.

On Tuesday I visited the Community Centre at St. Michael's - roof nearly complete, plastering about to start. We have a feel of a large and exciting development. It was wonderful to stand there seeing all our hopes and longings coming together before my eyes.

On Wednesday I visited St. John's Hall with its refurbishment nearly complete. How lovely it looks and so much more space! A visible sign of hard work, dedication, commitment and a lot of love!

Today I don't know what God has in store but he is certainly taking us on an exciting journey. The sense of God at work is truly amazing!

But I don't want to keep this to myself.

If you want to share the joys I experienced on Monday I invite you to the next meeting of the confirmation class. We now meet on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm to study the parables of Jesus - so you will be welcome to join us on August 3.

If you would like to consider preparing for confirmation (without obligation!), are simply seeking or would like to do ALPHA please contact me or John Cox.

If you would like to celebrate the completion of the building works we invite you to join us in worship:

St. John's Hall on Sunday September 27 10.30am All-Age Worship with the Bishop of Coventry, 6.30pm Holy Communion (United service with St. Laurence's)

Arley and St. Michael's Community Centre Saturday October 31 2pm Celebration Service with the Bishop of Coventry, November 1st 10.15am Holy Communion (United service with St Wilfrid's)

My prayer for you all is that you will feel a real sense of God at work.

Expect great things from God!

Peter

August, St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 2 nd	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service in Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 16 th	Trinity 10	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 rd	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Friday 28 th		7.00 p.m.	Dedication service
Sunday 30 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Monday 31 st		6.30 p.m.	Thanksgiving and party

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 2 nd	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 9 th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 th	Trinity 10	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 23 rd	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 30 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Joint Service at St. Laurence

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards. **It is planned that St. John's Hall will be back in use from 9th August for all activities**

From the Registers

Funerals

We love the place O Lord wherein thine honour dwells...'

We sung this at the funeral of Alec Richardson which took place at St. Laurence's on 13 July 2009 followed by burial in the churchyard. It was a fitting tribute to one of our church's faithful servants. Alec will be sadly mourned by his wife Miriam, his son Ian, his grandchildren Sian and Megan and all his family and friends. The blend of a determination not to tolerate unkindness, hard work and high expectations, an ability to make friends easily and to cherish them carefully, contentment with the little things of life (not least cooking with the family), delight in the company of his grandchildren and a strong faith made Alec a very special person. That faith found its particular expression in the life of St. Laurence's where he was married and which he served so faithfully - not least as a member for much of his life of our P.C.C. We shall all miss him greatly but delight that he is now in God's closer presence.

Flower Festival

This year the theme chosen is the 'CROSS' the symbol of our Christian faith.

There will be 28 displays depicting different aspects of the cross from the time Jesus foretold of his impending death when He said "If I be lifted up", words from the cross, "Behold thy mother" and "Father into thy hands I commend my spirit" to the realisation of the importance of the Cross to Christians "When I survey the wondrous cross" and finally the realisation that Jesus is alive today "He is Risen".

All these displays are by people connected with the church, of all ages from the very young to those who care not to think how old they are, all of whom come and help to make this into the

very special annual event it has become since 1965. The lovely old church will look beautiful decked in so many flowers, but there will also be a message that it is hoped will speak to everyone, both young and old, of the love our Saviour showed by dying for us on 'The Cross'.

Preparations commence in earnest with the tidying of the churchyard from Monday 17th August when the hedges will be cut, the trees trimmed, the paths will also need to be swept and the place generally tidied up. This is work that anyone can come along and help with when they have a few moments to spare, bring your own tools and do a job you think needs doing - no jobs are allocated - there is a large area to keep tidy.

Work in church will commence on Tuesday 25th, there is always plenty of fetching and carrying to be done during this time, then on Friday 28th cleaning will commence in the annexe in the morning and then move into church in the afternoon.

Refreshments will be available throughout the festival and if you can help it would be appreciated. Please contact Marcia Sutton on 024 7639 2488 and let her know what you are able to do so that we can ensure that all the time slots are covered and also that there will be sufficient cakes etc. available.

If you are unable to help with time donations towards the cost of the flowers would be much appreciated.

As usual there will be the produce stall and again any help with serving and the provision of produce will be much appreciated - please contact Dave and Marie Cove 024 7639 4114.

There will also need to be stewards in the church during the festival and again if you feel you can better help with that then please speak to Diana Kealey 024 76395089.

Any help from anyone for however long will be very much appreciated and the old adage 'many hands make light work' is very true, please do just come down and get on with a job you think needs doing.

On Wednesday 2nd September the arrangements will be removed and if you know of anyone in the parish who is ill or just under the weather and would appreciate a bunch of flowers please do let someone in the church have the name and address and every effort will be made to deliver them

Please do let as many people know of this event posters are available or if you would like to send information via email please do so full details are on the web www.ansleychurch.org. in the 'What's On' section together with a few pictures of the 2008 festival.

At a recent PCC meeting it was agreed that this year proceeds would again be given to Church Funds, and 10% to the work of the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and The Acorn Children's Hospice both of whom we have, until last year, supported for many years.

This festival has always endeavoured to reach out to people of all ages and with the Christian message it contains is able to speak to all who visit. There will be an opportunity to put your prayer in a prayer jar and these will be read at the various services. Leave your burdens in the form of a stone at the foot of a cross and thank God for his goodness by putting a flower again at the foot of a cross.

The Festival is open:-

- Friday 28th 6 p.m. on until after the service of dedication at 7 p.m.
- Saturday 29th open all day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Sunday 30th the morning Communion service is at 10.30 and the church will be open all day until the Festival Evensong at 6.30 p.m.
- Monday 31st from 10 a.m. until 6.30 p.m. when there is the service of Thanksgiving followed by a party in the Annexe.

Open Church

The Church will be open and light refreshments available in the annexe on Saturday 1st August from 2.00 -5.00 p.m.

Dave & Marie's Coffee Morning

On what was then the hottest day of the year Marie and Dave had their annual coffee morning and most of the large crowd were able to sit out in the sunshine – or if needed in the shade and enjoy a very pleasant few hours in their lovely garden. There was time to talk and eat the cakes, look at the things on the stall and meet new people.

A total of £105 was raised for the Acorn Children's Hospice, thank you to all who supported and helped for such a worthy course.

St. John's Church Hall

On Saturday 4th July at 2.00p.m. Joy Pethick and her family welcomed a great many people to her home and with the help of others were able to provide cake and drinks for all. It was a hot afternoon, the sun shone and most people were able to sit outside and meet together. (The women's tennis final was on television in the front room). After selling all the tickets available for the raffle and a lot of things on the "Bring and Buy" stall a total of £200 was raised for St. John's Church Hall. Thank you to all who worked so hard and supported this wonderful result.

The work on the hall has progressed well again during July and by the time that you receive this, the contractors will have completed their part of the work. All the furniture and kitchen items have to be returned to the hall and put away. If all goes to plan the first event in the newly refurbished hall will be the Communion Service on Sunday 9th August at 10.30 a.m.

If you wish to book the hall for an event after that date please contact Donna Salisbury 024 76393967 who is taking care of the hall bookings

Do please make sure you have a note in your diary for the celebrations on 27th September. Full details next month.

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

The total paid into our Fabric Fund in June was £18.00 increasing the total to £332.30 all from the small change collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed. The jars will be in Church for the rest of the year

Skittles Evening

On June 26th a Skittles Evening was arranged, being the first time such an event was tried in Ansley it was very much an experiment, by hiring three skittles games, (long ally, table and bar) arranging teams and having quizzes etc. everyone had a wonderful evening. A wonderful spread was provided and a total of £223 was raised for the Church Fabric Fund after expenses. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported this event.

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, 2009

The first couple of weeks of July were wonderful, not only for the hot, sunny weather, but after a holiday in Wales with wall to wall sunshine, (very rare), we had a Coffee Morning with lots of people and good fellowship, then an Afternoon Tea where lots more people enjoyed themselves and gave generously. These two events were just like the Church of years ago when people baked cakes and go together for Charity or for the Church. Let's hope we have many more months like July 2009.

If I said the name 'Herge' would this mean anything to you? Well anyone of a certain age will remember Herge's Adventures of Tin Tin' - stories of a boy detective and his dog 'Snowy'. Well, Herge was a Belgium and they have opened a museum solely dedicated to him and there will perhaps be a film of his life.

An image on a fresco in a catacomb in Rome has been identified as St. Paul. Bones have also been found which could be St. Paul's - what a stupendous recovery. What I didn't know is that Paul is known as the Patron Saint of London.

With all the research and progress in medicine, you would think the children of today and adults would be healthier. This is not so, as when we were young we only had the common childhood illnesses like Measles, Chickenpox and Mumps. If we felt under the weather or had a headache our mother would say 'Never mind. You'll die after it'. I didn't have a day off school all through Infant and Middle school and when I did have swollen gland it was during the school holidays. Even at Grammar School I only had one day off and that day my mother was ill. We never had colds or flu and if we fell and cut ourselves, our mother would dab on Iodine and we carried on.

We were made of stern stuff and heaven only knows what the 'politically correct' brigade would have made of our games - climbing trees, skidding down banks, making camps, boys swinging blazing cans, marbles in the gutter and of course skipping and conkers. Germs seemed almost non-existent as we made mud pies got our legs caught on barbed wire and rusty nails. We even played for some time, when it was wet in an old chicken pen - can you imagine the germs in there, but none of us had any ill affects.

When we were children my sisters and I always had an ambition to stay up all night. Of course the air raids didn't count as we were already in bed. We also wanted to sleep as long as we liked in the morning. Of course this didn't include our younger brother as his one ambition was to get up before our mother (5.30 am) and re-kindle the fire himself, which he didn't achieve. Now we are retired and can sleep and get up when we like, we still don't stay up all night as we are too tired, but we can sleep in for a while if we want to, and the strict routine is no more. Just one bonus of getting older.

This is part of one of my poem's called 'An ode to the young' -
So listen you young people all. Use your days, your minutes, your seconds all.
So when you are old you too can say.
What fun we had and how well we used our hay day.

Marie cove.