

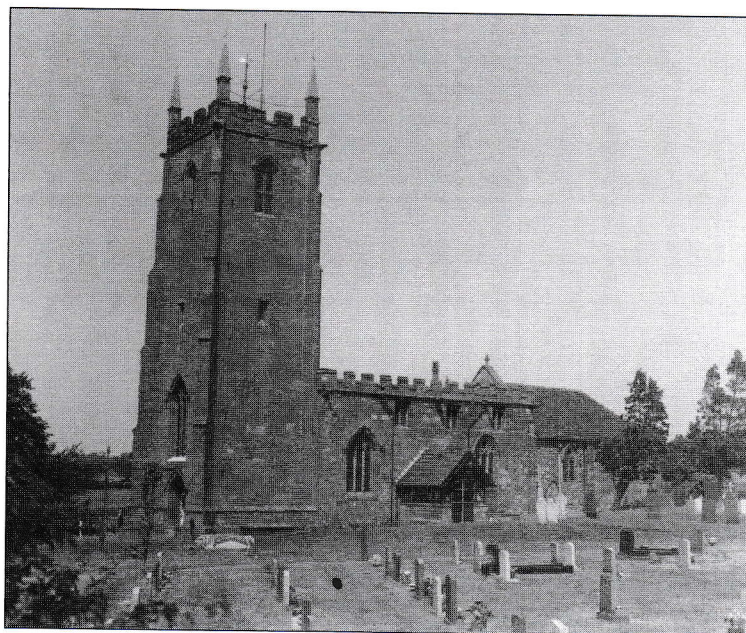
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Watching Andy Murray

When will he win Wimbledon?

We all wondered whether it might be this year.

Or next year?

Or the year after?

After that it would almost certainly be too late.

We are talking of course about Andy Murray.

There is little doubt that he is a superb tennis player and that physically he has grown in strength and developed his muscles over recent years.

What does he lack? Of course he is up against very strong opposition, but is there anything he can do?

I was quite interested in the analysis. Andy, it was said, is not lacking in stamina, strength or skill. What he lacks is resilience. Mistakes get him down too easily. He turns them into negative emotions and they distract his game. When he does badly, he beats himself up. The greatest champions do not do this. They ride the storm and keep going.

What about us? Do we let things get us down? Or do we put the mistake or problem down to experience and keep going?

One of the great things faith does is to improve our resilience. After all we know love wins in the end. We know we will face problems but God will help us through. Believing does make a difference. So don't be afraid. Let God hold you up.

"We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us". Yes it does feel like an unfair advantage over those who do not believe but we have this strength to help others find that strength for themselves!

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

For your Diary.

John, Bishop of Warwick will be sharing a light lunch with us at Ansley Village Church Hall from 12-2pm on Wednesday September 7. You are invited to join us.

August St. Laurence's Church – Services

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|
| Sunday 7 th | Trinity 7 | 10.30 a.m. | All Age Worship |
| | | 6.30 p.m. | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 14 th | St. Laurence | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| | | 6.30 p.m. | Evensong |
| Sunday 21 st | Trinity 9 | 10.30 a.m. | Morning Prayer |
| | | 6.30 p.m. | Holy Communion |
| Friday 26 th | | 7.00 p.m. | Dedication Service |
| Sunday 28 th | Flower Festival | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| | | 6.30 p.m. | Evensong |
| Monday 29 th | | 7.00 p.m. | Thanksgiving |

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday 7 th | Trinity 7 | 10.30 a.m. | Family Service |
| Sunday 14 th | Trinity 8 | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 21 st | Trinity 9 | 10.30 a.m. | Family Service |
| Sunday 28 th | Flower Festival | 10.30 a.m. | Joint Service at St Laurence |

Discussion Groups

Discussing the parables – Tuesday 9th August at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

'The year through the Bible' Thursday 4th August at 7.30 p.m. 128 Birmingham Road.

The church will be open on Saturday 6th August 10.00 a.m. – 1.00p.m. for private prayer or quiet contemplation and light refreshments will be available in the annexe

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

From the Registers (funerals next month)

WE WELCOMED IN BAPTISM

19 June Sophie Anita Jasmine Ryan

26 June Corde Levi Coltman, Leila Courtney Coltman and their Dad, Callam William Alexander Coltman

WE JOINED IN MARRIAGE

18 June Thomas Evans and Rebecca Glover

2 July Daniel Sammut and Anna Barrs

9 July Matthew Shaw and Kerry Eburne-Day

Flower Festival

Our 47th annual Flower Festival opens on Friday 26th August at 6 p.m. with a dedication service at 7 p.m. The church will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday 27th on Sunday 28th from 11.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Monday 29th from 10 a.m. until our thanksgiving service at 6.30 p.m. This year in recognition of the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible our theme is "The Bible." There will be 27 different depictions on this theme including the translation into English by the Venerable Bede to "All holy scripture is written for our learning", "Meditate upon these things", "Tell me the stories of Jesus", and "Let the work of Christ dwell in you".

Work in earnest will commence on Monday 15th at 9 a.m. starting in the churchyard trimming the hedges and trees, tidying the flower beds, cleaning the paths and generally tidying all round. This work will continue until the start of the festival and if anyone has any time to assist it would be much appreciated, please bring some tools and start where you see a job that you can manage.

The preparations in Church will commence on Monday 22nd and will continue at an increasing pace until all is completed.

Throughout the preparations there are many small tasks that need to be done fetching, carrying and particularly making a cuppa etc. Please don't wait to be asked just come along from 9 a.m. on Thursday 25th until all is completed and the cleaning on Friday afternoon has been finished.

On Wednesday 31st the displays will be dismantled and if you know of anyone who is not too well or would appreciate a bunch of flowers please let Margaret Antill know. They can be delivered within the parish or if you would like to collect a bunch for someone not in Ansley please also let it be known. Again help will be appreciated with the clearing and cleaning. Cakes and other items for refreshments are always needed and it would be much appreciated if you could please let Marcia Sutton (024 7639 2248) know the quantity and time you are bringing any refreshments this will ensure we are not running out, particularly of cakes, at the beginning and having a lot left at the end.

Gifts for the produce stall are also welcomed.

Help will also be needed to serve the refreshments, assist on the produce stall, sell the cake raffle tickets, assist in the car park and to steward in the church.

Lists will be in church to fill in or please let someone know when you can help.

All these tasks are so very important to ensure that all our visitors are given a warm and friendly welcome and helped to enjoy the festival and St. Laurence to the full. Please help if you can.

The Flower Festival is a big project for the church to undertake and it is by working together that brings it to fruition and makes it an event everyone can enjoy.

It is clear from comments in the visitor's book of previous festivals that it is our team effort that is all given freely and lovingly that helps the atmosphere of our festival be noted.

Church Building Work

The building work on the chancel roof started as expected at the beginning of July however the discovery of some rotten wood and woodworm, once the roof had been removed, necessitated the rotten wood being replaced and the timbers treated for the woodworm. Whilst all this was carried out with the planned repairs, it will obviously increase the bill, and thus further deplete our very limited fabric fund. At the time of writing the exact amount was not known. With further work imminent on the tower it is important that we keep adding to this fund and if anyone would like to make a donation, or has an idea over and above what we are already doing, of how to raise funds, it would be much appreciated

We continue to ask everyone to be vigilant and ensure that all visitors and workmen are genuine and made welcome, but ensuring that those that have ill intent are warned off.

The Village Church Hall

The hall after it's spring clean, following the work that has recently been carried out, looks wonderful, all the walls clean and fresh, all the equipment put away in the new storage and the improvements to the entrance give a welcome to all.

However in the cleaning process there was some wood worm found in the roof timbers and at the time of writing this had been inspected, and while we have been advised the work will not cause any mess, just the curtains taken down. It is further work that will need to be carried out as soon as possible. At the present time the cost is not known.

Thank you to all the hall users who made other arrangements while the hall was out of action and to all who cleaned and sorted things after the work had been completed.

St. John's Events

The bingo session on 18th July was great fun, with varied prizes to be won. Everyone had a good time a total of £145 was raised with £50 being donated to Water Aid. The next session is on 12th September. Thank you to all who support these sessions.

In Search of Medieval Ansley.

This was a most interesting evening when Dr. John Hunt talked on various aspects of Ansley from the mists of time and particularly about the time from the Norman Conquest until the Black Death He expanded on the ownership of land, the population growth, taxes and explained how the information is gleaned from many different places.

Because of the demand, another evening has been arranged for Thursday 1st September at 7 p.m. Please be sure to book your place as there is a maximum of 30 per session and if a further one is needed it will be arranged to ensure that all who are interested can attend.

After paying the costs this first evening raised £80 for the fabric fund.

Day of Prayer

Following the Lent discussions when we discussed the spiritual life of the church several conclusions were reached. The first to be implemented was to have a few moments of silence during our intercessions for our own private prayers. Another is to have a day of prayer in the church, and this will be on Tuesday 13th September. It will commence at 11 a.m. with a short Morning Prayer and at 7 p.m. the service of Complin to finish the day. More details next month, but please put this date in your diary.

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

It has been decided to continue with this small change collection and anyone who would like a collecting tin please ask and one can be organised. The total paid into our Fabric Fund in February was £25 bringing the total to £111 so far this year all from the small change collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

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 2011.

Well, here we are already starting the 8th month of the year. The children are putting away their books for their summer holiday and it doesn't seem five minutes since Christmas. Even the birds are confused as some are still building more nests, or look as if they are.

On holiday we saw a Hair Dressing Salon called 'Split Endz' which I thought was a very unfortunate name for such an establishment. However, it seems very popular and fashionable to think up witty names for hair salons such as 'Hairs & Graces', 'Hairapy', 'S'il Vous Plait', 'From Hair to Eternity' 'Hair Brained'. There are so many and such a contrast to years ago when Salons used the name of the proprietor, e.g. 'Peggy' was our local hairdresser and 'Rosie Cowling', but I still think that 'Split Endz' is a very inapt name.

As we watched Wimbledon, which I love, it was amazing how many rackets and balls were used. When I was 11 years ago and started Grammar School, I needed a tennis racket, as these were not provided, so my Uncle Fred gave me one, telling me to always put it back in the press after use as it would warp. That's a far cry from tennis rackets of today, as the players regularly change their racket and also have them restrung, and did you know that at Wimbledon 200 boys and girls fetched more than 52,000 balls, 20,000 of which were used in the qualifying events or practice. Used balls are sold after the event and money raised given to various charities. A few years ago several hundred balls were given to The Wildlife Trust for use as nest boxes for harvest mice. What a lovely thought.

As I sat in the field at Nursery Hill School watching the children at their Sports Day. I was amazed at the amount of equipment they had. They had mats to sit on, T shirts to wear, even hats, and there were special ties for the 3 legged race, tennis rackets and balls instead of egg and spoon, hoops, footballs, and many more items. I would say the school children of today are very lucky to enjoy these amazing facilities and in the case of Nursery Hill, in such fantastic surroundings. However, the loveliest part of the Sports Day was that even those who didn't win or even came last, were clapped and cheered and encouraged. Well done Nursery Hill!

When parents are told their child is dyslexic, it is like the end of the world, but take heart because Michelangelo and Einstein were dyslexic - can you believe how clever and talented they were? Also they have left behind a legacy of achievements for future generations to see.

August is a month of fun galore, with holidays, outings and much, much more,
The children play all day long, and beaches bulge as people throng.

This fair month is loved by all, whether old, or young, or very small.
So enjoy long August day and shady night, as worries are forgotten and put to flight.

Marie Cove.