

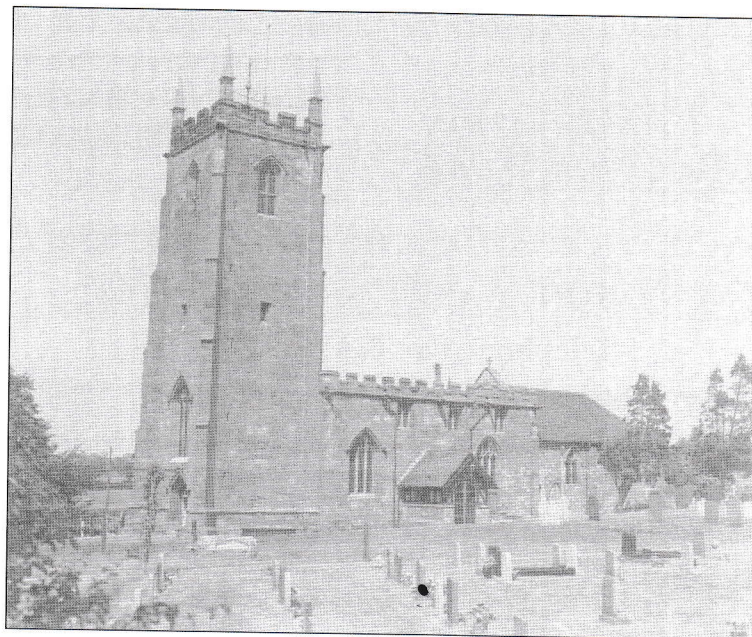
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Looking back, looking forward.

I can vividly remember nine years ago. I was, it seemed, running two benefices and fourteen churches at the same time! As well as organising service rotas for the parishes I was leaving, I was also fielding questions about service rotas in Ansley and Arley, in which I was soon to serve. And there were the farewells to individuals to churches and then the final farewell for everybody before my last wedding that marked the end of my ministry there.

It was four months previously that I had read in the Church Times the advertisement for Ansley and Arley. One of the things that attracted me to the post was that contrary to my existing job in Norfolk there was no oversight of other clergy, no management responsibilities. What the benefice was looking for, as I understood it, was a good parish priest who could serve both parishes and lead them into growth.

Of course it didn't quite work out that way. The desperate need for committed, continuing work for young people led to the formation of the Ley Group Young Peoples Project and then - what I hadn't anticipated - there was major building work on six of the seven church premises and I was asked to be Area Dean of Nuneaton - the largest Deanery in Coventry Diocese. I hope through these things God has been honoured. But now it is good to have building work nearly finished. I am also pleased that my term as Area Dean is now complete.

I know God springs surprises but my hope, as we look ahead, is that parish ministry will be the focus and, with that as the focus, my emphasis and indeed the emphasis for us all will be drawing people to faith in Jesus.

May God guide me, and all of us, as we move into this new phase.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

August St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 5 th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th	St. Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 19 th	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Friday 24 th	Flower Festival	7.00 p.m.	Dedication Service
Sunday 26 th	Flower Festival	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Monday 27 th		6.30 p.m.	Thanksgiving

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 5 th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 12 th	Trinity 10	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 26 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St Laurence

Discussion Groups

The year through the Bible' Thursday 2nd August 7.30 p.m. 10 Nuthurst Crescent.
Discussing the parables – Tuesday 14th August at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

From the Registers

Baptism

The baptism of Sophia Norah Beech took place in St. Laurence's Church on July 1st. The service included opportunities for family and friends to write prayers for Sophia on a prayer tree and to light candles for her. Russell and Victoria her parents explained how God had guided them in the choice of the names for their child_Sophia for wisdom, Norah for the light of Christ.

Wedding

The marriage of Christopher Kevin Buckler and Nicola Leanne Robinson was celebrated at St. Laurence's Church on took place on July 14th. It was a lovely occasion in which we all shared in the joy of their love.

Funerals

The funeral of Marjorie Cooper took place at Heart of England Crematorium on Thursday 21 June. Whilst all were saddened at her passing, the funeral was nonetheless a celebration of a long life well lived for a lady who spent much of her life in Ansley which she love so much.

The funeral of Peter Stringer was taken by Canon Adrian Mairs at St Laurence's Church on Wednesday 27th June followed by committal at Heart of England Crematorium and

subsequent interment of mortal remains within the churchyard. Peter is greatly missed and deeply mourned by his wife Lesley and by all his family and friends.

Flower Festival

For this our 48th annual flower festival the theme is "Give". In the porch we will be depicting the athletes who "Give" of themselves to achieve success in this Olympic year, and the Queen in her Diamond Jubilee year who has "Given" a lifetime of service to our nation. We will also be depicting our Cathedral which celebrated its Golden Jubilee, 50 years since its consecration with the theme of "The Gift that is yours". There will be 24 other displays which will include "They offered their Gifts" "Gave their today for our tomorrow", "Freely give", "Gave his life for me" "Give to our God immortal praise" and "My peace I give unto you". Each will be depicted individually with every age represented, including the young children.

Preparations will commence at the church as usual at 9 a.m. on Monday 13th August with the tidying up of the churchyard, which, after the weather we have been having, has seen vast amounts of growth. We will be trimming the trees and bushes, tidying the gardens, sweeping, weeding and clearing round the edges: any help at any time in the churchyard is much appreciated. This work will continue until the commencement of the Festival on Friday 24th

There are many ways in which you can help, praying for the event, a donation towards the cost of the flowers, making a cake, serving refreshments, cleaning, providing produce for the stall, selling the produce, helping in the car park at busy times or stewarding in the church. The rota lists will be in church throughout August please add your name at your most favoured time.

The festival will commence as usual at 6 p.m. on Friday 24th with a service of dedication at 7 p.m. On Saturday 25th the church and annexe will be open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. The Sunday services will be as usual, Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m. and the church open to walk around from 11.30 a.m. until 6 p.m. when we will hold our service of Evensong at 6.30 p.m. Again on Bank Holiday Monday the festival will continue from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and finish with our service of thanksgiving at 6.30 p.m. followed by the party in the annexe to which everyone is invited.

This year we will be having Ansley Morris dancing in the churchyard on the Saturday afternoon and at 7.30 p.m. Saturday evening there will be a concert by "Champagne Flutes" This performance is being organised by Jane Kimberley, and will be, as all her concerts, to a very high standard.

As in the past few years there will be the opportunity to put a prayer in the prayer jar and these will be read during one of our services.

At the end of the festival when the displays are cleared, bunches of flowers will be delivered to the bereaved and those who are unwell in the parish. If you know of someone who would appreciate a bunch please let it be known or add a name with the address to the list in church. If the address is outside the parish please can you arrange to collect the flowers.

The proceeds of the festival will be in aid of church funds with a donation being given to the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and the Acorn Children's Hospice.

It is good to see visitors in our lovely old church and churchyard and we hope and pray they will find the arrangements inspiring, thought provoking and an enjoyable experience. Good refreshments will be served in the annexe, but most of all it is important that we ensure everyone is given a very warm welcome.

Prize Bingo

The next prize bingo session is on Monday 13th August, in St. John's Church Hall, eyes down at 7 p.m. These sessions are good fun and greatly enjoyed by all who participate.

Tea & Cake Afternoon

On Saturday 30th June a good crowd of local residents of all ages came and supported the tea and cake afternoon in St. John's Church Hall. There was a lot going on with the bric-a-brac stall and the tombola, as well as plenty of lovely cakes and cups of tea and coffee available. People had time for a sit, chat and watch others having a go on the tombola.

It was a lovely afternoon and £283 was raised for hall funds, thank you to everyone who helped and supported this annual event.

Confirmation

The vicar will be running confirmation classes starting in September. If anyone would like to consider confirmation in November or renew their promises, please have a word with him. If you would like to help, or just come along please speak to the vicar. The dates and times of the classes will be arranged to best suit of all.

Thank you

In the June issue of the magazine I mentioned that I was celebrating a big birthday that month, and instead of presents was asking for donations to the new external lighting fund. I had no idea what to expect, only that I felt it would greatly help the church, in many different ways, if a good new LED system were introduced. I am delighted to say that nearly £1500 was received. I am very grateful to everyone. I was also very touched by what the vicar wrote in the July issue and especially for the words that were sung at the evening service of 17th June. Thank you everyone. - Margaret Antill

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 2012

Well in June we started and finished the month with rain and well into July until we felt as if it would never stop, but while people were still suffering flash floods and their homes devastated, we did manage less rain and a couple of days sunshine. The weather was the only topic of conversation with some explaining it by the Gulf Stream; another lady said it was icebergs melting and flowing into the rivers. Let us hope this is an occurrence which only happens every 20 years or better still 50 years.

A couple of months ago when I heard Sir Geoff Hurst (scorer of a hat trick in the 1966 world cup), was coming to Nuneaton Football Ground and my son, grandson and granddaughter were going, it brought back happy memories for me. I can remember as if it was yesterday sitting watching the match and the absolute joy when we won. My eldest son, who was 2 years old, was playing mud pies in the garden, as usual, but as we celebrated we weren't to know that 46 years later this has never been repeated by England.

Have you ever wondered why we are said to 'pay through the nose'. In the 17th Century 'rhino' was a popular slang word for money, while 'rhino' was Greek for 'nose'. So the connection was made.

At the beginning of May this year Mr. Punch from the Punch and Judy show was 350 years old. It is, without a doubt a very violent form of entertainment, but has been loved throughout the generations. Only a couple of years ago we were at a children's party and they had a Punch and Judy Show. I have never seen so many children absolutely enthralled and full of laughter. Of course it has had to be toned down, and the baby doesn't get hit by Punch, but this show does result in peals of laughter and lot of shouting out not only from the children but grownups too.

We seem to think that there has always been 999 to dial in an emergency but not so although it has been used for 75 years and it is the oldest emergency call service. Before 999 you had to dial 0 but when they were deciding what to use they tried 111 but it caused technical difficulties, 000 got the Operator so 999 was the next number that could be used on the old telephone.

The schools are closed, the books put away. Time for holidays and fun every day. Whether it's caravan, tent, or holiday abroad, you can be sure all will be enjoyed.

Marie Cove.