

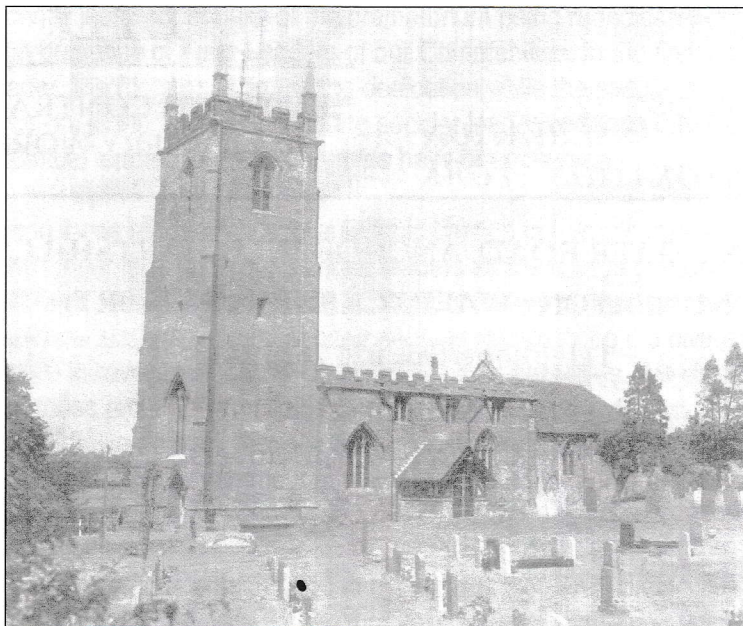
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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Ansley Village, Church End

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THE STORY OF TWO PLAQUES

The Heart of England Crematorium at Nuneaton is beautifully cared for but we generally only go there in times of sadness. I doubt very much therefore that you will have eyes to see or time to reflect on the plaques beside the main exit door.

The first plaque speaks of the crematorium being dedicated by the Bishop of Coventry in the presence of the Mayor of Nuneaton and Bedworth. The second plaque, recently installed, speaks of the crematorium being rededicated by the Mayor in the presence of Faith Leaders of our Communities. In the first instance the spiritual leader (the Bishop) performs the dedication while the secular leader (the Mayor) looks on. In the second plaque the secular leader performs the dedication while the spiritual leaders look on. The roles have been reversed.

The change in these plaques reflects a seismic change in a single generation. As a nation we no longer look up to our spiritual leaders as the source of moral and spiritual authority. Across millennia and throughout the world, men and women have looked to spiritual leaders, who have been seen as representing the divine being. It is in our nature to reverence that which is greater than ourselves. We cannot rid ourselves of those emotions that lie deep in the human psyche. So who do we look up to if we decide we do not believe in God? What or who do we honour? Is it money or business, is it secular government at every level, is it the media or is our own conscience always right?

Christians and all persons of faith need to realise that they are working in a very different environment than existed even a generation ago. We must say quite clearly that we are not here simply to meet the needs of government or society. Moslem leaders are not there primarily to keep their disaffected young people in check. Nor does the Christian Church exist to fill in the gaps left by the cuts. We do these things because God calls us to care.

In a world where God is often sidelined we must not lose heart. As people of faith we have a higher loyalty that others may not be able to understand. We are called to serve the God who breaks the bounds of oppression, who cares for the weak and vulnerable, who stands on the side of justice, who calls people to love.

May God give you a healing, restoring summer and energise you for the challenge of being a Christian today.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

August St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 4 th	Trinity 10	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 11 th	St. Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 th	Trinity 12	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Friday 23 rd	Flower Festival	7.00 p.m.	Dedication Service
Sunday 25 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Monday 26 th	Flower Festival	6.30 p.m.	Thanksgiving

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 4 th	Trinity 10	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 11 th	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 th	Trinity 12	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 25 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St. Laurence

Services

Please note the change in the evening services on the 1st and 2nd Sunday. This is to provide a Communion service during the holiday period.

Discussion Group

Fellowship Group – Tuesday, 6th August, 7 p.m. in St John's Church Hall.

From the Registers

On Monday 24th June the mortal remains of Irene Joan Lloyd were interred in St. Laurence's Churchyard. Family members who had been brought up in Ansley had travelled back from abroad. As we interred Reen in her final resting place, mourned her passing and gave thanks for her life, we celebrated many happy memories that we will cherish forever.

Flower Festival

The visible work for our 49th Festival will commence with the clearing up of the churchyard. This will begin in earnest from 9 a.m. on Monday 12th August and will continue to the start of the Festival on the 23rd August. There is a lot to do - the hedges to be cut, trees to be trimmed, gardens dug, paths to be weeded and swept, weeds around the churchyard removed and the wild areas cleared. All this takes time and a lot of hard work. If anyone can spare an hour please just turn up. (You do not have to wait till the 12th if it suits you to come earlier.) Please feel free to do the job that best suits you - no one will be offended.

If you prefer cleaning inside rather than out, the cleaning will start in the morning of Friday 23rd in the annexe and then move into the church after lunch, thus ensuring that everything is clean and tidy by our opening time of 6 p.m. Again please do come along with your duster!

There are posters and fliers in the church. Please take them and distribute them to as many places as possible but the best advertisement is always word of mouth. Please do publicise the Flower Festival as much as possible.

The Festival will take the usual format. There will be people to welcome visitors, serve refreshments in the annexe, staff the produce stall, the raffle for the cake, a book stall and, at busy times, assist with the parking. Offers to help with any of these positions would be much appreciated. As the years go by some of our past helpers are no longer able to put in the time to do what they have done for so long. As with all things many hands make light work and if anyone can help please do not hesitate to say so. You will be most welcome. You will not be expected to do things exactly the same as in the past. Everyone works differently and your support and ideas would be most welcome. We try to organise this and all our events as a team, all pulling together, so just come and join in.

Every year we are very dependent on people providing the refreshments, particularly the cakes, which are always in great demand, and the produce (fruit, vegetables, plants and homemade preserves etc.) for the stall as well as any flowers that anyone can provide. Donations towards the cost of flowers for the displays would be much appreciated. We are always most grateful for anything that is given as it all helps contribute to the success of the event.

The event begins at 6 p.m. on Friday 23rd August, with the short service of dedication at 7 p.m. The church will then be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday 24th August. The Sunday services of Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m. and Evensong at 6.30 p.m. will start and finish the day, with the church being open in the intervening period. The church will again be open from 10 a.m. on the Bank Holiday morning and the festival will close with a service of Thanksgiving at 6.30 p.m., followed by the buffet party in the annexe to which everyone is invited.

During the festival there will be an opportunity to place a stone at the feet of Jesus in an arrangement to leave your burdens, cares and worries there. There will also be space for you to add a flower as a thanksgiving for good things in your life and the opportunity to put a prayer in the prayer jar which will be read at one of our services.

If at any time you would like to speak to someone about an issue please do so. We are there for you.

As with all good things, there has to be the clearing up afterwards and this will be on Wednesday 28th August from 9 a.m. Any help to clear the flower arrangements and tidy up will be much appreciated. Also help would be appreciated to deliver bunches of flowers to the recently bereaved, the sick and the elderly within the parish. (If you know of anyone who would appreciate a bunch of flowers please do let it be known.)

This year we will be giving 15% of the proceeds to the two charities we have supported for many years. That is 7.5% to The Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and 7.5% to the Acorn Children's Hospice.

Do please come and enjoy the lovely occasion, bring your friends and tell your neighbours about this event. There are a few photographs of last year's festival on the

church web site (If you have access) at

<http://ansleychurch.org/articles/articles.php?id=399>

If you have any questions about the Festival please contact Margaret Antill on 01827874520 and leave a message.

Marie's Coffee Morning

This, as always, was a lovely occasion. The garden was full of colour and perfume as we sat outside enjoying the sunshine, choosing from a wonderful selection of cakes etc. and a having a chat amongst friends. Childline has received a sum of £105 from this event. Thank you to everyone who helped and to Marie and Dave for their warm welcome.

Nursery Hill School Summer Fayre

St Laurence's challenge of blowing a ping pong ball around a course was won in an amazing time of six seconds. The day was sunny and hot and there were lots of activities to join in and presentations to watch.

St John's Tea and Cake Afternoon

Report next month

Altar Frontal

The older members of the congregation will know our "White" frontal by the name of "Mrs Heaton's". It was she who spent ten years stitching the intricate embroidery when it was made over 100 years ago. As you are aware this cloth has been away for repair for some time now. This is because it has not been just a case of remounting the embroidery, but a lot more stitching has had to be reworked than had been originally anticipated. This is proving to be a very time consuming project, but please rest assured progress is being made.

Bees

St Laurence suffered an invasion of bees around Sunday 7th July. Services were held in the annexe on that day but things were back to normal the following week, thanks to extra cleaning. Unfortunately the bees could not be collected as a swarm because there was no queen with them.

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 , 2013

We all know that the main topic of conversation among the English is the weather, and more often than not we are grumbling, but believe me this should not be so as only recently there have been some devastating weather conditions all over the world which make our small problems pale into insignificance. Some examples were – in June Singapore was covered in thick smog so bad that there were health warnings. Then Calgary in Canada had horrendous floods, leaving thousands homeless. Northern India had landslides caused by torrential rain and almost 1.000 died, and the terrain was so treacherous a rescue helicopter crashed, killing the people in it and the list could go on and on. So let's count our blessings where our weather is concerned and remember all the good days.

A lady wrote up to the newspaper and asked if tree and plant life provide the oxygen for us to breathe, what happens at sea? The reply was that seaweed provides 80% of the oxygen we breathe by the same photosynthesis as plants, so out at sea the air is wonderful. No wonder years ago some seaside resorts were advertised as 'bracing'.

I love Cucumber and Tomatoes but there is just no comparison between home grown and bought. When I picked my first Cucumber last month, the smell was so fresh, the taste gorgeous and now I am eagerly awaiting my first Tomatoes.

I couldn't believe it when the Education Authority wanted Head teachers to ban packed lunches in their schools. One Head teacher said they had enough to do teaching the children without controlling what they eat. It would seem that the 'powers that be' can't bear us to be individuals looking after our own lives and our own children. Do they not know that most parents know their children and what is best for them? If they want children to be fitter they should not have sold off playing fields or made sport, including swimming, too expensive.

We have all heard of a 'hat trick' in football and in cricket and the term was first used in cricket of a bowler taking three wickets with consecutive balls. It originated in the 19th century when according to the Oxford English Dictionary: H.H Stephenson took 3 wickets in 3 balls for the all England 11. A collection was held for him and he was presented with a cap bought with the proceeds. However, this is not the only explanation, as when a professional cricketer did something extraordinary a hat would be passed round for spectators to put some money in for the player. I prefer the first explanation as it sounds more credible.

Wise Words: The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so that he can tell when he's really in trouble (Justine Vogt)

Marie Cove.