

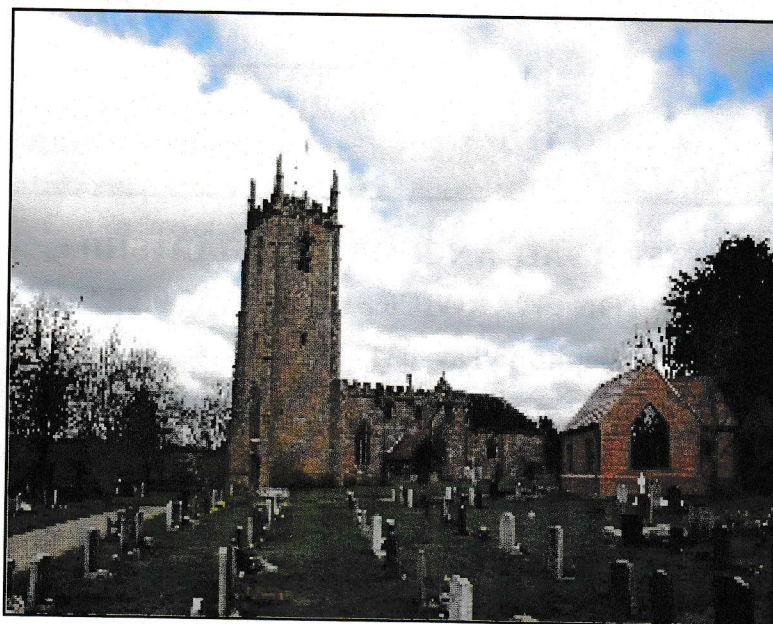
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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A BIG Celebration

I trust all readers know that this is Flower Festival month.

And it is a very special one as it is the fiftieth such celebration at St. Laurence's. It is a time to look back at the joys and struggles of former years and it is a time to look ahead with hope and joy.

There are many anniversaries this year. For me it is the thirtieth anniversary of my being ordained priest in Derby Cathedral. A lot of memories and reasons to celebrate. I am sure many of you have personal anniversaries both sad and joyful. Of course the most poignant memory of all is the 100th anniversary of the start of World War One - a time of great courage and of inestimable suffering.

But why look back at all?

We look back so that the suffering and heartache of the past will not hold us in chains or prevent us living life to the full. We look back to find healing from the hurts of the past.

We look back and remember so that we shall be whole people; lest we forget and become broken apart or torn from our past. • In looking back we bring the memories of the past into the present, and where we can, we celebrate.

We look back so that we may find inspiration for the future. The stories of the successes and failures of those who have gone before provide a wealth of encouragement and wisdom if we care to listen.

We look back as we remember World War One at our services on 3rd August. On August Bank Holiday weekend we look back on past Flower Festivals but more importantly we recall all that God has done for us.

Recall the past, live in the present, look to the future with hope and may God go with you,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

August St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 3 rd	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th	St Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 17 th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 24 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 31 st	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Songs of Praise

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 3 rd	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 10 th	St Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 24 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 31 st	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Morning Service

From the Registers

Baptisms

On 6th July we celebrated the baptism of Ryan John Albutt son of Matt and Hazel. We shared in their joy as we delighted together in the welcome that Jesus offers to each and every one of us.

Weddings

On 5th July we celebrated the wedding of Michael Aucott and Samantha Moulding. It was a wonderful celebration of the joining of lives in lifelong union.

Thanksgiving Service

On 30th June we gave thanks for the life of Paul Batson (61). A man of deep wisdom, infinite compassion and sensitivity Paul cared to the uttermost for all in need. At the same time he had a great strength of character and a remarkable sense of humour which combined to give him an uncanny ability to challenge convention and get away with it! Paul found his spiritual home at St Laurence's so it was most fitting that his Thanksgiving Service was at St Laurence's Church.

Lights Out

At 11a.m. on 4 August 1914 Britain declared war on Germany, ushering in one of the darkest periods in our history.

As the moment approached, the British Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey made the famous remark,

"The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime."

In a dramatic UK-wide event LIGHTS OUT is an invitation to everyone to turn off their lights from 10.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. on 4th August, leaving on a single light or candle for this shared moment of reflection.

August St. Laurence's Church Services

LIGHTS OUT, working closely with the Royal British Legion, will be one of the largest participatory events of its kind ever seen in the UK, and will complement the candlelit vigil held at Westminster Abbey on 4th August.

LIGHTS OUT is commissioned by 14-18 NOW, WW1 Centenary Art Commissions, supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund

We will be marking this countrywide opportunity for reflection during our morning service on Sunday 3rd August at St Laurence's Church, Ansley.

Open Church

St Laurence's Church, Ansley, will be open to visitors on the first three Sundays in August, from 12.00 noon to 6.00 p.m. This is to allow the opportunity for people to spend some time in prayer or reflection, or to appreciate the peace and calm of this historic building.

Churchyard

On Monday 11th August we will start to trim the hedges and trees to tidy the churchyard for the Flower Festival. Sweeping the paths and clearing weeds from unattended graves can be done at any time, by any number of people. If you have some spare time and would like to help please do come along with your tools and tidy any area. It will be much appreciated.

50th Flower Festival

St Laurence's Church, Ansley will be holding its 50th Flower Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The theme for this special anniversary is "Gold".

Each year the list of tasks seems to grow ever longer as the festival evolves.

Planning and arranging the displays, advertising, writing titles, making cakes, growing flowers and produce, cleaning, serving refreshments, tidying the church yard, stewarding and clearing up are all needed for the event to run smoothly.

Please contact Margaret Antill on 01827874520 if you can help with any of the above. Donations towards the cost of flowers for the displays would be much appreciated.

She would also like to know of anyone in the parish who may be pleased to receive a gift of flowers at the end of the festival.

The first Festival back in 1965 raised £335, a large sum of money in those days.

Since then the Festival has raised at least £50,000. Over £16,000 of this has been given to various charities including Guide Dogs for the Blind and Cancer Research.

Since 1983 we have supported The Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends, and from 1994 the Acorns Children's Hospice as well. This year will be no exception. We have agreed that 20% of the proceeds will be divided equally between these two worthy causes. Entrance will be free, but we will say in the programme, "Jesus gave His all that we might have life. He calls us to both receive and to give. Please place a gift here to thank God for all the joys you have received, including, we trust, the joy of our Flower Festival."

Flower Festival Programme

The festival will be open from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. on Friday 22nd August. At 7.00 p.m. a short service of dedication will be held. The doors open at 10.00 a.m. on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Sunday Services

6.30 p.m. Festival Evensong

On Monday 25th August Ansley Morris will be dancing in the churchyard during the afternoon and the festival will close at 6.30 p.m. with a service of thanksgiving.

The use of the screen at morning worship.

From time to time in the life of a church there are issues that divide. They test our readiness to listen and be sensitive to the needs of each other. One such issue that has occurred in the life of our church is that of the use of the screen in morning worship. It was originally brought in when we were experimenting with different worship styles to avoid producing multiple copies of services. Many thoroughly appreciated it and have wanted to retain it. Others have felt it an imposition in their pattern of worship. The issue has been discussed at PCC and it was agreed to continue with the screen, but to limit its use to the first and third Sundays between All Saints' Day and Christingle (November to January) and in the seasons of Lent and Easter (generally March to June depending on the date of Easter). At all other times the screen will only be used on the first Sunday. It will not be used at Holy Communion services even if these occur on a first or third Sunday. When the screen is used paper copies of the service will continue to be provided for all who prefer them. This decision has been reached after much thought but should you feel that it is not honouring to your pattern of worship I would be very pleased to hear from you. Peter

St. John's Tea and Cake Afternoon

This was an enjoyable and successful event. There was an excellent choice of cakes and an opportunity to chat with friends. £300 was raised for "Save the Children."

Spring Clean

St Laurence's church is looking refreshed after its "spring clean". Thank you very much to everyone who helped. About 120 volunteer hours were put in to achieve this result.

Ride and Stride Saturday 13th September

Mr Philip Rees has kindly volunteered to take part in this year's event. He would like to have one or two other cyclists join him for support. Even if you cannot help with the cycling, he would be very grateful for generous sponsorship donations. Half of the sum he raises will go to the Warwickshire Historic Churches Trust and half to St Laurence's funds.

Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence's and at 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 for who is
LIGHTS OUT, working closely with the Royal British Legion, will be one of the largest participatory events of its kind ever seen in the UK, and will complement the candlelit vigil held at Westminster Abbey on 4th August.

August, 2014.

This is a glorious time of year when we reap the first New Potatoes, Peas, Beetroot, Gooseberries etc., and they all taste so much better than store-bought. This year I set two packets of Tomato seeds and what a crop I had – so many plants I was giving them away to family, friends and neighbours. The most surprising thing was that after putting some in the greenhouse, some by the back door and the rest on the patio, one plant was overlooked when we were staking, feeding and watering but which was the first to show fruit and still has the biggest tomatoes on - the one that had been neglected.

Most of us at some time have had Bubble & Squeak, but where did it get its name? This dates back to the 18th Century and is supposed to refer to the noise when being re-heated in the frying pan, which is illustrated by this strange rhyme – ‘ Such is the sound (the simile not weak) formed by what mortals call Bubble and Squeak. When midst the frying pan in accents savage, the beef so surly quarrels with the cabbage.(John Wolcot 1804).

Someone posed the question – ‘Why in cowboy films are red Indians always depicted as clean shaven? The answer is that it is partly genetic and most North Americans have far less facial hair than Europeans. However, the reason we never see Red Indians with beards seems to stem from Karl May (1842-1912), a popular German writer who produced a large number of cowboy stories and he never gave Red Indians a moustache or beard. So Hollywood followed his lead.

Did you know Queen Isabella of Castile who sent Columbus to find the Americas, boasted that she had only two baths in her life – at her birth and before her wedding?

Just for a laugh: A little girl saying her prayers one night was heard to finish with the remark, ‘Please God take care of yourself because if owt happen to you we’re sunk’.

Marie Cove.