

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Refreshment

August is a time for holidays and many will be away enjoying a time of rest and refreshment.

Recently, I had a time of refreshment for my faith and ministry. I attended a Quiet Day in Stratford on the Song of Songs or the Song of Solomon. This book in the Old Testament of the Bible is based on a series of "love poems". On first sight, it appears to be a collection of love dialogue between a man and a woman. Its spiritual meaning is considered to be a description of the relationship between Yaweh and Israel, or between Christ and the church. It is about the love of God for us, his people and how He wants us to remain pure in our faith.

The Song of Songs is one of the shortest books in the Bible, containing only 117 verses in most of the English translations.

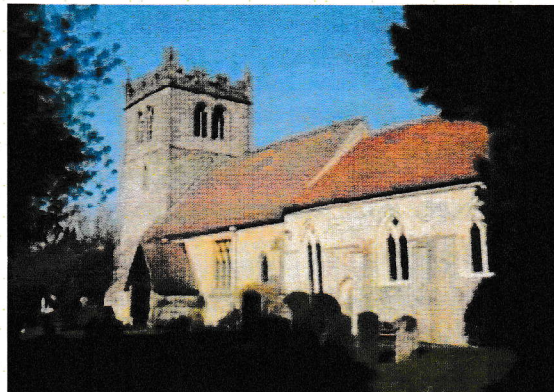
If you would like to know more about the Song of Songs, I have saved the notes written by David Westcott, the spiritual leader of the Quiet Day and you are welcome to have a copy and study them.

My contact details are on the front of this magazine.

Wishing you a restful summer and plenty of time for spiritual refreshment.

Yours in Christ,

Gwyneth.



N.B. David Westcott is a Reader at St John the Baptist Church, Aston Cantlow near Stratford. [Editor]

August St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday	7 th	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time [Screen]
			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 13	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Friday	26 th	Flower Festival	7.00 p.m.	Dedication
Sunday	28 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Monday	29 th	Flower Festival	6.30 p.m.	Thanksgiving, Compline and Prayers

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday	7 th	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	14 th	St Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	21 st	Trinity 13	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	28 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Jnt at St Laurence

Please note

During the interregnum it may be necessary to change the pattern of services from time to time at fairly short notice. This would be to enable visiting clergy to hold a communion service.

From the Registers

The funeral of Leticia Mary Buckler took place at St. Laurence's on Tuesday 28th June. Always known as Mary, she had always loved Ansley Church for all her 95 years. Her cousin Lord Plum spoke of her growing up at Wood Barn Farm and playing a big part in the local Young Farmers in her younger years. He also told of her 17 house moves as she assisted her husband Rev. Canon Peter Buckler in his work and ministry, but she always had her own role in whatever situation she found herself in. She will be greatly missed by her many friends and relatives.

Flower Festival 2016 - God's Creation

Plans are in place to make this 52nd festival as successful as, or even more successful than previous years! This relies on the good will of many volunteers. Help with weeding, pruning shrubs, edging paths etc. in the churchyard will be much appreciated in the weeks before the event.

A very warm welcome awaits everyone. It is pleasing to note that our Borough councillor has ensured that there are signs from Ansley Village to St Laurence's as visitors in previous years reported problems in finding the church itself.

Using flowers to display aspects of the Christian faith has been at the heart of every festival. The messages portrayed in the flowers speak to visitors in different ways, giving food for thought and contemplation.

Each year we have lovely messages written in our visitor's book and here are a few:-
"An inspiring display, Beautifully created. Well done. Thank you." AB Coventry
"Superb. One of your best." JB Nuneaton
"Excellent, Very uplifting" ES
"Unbeatable Lovely" AW

The theme chosen for 2016 is "God's Creation." We have much to thank God for and it is important that we take care of His Creation for this and future generations. The titles of the displays include, "Give us this day our daily bread," "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit," "I am the vine," and "Daisies are our silver, buttercups our gold."

The festival will open at 6 p.m. on Friday 28th and will be followed by a Service of Dedication at 7 p.m. The church will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The Sunday services will be 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion and 6.30 p.m. traditional Evensong.

At 6.30 p.m. on the Monday evening, the festival will close with a service and the reading of the prayers from the Prayer Jar.

Throughout the weekend there will be an opportunity to place a stone leaving your burdens, place a flower for thanksgiving and/or bring prayer requests to God by placing them in a jar.

Refreshments will be available in the annexe. There will be a produce stall and as usual we will have a raffle for a cake.

Ansley Morris will be dancing on the Monday afternoon in the churchyard, weather permitting. If it is inclement, the dancing will be in the church.

As in previous years, we will be supporting the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and the Acorns Children's Hospice as well as raising money for church funds. Entrance will be free, but,

"Please place a gift here not only to thank God for the joy of the Flower Festival, but for all the joys that He has brought to you."

Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust Cycle Ride

Please be ready to sponsor our cyclist, Mr Phil Rees as he visits local churches to raise funds for this charity. Half of the sponsorship he receives will be returned to our parish. The event takes place on Saturday, 10th September, so there is plenty of time to save up and be ready to support this good cause.

Parish Profile

The PCC would like to report that Ian Antill and Marie Cove will join the two representatives from Arley to prepare the Parish Profile. This will be sent to the Diocese and then returned to the PCC for approval. The Parish Profile will be used to inform the process of advertising for a new vicar and is drawn up by people who will not be on the eventual interviewing panel. As has been said before, the appointment of a new incumbent is not a speedy process! Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for all involved. Meanwhile, the PCC is very grateful to all who have been leading worship at St Laurence's and St John's.

Church Grounds and Car Park

The members of the PCC feel that the area of the churchyard allocated as a Garden of Peace, surrounding the tall trees between the road and the path by the yew trees, needs to be more clearly defined. When time allows, a border of log roll, with an entry gap, will surround the site. This area will deliberately be left natural, for the interment of ashes only, with no urns, flowers or other memorials allowed. A book of remembrance will be kept in church with the names of those interred in this space.

One or two church members have been working hard to tidy up the molehills, which have been exceedingly numerous this year. Thank you to these "volunteers"!

The PCC is aware that the flow of heavy rain through the car park has caused pot holes to deepen. A solution is being sought to the underlying drainage problem before spending a lot on the car park surface. The pot holes will be filled in as soon as possible as a short term measure.

From Monday 15th August help would be appreciated in preparing the churchyard for the festival weekend. Trimming trees, cutting hedges, tidying unvisited graves and cleaning up paths are some of the tasks to be tackled. Remember – Many hands make light work!

The Girls' Brigade Awards Evening

During this last meeting before their summer holidays, the year's varied activities were reviewed by the youngsters. The group bade farewell to their chaplain, David Poulton and his wife, as they will be leaving the area. The girls' attendance had been excellent through the year, showing commitment to their leaders and each other. It was interesting to see that activities are organised to suit girls aged from 5 to 18, including the older ones joining with the local Boys' Brigade to achieve Duke of Edinburgh awards. There are spaces available in the group for next term, so do ask if your daughter would be interested. Put your postcode into the Girls' Brigade Home Page and click on 1st Chapel End to give your details and they will contact you.

St John's Tea and Cake Afternoon

Delicious cakes, stalls to browse for bargains and good company: - an excellent way to pass an afternoon. £238 was made for hall funds of which £50 is for charity, including a sum from the Christmas Bingo session.

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

August 2016

At last in the middle of July we had a mini heat wave - the Butterflies appeared and the baskets and tubs looked a picture. However, we English are never satisfied, as on the hottest days, when the temperature reached 30 degrees, we oldies couldn't sit outside as it was too hot, the babies were fractious and it was hard to sleep at night. Will we never be satisfied? As someone once said, 'You can please some of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time.'

Although we didn't have the glorious weather we have come to expect for our Coffee Morning in June, we were well supported and it was so gratifying to receive a thank-you letter for the £120 we raised. It is mind boggling to think that 231,000 children, many of whom had nowhere else to turn to, were helped by Childline last year.

A man called Bob Pierce visiting a Tibetan missionary school noticed a young girl, White Jade, sitting on the steps. She came every day hoping to be taught and fed, but they had no room for her. Bob protested that they could surely make room for one more but was told they had already made room for one more, one more and one more. They simply had no resources left. 'What are you going to do about it?' he was asked. He only had a few coins to his name, but from that seemingly hopeless beginning, World Vision came into being and millions of children across the world, including White Jade, have been sponsored, fed and educated. What's the saying? "Great Oaks from little acorns grow."

I wrote the following many years ago when a few of us sponsored a child in South America and the first two verses compared our lives. This is the last verse -

Though I am me and you are you,
We should see what we can do,
Share our wealth and give you care.
Give you hope and love in prayer.
Let's see each other as we are -
All God's children near and far.

Marie Cove