

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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August

It's August! – that can only mean one thing – Flower Festival !

One thing is self-evident from the Festival is that we will all join forces together – both community and church. It is a time of fellowship as well as hard work and usually we all enjoy the occasion.

The theme this year is "Change" Jesus certainly brought about change – a change that would alter the way of life for the whole world. We more or less live out these changes on a day to day, year to year basis. Most of our values echo the message Jesus gave us. We revolve around Christmas, Easter, Harvest, and Advent on a yearly basis both in our own personal lives and commercially. Business would miss the income derived from all our Christian festivals.

One way or another we owe a lot to Jesus Christ – I think life would be very boring without Him, He is our Friend, our Father, our Comforter and our Joy. Thank God for Jesus.

Gwyneth
Lay Reader

Prayer

O God, our true life, to know You is life, to serve You is freedom, to enjoy You is a kingdom, to praise you is the joy and happiness of the soul. I praise and bless and adore You, I worship You, I glorify You. I give thanks to You for Your great glory. I humbly be You to live with me, to reign in me, to make this heart of mine a holy temple, a fit habitation for Your divine majesty.

St. Augustine
(354-430)

August St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 6 th	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th	St Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 20 th	Trinity 10	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Friday 25 th	Flower Festival	7.00 p.m.	Dedication
Monday 28 th	Flower Festival	6.30 p.m.	Thanksgiving/Prayers

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 6 th	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 13 th	St Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 th	Trinity 10	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 27 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Joint 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

Baptism

Freddie George Russell celebrated his baptism on Sunday 25th June, supported by his parents, Jenna and Phillip and by godparents, family and friends. The Reverend Mervyn Roberts presided at this service.

Wedding

The wedding of Jonathon Goadby and Sally Dawes took place on Saturday 1st July. The officiating minister was the Reverend Ian Kennedy. The decorations in church reflected the couple's links to farming and they were able to walk to their reception following the service. We wish them every happiness in the years ahead.

Flower Festival Reminder

The 53rd Flower Festival will soon be upon us. It opens at 6.00 p.m. on Friday 25th August, with a service of dedication at 7.00 p.m. that evening. The Festival continues on Saturday 26th, Sunday 27th and Monday 28th August from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. The festival will close with a service and reading the prayer jar prayers at 6.30 p.m. on the Monday. As usual the main object is to present aspects of the Christian message to all who visit. Proceeds from the Festival will go to the George Eliot Hospital League of Friends, Acorn Children's Hospice and church funds.

Help needed!

The Festival could not take place without the contributions of many people in the local community.

One important task is to tidy the churchyard. This can be done at anytime, but especially the week beginning 14th August. Hedges need to be trimmed, gardens weeded, paths edged and general tidying done. If you can help, please turn up with the appropriate tools.

Donations towards the cost of flowers for the festival will be gratefully received. Donations of garden flowers and greenery will also be welcomed.

We will also need gifts of home-made cakes for refreshments plus vegetables, fruit, jams, pickles and chutneys for the produce stall.

Help required during the festival includes serving refreshments, washing up, selling cake raffle tickets and produce. Stewards are needed in the church to welcome visitors. Do let Margaret Antill know if you can help in any way. The time you give will be much appreciated.

Please publicise this event, word of mouth is the best way to let people know about things. If you can display a poster or distribute some fliers please do ask Margaret Antill on 01827 874520.

Whether you can or cannot do any of the above, please pray for this event, all those who will be involved and for those who will visit.

Quinquennial Report on St Laurence's Fabric

It is pleasing to note that the architect states in the introduction to his report that, "Generally the building is in fine condition. There are areas of erosion to the dressed faces of the red stone wall, but this is not unusual."

Some work will need to be done. This includes finding and sorting out a leak between the tower and the nave, repairing the ground gutters, replacing and/or repairing some quarry tiles in the aisles, repairing the porch and painting the interior.

Girls' Brigade Presentations at St John's Hall

The evening began as the standard was paraded to the Brigade hymn. New members received membership cards and others received appropriate service medals and achievement awards. The girls described the themes they had looked at during the year. The banner was returned and refreshments served. It is always interesting to hear about the young people's activities and their varied programme.

St John's Tea and Cake Social

The members of St John's were pleased with the number of people who supported this event. As well as enjoying time together a sum of £327 was raised for hall funds. Thank you to all concerned.

Bells

Some of our readers may have heard the church bells being rung on Friday 14th July. Members of the Coventry Guild of Ringers visited St Laurence's to ring a peal of 5040 Surprise Minor, comprising seven methods. The methods were Lincoln, Morpeth,

Newcastle, Munden, London, Newcastle and Norfolk. It took two hours and forty two minutes to complete the peal. This ringing event was part of the Guild's target of ringing "The Alphabet Quarter Peal Challenge" and was part four of that challenge. A search on the internet showed that West Cranmore Ringers in Somerset have completed this challenge as a change from ringing random methods. If all this intrigues you, our local bell ringers meet on Tuesday evenings.

One Pound Coins

Please note that old £1 coins will no longer be legal tender after 15th October 2017. It would be a good idea to make sure that any charity boxes you use do not contain the old coins. Banks or the Post Office may change the old coins after the date above, but there may be restrictions such as having an account with the business or needing to be able to bag them in twenties.

From the past

From the magazine of August 1917

"Sunday School Treat

Friday July 27th, was the day fixed for the Sunday School Treat, and we were favoured with very fine weather until evening. Owing to the War it was not possible to engage brakes for a long drive, as we contemplated doing, but Mr Truelove kindly allowed us to use of his field, and the teachers organised races and games and gave the children a splendid time from 2 o'clock until 6.30, when rain came on. Tea (but not eatables) was provided, which the youngsters thoroughly enjoyed after their exertions. Many thanks to the teachers for their assistance in amusing the children."

The War

"On August 4th and 5th there are to be special prayers throughout the Kingdom to mark the third anniversary of the War. Let us make use of this great anniversary as a time for a united rally. We require more faith in God. There is need for a definite turning to God in penitence and faith. We need to brace ourselves afresh for the mighty conflict in which we are engaged."

How times have changed – would children be content with just a drink today!

How times have not changed – we require more faith in God. There is need for a definite turning to God in penitence and faith.

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 a warden. Phone numbers are on the front page of this magazine. Please remember that a visit can be arranged to anyone who is sick, but the wardens do need to know, so again please ring.

Please pray for who is

As I have grown older I wonder how my parents who were born in 1900 and 1901 contended with all the changes in their lives and the world. They had seen the motor car become more abundant, lorries and vans replace canal boats to transport goods, the telephone in many more households, television, men had landed on the moon and many more wonders. Then I think of all the changes I have seen in my lifetime – a World War and many other wars beside, people having holidays abroad, mobile 'phones, computers and tablets making peoples' lives no longer private but there for all the world to see.

I am a real 'back seat driver' as they say and sometimes I surprise myself the silly remarks I make when I say "Watch that pedestrian he might step out", but now I have been surpassed as there is a car which is advertised as 'having a brain'. It tells you the hazards that could happen and what's in front etc. I think that could be just as irritating to the driver as I am.

Did you know Queen Victoria grew from a 7 stone bride to an 81 year old with a 50 inch waist? Despite having 9 children she maintained her weight but when her beloved Albert died Victoria started comfort eating. The Queen also bolted down her food, resulting in chronic indigestion. It is almost unbelievable how much she ate and in such large amounts. Even in her 70's Victoria was eating 6 course meals. In 1897 the Aga Khan wrote of an audience with the Queen when he said they sat down at a quarter past nine and it was a quarter to 11 before it was over.

Young David had been asking his mother for a baby brother for a long time and had always been told,

"Perhaps one day when we can afford one."

So it was in great excitement that he rushed home one day.

"Put your coat on quickly Mum," he said, "there's a Summer fete at the Church this afternoon and it says, 'Children Free'."

Marie Cove