

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

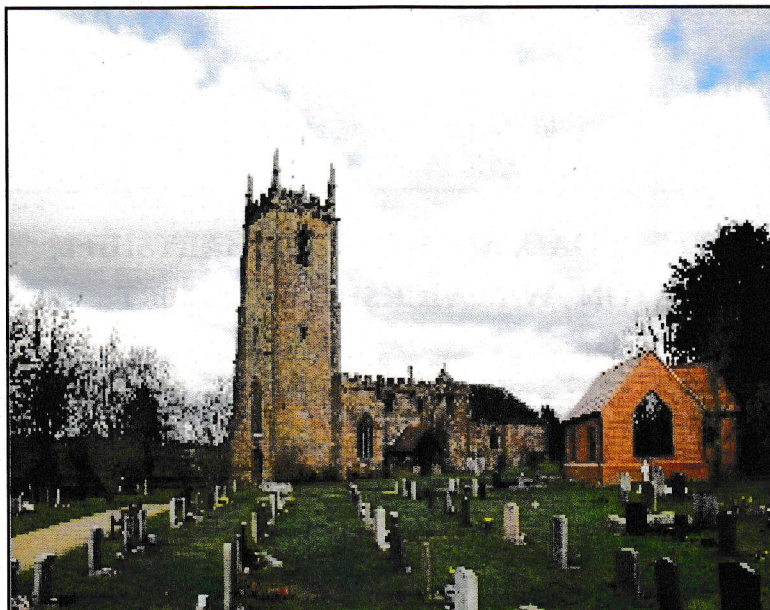
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Rev John's Jottings for August – 'Stop the world, I want to get off!'

This is the month when the majority of families will be having some holidays together. The children and students will be having at least six weeks break from their schools, colleges or universities. Parents will be doing their best to keep them occupied and hopefully enjoy spending time relaxing and having fun together.

Travelling to holiday destinations can bring us good or bad experiences. The purpose of it all is that we may come back to our normal routine after a holiday feeling relaxed, refreshed and energized. The same is true even if you are not going away – to be able to enjoy time off work, a break from the usual routine and be with family and friends.

Life itself is often described as a journey but there can be little thought given to life's ultimate destination. People can be so busy living and planning for the here and now that they avoid considering, 'What actually is the purpose of my life?'

Holidays are a good time to take stock, step back and re-evaluate the direction of your life in an unhurried way. A number of years ago there was a musical called, 'Stop the world, I want to get off!' Just looking at the news headlines and what may be happening around us, can make us want to do just that! Holidays can give us the space look at things in a different perspective and return to normal life with renewed strength, purpose and hope.

It was Jesus who said, 'Come apart and get some rest,' and if we don't come apart and take time off then we may literally, just come apart! •

Wishing you all a good summer and hope you come back from your time of holiday ready to face any new challenges that lie ahead as well as having considered, 'What is my life all about?'

Rev John

## August St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 10	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time Screen
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	St Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 12	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Festival	7.00 p.m.	Dedication Service
Monday	27 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Festival	6.30 p.m.	Thanksgiving Service

## St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 10	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	St Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 12	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St Laurence's

## From the Registers

### Baptism

On Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> July, Riley, Ray Tye was baptised at St Laurence's by his great-grandfather, the Reverend Paul Rich. It was a lovely occasion, with family and friends present to welcome Riley into the family of the church.

### Burial of ashes

Sheila Joyce Lomas' ashes were interred in the churchyard on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, following a service at Nuneaton Crematorium on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Joyce had lived all her eighty years in Ansley Common, spending most of her time in the home her parents had lived in. In later years she moved into a bungalow in St John's Road, enjoying her time there very much. She loved her many pets and fully appreciated her garden. Thank you to Joyce's family and friends who gave donations to the Churchyard Fund in her memory.

## Flower Festival

The year 2018 marks the centenary of the creation of Coventry Diocese. In recognition of this, the theme chosen for our 54<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival is "Reconciliation," which has been an important focus of the Cathedral's work since the Second World War. There will be twenty-seven different displays placed around the church on this theme. These will include, "The Cross of Nails," "The whole creation join in one," "Judge eternal throned in splendour," "Amazing Grace" and "Thy Kingdom come."

The festival will begin on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August at 6.00 p.m. and at 7.00 p.m. a short service of dedication will be held. The church will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The Sunday services will be 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion and 6.30 p.m. Evensong. The festival will close with a service of thanksgiving at 6.30 p.m. on the Monday evening.



Throughout the festival, there will be refreshments on sale in the annexe, the produce stall will be in the churchyard and there will be a raffle for a fruit cake. On the Monday afternoon, Ansley Morris Dancers will be performing outside the annexe, weather permitting. The weather for the 2017 festival was perfect, with lots of lovely warm sunshine; so many visitors were able to sit outside with refreshments to enjoy the dancing and the beautiful surrounding countryside.

As in previous years, there will be an opportunity to put a stone on a pile to symbolise relief from a burden carried, to add a flower to an arrangement in thanksgiving for a blessing received and/or to place a prayer in the prayer jar. These prayers will be brought to God before the end of the festival.

This year, as in many previous years, we will be supporting the work of the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends, the Acorn Children's Hospice and raising money for church funds. Entry will be free, but we do say,  
"Please place a gift here, not only to thank God for the joy of the flower festival, but to thank Him for all the joys He has brought you."

Here are some comments from our visitors' book about the 2017 festival.

"Absolutely beautiful – a lot of work has gone into this." N.H.

"Very moving. I have been to many Art galleries and was very impressed by the Art here!!"  
T.P.

"Love the way you have interpreted Biblical material – beautiful flowers and appreciated the Christian message." C. & A.F.

"Knowing well the Voice of Flowers and the love of God which causes them to bring so much beauty into the world, we at Ansley have tried, through successive festivals, to share with all who care to come, this beauty, pleasure and friendship, as we portray with flowers our interpretation of the Bible."

(Words found in the notes of the late Mrs Truelove, who introduced the Flower Festival to Ansley.)

#### Ride and Stride

This event in aid of Warwickshire Historic Churches Trust will be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Mr Philip Rees will be riding a route from church to church and will be seeking sponsors for his efforts. Half the amount he makes will be returned to our church funds.

#### St John's Bingo

The next Bingo session will be held at St John's Hall on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00 p.m. Newcomers will be very welcome at this enjoyable social event.

#### St John's Tea and Cake Afternoon

This event took place on a hot summer's afternoon. It was very well attended, enabling people to meet up with friends as well as contributing to St John's Hall funds. A total of £236.67 was made and a further sum from one of the stalls was donated to a charity. The Hall committee would like to thank everyone who supported this event and all the helpers.

### Girls' Brigade Presentation Evening

A good number of parents and supporters came along to St John's to see the girls receive badges and awards for the projects they had completed over the past twelve months. Some of the senior group are working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the Queen's Award. Two members had been chosen to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Girls' Brigade. The 1<sup>st</sup> Chapel End Brigade was also celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Everyone present was invited to share in the birthday cake that had been provided.

### From the PCC

Thank you to the person who has sent a donation to the Fabric Fund in memory of a loved one who is sadly missed.

The work on the ground gutters has been completed at a cost of £3336.00. Part of the ground gutter was repaired on the north side of the church and the concrete section removed. A new gutter has been installed on the south side, where defective concrete had been removed years ago. The blue bricks that were required for this work were a major part of the cost. Some unused bricks have been left for when the rest of the concrete sections are replaced in due course. The PCC is very grateful to H & B Contractors for a job well done.

### Preparations for the Flower Festival – How can you help?

The churchyard will need to be tidied, the church and annexe given a special clean and publicity spread as far and wide as possible. Do ask for fliers and/or posters; mention it on social media and by word of mouth. During the festival we will need stewards in church, sellers of refreshments, produce and raffle tickets. Donations of money towards the cost of flowers and of cakes, jams, chutneys, pickles, fruit and vegetables for sale will be much appreciated. If you haven't helped before, don't be shy – we have lots of different tasks available! Above all we ask you to join in our prayers for the success of this event as we share friendship, welcome many visitors and offer an opportunity to appreciate the beauty of God's creation and to reflect on His words.

### Advance Notices

Ansley Village Hall Art Group will be holding its annual Exhibition and Sale on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September in the Village Hall from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. There will be an extensive display of pictures created using various media. Tea, coffee and cake will be available. Proceeds from the exhibition will be donated to St Laurence's Church.

### 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 cover 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.....

August, 2018

There was an article in a national newspaper advising that parents with babies only get on the average 4 hours, 44 minutes sleep a night – I should have been so lucky with my first child. Dave was alright as he worked nights so he was at work all night and he slept all day. However, this can't be the norm with most parents as my second child from day one slept all through the night – sometime 12/14 hours and the third was almost as good. Perhaps it was because I was a novice and my child sensed this –who knows?

As we celebrate 70 years of the National Health Service most people will not remember that momentous occasion, and how everyone celebrated free health care. My mother had awful teeth., uneven and some missing, but she couldn't afford to see a Dentist. Then, very soon after the N.H.S. arrived with free treatment, we all had a surprise when we arrived home from school one day. Everything seemed normal and our Mam wasn't a noisy person but that day she seemed strangely quiet. Then our Dad asked her what was the matter. She had been to the Dentist and had all her teeth removed, and she had carried on as if nothing had happened. Thanks to the N.H.S. our Mam had got rid of her horrid teeth and eventually had free dentures.

When I was dead heading and weeding I missed one weed at the far side of the garden. It was about 3 feet tall with pretty pink flowers and I think it is called Soapwort. When I saw how lovely it was, I decided it was as pretty as any other flowers in the garden, so I left it alone.

Some people disrespectfully speak about older folk as 'wrinklies', but there's nothing wrong with a few wrinkles. I have heard them described as "Nature's tracery" while Charles Dickens, who had a few in later years, said that every wrinkle is "but a notch in the quiet calendar of a well-spent life".

Marie Cove.