

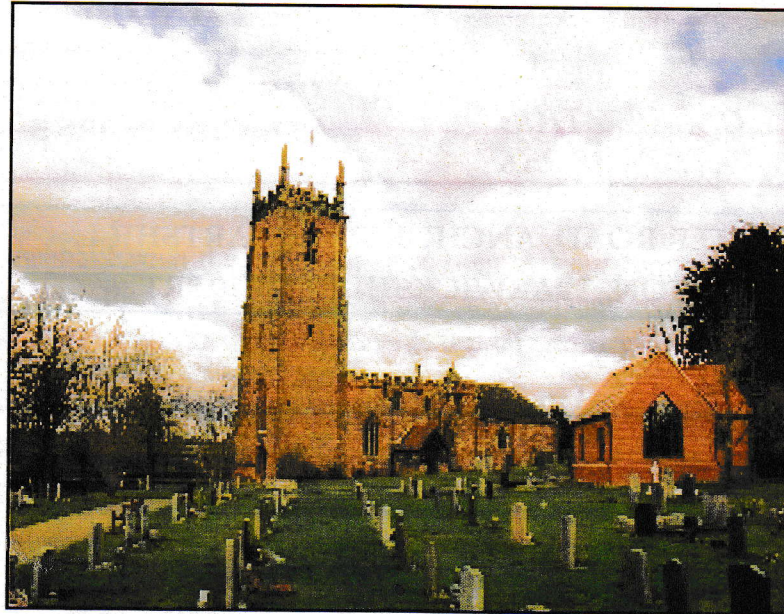
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1118

AUGUST 2019

Price 30p



Vicar:

Rev. John Langlands

Tel: 024 7667 5236

email: jlanglands@sky.com

Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL
MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 01827 874520

Tel: 024 7638 1833

Deputy Wardens

Diana Kealey
Margaret Oliver

Tel: 024 7639 5089

Tel: 01455 822822

St. Johns Leaders

MARIE COVE
JOHN COX

Tel: 024 7639 4114

Tel: 024 7639 4802

www.ansleychurch.org

Print Centre 024 7638 6017

On 19th July this year, the world was commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first men on the moon. It was when the astronaut Neil Armstrong spoke those immortal words as his foot touched the surface of the moon: 'One small step for man, one giant step for mankind.'

It was an occasion where many world leaders and commentators said it was an event that brought the world together as a single human race. The uniqueness of our earthly humanity joined as one, as we reached out to another part of the universe with unknown possibilities.

It may well have been the only time since then that our common humanity has united each other. Sadly back on our own planet of earth, prejudices, disagreements and broken relationships continue to divide us personally, nationally and internationally.

However, such things needn't be the norm. It may be up to us as an individual to take our 'first small step', which will be the start of a giant step in bringing reconciliation and peace to others.

Taking the initiative, like stepping on the moon, is a very courageous and humbling thing to do. Sadly, pride is often the biggest hurdle to overcome.

Just another surprising event took place prior to the men emerging from the 'Eagle' Lunar Landing Vehicle. Armstrong's co-pilot Buzz Aldrin pulled out a Bible, a small silver chalice and some bread and wine. There on the moon, their first act was to pray and celebrate communion. Makes you think doesn't it! What would you do if you were stepping out into the unknown? Living on our planet earth today is no less fraught with the unknown.

May you have a good holiday if you are away for the summer and come back refreshed and ready perhaps to take some new steps in the right direction needed.

Rev John

August St Laurence's Church, Ansley Services

Sunday 4 th	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 th	St Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18 th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall, Ansley Common Services

Sunday 4 th	Trinity 7	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 11 th	Trinity 8	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 th	Trinity 9	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 25 th	Flower Festival	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St Laurence

From the Registers

Baptism

On Sunday 14th July, Wilton Arthur Carl Townshend was baptised at St Laurence Church. He was supported by his parents, Jessica and Carl and other family members and friends. We welcome Wilton into the church community and pray for him and his family as they nurture and care for him.

Wedding

Katie Hughes and Christopher Goode celebrated their wedding day on 13th July 2019, in the presence of family and friends. We wish them every happiness in their married life together.

Funerals

Mrs Betty Mae West's funeral was held at St Laurence's church on 12th July. She died aged 91 years on 10th June 2019. She had been a widow for 24 years after a happy marriage to her husband Jim, who died in 1995. We extend our sympathy to Carole and Eloise, her daughters and to her brother Alan, her niece Christine and to Jim's brother Stan and to their respective families.

The funeral of Mrs Marcia Sutton took place at St Laurence Church on Wednesday 17th July at 10.00 a.m. She grew up in Birchley Heath and later, after her marriage to Malcolm, lived for many years at Manor Farm, Ansley. Marcia dedicated her life to her family and the family business. She also found time for many interests, including gardening, jam making, involvement in the local Sheepy and District ploughing and hedge cutting competitions and playing tennis at Ansley tennis club. She will be sorely missed by her family, friends and the church family at St Laurence.

Prayer Meeting at St John's

The prayer meeting this month will be on Tuesday 20th August at 2.00 p.m. Please note the change of venue as the Annexe will be in use for Flower Festival preparations.

A tribute to Marcia Sutton – 16th March 1931 – 1st July 2019

Marcia was a lifelong member of St Laurence Church, supporting its work in so many different ways. She enjoyed singing and was a member of the senior choir all her adult life. She was PCC secretary until she married in 1967. The Reverend Stanley Marriott wrote of her minutes,

"Beautiful handwriting and very neat, her minutes would be a bonus for a local history student."

Later on she was church treasurer for twenty years.

She worked hard at all church events, taking over the lead for catering from Mrs Berridge. Marcia demonstrated her faith by always making time for people – she was willing to help anyone. She was a good friend and mentor to many in the wider community, where she always supported her late husband in Parish Council work.

She will be missed by us all but happy memories of her will be treasured. We extend our condolences to all the family and her many friends.

We thank God for her commitment and for all that she has contributed to the church and for parishioners over her whole life.

55th Flower Festival at St Laurence

The theme for our festival this year is "Rest". For the many people involved in planning and running the festival, the thought of rest will be far from their minds. However we set forth with confidence each year that God will bless our efforts, that we will have the energy and support of the local community and that there will be rest after the event is over and everything has been cleared away!

The success of this event relies heavily on people knowing about it. Please do help us to publicise our flower festival. We find that "word of mouth" works best but letting your social media contacts know about it is also helpful, as well as our own arrangements with local radio, newspapers etc.

The Festival runs over the bank holiday weekend, beginning on Friday 23rd August from 6.00 p.m., with a short service of dedication at 7.00 p.m. The church will be open from 10.00 a.m. on Saturday 24th August and Monday 26th August and after the morning service (11.45 approximately) on Sunday 25th August. The festival will close at 6.00 p.m. each evening after the Friday. You will be welcome to come across to the Annexe for refreshments, or to browse the produce stall or have a go at the raffle for a decorated Madeira sponge cake, both of which will be in the churchyard.

Ansley Morris will be dancing on Monday afternoon, in the churchyard if the weather allows, or in the church if not.

As you tour the church, there will be the opportunity to add a stone to a pile, symbolising the laying down of a burden and/or to place a flower in an arrangement as a thanksgiving. You will also be invited to write a prayer and place it in the prayer jar. These prayers will be brought before God before the end of the Festival.

We will once more be supporting the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and the Acorns Children's Hospice as well as raising money for church funds. Entrance is free but we do say,

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

The festival will close at 6.30 p.m. on Monday 26th August with a service of thanksgiving and prayers.

A report and some photos of the 2018 flower festival can be seen at ansleychurch.org.uk, clicking on Report of 2018 Flower Festival.

St John's Tea and Cake Afternoon

This was an enjoyable afternoon. So far £287 has been raised for charity. Thank you to everyone who helped to plan and run this event and of course to all who supported it by coming along or giving donations.

Salvation Army Collection Point

St Laurence Church has received £16.23 from the Salvation Army following their latest collection. Thank you to all who have donated clothes etc. to the car park bank.

From the PCC

Ministry

Having had some time to consider our vision and hopes for the future, the Rev. John will be meeting St John's and St Laurence's congregations after morning services this month to share ideas. Any member of the congregations is welcome to put forward their views even if they cannot stay after services.

Churchyard

Have you mislaid a pair of garden shears?

A visitor to the churchyard in June found a black rubbish bag lying around. As it was being emptied into the bins, some good quality garden shears were found in it. Please speak to a church member if they are yours and they will be returned to you.

Dog fouling

The PCC is concerned about dog mess being left around the churchyard. So far it has not affected a grave directly but it is upsetting for our visitors to see. Notices have been placed to remind people to "Bag it and bin it", so it is hoped that this problem will cease.

Tidying the churchyard – From Monday 13th August

Please come and help if you can as we tidy the churchyard in preparation for the Flower Festival.

Future Events

St John's Harvest Festival, Sunday 8th September and Harvest Supper 6th September. Mr Philip Rees will be taking part in "Ride and Stride" for Warwickshire Historic Churches Trust on Saturday 14th September and Ansley Village Art Group will hold their Art Exhibition and Sale in the Village Hall on Saturday 21st September.

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 forwho is.....

August, 2019

What an exciting few weeks sports fans have had with cricket, Wimbledon and netball. When the World Cup cricket and the tennis were on the television at the same time, I wished we could watch two screens at once. However, cricket will always take preference for me.

A Sunday School teacher was telling the story of the Prodigal Son. She explained the father's delight after welcoming the return of his son. She said there was someone for whom the feast brought only bitterness and resentment, referring of course to the son who had stayed with his father. She said, 'Do you know who it was?'

'Yes miss,' said one eager little boy, 'It was the fatted calf.'

In an Italian village it was the custom to carry a large statue through the streets on certain occasions. It was old and made of brown clay. It was known as "The Ugly Madonna". When a new priest came to the village, he suggested that rather than be carried by 4 men it could, with dignity, be carried on an open lorry. The priest hated the statue and hoped it might fall and break and sure enough, as it rounded a steep bend, the statue fell and shattered. Everyone gasped in horror and then with delight for inside the clay was a beautifully carved one. It had been hidden for safety before the war. It was carried back to the church with pride and became known as "The Fair Madonna". The saying is true that we shouldn't judge anyone or anything by outward appearance only.

I think of August as the month of fun when school books are put away and tests and exams are things of the past and even birds and animals are happy as they watch their young grow. This month is the fulfilment of Spring, as fields are ready for harvest and our gardens are full of flowers galore. We can enjoy long August days and shady nights as worries are forgotten and put to flight.

Marie Cove.