

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

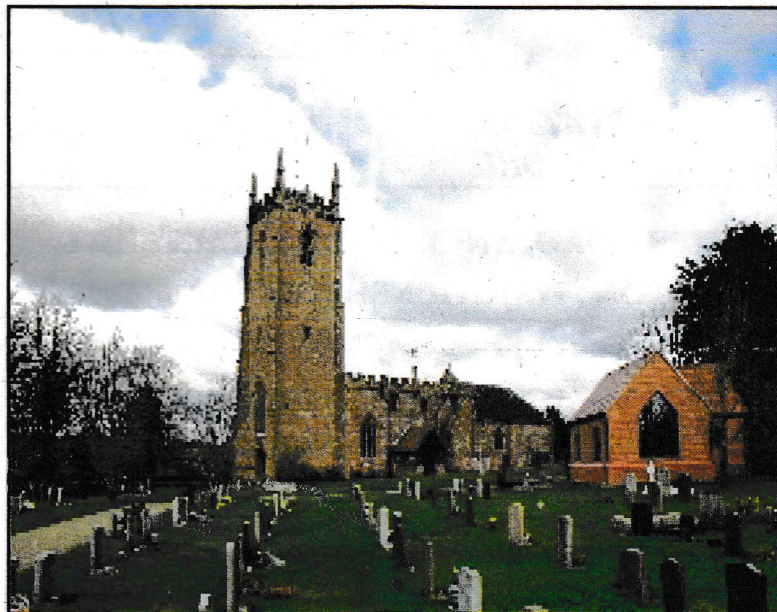
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## Rev John's Jottings - How have you been using your time during the lockdown?

Well, this virus has given most of us plenty of time to ponder!

Do you remember the song, sung by Gene Pitney, 'If we only had time'?

*So much to do if I only had time, if I only had time  
Dreams to pursue - If I only had time, they'd be mine  
Time, like the wind goes hurrying by, and the hours just fly  
Where to begin? There are mountains I'd climb if I had time  
Since I met you, I've thought, Life really is too short  
Loving you so, many things we could make true  
A whole century isn't enough to satisfy me  
Hm hm hm...  
If I only had time, only time*

There are a number of things we can do with time, such as:

We can find time – to do the things we haven't had time to do before, like painting the house

We lose time – whiling away a sunny afternoon in the garden or park, or keeping busy with a hobby

We can waste time – too bored to do anything or too lazy to be bothered

We can make time – prioritising those important things such as phoning others or completing unfinished tasks

However, the Bible tells us that, 'There is a time for every activity under heaven':

a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,

a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance and so on .....

But above all the control we seek to exert over time, ultimately – **Our times are in God's hands.**

Our churches will be open from the beginning of August – How much time in your life will you have given to worshipping God? Another aspect of life to ponder in this lockdown!

Continue to be safe and wishing you continued peace and blessing,

Rev John

## RE-OPENING OF THE CHURCHES IN THE BENEFICE OF ANSLEY AND ARLEY

Following government easing of lockdown measures in early July, the Reverend John Langlands and the PCCs have been planning a safe return to our church buildings, under guidance from the Church of England and Coventry Diocese. Each church has been working on its own timetable for re-opening as the buildings and circumstances in each Parish vary tremendously across the country.

During August there will be one service each Sunday at a different benefice church each week, open to all in the benefice. September services will be finalised later.

It is regretted that there will be no services at St Michael's, New Arley through August. This is because of issues with damp and mould in the church. A plan will need to be discussed with input from church members and the Community Centre to resolve the problems.

### August Services in Old Arley, Ansley and Ansley Common

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	St Laurence's	Ansley	10.30 a.m.
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	St Wilfrid's	Old Arley	10.30 a.m.
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	St John's	Ansley Common	10.30 a.m.
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	St Wilfrid's	Old Arley	10.30 a.m.
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	St Laurence's	Ansley	10.30 a.m.

Please read the following points carefully, so you will know what to expect at our services in August. These are dependent on our understanding of the latest advice, as at 31<sup>st</sup> July, so may be subject to change. Do contact a Churchwarden if you want to check before attending a service.

#### Hygiene and Social Distancing

- Stewards will greet you at the church door. Please respect social distancing advice. You will be given directions as to where to sit.
- Hand sanitisers will be available for you to use on entering and leaving the church.
- Singing is not allowed in the church building.
- Use of masks is required.
- The inside of each church will have been cleaned and prepared in advance for the Sunday service.

#### Service details:

- The services will be shorter than "normal."
- Service sheets will be positioned in the pews at the correct social distance to help you know where to sit. The papers can be taken with you or left on the pew after the service.
- Three labelled offertory plates will be at entrance/exit points for St Laurence's, St Wilfrid's and St John's congregations to use at each service.



Other Services:

- Holy Communion services may not happen for a while.
- Baptisms and weddings may go ahead from October. They will be strictly regulated in line with the latest guidance.
- Funerals will be dealt with on an individual basis following regulatory guidance.

NHS Test and Trace:

- You will be asked for your name and contact details for NHS Test and Trace. Your details will be kept on paper for 21 days.

PLEASE NOTE

Please feel free to make your own decision on if and when you are ready to return to services in church. The worship provision that you received or accessed during lockdown will continue through August, by email, by post or at [www.ansleychurch.org](http://www.ansleychurch.org). The Sunday services will be available online or through the post on the following Wednesday of each week in August.

WRITE A PRAYER

You are invited to write a prayer as we re-open our churches. It can be a simple sentence or a bit longer – it is up to you. The Rev. John hopes to use them in the August services. Even if you are unable to attend this is a way you can be involved in our worship. So please get writing!

From the Registers

No entries this month.

St Laurence's "Virtual" 56<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival - Thank You

Once it was apparent that our normal Flower Festival would not happen in 2020, members of the church were inspired to organise a virtual festival. The many people who usually help with the festival in one way or another were invited to take part.

We will post a link to our virtual festival presentation on our website [www.ansleychurch.org](http://www.ansleychurch.org) by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August, and keep it available to visit over the following month until 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Our churchwarden has already received many entries for the festival and thanks everyone who has put their imagination and creativity to good use to show appreciation to all the groups of key workers who kept life running as smoothly as possible during lockdown. The PCC has decided to allocate ALL donations received by 30<sup>th</sup> September equally between Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and Acorn Children's Hospice. These have received a proportion of our takings at the flower festival over many years. This year it seems appropriate that, considering the restrictions suffered by fundraisers over the last few months, these charities should benefit from our efforts.

How can I help?

- Please pray for this year's festival, thanking God for the inspiration to run the festival in a new way and that it may be an enjoyable and successful event.
- Advertise the festival far and wide. Perhaps you could ask someone in your key worker group to pass the information to their colleagues.

- Click the link and enjoy the presentation.
- If you would like to donate contact our Treasurer or click [www.justgive.net](http://www.justgive.net) on our website.

Do take a few minutes to read about the following new initiative for the people of Arley & Whitacre. Cheryl Jones will be pleased to hear from you.

### **Time4Warwickshire**

#### **What is Timebanking?**

*Time banking is a way for people to come together to help others in their community and be rewarded for it - in time. For every hour of time you give helping someone you receive one hour time credit. All skills are equal and one hour = one time credit. For Example - Joan does one hour of gardening for David. She receives one hour of ironing credit back from Lakbir. David helps Chris to set up on line shopping.*

*The Time Bank will also hope to run fun, free activities in partnership with the local community.*

#### **Who can join?**

*Anyone, who lives or works in Arley & Whitacre Community can join. You don't need any special skills - just the time and the willingness to help others and receive help in return. No matter what your age, ability, employment status or mobility - you can get involved in Time Bank.*

#### **Interested?**

*I am looking for members to help set up and join Time Bank - if you want to know more please get in touch with Myself.*

**Cheryl Jones**

*cheryljones@warwickshire.gov.uk*

**Tel:07443345610**

**Facebook - time4warwickshire**

#### **Prayer Requests**

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer during this time of disruption, please make contact by email or phone one of the following.

Rev. J. Langlands 024 7667 5236 email [jlanglands@sky.com](mailto:jlanglands@sky.com)

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Margaret Oliver 014 5582 2822

Diana Kealey 024 7639 5089

August, 2020

During our isolation it's hard to write about interesting occasions when we only see family members as they stand outside. However, we are here at the end of July eagerly wanting the sun to shine as we are allowed to sit outside with our family.

We don't realise how we oldies are out of touch with the present world. Then our great grandchildren brought their reports from school to show us. They were both absolutely great – both were well behaved, polite and popular with pupils and teachers but we didn't understand the marking. No subjects as in our day – English, maths, history etc. In fact it completely flummoxed us.

Something I have noticed lately is how many young men and women hold high power posts in many sections but we shouldn't be surprised as many famous people started doing amazing things at a very young age – Victor Hugo wrote his first tragedy at age fifteen; Raphael painted his masterpieces before he died age thirty seven; Joan of Arc did all her work and was burned at the stake age nineteen; Alexander the Great had conquered the known world by the time he was twenty three. The list goes on. So age is irrelevant – it's having the skill and taking opportunities.

A teacher asked her class to make drawings for the wall. She walked round to see how they were getting on when she suddenly stopped. "What are you drawing, Emma?" she asked.

"I'm drawing God," she replied.

"But nobody knows what God looks like."

Without a pause Emma replied,

"Well, they will in a minute."

Marie Cove.