

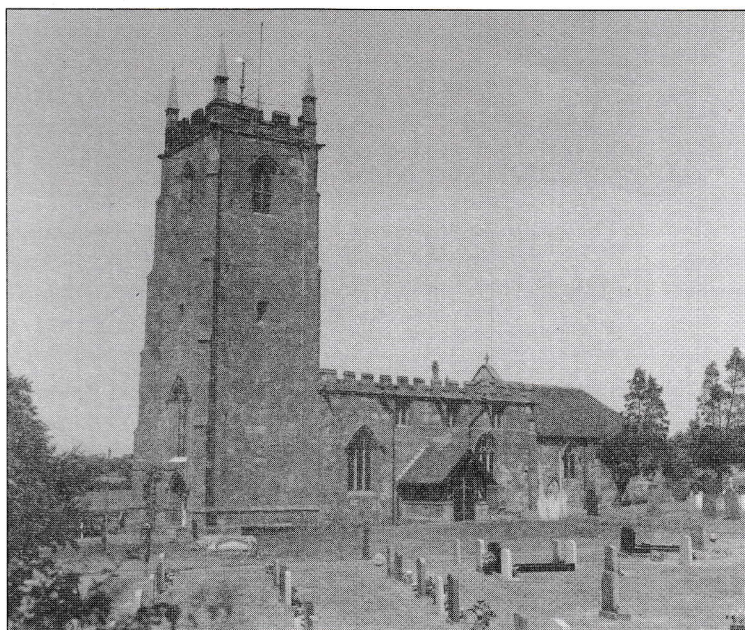
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 939

SEPTEMBER 2003

Price 25p



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This will be the last editorial letter I shall be writing, as next month this will be passed over to Rev. Peter Allan, who will be writing you a monthly letter.

Over the past years I have enjoyed sharing with you my thoughts, things from nature, anecdotes and tales, and hope you have enjoyed them too. I have had a lot of feed-back and shared many ideas, and have also learnt a lot of things which I never knew before and hope you have too. I may sometime in the future contribute to the magazine by way of poetry or some snippet of information or even a quiz.

During all of the month of August I had a broken right wrist, and I can never remember feeling such frustration and uselessness. I did manage to do this letter and my diary and nature journal on the computer, so as soon as the plaster is finally removed, my right hand will have to go into overdrive to write it all up. I finally know the true significance of the saying 'It's like losing your right arm'.

Have you all enjoyed the hot summer we have had this year? It seemed just like the olden days when summer seemed to go on for ever and ever with wall to wall sunshine and as soon as school finished for the summer holidays, away went the uniform and the socks and out came the cotton dresses and sandals. Days followed of fun, games, cricket, rounders, skipping, building camps and climbing trees, blackberrying and the picking of rose hips to sell to the chemist, and of course picnics with jam sandwiches and a bottle of water. We had never heard of global warming or the ozone layer or suntan lotion, as our skins turned steadily nut brown, and we had never heard of pollution as we drank from the streams in the local fields. Those were the days, and this year I have watched with great pleasure the children in our Crescent playing happily together going up and down on a trucky and drenching each other with water pistols. Also on the Recreation Ground there have been children of all ages really enjoying the sunshine, the long days and freedom. Oh that all children could enjoy these simple pleasures.

May I on behalf of us all welcome Rev. Peter Allan, his wife Pauline and his sons Robin and Tom to Ansley. We wish our new Vicar every success as our spiritual leader and hope he and his family will enjoy a long and happy time among us.

I would finally like to share with you some words of Martin Luther King which I heard quoted recently and ring truer today than they did 35 years ago:
'The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men'
Marie Cove

St John's Hall Ansley Common Services 10.30 a.m.
 Sept. 14th Trinity 12. Family service.
 Sept. 28th Trinity 14 Holy Communion The Vicar.

St. Laurence's Church services 10.30 a.m. & 6.30. p.m.
 Sept. 7th Trinity 11 a.m. All Age Worship with the Worship Team.
 p.m. BCP Holy Communion.
 Sept. 14th Trinity 12 a.m. Holy Communion.
 p.m. Evensong.
 Sept 21st Trinity 13 a.m. All Age Worship with the Worship Team.
 p.m. Holy Communion.
 Sept 28th Trinity 14 a.m. The Lord is Here Communion.
 p.m. Evensong.

Monday 1st St. John's Hall Committee meet 2.00 p.m.
 Monday 1st, 15th & 29th Ansley Common Fellowship meets
 Monday 8th Links leaders meeting
 Mondays 15th onwards Links group meet.
 Tuesday 16th at 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer In the Village Church Hall. The Senior
 Citizens meeting follows, everyone is welcome to this service.
 Tuesday 9th Worship team meet.
 Wednesday 3rd & 17th The Prayer group meets at 10 Nuthurst Cres. at 2.p.m.
 Wednesday 10th & 24th Wednesday Fellowship meets
 Saturday 13th Sponsored bike ride
 Saturday 20th Wedding.

From the Registers.

Wedding

The wedding of Helen Mellor and Ben Farmer took place on 2nd August in lovely sun - shine. The marriage was conducted by Rev. Stan Marriott, who not only knew Helen when he was our vicar, but also knew Ben when he was vicar at Hurley. We wish them every happiness in their new life together in Ansley.

Funerals

The funeral of Moreen Shorthose was on July 18th. Moreen was born in Baddesley in 1941 married to Barry in 1961 and after spending some time in Australia moved to Birchley Heath with her family in 1976. Where she became a friend and neighbour to many people. She will be greatly missed by everyone in Birchley Heath and her many friends at Purley Chase Golf Club where she regularly played with Barry. Barry's special thanks go to Jenny Oxford who cared for Moreen during her illness and became a pillar of strength in helping Barry and their family during their time of need.

The ashes of Edward (Ted) Prince 66 were buried on 21st July in his mother Nellie's grave whom many of the older people will remember. Ted never lost his love of the countryside even though he moved into the town. He was also very interested in railways, and had a wonderful collection of books on both subjects. Many will remember him from when he worked for the undertakers W Smith & Sons, it was work he loved with passion in which he was able, by his quiet and unassuming manner, to help many people at a difficult time

The funeral of Ronald Thomas Henry Orme aged 45 of St. John's Road took place at the grave side on 1st August with his many friends and family present.

Thanks

The P.C.C. wish to express their grateful thanks to Keith Davis for the wonderful work he has carried out on the old lights that were outside the porch and on the corner of the chancel. This has been a lot of work, they are the original lights and were in a very poor state of repair. The electricians will be fitting them and replacing the wiring as soon as they return from holiday. Thank you Keith, we are sure everyone will be pleased to see them back in place and working again.

Missed from last month. Thank you also to all those who helped with the de cobweb at the beginning of July. It was amazing just how much dirt etc. had accumulated over the past six years or so. The Church looks a lot better for its clean. Thank you.

A very special thank you to Hettie Sharman for the lovely tea afternoon on the 13th it was good to see so many people attend. £250. was raised for St. John's Hall.

Church Yard

You may have noticed that the grass in the Church Yard has now been returned to its normal standard. However we must express our regret that it has been necessary to now dig up part for the drains for the new room. This was not in the original plan, but has been caused by the planning authority's instructions. Please accept our apologies, and we all hope it will not be too long before the Church yard is back to its usual state of upkeep.

New Room.

The builders have worked so hard despite the extreme heat of this summer to get the work finished, and everyone says how pleased they are with the look of the building. At the time of writing it is in "that so near and yet so far" stage, but it will be ready for the flower festival. The dedication is too late in August to be reported on this month, but an account will be given in the October issue.

Flower Festival.

Again this will be happening too late in the month for details to be included in this months magazine and at the time of writing we are praying that the weather will still be warm and dry, although not too hot.

The New Vicar.

The Rev. Peter Allan is looking forward to being with us and by the issue of this magazine he will be ready to start his ministry with us. Please pray for him and the different congregations and people in his care.

Sponsored Cycle/Walk/Horse ride.

As in previous years the Warwickshire & Coventry Historic Churches Trust will be holding their sponsored event. The idea is to visit as many churches as possible, of those listed, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. by whatever method you please. If anyone would like to take part please have a word we have sponsor forms and the relevant information for anyone to take part. The money raised is divided equally between the Trust and the riders own home Church.

Trees

We are sorry to say that the horse chestnut in the Churchyard has died and in due time it will be removed.

ANSLEY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

CRIME AND DISORDER ISSUES IN ANSLEY VILLAGE

A large number of local residents attended the June meeting of the Parish Council to make representations regarding problems being experienced in Ansley Village that are felt to be directly attributable to one particular household.

The 20-30 residents present, were informed of the Parish Council's previous efforts over the past months, to make the responsible authorities, i.e. the Borough Council and the local Police aware of the problems. Residents were advised of letters to and meetings with these organisations and of the numerous requests for appropriate action to be taken, i.e. in the form of Anti Social Behaviour Orders, prosecution for criminal offences and prevention of other nuisance factors associated with this particular family.

The Parish Council were extremely pleased that so many people have now come forward with their concerns regarding late night activity, car repairs, theft, damage and general disturbance all of which it was agreed affects the quality of life of local people.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

A presentation by the Neighbourhood Watch Manager will be held at The Church Hall, Ansley Village on Thursday August 14th at 7.00pm. This will provide local residents with information on how a Scheme works and the benefits of membership. Local residents from Ansley Village are urged to attend as the Parish Council feel that the establishment of such a Scheme will assist in the monitoring and prevention of crime and disorder issues in the Parish and that a working relationship between residents and the local police can be formed and build upon.

LITTER/FLY TIPPING IN PARISH

Continuing problems relating to the presence of litter and the large amount of fly tipping offences being committed in the Parish have led the Parish Council to invite a NWBC representative to a future meeting at which a resolution of these ongoing problems will be discussed.

In view of parishioners strong views and concerns, a Public Meeting was subsequently arranged which was held on June 27th. This meeting was attended by the local MP Mike O'Brien, North Warwickshire Borough Council representatives together with the local Community Beat Officer and Police Sergeant from Atherstone Police Station.

Residents were again given the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding these long standing issues and listened to details of action that is currently taking place in an attempt to resolve the problems.

MP Mike O'Brien sympathised wholeheartedly with the plight of the residents and assured them that he would make every effort to alert the necessary responsible organisations of the urgency of these matters and that by acting on his constituents behalf he would call for and ensure that a speedy resolution to the issues is achieved.

Local residents were for their part encouraged to come forward and provide any additional pertinent information directly to the local authorities, that may assist in fulfilling this aim.

TRAFFIC CALMING

The Council have requested copies of past speed survey results and those of an up to date assessment from the County, in order to establish the successfulness of the existing traffic calming scheme in Ansley Village and to consider any future additions and improvements that could be made. Various road safety issues have also been brought to WCC Traffic Group's attention relating to Birchley Heath, including a request for a current traffic speed survey.

NEXT MEETING DATES

SEPTEMBER 11th OCTOBER 9th
NOVEMBER 13th DECEMBER 11th

Please note that any items, residents would like to be discussed at a future Parish Council meeting, must be forwarded giving details in writing to the Clerk, Mrs Tracy Pointon at 17 Laurel Drive, Hartshill, Nuneaton, CV10 0XP.