

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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### From Flowers to Fruit

As you read this the Flower Festival, having celebrated its 40th anniversary, is over for another year. I would like to thank all who have worked so hard to give glory to God and pleasure to so many. We now look forward to our Harvest Festival and trust that you will all join us in the celebrations at 8 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 a.m. on Sunday October 10.

I am delighted to remind you that from September 5 at St. John's, Ansley Common there will be Sunday services and a Sunday School every week at 10.30 a.m. On the third Sunday of each month the adults and children will join together for All-Age Worship. St. John's Hall has recently received a grant of £5,000 from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust for the installation of a new kitchen. It should be a wonderful improvement!

As a result of the excellent response to the Village survey, we are hoping to start shortly Bingo (on Tuesday nights), a Parent And Toddler Group, a Community Cafe and Line Dancing. We are investigating the advice centre, looking for grants to provide (among other things) the equipment for large screen entertainment and to improve the floor to allow ballroom dancing and indoor bowls.

Please pray for God to guide us all as our churches seek to find five people to join with me and representatives from Arley churches to form the new Ministry Leadership Team. We hope to announce the names at a joint meeting of both P.C.C.s at St. Michael's New Arley on Thursday 23 September.

In the midst of this wonderful activity it is good to reflect why we are here - not just why are we in Ansley doing what we are doing but why are we here on this earth. With that in mind I would like to invite you all to come - entirely without obligation - to St. Michael's New Arley on Tuesday 21 September at 7.30 p.m. for the opening night of our new Alpha Course. We will provide a meal, an introduction to the course and a chance to chat and ask questions. I have found Alpha has something for everyone - those who are just interested, those who want to consider confirmation and for those who have been church members for many years and want to think about their faith afresh. To book your meal or for a lift please telephone John Cox on 024 7639 4802 .

And finally, at the end of my first year with you may I thank you for all your welcome and support, your help, encouragement and guidance and most of all your prayer. It is greatly appreciated. As we work together in the Lord's service may we see not only the flowering of our churches and communities but may our work bear fruit to the glory of God.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

St John's Hall Ansley Common.

Wednesday 1st	9.00 a.m.		Holy Communion.
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Trinity 13	Family Worship & Sunday School
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Trinity 14	Holy Communion & Sunday School
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 a.m.		Morning Prayer
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Trinity 15	Family Service
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Trinity 16	Holy Communion & Sunday School

St. Laurence's Church Sunday services 10.30 a.m. & 6.30. p.m.

Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 13	a.m. All Age Worship
		p.m. B.C.P .Holy Communion
Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 14	a.m. Baptism & Holy Communion
		p.m. Evensong
Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 15	a.m. All Age Worship
		p.m. Holy Communion
Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 16	a.m. Holy Communion
		p.m. Evensong

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 p.m.	Links Youth Club
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	2.00 p.m.	Prayer Group meet 10 Nuthurst Crescent.
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Wednesday Fellowship meet at 10 Nuthurst Cres.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> 16 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Ansley Common Fellowship.
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	P.C.C. Meeting Village Church Hall
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Joint P.C.C. with Arley.

**From the Registers**

**Baptism**

Thomas John Fulleylove was baptised on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July. He was not sure of the water and let us know, but he was happy to meet everyone as he and his family returned to their seats.

**Weddings**

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July Wayne Quinney and Helen Davies were married they arrived in heavy rain but it had cleared by the end of the service. They had "The Nearly Tuneful Company" from Warrington, leading the singing.

The marriage of Anthony Villafrati and Leila Wallis was on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July. The Rev. Don Jones conducted this ceremony.

**Funerals**

We gathered at St. Laurence on 6<sup>th</sup> August to mourn the passing and give thanks for the life of Rose Toon. Her wisdom, courage, sheer hard work and strong love for her husband Alf and son John continue to be an inspiration to us all. Her life of faith, which saw its expression in particular in her service to our church was commended to us by Rev. Eric Jarvis (Vicar 1957-1964) who being unable to attend, sent a message of thanksgiving and condolence to family and friends.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Rachael and Craig Ray parents of baby Thomas Charles who was sadly born prematurely at twenty weeks. May they know God's comfort and support in this their time of grief and sadness. The graveside service was conducted by Rev. Edward Pogmore, Chaplain of the George Eliot on Monday August 9<sup>th</sup>.

The cremated remains of Alice Emily (87) were interred in the grave of her late husband Victor Richard Cooper on August 6<sup>th</sup>. We remember her family in our prayers.

### **Gill and Geoff.**

For three weeks in June and July we had a collection to pay for children and young people to go on a Christian camp for a week. We were able to send £132 for this work. Thank you everyone.

Letter from Gill & Geoff.

We are delighted to receive such a generous gift from you for the children on the Lord's Army camps. There has been a wonderful response to our appeal, and it is a tremendous encouragement, both to the Lord's Army leaders, the young people, and indeed ourselves. Our daughter Juliet is coming out here on Sunday in order to help with one of the camps, and we plan to put a short report and some pictures in our next link letter. We often think of you all. Out of sight is certainly not out of mind! We hope that this year's Flower Festival will be sunny and bright, not only in weather but also in joy.

May God encourage all of you, and thank you again. In His love, Gill & Geoff.

### **Churchyard**

It is hoped everyone will agree that the work carried out at the lych gate has made a great improvement to the appearance of that entrance. The cost of the wall repair was £1995.00. This has been paid from the fabric fund. Thank you to David Goadby for storing the stone while the work was being carried out. The work to the gate and posts has been given and we say a big thank you to Geoff Mellor for this. Geoff is currently working on the gates on the main road entrance.

### **Cake Bake**

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June we had the Cake Bake there was a vast array of cakes which had all been given and were sold on the day. A special thank you to Margaret Oliver who organises this each year and to the people who gave the cakes especially those on the Nuthurst Estate who support this event so well. A total of £150 was raised for Spurgeon Child Care.

### **Fair Trade**

The P.C.C. have adopted the following policy -

"When we buy tea coffee and other goods we will endeavour to seek to buy fair trade as far as possible."

This is a response to the need to pay a "fair price" to the producer for what we buy.

### **Disability Act.**

Legislation is coming into so many walks of life and the P.C.C. have adopted formally the following policy, to comply.

"Open to All"

St. Laurence Church, Ansley, believes that the joy and privilege of worshipping God and serving Him is open to all. We welcome everyone and are committed to do all in our power to make the church and our work in the community accessible to all. We are constantly endeavouring to remove all barriers and would welcome any comment as to how that might be achieved.

It is our hope that this statement is not only part of our response to the Disability Act, but expresses how we feel and that we believe in a Church that is truly "Open to All".

September, 2004

We have to print a correction to the Baptism in the August edition. It was Maisie Amelia Humpage who was baptised, and I should have known better because she is my Great Niece. I must be getting into the Ansley habit of calling everyone by their mother's name. Sorry about this!

Old habits die hard! As a young mother many years ago I had learnt from my own mother many safety things. So now I find myself, even when only two of us are at home, doing those things. I turn the saucepan handles inwards; I never run the hot water first for a bath but run both taps at once; I put the hot iron to cool somewhere little handles can't get burnt. Even some of my mother's superstitions I find make life safer - not crossing on the stairs which can be dangerous; not putting shoes on the table which is unhygienic. Perhaps after all these were not only superstitions but in some cases sensible.

On a Wildlife programme they said 16 species of Bumblebee were under threat. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. When we were young there were the Honey Bees and the Bumblebees, so we thought, but when I heard this, I started to look at the Bees in our garden. I didn't count 16, but I did count 5 different Bumblebees, from small through to really large. I must keep on looking.

In our Sunday newspaper they listed some old remedies and one was headed 'Fish for brain food'. Our Dad was obsessed with learning and he insisted we had fish at least twice a week because he said 'Fish made you brainy'. This idea has spanned the generations as now researchers have come to the conclusion that fish eaters have better flow of blood to the brain. Also fish contains important B Vitamins that help with the memory. It would appear that Father did know best in this instance.

Have you noticed that even in the middle of August the Rowan Trees were full of berries, and some of the trees losing their leaves. I picked some Blackberries during mid August and there are quite a few Hazel nuts on the trees. Autumn is visiting us early this year.

Marie Cove.