

# **Church of St. Laurence Magazine**

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

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No: 1027

SEPTEMBER 2011

Price 25p

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Vicar:

REV. PETER ALLAN

Tel: 024 7639 9070

Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL

Tel: 01827 874520

MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 024 7638 1833

St. Johns Leaders

MARIE COVE

Tel: 024 7639 4114

JOHN COX

Tel: 024 7639 4802

Lay Reader:

MANDY WATTS

Tel: 024 7639 7654

GWYNETH HICKMAN

Tel: 024 7639 8901

**[www.ansleychurch.org](http://www.ansleychurch.org)**

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**Print Centre 0800 389 4089**

## Faith, Hope and Love and the Greatest of these is Love

It was meant to be a quiet contented summer but Parliament had to be recalled twice; firstly for the hacking scandal and then for the riots. It has been a time of heart searching. Almost all the people involved in the riots were born and brought up in this country. The riots happened here to the astonishment and amazement of nations throughout the world. What is going so badly wrong? How can we ensure that what we have seen never recurs again?

We look to our government and the courts to sort things out. But they have only two tools at their disposal that are not available to every person - the power to grant money and the power to punish. They must use these tools as effectively and powerfully as they can, but it can not be enough. We desperately need to restore our values.

### Faith.

Our faith is so special. It keeps us inspired, strengthens us in time of need and challenges us to help. It gives the joy of prayer and of Christian fellowship and a friend in Jesus. Let us pray for a greater confidence in sharing among our friends and neighbours and pray that God will show us how best to support churches sacrificially seeking to share faith in the difficult conditions of England's inner cities.

### Hope.

One thing our society lacks is hope. The children lack hope that they will achieve when they grow up. Young people lack hope that they will get any job-let alone a worthwhile job- when they leave school. Parents lack hope for their children. The elderly lack hope that after death there will be anything at all. Of course this is a generalisation, and there are wonderful and exceptional people who inspire us all, but fear seems increasingly to be a driving force and hope is fading. Let us do all we can to restore hope and to name the source of our hope in Jesus himself. That hope will not disappoint us.

### Love.

We just don't give relationships the priority we need to. We need to restore the commitment to each other and in particular the commitment to support our young people as they journey to adulthood. I remember with gratitude the men who inspired me as I grew up - my Dad (certainly) but also my headmaster Mr. Perkins, my cub leaders Mr. Tuck and Mr. Green, the priest who prepared me for confirmation Revd. Harris and the Rev. Thomas who lead our church youth club. I hope you too had people who helped you. Please pray for our young people that God will grant them the support that you enjoyed. And may love direct us in all we do.

The immediate problems of the riots must be dealt with quickly and effectively. In the long term there is only one answer- a society not driven by money but founded on faith, hope and love.

On a happier note may I invite you to share lunch with John, Bishop of Warwick at Ansley Village Church Hall on Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup>. He'll be there from 12-2pm but feel free to come and go as you please. You will be most welcome.

Your friend and Vicar,  
Peter



### September St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 12	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 13	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 14	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

### St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 12	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 13	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 14	10.30 a.m.	Joint Service at St Laurence

### Discussion Groups

Discussing the parables – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

'The year through the Bible' Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 p.m. 128 Birmingham Road.

### Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

### From the Registers

#### WE WELCOMED IN BAPTISM

At St John's, Ansley Common on 23 July Layton Roy Neale

#### WE JOINED IN MARRIAGE

Jack Zielinski & Lisa Knight on 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Adam White and Jennifer Bridge 6<sup>th</sup> August

#### WE REMEMBERED WITH THANKSGIVING

The ashes of Joseph Richardson 86 were interred in the family grave on 21<sup>st</sup> July. Joe was born in Ansley and lived in the parish until he went into the forces. Then moved to Wiltshire for several years and returned to live in the area until he died.

Ken Riley's mortal remains were interred on August 8th in the family grave in St. Laurence's Churchyard. Ken, with his brother Geoff, owned Oxhayes Farm and they worked it for many decades with sacrificial dedication. After Geoff's death he continued to live on the farm and then went to live with the family in Wales for a well earned but sadly short retirement.

Bet Wright's funeral took place on August 9th at St. Laurence's and on August 10th for the interment in the churchyard. Bet moved to St. Lawrence's Estate into her new home 57 years ago. Especially in the early years she thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie in the estate. Firm but fair, she loved to support her church and embodied the traditional values of hospitality, hard work and thrift. She dedicated her life to her family to her husband, Walter who sadly predeceased her, her children and her grandchildren who spoke movingly at her service.

Tony Teggles' funeral took place on August 1<sup>st</sup> at the Heart of England Crematorium. Born in 1934, He started work at Arley Colliery, but he spent many happy hours working on and racing motor bikes in his free time. He married Joan and in 1966 emigrated to Australia, only returning to England to be with his widowed father. After early retirement from the pit he set up his own courier firm with his sons. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

The funeral took place at St Margaret's Church, Stoke Golding on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 of Stan Lakin. Stan who was born in Ansley Village and lived there until his early 20s died suddenly at his home on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the age of 71 years.

### Day of Prayer

Following from our desire to increase the prayer life of the church in Ansley from our 2010 Lent discussions it was agreed at our 2011 Lent discussions that our desire was to have a day of prayer in the church. This will be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September and will commence with a short form of Morning Prayer at 11 a.m. continuing throughout the day to finish at 7 p.m. with the short evening service of Complin.

There will be someone in church all the time and every half hour The Lord's Prayer, our Parish prayer, a prayer for the PCC and the Grace will be said. There will be a few particular topics to guide the prayers, for our church and of course anyone will be entirely welcome to bring their own personal prayers at any time

If you would like to share in the manning of the church throughout the day please add your name to the list in the church or contact one of the wardens as it is important that we have at least two people in the church during the day.

### Bishop John's visit

Everyone is invited to meet with Bishop John when he comes to have lunch and meet people at the Village Church Hall at 12 noon Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Do feel free to come along and hear what he has to say and for him to hear of your needs.

### Jane Kimberley's concert £155 plus £40

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June Jane Kimberley presented an excellent flute concert with her students, eight of whom will be going to university this Autumn. This event was well supported by friends and family of the students who donated a total of £155 for the church and with the hire fee this raised a much appreciated £195

### Flower Festival

Report next month

### Church buildings

The work on the chancel has been completed and our architect is pleased with the quality of the work. Bills amounting to £5420, have been paid (additionally VAT on some of this amount has also been paid, but will be reclaimed). There is also a bill for the architect. The next project will be to stop the leak near the font and we are at present chasing the builder to have this work completed before the winter. All this is very necessary work to ensure that water is not getting into the building but as can be seen it is all costing money which is having to come from our rapidly diminishing reserves.



At the time of writing the annexe kitchen has been given a new coat of paint and the rest is in process. The paint being used was over from the work on the Village Church Hall, and we are very grateful to those doing the work which will freshen the building as it is now eight years since it was built. It is pleasing that there is no added financial cost for this work.

It is pleasing to say that the wood work in the Village Church Hall has been treated with very little disruption and the bill of £410 has been paid.

Over the last few years we have had several people visit the church to look particularly at our beautiful west window, they travel round the country to see windows that were made by Karl Parsons who lived from 1884-1934.

### St. John's Events

September is a very busy month for St John's, in Ansley Common starting on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 with the Harvest Supper which will be a meal of meat pie and a sweet. Tickets are £3.50 please be sure to book your place to enable the correct number of meals to be provided.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September will be the Harvest Festival service at 10.30 a.m. everyone is most welcome to attend.

The next prize Bingo session will be on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> eyes down at 7 p.m. the first £50 profit from this event will be given to the Salvation Army for their work and the remainder will be for hall funds.

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September Joy will be holding her tea and cake afternoon at her home next door to the hall. Along with a warm welcome there is always a wonderful selection of different cakes on offer, various items on the bring and buy stall and plenty of time to chat.

### In Search of Medieval Ansley.

The second presentation by Dr John Hunt also booked up very quickly and again there are a few on another waiting list. If you would like to come to a presentation please do contact 01827 874520 and leave a message as it is hoped that another session can be arranged

### 'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

It has been decided to continue with this small change collection and anyone who would like a collecting tin please ask and one can be organised. The total paid into our Fabric Fund in July was £26 bringing the total to £137 so far this year all from the small change collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

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### Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence and St. John's please hand the slip below to a member of the Church congregation or contact the Vicar on 024 7639 9070. Please remember the vicar would be pleased to visit anyone who is sick, but he does need to know, again please ring.

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Please pray for .....who is .....

September 2011

After the announcement that Butterflies and Bees are in decline, we have had a bumper year for both in our garden, especially, however, Butterflies – Red Admiral, Peacock, Cabbage White and also a couple of Comma, which I can never remember seeing before and had to look up to see what it was. We have also seen a few moths fluttering about in the day and when it is dark.

When I see T.V. gardeners eating vegetables and fruit straight from the plant without washing it first, I shudder. In days gone by before pollution caused by car exhausts, crop spraying etc., we as children would eat some wild flowers and berries from the hedgerow, but not now and I advise our children and grandchildren not to do so.

I read in a newspaper some signs of growing old, e.g. falling asleep in front of the T.V. (which I personally put down to boredom), preferring Radio to T.V. I would add to these – preferring repeats of Dad's Army, Porridge or Morecambe & Wise to modern soaps and sit-coms. Also finding it difficult to understand many new words used today, many of which I understand are soon to be incorporated in a new dictionary.

As I and thousands of others eagerly welcome the new football season, I cannot help wondering if I will recognise the players in the team I support (Liverpool) or any other team for that matter, as players sometimes change their team as often as they change their socks. At least we sports fans have had the pleasure of seeing a really good England Cricket Team who were great to watch against India.

As I was writing the envelopes for the postal magazines, I remembered years ago when sending a letter was cheap. We always sent birthday cards by post, even if the recipient lived very near, and if they were sent to Nuneaton addresses or even nearer, we put in the bottom corner of the envelope 'local'. Of course this was before Post Codes or even 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Post. Also Pen Friends were very popular and I wrote to a girl in South Africa for years, but stopped after we both got married, as we were struggling to make ends meet, and she was grumbling about not being able to buy a newer Speedboat. I felt at this point we had nothing in common and certainly nothing to write to each other about.

Autumn is a mellow month, with crops of golden corn.

The hay is stacked and gossamer flies like fairies on a September morn.

The berries are red on the Rowan tree and the haws in hedgerow for all to see.

What a lovely time of the year to see, with Hover fly and Bumble Bee.

The nights are darker, but the moon is bright giving us September in a beautiful light.

Marie Cove.