

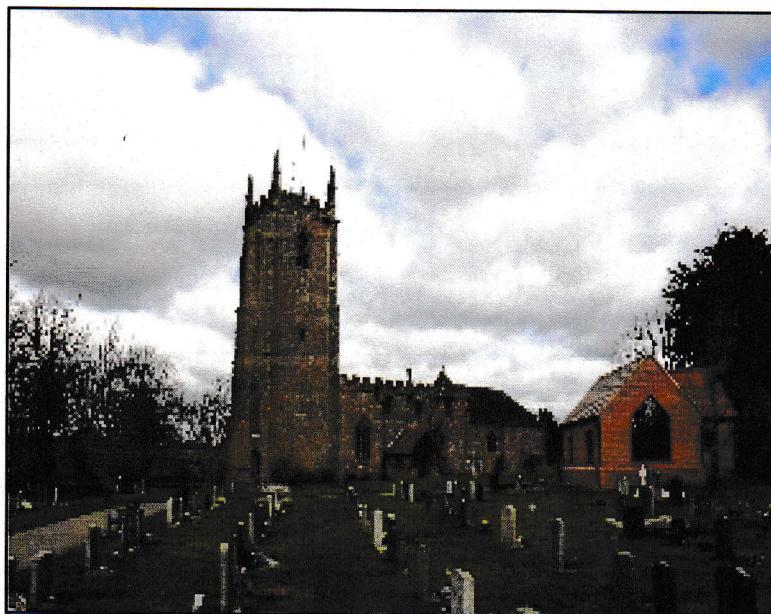
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1063

SEPTEMBER 2014

Price 30p



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

Print Centre 024 7638 6017

A joyful summer?

There has been much to celebrate over the summer. We have rejoiced at the Flower Festival and, when the weather has allowed, we have celebrated in the sunshine.

Summer is a time of much greater light and generally greater warmth. It's a time to get out and about unhindered by cold days, dark evenings and icy roads. I very much hope you have made the most of it and if you were able to get away that you have had a relaxing, restoring break.

But there always seems to be something strange about summer and I am not sure whether this is just coincidence or whether these things deliberately occur when the world is relaxing. I refer in particular to the troubles in the Middle East - the attacks on Gaza and the rise of ISIS in Iraq.

There is a shadow across our quiet celebrations. Darkness falls where there is light. For some the triumph of darkness is an argument against the existence of God. Surely people say love must always triumph.

But let us remember Jesus came into a world of darkness. He faced exile and rejection, betrayal and death. He knew what darkness was. He looked it in the face. He brought light and he kept on loving.

As Jesus' disciples we do not view the world with rose-tinted spectacles. We know there is hate, abuse and oppression. We know that darkness stalks this world and sometimes is closer to home than we would wish. May the light of Jesus encourage and inspire us and may the awareness of the darkness compel us to work for a world of justice, hope and peace.

As we await the eventual triumph of the light let us remember that it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

September St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 7 th	Trinity 12	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 th	Trinity 13	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 21 st	Trinity 14	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th	Trinity 15	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 7 th	Trinity 12	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 14 th	Trinity 13	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st	Trinity 14	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 28 th	Trinity 15	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

From the Registers

Weddings

On 1st August we celebrated the marriage of Christopher Hornsby and Rachel Atkins

On 9th August we celebrated the marriage of David Hindley and Jasmine Wilson

Bishop John's Appeal for Al-Ahli Hospital, Gaza

Coventry Diocese is linked to the Diocese of Jerusalem, which runs the Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza. In July 2014 the Bishop of Warwick, The Right Reverend John R. A. Stroyan received a letter from Bishop Suheil giving details of an appeal to raise funds to repair damage caused by the bombardment there. The hospital treats all in the local community, regardless of faith or culture.

The problems faced include shortages of medicine, fuel for electric generators and food for patients, their families and others in the local area. The hospital has also suffered structural damage to its ventilation system in the operating theatre and emergency room. Many windows have been broken. Through this international appeal, the hospital hopes to raise \$500 000.

There will be a collection plate at the cross aisles on Sunday 31st August and Sunday 7th September to collect for this cause. Gift aided donations will be appreciated, if possible. Bishop John asks for our continued prayers for the situation in the Holy Land.

Donations may also be made online at the JMECA (Jerusalem & Middle East Church Association) website: www.jmeca.org.uk where you will find a link to the appeal on their home page or by cheque (payable to The Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association) sent to the Secretary, JMECA, 1 Hart House, The Hart, Farnham, Surrey. GU9 7HJ. Please Gift Aid your donation if possible as this will increase the value of your donation at no extra cost to you. There is a downloadable form on the JMECA website for this purpose.

St Laurence's Prayer Day

There will be an opportunity to spend some time in quiet prayer at St Laurence's during Tuesday 23rd September, from 11.00 a.m. to 7.15 p.m., when the bells will be rung. People may come and go as they wish through the day and are invited to pray for themselves, the church and the local community. There will be material available for guidance on the theme "Moving closer to God". Those who have been able to take part in previous years have found this a valuable time for personal reflection and a chance to pause and unite with others in prayer.

St Wilfrid's, Old Arley, Service of Thanksgiving for Little Lives

All who have lost young children and babies, whether in recent years or a long time ago, are invited to St Wilfrid's Family Communion on Sunday September 14th at 9.00 a.m. for a Service of Thanksgiving for Little Lives. You will have an opportunity to light a candle for your child and to ask for your child to be remembered by name. Readings, prayers and hymns will be chosen to reflect this theme. You are most welcome.

St John's Harvest Festival

St John's will celebrate the harvest season with a service on 14th September at 10.30 a.m. You are most welcome to join this thanksgiving for the fruits of the harvest and for all the good things God provides. The produce given will be as usual given to the Salvation Army who are always so very grateful for what they are given.

St John's Pie and Mash Supper

There will be a supper at St John's Hall on Friday 12th September. Tickets will need to be booked in advance and will cost £4.00. Everyone will be sure to enjoy the variety of entertainment that is always provided at these events.

The Girl's Brigade

The Girl's Brigade Awards ceremony will be held at St John's Hall on Thursday 11th September at 6.30 p.m. Do please come if you can and support these young people who will have worked hard to achieve their awards.

Ride and Stride Saturday 13th September

This event is organised to raise funds for the repair and upkeep of historic church buildings. Cyclists and walkers are sponsored and visit as many churches as they can. The money raised is divided equally between the participants' church and the Warwickshire Historic Churches Trust. Please do join in by either cycling riding or walking around the churches or sign a sponsorship form [available through Mr Philip Rees or the churchwardens] to support this scheme.

Harvest at St Laurence's – Advance Notice

The harvest thanksgiving services will be held at St Laurence's church on Sunday 12th October, followed by a sale of produce and a shared meal on Monday 13th October, in the annexe. Further details will be in the October magazine.

Lights Out

As part of the commemoration of the start of the First World War, the congregations at St Laurence's and St John's lit candles at the services on Sunday 3rd August and paused to reflect on this world changing conflict. The national marking of this event took place on Monday 4th August, the 100th anniversary of the declaration of war.

Thirty two names can be seen on the First World War memorial tablet in church. Although some information is held about some of these people, it would be interesting to have copies of photographs or memories passed down through their families. Please contact a churchwarden if you can help, or if you are researching a family member.

St Laurence's 50th Flower Festival

At the time of writing this, the flowers had been delivered to the church and the arrangers were just beginning to create their stunning displays. Thank you to all who helped to ensure the churchyard was looking at its best for this event. As you are reading these words, the festival will be over and everything cleared away. A full report on this "golden" event will be in next month's magazine.

Magazine Review

There has been some discussion at recent PCC meetings about the insert "The Sign" in the church magazine. Although the inclusion of a nationwide supplement to widen our understanding of the church has been appreciated over the years, the content of "The Sign" has been less well received over the last year or two. Plans are in hand to replace "The Sign" with more generally accessible material. Watch this space!

Fifty Years Ago

Looking back at the magazine for 1964 it was noted that the Reverend Stanley Richard Marriott's induction took place at St Laurence's on 17th September. He stayed at Ansley until 1978. Many of our readers will have memories of his time here. He keeps in touch with some in Ansley at Christmas time. He is particularly remembered as the vicar who during his time at Ansley led the work to reorganise the chancel part of which included moving the pulpit to its present position. He also led the campaign to raise the money to have the bells rehung in the present bell frame and the ring augmented to 6.

(If you would like to learn to ring please have a word practice night is Tuesday night at 7.30 p.m. new ringers are always welcome.)

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 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.

Please pray for who is

Well, I think we will all remember Summer 2014 as one of the best for weather, as day after day we have enjoyed weeks of sunshine, so it was quite a shock when it came to an end, and the rain returned. Gardeners and the plants themselves were pleased to see the rain, and it did not diminish the beautiful flowers in our garden. In fact some of the plants, such as the Clematis and the Roses have bloomed twice, and the children have enjoyed a few weeks of sunshine for their Summer holidays.

Every day I learn more and more about garden pests – some good, some bad, but one thing is for sure – there are plenty of them. It seems our gardens are a delicious buffet for them with a speciality for every insect. We have Lily Beetles. Vine Weevils, Leek Beetles, and not only insects have enjoyed the harvest as Pigeons have stripped the Cabbages before the Cabbage Whites had a chance. We are bombarded by insects but the ones we do love and welcome are Bees, Butterflies and Ladybirds, and this year we have had so many Butterflies; many were on the garden path, on the fence and on the wall of the house, and I believe they were sunbathing.

I have heard it all now – some Housing Associations in America forbid millions from using washing lines because it is regarded as a bit 'ghetto'. I have to admit that I love the sight of washing (especially the whites) blowing in the breeze and it also gives the washing a lovely fresh smell. But, on the other hand I have been called a dinosaur. The very first photograph I had taken (we didn't own a camera) was a school photograph at 4 years old and you were to choose which activity to do by the photographer. I chose to have a bowl of water and wash the dolls' clothes. I have never owned a tumble dryer which doesn't matter because even if I did, I wouldn't be able to afford to switch it on.

In this age of technology it is unbelievable that the advances in science have made life harder, not easier, especially for those of a certain age. If I try to open a tin, especially sardines, inevitably the tab breaks off and then to use a tin opener it is like trying to open a safe. Isn't there some brainbox out there who could make a tin easier to open?

Just for a laugh: A vicar announced that next Sunday he would preach a special service, but in the meantime he wanted everyone to read the 17th Chapter of the Gospel of Mark. A week later he asked everyone who had read this reading to put up their hands, and almost everyone did so. 'Just as I thought,' the vicar said, 'My sermon will be on honesty. There are only 16 chapters in the book of Mark.'

Marie Cove.