

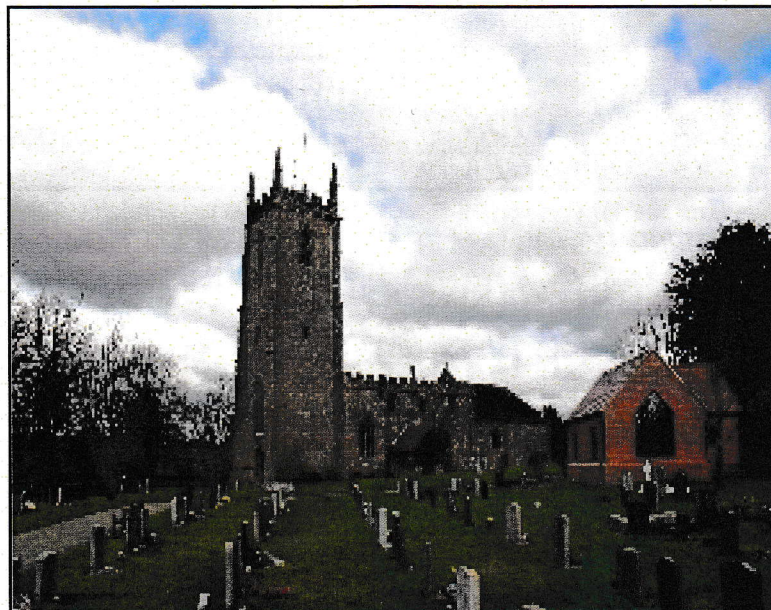
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1087

SEPTEMBER 2016

Price 30p



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September

September is usually the beginning of the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. Jesus uses these things that surround us to inspire and create in us a Christian mindset. In the Bible Jesus and God use harvest time to create all the lovely stories we have come to love and know. In the Old Testament, for example, Joseph and his brothers at the time of seven years of fruitfulness and seven years of famine. Another instance is seen in the story of Ruth, when she is seen picking up grain that had fallen to the ground, following the harvest of the main crop.

An example from the New Testament is the occasion when Jesus' disciples ate ears of corn because they were hungry as they walked through the fields.

Jesus often used the vineyard in his stories. Jesus joined in drinking wine with his friends at their meals as this was and still is a wide spread tradition in countries where grapes grow.

How well do we ripen in our spirituality? Is our faith growing? This is an area for all of us to explore as an on-going concern. As the nights draw in maybe we could find some inspirational bible reading via New Daylight or Bible Alive etc. These involve a very short daily reading but just enough to set off our thought pattern in the right direction. The Sept to Dec edition of New Daylight has a lovely photo on the front cover of golden fields, and bales freshly made –the corn gathered in for our daily bread, with our daily bible food inside the booklet for us to eat and inwardly digest!

Another option may be to read and reflect on these verses from Psalm 104," In praise of the Creator."

v.1 Praise the Lord , my soul!,

O Lord, my God, how great you are!

v. 5 You have set the earth firmly on its foundations and it will never be moved.

v.6 You placed the ocean over it like a robe and the water covered the mountains.

v.7 When you rebuked the waters , they fled: they rushed away when they heard your shout of command.

v.8 they flowed over the mountains and into the valleys, to the place you had made for them.

v.9 You set a boundary they can never pass, to keep them from covering the earth again.

v.10 You make springs flow in the valleys and rivers run between the hills.

v.11 They provide water for the wild animals: there the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

v.12 In the trees nearby, the birds make their nests and sing

v.13 From the sky you send rain on the hills and the earth is filled with your blessings.

v.14 You make grass grow for the cattle and plants for human beings to use, so that they can grow their crops

v.15 and produce wine to make them happy, olive oil to make them cheerful and bread to give them strength.

Gwyneth Hickman

September St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 4 th	Trinity 15	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 th	Trinity 16	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time [Screen]
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18 th	Trinity 17	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th	Trinity 18	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 4 th	Trinity 15	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 11 th	Trinity 16	10.30 a.m.	Harvest
Sunday 18 th	Trinity 17	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 25 th	Trinity 18	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Please note

During the interregnum it may be necessary to change the pattern of services from time to time at fairly short notice. This would be to enable visiting clergy to hold a communion service.

From the Registers

Weddings

The wedding of Shaun Suffolk and Alison Glover took place at St Laurence's Church on Saturday, 30th July. The service was conducted by Linda Bray, vicar of the Fenn Lanes Benefice in Leicestershire, who had baptised the bride's niece a week earlier. We wish Shaun and Alison every happiness in their marriage.

The Reverend Martin Butt officiated at the wedding of Matthew Albutt and Hazel Powell on Saturday, 20th August. May they enjoy many years of happiness.

Funeral

The funeral of Ron Morewood was conducted by our Reader, Gwyneth Hickman, on Friday, 12th August, followed by committal at The Heart of England Crematorium. His wife, six children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were joined by other members of his family and his many friends to celebrate his life and to share their memories and their grief. His work in renovating the chancel at St Laurence's during the 1970s and making a beautiful wooden chest is remembered with much gratitude by church members.

St John's Harvest Service

The congregation at St John's will be celebrating this festival on Sunday 11th September at their 10.30 a.m. service. All are welcome to join them in thanking God for all he provides for our needs.

St John's Harvest Supper

The members of St John's congregation invite you to join them for a harvest supper of 'Pie and Mash' on Friday 16th September at 7.00 p.m. This is a popular occasion, with a

limited number of tickets, so make sure you book your place and prepare for an enjoyable social evening!

Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust Cycle Ride

Our cyclist, Mr Phil Rees has had to retire from this event as he is recovering from a recent injury. It was nothing to do with bicycles! The church will be open on Saturday, 10th September for other participants to log their journeys.

Prayer Day

St Laurence's Church will be open on the afternoon of Tuesday, 20th September between 1.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. for a time of prayer. You are warmly invited to spend as much or as little time as you wish during these hours to pray, to meditate, to reflect or just to sit quietly in this peaceful space. Notes will be available to guide prayers and thoughts, if wished.

Open Church

The last Sunday opening of the church this year will be on 25th September. Although the exact number of visitors since the beginning of May is not known, we are aware that the opportunity to visit the church has been appreciated.

St John's Bingo

The next session will be on Monday 26th September at 7.00 p.m. Test your luck and enjoy a friendly social evening.

Flower Festival 2016 - God's Creation

Report next month.

A Look Back at the Past

September is a month when space is often available in this section of the magazine. It seems a good opportunity to look back at what was happening at St Laurence's fifty and one hundred years ago.

One hundred years ago, in 1916, the magazine consisted of a title page and two sides of parish news. The vicar was the Reverend C. Heaton. His entry for January 1916 encourages his readers to enjoy the happiness that comes from serving God to the best of their ability and using the gifts He has given for His Glory. The church was in the Diocese of Worcester. One entry in the March edition refers to having heard a Zeppelin pass over the parish on 31st January and discovering later that the wife of the Reverend Dr Morris, who had lead a mission in Ansley twenty years before had been killed in Staffordshire by a bomb fragment from this raid.

The upkeep of the church building was a concern, with a report that the north aisle pillars were cracking, as they were unable to bear the weight of the overhanging arches. Reports included one about Ansley Common choir travelling to Leicester on a day excursion by 'brake'. The report of an outing in September by the Mothers' Meeting records that they had a 'delightful drive via the Water Works to Baddesley Ensor and thence along the Watling Street to Merevale Church, which greatly interested the party. Leaving Merevale, the ancient town of Atherstone was reached in due course. It was market day and many eyes were turned to the brake and its occupants as it rolled up Long

Street. Here the whole party dismounted and partook of a bountiful tea, after which they journeyed home, well pleased with the excursion.'

That year St Laurence's church choir journeyed by brake to Sutton Coldfield in perfect weather and spent a long and happy day amid the attractions of that well known resort.

Fifty years later, in 1966 the vicar was the Reverend S. R. Marriott, A.K.C and the parish was part of Coventry Diocese. As well as the flower festival, which was in its second year, there was a pageant to be organised, a pig roast and the Annual Church Fete.

The toilet in the churchyard was upgraded to a proper flush toilet with a septic tank.

Despite the excavations for the septic tank, the churchyard won third place in the Diocesan competition, having not been entered for some time.

Members of the Junior Church Choir had a week's holiday at Shanklin in the Isle of Wight, accompanied by the vicar and Mr and Mrs G. Ponder. The children were so beautifully behaved that the Warden where they stayed wanted them to return the following year.

Ansley Village Youth Centre was set up, with table tennis sessions twice a week and an organising committee of eleven people.

In May, St Laurence Church, among other churches in the wider area, suffered the theft of lead from its roof, with all the inconvenience of trying to protect the building from the weather and organising repairs. By November the work had been done and the church had been re-decorated.

It has been interesting to read about the past with some similar and some very different activities and anxieties from those we experience in 2016. The following words that Mr Gordon Armstead wrote for St John's Church in December 1966 seem applicable to us today. 'During this year our church has seen many ups and downs but now I feel sure that we are over the rise and we must press on, trusting God for the future.'

Dry Rot

It was a shock to discover an area of dry rot under the sink in the vestry. Emergency permission has been obtained to remove affected wood and to treat the area concerned. It is hoped the work will be done in early September, though refurbishing the area will be left for a later date.

Apologies

The editing team would like to apologise for some errors in last month's magazine. Some front covers still read July instead of August, Lord Plumb's surname was misspelt and the Prayer Request paragraph still gave the vicar's contact details. We aim to do better in the future!

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 a warden. Phone numbers are on the front page of this magazine. Please remember that a visit can be arranged to anyone who is sick, but the wardens do need to know, so again please ring.

Please pray for who is

September, 2016

Isn't it funny how little things in life can make us happy. Having been forced to eat carrots, parsnips and sprouts as a child, subsequently I am not a great lover of vegetables, especially the above. However, I love Runner Beans so how delighted I was when towards the end of July my son came round with a bag of Peas but best of all a bag of Runner Beans. Then I went to the little shop in Chapel End and they had gorgeous Black Cherries. When the lad told me the price of them, it was dear, but I couldn't resist them and he also added a few more after he had weighed them. What a couple of lovely moments.

They are celebrating Beatrix Potter's 150th birthday. It was amazing to see how many people from all over the world visited Hilltop Farm in the Lake District. One Japanese lady said she had read 'Peter Rabbit' to her children when they were young. We think of Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddleduck, Jeremy Fisher and all the other characters as quintessentially English, but Beatrix Potter wasn't only a wonderful writer and illustrator, she was a conservationist and left farms and many acres of land to the National Trust for future generations to enjoy.

Having enjoyed doing crosswords for as long as I can remember, just lately some of the answers seem more like slang than real words. However, I looked up in the dictionary 3 of these and found them to be right, e.g. 'pukka' – properly made but spelt 'pucka', 'natty' – smart, and 'hock' – a pawnbroker's pledge. So it looks as if I need to do some English homework and learn more words if I'm going to solve present day crosswords.

A teacher had taken her class to the church for Harvest Festival. Back in the classroom she asked the children what they had seen in the church. They mentioned sheaves of corn, runner beans, peas, turnips and potatoes and so on. The teacher asked, 'Can anyone think of one word to cover all these things?'

Yes Miss,' said an eager young lad, 'Gravy.'

Marie Cove