

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Rev John's Jottings

'All is safely gathered in'!

We have just celebrated the 54th Flower Festival at St Laurence Church, Ansley. A huge amount of work has gone into this annual flower festival once again. A great big, 'THANK YOU' to all who contributed and supported this in any way to make the event so worthwhile and successful!

We are now in the season of Harvest Thanksgiving services at St John's Ansley Common and later next month at St Laurence's Ansley. In the past, such occasions were celebrated by whole village communities but times have greatly changed. New generations have sprung up who no longer know the traditional harvest hymns such as, 'We plough the fields and scatter' and 'Come ye thankful people come, raise the song of harvest home.' There seems to be less public acknowledgement of God's provision at Harvest time. 'All is safely gathered in, 'ere the winter storms begin,' has not so much significance today as it once had. However, someone has said, 'If God did not exist we would have no-one to thank for the fruits of creation.'

As well as thanking our farmers and those involved all along the food chain to produce enough food for us to eat on our plates, let's not forget that, 'All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.' As another hymn of harvest reminds us:

Summer and winter, springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

May you enjoy the benefits of another good harvest, but don't forget to say, 'Thank you!'

Rev. John

September St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 2 nd	Trinity 14	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 th	Trinity 15	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 16 th	Trinity 16	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 rd	Trinity 17	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 30 th	Trinity 18	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Songs of Praise

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 2 nd	Trinity 14	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 9 th	Trinity 15	10.30 a.m.	Harvest Holy Communion
Sunday 16 th	Trinity 16	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 23 rd	Trinity 17	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 30 th	Trinity 18	10.30 a.m.	Family Service

From the Registers

Wedding

The wedding of Emma Reader and Daniel Williamson took place on Saturday 18th August 2018, in the presence of family and friends. The happy occasion concluded with the sound of live bagpipe music. We wish Emma and Daniel much joy in their life together.

Interment

The ashes of Rita Wilson were placed in a family grave on 1st August 2018.

St John's Harvest Celebration

You are warmly invited to attend St John's harvest thanksgiving service on Sunday, 9th September at 10.30 a.m. Donations of produce will be taken to the Salvation Army.

St John's Harvest Supper

This enjoyable social event will take place on Friday 7th September in St John's Hall at 7.00 p.m. Tickets will cost £5.00 and include a meal featuring meat pie. Please book your tickets before the above date.

Advance Notice – St Laurence's Harvest Services and Supper/Sale

The church will be decorated with donations of produce and flowers on Saturday 13th October, followed by Harvest Holy Communion on Sunday 14th October at 10.30 a.m. and Harvest Evensong at 6.30 p.m. The Harvest Supper will be held in the Annexe at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 15th October, followed by the sale of produce. Everyone from the local community is very welcome to join us at one of the services and/or at the Harvest Supper. Further details will be in the October magazine.

Reminder – Sponsored Cycle Ride

The Warwickshire Historic Churches Trust will be holding their annual Ride and Stride event on Saturday 8th September. Mr Phil Rees has kindly agreed to cycle a route via local churches and is seeking sponsorship for his efforts. Please be generous. Half of the sum he raises will be returned to our church funds and the rest put to use by the trust to help with the upkeep and repair of local churches, so that future generations will be able to enjoy these historic treasures..

The First Chapel End Girls' Brigade Group

Group meetings will resume at St John's Hall this month. It is a local community group where girls (primarily) take part in activities, experiences, projects and skills development. They make friends and explore the Christian faith as part of an international organisation. The Girls' Brigade celebrated its 125th year in July 2018. If you would like to find out more about the organisation, you can search The Girls Brigade on line and find a page for First Chapel End Group that enables you to e-mail them for further details.

Art Exhibition and Sale

Ansley Village Art Group's seventh Art Exhibition and Sale will take place in the Village Hall, Birmingham Road, CV10 9PS, on Saturday 22nd September from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Entry is free. Light refreshments will be available.

There will be an extensive display of pictures, some marked for sale, by the group members. This annual exhibition has attracted an increasing number of visitors over the last few years.

The group meets in the hall (see above) on Fridays from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. The cost per session is £2.00. Members mostly work on individual projects, but several times a year, a local artist is invited along to lead a session. If you would like to join the group, or to visit to see if it would suit you, do come along. You will be made very welcome.

Flower Festival

A report on this event will be in next month's magazine. At the time of going to press, the creation of the displays is underway. A good many hours have been spent sprucing up the churchyard and the weather forecast is for mostly dry weather. We look forward with anticipation to an enjoyable and successful weekend.

Coventry Cathedral – Something Different!

Meet me in the Ruins

This new theatre piece will be curated by Alan Pollock in collaboration with four local writers.

It has been commissioned for Plumb Line Centenary Arts Festival 2018 and celebrates the legacy of Coventry Cathedral's ruins. Four couples meet to share moments of love, strife, heartache and hope. It is an open air performance in the cathedral ruins (CV1 5FB) and is produced in association with the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry.

The performances run daily at 6.00 p.m. until 8.30 p.m. from Thursday 6th September to Saturday 8th September, with a Matinee on the Saturday at 2.00 p.m. Tickets can be obtained by visiting the website www.plumb-line2018.co.uk.

International Gala Prom

The Friends of Coventry Cathedral together with the Cathedral and Cathedral Chorus are delighted to invite you to an International Gala Concert on 29th September at 6.00 p.m. This will be a spectacular evening with an international flavour, reflecting the fact that the Community of the Cross of Nails International Gathering will be coinciding with the concert. The programme includes music by Puccini, Verdi, Sibelius and a special performance of the Warsaw Concerto by Menken.

Tickets are £15 and are available from the following website or by ordering directly from the Friends of the Cathedral.

Website: www.ticketweb.uk/event/international-gala-prom-coventry-cathedral-tickets/7869965.

From the PCC

Growing healthy Churches – Questionnaire 2018

Over recent years the Diocese of Coventry has used a programme entitled 'Growing Healthy Churches' to assess where churches fit alongside a number of aspects of church life and to help them develop further where needed. As part of this process the PCC agreed, at the end of May 2018, to participate again in the questionnaire. It was felt it would be useful to assess the current position so as to be able to highlight areas for future focus.

The questionnaire was last used in April 2016, just before the interregnum, when they were used to help prepare the Parish Profile (Job description). Representative members of each of the three congregations were asked to complete the forms, so that there would be a more accurate reflection of each congregation's views. The May 2018 results have now been received.

The form consists of some 90 questions which are answered by choosing to tick a range of boxes showing agreement "to a very great extent" through "average" agreement to agreeing "not at all." The answers are fed into a computer algorithm and results generated numerically. The charts produced from the questionnaire contain lots of information – please ask if you would like to see them.

The Reverend John Langlands, the PCC and St John's leaders will consider the results and, once a clear way forward is established, will work to achieve improvements. Please remember that not everything can be tackled at once. Encouraging the use of Bible reading notes and exploring the setting up of study/prayer groups are being developed. Thank you to everyone who completed the questionnaire. We hope and pray for "Healthy Churches" in Ansley Parish.

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 cover 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 forwho is.....

September, 2018

Isn't it strange, the British obsession with the weather? When we have the cold and dark of winter all we long for is sunshine and long summer days and everyone says it's about time we had a good summer. Well, this year we had our wish but was it what everyone had longed for? – No! Because everyone grumbled how hot it was. Farmers and gardeners longed for rain and it was too hot to sleep. Will we ever be satisfied? Or will we look back on dark, icy nights and remember the sunshine we had; being able to sit outside and not worry about the rain and to go to outside events not being laden with raincoats. The following was on a notice board in the seventies at a Salvation Army Canteen –

"As a rule man's a fool.

When it's hot he wants it cool.

When it's cool he wants it hot.

Always wanting what is not."

As I see the houses going up in the fields around us, it reminds me of just after the war when Prefabs were built in the field behind our house. The builders were Irish and all seemed to be called Pat or Paddy. When they had a break we children would all gather round their brazier singing Irish songs with them, such as 'Galway Bay', 'If you ever go across the sea to Ireland' and 'Danny Boy'. Can you imagine the horror this would evoke today? But the mothers knew we were perfectly safe and we were all so disappointed when the prefabs were finished.

As someone who loves flowers, I loved the following article; In an 8 month study it was proved that men and women work better in an office environment where there are flowers. Many of us knew this – isn't that why we send flowers to loved ones in mid-February, in March to our mothers and to our friends on their birthday. Flowers bring cheer to the sick and comfort to the bereaved. In fact whether wild or cultivated, in a vase or in the wild, there is nothing that can quite inspire us like a flower.

Out of curiosity a young man typed a word into an Internet search engine. In less than a second he got 63 million references to Jesus. He changed the word to God and found 160 million references. It seems that even in the world of cyberspace God is making His presence felt!

Marie Cove.