

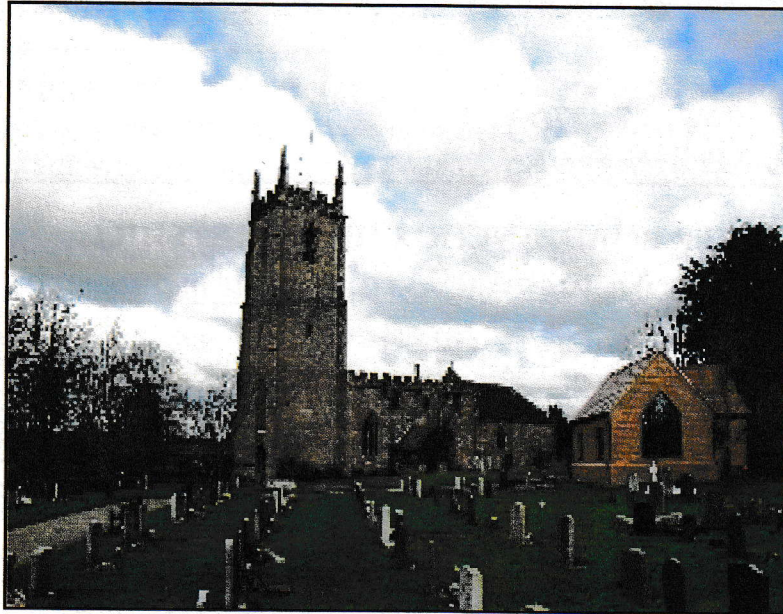
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1119

SEPTEMBER 2019

Price 30p



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Living in Ansley at harvest time and enjoying the church's flower festival is something quite special. St Laurence has been host for the 55th year to a spectacular flower festival which never fails to delight all who attend. A huge amount of effort has gone into ensuring another wonderful event, with flower displays contributed by many in and around the village. A big THANK YOU to all who contributed or helped in any way.

To see the harvest 'safely gathered in' is not only a welcome sight, but an opportunity to be thankful for all who farm and work the land to provide for our food. THANK YOU to all who have been working so hard on the land to bring in another harvest.

In times past, in most rural places, churches and chapels would be full of people celebrating the harvest and giving thanks to God for 'all good gifts around us'. Today, sadly, the picture is rather different. The busyness of life tends to put attending church low on the list of priorities and corporate worship seems less important than it once was. Those who used to come to Sunday school often lose connection with church and the spiritual dimension of life linked to church seems to be regarded as irrelevant. However, church is different today and more relevant than ever.

Our theme at the flower festival this year was 'rest'. Each flower display depicted an aspect of rest mentioned from a variety of Bible passages. Amongst them includes the invitation, 'Come to me all you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest' - a very relevant word for today.

Also, giving thanks for the Harvest is a good time to take stock and remember not to take our provisions for granted. As someone has said, 'If God did not exist, there would be no-one to thank.' Not only can a community come together and enjoy singing the familiar harvest hymns, but also consider the fundamentals of life. As one of the challenging passages in the Bible says, 'What does it profit a person if he gains the whole world, but loses his soul' and, 'Man cannot live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

May this month be a time when you can 'rest and be thankful'!

Rev John

September St Laurence's Church, Ansley Services

Sunday 1 st	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time Screen
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th	Trinity 12	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 15 th	Trinity 13	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd	Trinity 14	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 29 th	Trinity 15	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Songs of Praise

St John's Church Hall, Ansley Common Services

Sunday 1 st	Trinity 11	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 8 th	Trinity 12	10.30 a.m.	Harvest Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th	Trinity 13	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 22 nd	Trinity 14	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 29 th	Trinity 15	10.30 a.m.	Family Service

From the Registers

Baptism

Joe Plowman was welcomed into the church family at his baptism on Sunday 18th August. His parents, Sam and Garry, his sister, Emma, his godparents, family and friends were present to celebrate this happy event.

Funeral

Mrs Iris Wykes died on 18th July 2019, at the age of 87. Her funeral was held on 8th August. She was born in Polesworth and was happily married to her husband Leslie for 21 years. She is mourned by family members and friends, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

The funeral took place on 16th August of Alan Harber, who died on 24th July 2019, aged 79 years. He died just two weeks after his sister Betty who's funeral was on 12th July. We remember his family and friends in our prayers.

St John's Harvest Supper

St John's will be celebrating harvest at a supper in the Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Friday 6th September. Places are limited, so please make sure you book a ticket.

St John's Harvest Service

Harvest Holy Communion will be held on Sunday, 8th September at 10.30 a.m. at St John's. Gifts of produce will be donated to the Salvation Army. Do come along to join in the celebration and to thank God for all the good things he provides.

Ride and Stride, Saturday 14th September

Once again, Mr Phil Rees has volunteered (been persuaded?) to cycle between local churches on Saturday 14th September to raise money for Warwickshire Historic Churches

Trust. This organisation helps to maintain church fabric in the county. Half of the sum Phil raises will be returned to St Laurence's Church funds. Do encourage Phil by sponsoring him, so that his efforts are rewarded.

Art Exhibition and Sale

Ansley Village Art Group will be holding their eighth exhibition and sale in Ansley Village Church Hall, Birmingham Road, CV10 9PS, on Saturday 21st September from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Entry is free. Light refreshments will be available. Do come along and enjoy the artwork on display.

Ansley Village Art Group

This art group has been meeting for many years. New members are always welcome. The group meets in Ansley Village Church Hall (see details above), on Friday afternoons from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. The cost per session is £2.00. Most weeks everyone is working on individual projects but, several times a year, a local artist is invited along to give some tuition in using a particular media or technique. These sessions may be at a different time to the normal weekly pattern.

If you would like to discover if this group would be suitable for you, do pop in and make yourself known. The group won't be offended if you decide it is not for you!

New Zealand Presentation

Ian and Margaret Antill will be showing a PowerPoint presentation of their 6 week trip to New Zealand in the Annexe on Wednesday 25th September. The evening will begin at 7.30 p.m. There is no charge but donations may be made to the Fabric Fund. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Open Church

Sunday 29th September will be the last open church afternoon of this year.

Prayer Meeting

The next prayer meeting will be held in the Annexe at 12.00 noon on Tuesday 1st October. Please note the time. All are welcome to come along to this hour set aside for prayer. The Rev. John will lead us and you are welcome to contribute or to listen and reflect in silence.

St Laurence's 55th Flower Festival

A full report on the festival will be in next month's magazine. It was fortunate this year that preparations were made during settled weather and the forecast was for it to be hot and sunny for the whole weekend.

Amazingly the forecast was correct and many people came along to enjoy the displays, meet up with friends and to appreciate the church building and its setting.

Church Fabric

Looking after the church fabric, as with any old buildings, is a continual process and it is important that we do our best to keep on top of the many issues as they arise. This year it was noticed that masonry bees are back and attacking the old wall on the south side of the chancel again. The PCC has now got permission to do the necessary work to repair the

damage. This entails filling each of the many hundreds of holes that the bees have drilled into the stone work with a precise lime/sand mix helping to prevent the bees from returning to lay their larvae in the holes next year. This work has to be done when there is no frost and it will be time consuming. If you would like to assist in this work please do let one of the wardens know.

One thing we have discovered is that the masonry bees are said not to like spearmint so we have planted a trough (we do not want it spreading across the churchyard) with the said herb, in an attempt to deter them from attacking again this ancient part of the church.

More about Ride + Stride

Ride + Stride for Churches is organised by County Church Trusts in England and supported by The National Churches Trust, the UK wide charity for people who love church buildings.

The annual Ride + Stride Cycle Ride is the Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust's principal source of income.

The Ride is always on the second Saturday in September and is a national event involving all the local churches trusts in England. The formula has remained unchanged since it was launched – cyclists or walkers are sponsored to visit as many churches as they choose. Churches are encouraged to be open, welcome the visitors and provide refreshments if they wish. Money raised is then divided 50%/50% between the participant's chosen church and the Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust.

One of the suggested routes is entitled "Atherstone to the Centre of England" (Meriden) and is 30 to 35 miles long. It visits St Mary, Atherstone, St Peter, Mancetter, Holy Trinity, Hartshill, St Laurence, Ansley, St Wilfrid, Old Arley, St Mary and All Saints, Fillongley, St Lawrence, Meriden, St Michael, Maxstoke, St Cuthbert, Shustoke, St Leonard, Over Whitacre, Church of the Resurrection, Hurley and St Cuthbert, Baxterley. Short detours would bring you to St James at Great Packington and St Nicholas at Baddesley Ensor. Riders are free to follow suggested routes or to devise their own tour.

The route above gives some idea of our rich heritage in church buildings. Even if you are not taking part in Ride + Stride this year, it could be interesting and enjoyable to visit these churches in your own time and using your own choice of transport, on foot, by bicycle or even by car! Nor do you have to complete the route in one day! You may not be able to look inside but the village settings and surroundings of the churches are of interest and most of the villages have cafes and/or pubs where you can find refreshment.

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, 2019

It has been a long time since I have seen so many Butterflies in our garden - Peacocks, Red Admiral, Painted Lady. Also there have been numerous moths inside and outside. One morning, when we opened the sun umbrella on the patio, there were 6 large moths inside. I think they must have liked the warmth, as in between showers, we had some really warm spells.

I saw a clip on television of the Greek elections and where they were voting looked just like Ansley Village Church Hall, so it would seem that church halls and village halls are useful facilities in other parts of the world.

One day, when we were on a short holiday, we went into Burnham-on-Sea and I was delighted to see the varied shops along the main street. My favourite was the sweet shop. I have never seen so many different kinds of sweets, along with the usual seaside rock. The pick and mix section was enormous. Having such a sweet tooth, I could have spent ages in there and lots of money but I had to show an example to my great grandchildren.

In all the years we have lived in Ansley Village we have called the field on the edge of Nuthurst Crescent and Tunnel Road 'our field'. Many people have fought hard to stop building there, but finally the powers that be have won and building started on 19th August. We are not on our own as all around us estates are springing up and the countryside is being eaten up to the detriment of the wildlife. We are helpless to do anything about it but I imagine this is how the people of the village felt many years ago when their field was replaced by Nuthurst Crescent.

It is harvest time and once again we give God thanks for sun and rain.
For fruit and flowers which grow so fair, growing where once the earth was bare.
Lord of the harvest accept our praise for this and all our harvest days.
You have given us all that we can need from tiny shoot and dead brown seed.