

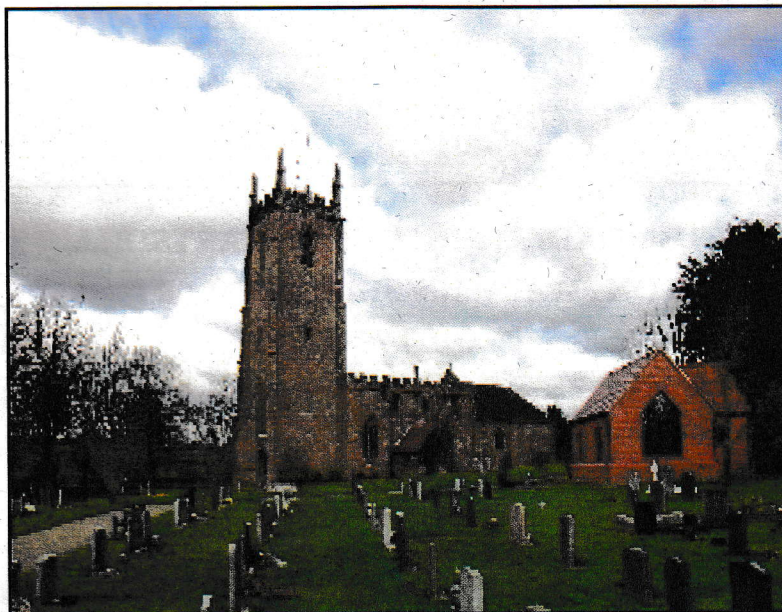
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1130

SEPTEMBER 2020

Price 30p



Vicar:

Rev. John Langlands

Tel: 024 7667 5236

email: jlanglands@sky.com

Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL
MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 01827 874520

Tel: 024 7638 1833

Deputy Wardens

Diana Kealey
Margaret Oliver

Tel: 024 7639 5089

Tel: 01455 822822

St. Johns Leaders

MARIE COVE
JOHN COX

Tel: 024 7639 4114

Tel: 024 7639 4802

www.ansleychurch.org

Print Centre 024 7638 6017

Rev John's Jottings

Firstly, the **Virtual Flower Festival** at St Laurence can now be accessed from a link on the church website. I would like to thank all of you who contributed in any way – and those who have 'visited' via the internet and given a donation. Do have a look if you can during the month of September. The link can be found on the church website: www.ansleychurch.org

How has the lockdown been affecting you? I imagine most of your answers have been around health, food supplies, maybe feeling lonely, being stuck indoors and missing family and friends. As the lockdown begins to ease, as it has been, we are told that things will never get back to what they were and we will have to consider doing things a different way. So, what will we have learned from it? Will people just pick up from where they left off and carry on with life, eventually to have a memory of 2020 as being the year of Covid-19? Or will it be a wakeup call to consider more pressing questions about life and death, meaning and purpose, chance or providence?

It was Winston Churchill who once said:

'Men occasionally stumble over the truth but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened.'

Prior to the Lockdown, our churches were open and there was a place to come and hear about eternal things, life after death, living a fulfilling life with God, finding peace and contentment and much more. The churches closed for 18 weeks and have now opened on a very limited and strict basis following government and the Coventry diocese guidelines – which mainly means: social distancing, wearing masks, not singing and taking a record of those attending for tracing reasons. At present the churches in Ansley and Arley are having joint Sunday services around the parishes and this has been of great encouragement and help to those who have been attending. Also, as usual, every week services and mid-week updates are sent out via emails and printed copies are being sent through the post from time to time to those without internet access. The church websites are also regularly updated with news, service times and venues plus other items.

It has been so easy to take so much for granted before the lockdown. However, now is the time to take stock, consider the things in life that really matter and do something about them – and that could even mean coming back to church!

Do take care, keep safe, be alert and may God richly bless you.

Rev John

Please see below an update on church services for September 2020
(As at 21st August)

Those able to attend church during August very much appreciated the opportunity to worship together. Sharing services with members from the other congregations in the benefice has felt very special. It has been comforting to be in the familiar church buildings. It has, however, felt very strange not to be able to sing the hymns, although that has perhaps made us focus on the words and their meaning more closely.

PLANS FOR RE-OPENING THE CHURCHES IN THE BENEFICE

A. Sunday services will continue in September as joint benefice services held in different churches at 10.30am to celebrate, offer thanksgiving and encourage one another. The September services are as follows:

6th September at St Wilfrid's 10.30am

13th September at St Laurence 10.30am

16th September (Wednesday) St John's for Songs of Praise 10.00am (note: new time)

Please send a hymn choice to the Reverend John Langlands.

20th September at St Wilfrid's 10.30am

27th September at St Laurence 10.30am

B. No services at St Michael's at this stage due to the health - related issues of the building, especially damp and mould, and the sharing of premises with the community centre. A plan will need to be discussed with the Community centre: church members needed to help with this.

C. Hygiene: Entering and leaving the church, hand sanitiser, social distancing, cleaning and other issues have been addressed, as well as organising stewards to officiate.

D. Organists: Frances is able to play the organ at the churches, if the usual organists do not wish to attend due to age and health restrictions.

E. Service books and hymn books: Instead of using these, printed sheets will be placed on the pews at correct social distancing for attendees. These can be kept or left after each service.

F. Communion: Not permitted at the moment. This may not happen for a while.

G. Offertory: Separate plates will be made available for Ansley and Arley. They will be suitably placed at entrance and exit points.

H. A list of volunteers has been sorted.

- I. After one of the services, it would be good for the **PCCs to meet outside to update** each other on how things are going.
- J. **Baptisms and weddings** may go ahead from October, but they will be strictly regulated in line with the latest guidelines.
- K. **Funerals** will be dealt with on an individual basis in line with regulatory guidelines.

Finally, the inside of each church will be checked, cleaned and prepared in advance, ready for services. If anyone feels uncomfortable about the arrangements during the service please feel free to leave the building, everyone will understand. Much of what is planned is subject to change, depending on the latest government updates.

From the Registers
No entries this month.

Virtual Flower Festival

Ansley Church's 56th Flower Festival is going virtual with the theme, "Thank you" for key workers. Go to www.ansleychurch.org from 28th August to 30th September 2020 to see the images.

These are new technologies to most of us, but we are doing our best.

We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed in any way to the display. The many different contributors have used a number of ways of depicting their title. We hope you feel we have done justice to the project. It has been wonderful how God has helped us and how people have come together in spirit to do their "Bit". We hope you will enjoy looking at it for just under 10 minutes and be able to share it with others.

All proceeds received during the event via the "give.net" button on our home page will go to the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and the Acorn Children's Hospice. These are the two charities we have supported for over 30 years through our flower festival.

We would also be most grateful if you could circulate the information to any family and friends by whatever means possible, as many of the usual publicity outlets are not practical this year.

We hope and pray that we will be able to welcome you to our church building in person for next year's festival (2021) on the Bank Holiday weekend, 27th -30th August.

Donations

If you would like to make a donation to the church separately from the festival do please contact one of the wardens as all the funds received via the Give.net button on the website during the dates of the festival will be divided between the two charities.

Marmalade and Jam

Because we have not had an actual Flower Festival this year there is a lot of grapefruit and orange marmalade for sale and also 10 jars of gooseberry jam and 40 jars of plum jam. The marmalade is £1.30 per 1lb jar and the jams are £1.00 per 12oz jar. If you would like any of these, please contact Margaret Antill 01827 874520. It can be delivered in the parish or an arrangement can be made to meet in the churchyard.

Daffodils

We are to be given 500 daffodil bulbs in memory of David Williams who died early in the Covid -19 pandemic. David grew up in Ansley Village but his father was from Wales and David was a Wales supporter all his life. These bulbs should give a lovely display in the churchyard each spring which will be a fitting memorial at the anniversary of his death.

We are very grateful for this lovely and fitting gift.

When the bulbs arrive we would appreciate help planting them in the churchyard. Please let us know if you can help and we will contact you when they arrive.

Churchyard

As the Flower Festival is virtual this year the need to tidy the churchyard in time for the Bank Holiday weekend is not so critical. However, it will still be necessary to cut the hedges, prune the trees, tidy the paths, clear grass and weeds from some of the graves and generally tidy. If you can help in any way please don't wait to be asked, just come along and make a start. We will as usual create a heap at the bottom of the car park for the duration of the tidy up.

Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust

Mr Philip Rees will, once again, be taking part in a sponsored cycle ride around local churches to raise money for this organisation on Saturday 12th September. Guidance is available from "Ride and Stride 2020" on how to keep safe during this year's event. Please let us know if you would like to join Phil – at a social distance of course! Sponsorship money can be sent to our treasurer. Funds raised help to keep church fabric in good order, with half of the sum our cyclists receive being returned to Ansley Church PCC. We wish Phil and any who join him an enjoyable ride in ideal weather for cyclists.

Distribution of Printed Magazines

Our printer is now printing the back copies of our magazine, which we hope to distribute in early September. Like buses it seems they either all come at once or there are none at all! We are grateful for your patience over recent months. Do let Diana know if you prefer not to receive a printed magazine as yet. We will be handling them appropriately.

Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer during this time of disruption, please make contact by email or phone one of the following.

Rev. J. Langlands 024 7667 5236 email jlalnglands@sky.com

Margaret Antill 018 2787 4520

Moreen Freestone 024 7638 1833

Margaret Oliver 014 5582 2822

Diana Kealey 024 7639 5089

September, 2020

It has been a delight and our saving grace this last few months to see the beauty of our garden at the back and the front of the house unfold, attracting many bees and beautiful butterflies. The roses have especially excelled and now we are reaping the fruits of our labour as we gather runner beans, tomatoes and a couple of cucumbers.

I have been an avid knitter for nearly 80 years - from baby items, jumpers, Arran sweaters, bed socks, blankets etc. - in all types of wool. When I bought some wool recently, it was called Happy sheep wool. Then the biggest surprise of all, on the label it said, "No sheep were sheared to make this yarn, so rest assured they're all warm and snugly in their own woolly jumpers tonight." It looks like wool, knits up like wool but it seems it is not wool as we know it.

I have recently spent a lot of time clearing out. During this time I kept stopping and looking at books I hadn't opened for some time. Inside some of them were bookmarks, photographs, tickets to various functions such as dances and even wedding invitations, all of which evoked memories of the past. I even shed a tear but needless to say I didn't throw anything out.

"There is always hope of tomorrow to brighten the clouds of today. There is always a corner for turning no matter how weary the way. So just look ahead to tomorrow and trust that you'll find waiting there the sunshine that seemed to be hidden by yesterday's clouds of despair." Helen Steiner Rice.

Marie Cove.