

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

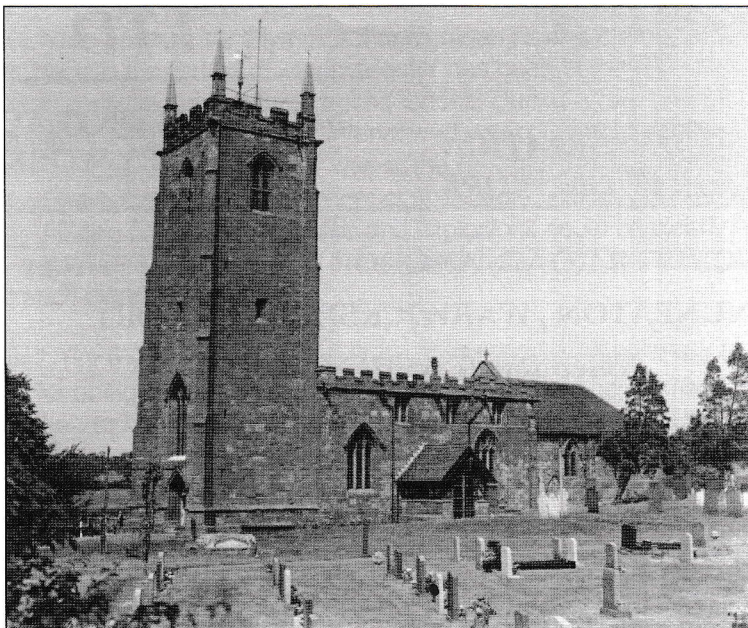
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### Some things won't fit into neat compartments.

If you listen to BBC Radio you have a choice of five stations. Generally speaking what you listen to depends on your age. Radio 1 is not aimed at my age group and I feel like a stranger looking on at a distance. Radio 4 by contrast feels a little too sober and sombre for my liking. Maybe I'll move over to it when I get a little bit older. For me it's Radio 5Live.

Now 5Live have been at the Olympics. I don't mean having a reporter who would broadcast back to the Studio. *Every* presenter has been at the Olympics. This has had strange, perhaps unintended, consequences. During a news report as a correspondent in Aleppo was being interviewed you could hear contrasting background noises. The interviewer was at the Beach Volleyball, so in the background were the shouts and cheers of spectators. But as we listened to the reporter in Aleppo the sound of gunfire and explosions could be clearly heard. It all seemed in bad taste. Yes, we know in the world there is joy and sadness but can we not keep each clearly in its place?

Or can we? For my job everyone might say that there are clear times for laughter and times for being serious, indeed even sad, and the two never mix. The wedding is full of light hearted joy and laughter. The funeral is inevitably sad. But that's not true. Nothing could be more serious than a wedding. With the exception of a decision about faith, there is no greater decision that a man or woman could make in their whole life. Of course we have our laughter, our applause, our joy. These blend in with but can never override the deep seriousness of the occasion. And funerals. Yes there is deep sadness. There is no point in pretending otherwise. But it is I believe vital to bring into the service light and, where appropriate laughter. Tears and laughs so often come together.

Much as it might feel easier to put our lives into clearly divided compartments, it doesn't work. We might wish, for example, to say that our church life fits into one box, our financial life into another. To bring the two together, we feel, is awkward and embarrassing, for money and faith don't mix. Years ago that almost worked. Churches could rely on the Church Commissioners or local worthies to fund our work. It was not a good pattern for our spiritual well-being and it will no longer work in practice. Following the Flower Festival where the theme was GIVE, we as a Church will be looking at how we might raise our income so that we can continue to minister in the way God is calling us to work. I will be speaking about this in sermons later this month and in October's newsletter.

For the time being let us thank God that He is Lord over *all* our lives.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter



### September St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Trinity 13	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 14.	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 15	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Trinity 16	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 17	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

### St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Trinity 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 15	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Trinity 16	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 17	10.30 a.m..	Songs of Praise

### Discussion Groups

The year through the Bible' Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 7.30 p.m. 10 Nuthurst Crescent.  
 Discussing the Christian Bible – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

### From the Registers

#### Funeral

The funeral of Muriel Anne Smedley of Birmingham Road Ansley took place in St. Laurence's Church on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August followed by internment in St. Laurence's Churchyard. Born in Shropshire Muriel moved with her family at the age of 14 to Corley Moor. She met her husband Dennis, who sadly died 38 years ago, at a dance at the Arley Miner's Welfare Club. They married, set up home in Arley and subsequently moved to Ansley. Always known to her family as Nance she was blessed with two children, Susan and Paul, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren who miss her greatly.

#### Interment of ashes

The ashes of Morris Richardson aged 82 were brought back to Ansley and interred in the church yard on 28<sup>th</sup> July.

### Day of Prayer

The PCC have decided that this year there will be a day of prayer in the parish on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September. It will commence at St Laurence at 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. (The morning service will commence as usual at 10.30 a.m., but there will be as little disturbance as possible as people leave.) The prayers will continue from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at St. John's when the hall will be open. The church will remain open again from 4 p.m. until the end of the Evening service.

The prayers will focus particularly on healing and wholeness and the services will be on the same theme.

It is planned that every half hour there will be a few formal prayers and the Lord's Prayer spoken by the person leading the session. The rest of the time will be for silent prayer by those present with a list of pointers etc. provided. If anyone would like to take part in this day please just come along at any time for as long as you wish. If you can commit to be present for one of the two hour slots to take a leading role please add your name to the list in church or at St. John's.

The power of prayer should never be underestimated, although how the prayer is answered is with God alone.

### Ride & Stride

Following the introduction of suggested routes which cyclists can take which includes St. Laurence Ansley it was agreed at the July PCC meeting that the church would be open to welcome visitors, both those cycling and those just visiting the church. The church will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. and if anyone would like to help with manning the church and providing light refreshments please contact one of the wardens.

Phil Rees as many will know, is a keen cyclist, and he will be taking part in this event. He will be cycling around as many churches as possible in the allotted time. He will also be seeking sponsors the proceeds of which will be divided equally between Warwickshire Historic Churches Trust and our own church fabric fund. (There is a suggestion that those providing the cakes and serving the refreshments also seek sponsors for the work they are doing also for the same funds.) If you would like to be involved please speak to one of the wardens.

### St. John's Harvest

The congregation at St. John's will be celebrating their Harvest Festival on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September with a service of Holy Communion. Gifts will be much appreciated and will be taken to the Salvation Army on the Monday following. As part of this Festival there will be a Ploughman's Supper on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m. Tickets will be £3 and will be available from members of the congregation. This should be a very enjoyable event with entertainment and a quiz to follow.

Please remember the farmers and growers in your prayers who are having a very difficult season this year as many crops have failed and the harvest at the time of writing very much delayed.

### Quinquennial and fabric issues

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July our architect inspected the church and the surroundings and has provided us with a report on his findings, as he does every five years.

This report has now been received and it is pleasing that nothing major has been found, but there are a few items that will need to be addressed in the not too distant future – thus ensuring the fabric of the church does not deteriorate. The PCC will be looking at the different items in turn and deciding the best action to take in each case.

The repairs to the church yard wall that was hit last November are still being discussed and because of the proximity to the highway and the speed that some vehicles travel along that part of the road we will have to negotiate with the highway authority as well. It is now anticipated that this work will be carried out next spring because of the risk of frost.

### Ansley Common Art Group

The Ansley Common Art Group are now meeting on a Thursday morning at 9.30 a.m. in St. John's Church Hall, anyone wishing to join please have a word with Dave Cove.

### Youth Clubs,

Following the summer sports project in the respective villages it is planned to re-launch the Youth Clubs from the first week in September. Ansley Village club will run in the Village Church Hall from 5–6 p.m. and the Ansley Common Club will run from 6.30–7.30 p.m. in St John's Church Hall.

Please do let young people know of these clubs which will be run by the Ley Group Young People's Project.

### Flower Festival

Report next month

### Prize Bingo

Those that came to the Bingo session on 13<sup>th</sup> August had a very enjoyable evening, the numbers were down on usual as many were on holiday. However everyone had an enjoyable time and £98 was raised for hall funds. Thank you to those who support and organised this event raising for the hall.

### Confirmation

The vicar will be running confirmation classes starting in September. If anyone would like to consider confirmation in November or renew their promises, please have a word with him. If you would like to help, or just come along please speak to the vicar. The dates and times of the classes will be arranged to best suit of all.

### 'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

The small change collection continues and anyone who would like a collecting tin please ask and one can be organised. The total paid into our Fabric Fund so far this year amounts to £124.50 Thank you to everyone who contributes.

### Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence and 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 .....



It was quite sad to say goodbye to the 2012 Olympic Games, as it certainly brought excitement and togetherness to the people of Great Britain, young and old. I hope youngsters who watched the Opening Ceremony, will be left with wonderful memories that will live with them for ever and they can tell future generation about the time when the Olympics came to our country. We mustn't forget the many sportsmen and women from all over the world who represented their countries and did themselves proud, and also the organisers and helpers which made the G.B. 2012 Olympics a great success. Well done to them all!

Have you noticed recently where your fruit, salad and vegetables come from? During August I had Tomatoes from Holland, Cauliflower from Poland, Broccoli from Florida, USA, Grapes from Egypt, the list goes on until finally I had some Runner Beans from England. We can understand why they are so expensive, but the strangest thing was you could get 7 good sized Bananas from Costa Rica for only £1. How do they do that?

My Granddaughter reminded me of years ago when I had cooked her bacon and egg and I asked her if she wanted a slice of bread and butter – she declined. Then when she saw me cutting the bread she changed her mind. She said 'I didn't know it was that sort of bread', and she had two slices. There was no such thing as sliced bread when we were children, and when we sat down for tea our Mam would cut us each a slice of bread (a doorstep as we called it). Then she would spread it with jam or potted beef – no butter as this was rationed. Also sometimes when we came from Hartshill School, we would club together and buy a 2 penny loaf from Bucklers' Bakery, which we broke into pieces and ate it on the way home. Bread really did taste good back then!

All the rain we had recently certainly made the flowers grow. We have Sea Holly in our garden about 7 feet tall, and the flowers have been a joy to behold. There is colour everywhere, and the Butterflies have come back to feast on the Buddleas.

As I travel home through country lane, the Blackberries are ripening so clear and plain. The sky is a canvas of paints, with blue, white, streaks of pink and red heralding night. Harebells, and all sort of wild flowers fair, with gossamer floating everywhere. What a beautiful sight the English countryside, for us to share to our delight.