

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Dear All,

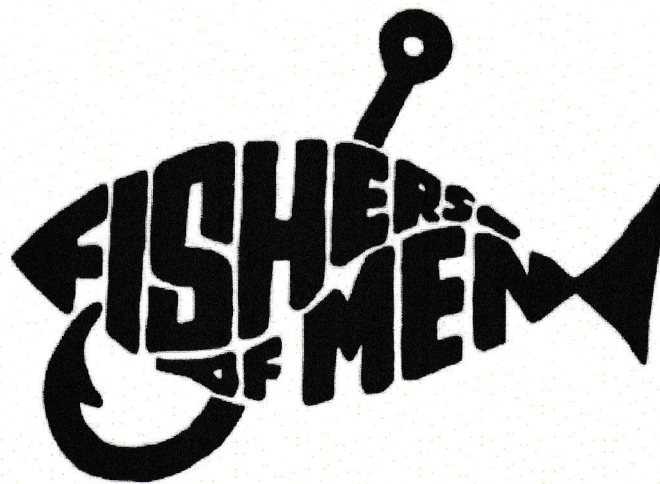
October is a time for tidying up the garden. As the summer borders begin to die down, so we need to cut back, split and transplant or even dig up plants that have outgrown their space. My wheelie bin is full of shrubs that have grown too big over the summer months.

Following His death, Jesus used the time to tidy up loose ends with the disciples. Soon He would disappear into heaven for a long time and He wanted to make sure His work here on earth would continue. There was much work to be done and the disciples were still not fully prepared.

Jesus needed to leave His disciples fully equipped for the job. Most of all they would need the Holy Spirit. Jesus first of all breathed on the disciples and they were given permission to forgive sins. Next Peter was commissioned to be the rock of the church and so the disciples became fishers of men. [An account of all this can be found at the end of John's Gospel.] At the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles you can read about the day of Pentecost and how the church began.

We are the inheritors of this wonderful time in the history of our church. There is much work for us to do as parishioners in growing the Kingdom here in Ansley. Let's all pull together in making our church a suitable Christian home, where all are welcome.

Gwyneth



October St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday	2 nd	Trinity 19	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary time [Screen]
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9 th	Harvest	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	16 th	Trinity 21	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	23 rd	Last Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	30 th	All Saints	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Songs of Praise

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday	2 nd	Trinity 19	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	9 th	Trinity 20	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	16 th	Trinity 21	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	23 rd	Last Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	30 th	All Saints	10.30 a.m.	Family Service

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 Lance Norman and Jodie Brown took place on Saturday, 3rd September, with Martin Butt as the officiating minister.

Alexander Kerr and Sally Anne Shore were married on Saturday 10th September by the Reverend Paul Messam.

We offer both couples every good wish for the future.

Funeral

The funeral of William Charles Davis, or Bill, as he was known, was conducted by the Reverend Mick Vincent on 15th September, followed by interment in the churchyard. Bill lived in Ansley Village all his life and was dedicated to the game of cricket. He played for several local teams, including Morris Motors, Fillongley and Griff and Coton. He was a brilliant bowler and helped youngsters who could spin the ball to improve their technique. He played into his seventies and umpired into his nineties. His innings came to an end at the grand age of 95. His funeral was attended by family members and his many friends from the village and the world of local cricket.

Harvest at St Laurence's

The decoration of the church for the harvest celebrations will take place on Friday 7th October 2.00 to 4.00 pm and the Saturday morning. Please bring or send produce to the church. Help with the displays will be much appreciated too.

The church will be open to visitors from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. on Saturday 8th October, with light refreshments available in the annexe.

Our harvest services of thanksgiving will take place on Sunday 9th October with Holy Communion and the presentation of gifts at 10.30 a.m. and Evensong at 6.30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us in giving thanks to God.

Our harvest supper and auction of produce will be held in the annexe on Monday 10th October, meeting from 7.00 p.m. to eat at 7.30 p.m., followed by the auction. There is a choice of fish, chicken or vegetarian option with chips (from Ansley fish shop) and a dessert of homemade trifle or apple pie. The price of the meal is £6.00 and includes a cup of tea or coffee. You are welcome to bring your own drink and glasses. Please book your place by contacting either Diana Kealey on 02476395089, one of the churchwardens or a member of the church.

St John's Hallowe'en Social

You are warmly invited to join St John's for this social event. It takes place on Friday 28th October at 7.00 p.m. Cottage Pie and Veg will be served. Tickets cost £4.00 and must be ordered in advance.

Operation Christmas Child – Samaritan's Purse

It is time to start thinking about filling a shoe box with presents for children, so they can be delivered to our local collection point in November for Christmas delivery. Searching the internet using the heading above will allow you to check what gifts and wrapping are suitable. Leaflets will also be available to remind you of what is appropriate.

History Course by Dr John Hunt

People and Places, Reconstructing Historical Communities is a six week course in St Laurence's Annexe from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m., starting on Tuesday 25th October. More information can be obtained from Portcullis History, c/o 11, Hardy Close, Galley Common CV10 9SG.

Report on the Flower Festival 2016 – God's Creation

Our 52nd Flower Festival managed to surprise us, even though we have so many years of experience. Perhaps the weather was the cause.

We were very grateful that the Reverend Tim Mitchel from the Diocese led our Sunday morning service and the Reverend Paul Messam from Bulkington led our sung Evensong, giving us their time on this holiday weekend. We would also like to thank Gwyneth Hickman our Lay Reader, for leading our Friday evening dedication service and our Thanksgiving service at the close of the festival on the Monday evening.

The fine weather on the Monday, plus the Morris dancing, brought out the crowds and we were exceptionally busy throughout the day. People were called to do extra shifts to help with serving refreshments and on the other stalls. We were especially grateful that three of our younger friends joined with other helpers to clear tables, wash and dry crockery and

generally help out for an hour or two, when we were at our busiest. Thank you, you know who you are! We would also like to thank members of Ansley Village Allotment Association for produce and help. It was lovely to see all the visitors enjoying themselves in the sunshine and the cake just about held out to the end.

The raffled Madeira cake was won by J. Barstow of Furnace End, with the sale of tickets raising £219.

We were very pleased that the festival was once again a financial success, with people giving generously. A total of £3,300 was made, of which £412.50 will be given to the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends, the same sum to the Acorn Children's Hospice and the remainder placed into church funds.

The atmosphere of friendship and fellowship, created by both working together and helping one another was noteworthy. It was rewarding to see returning and new visitors enjoying the experience and everyone doing their best to make the festival a success.

A few of the comments in the visitor's book may be the best way to portray this.

"An absolute triumph of skill and beauty! Truly magical. Thank You" S & B Ash Green.

"Heavenly." C & W R.

"Beautiful show of flowers." E & A B Hampshire

"Absolutely fantastic, so much hard work gives so much pleasure to everyone." MK & TA Corley

From the PCC - Church Fabric

The work to deal with dry rot in the cupboard under the sink in the vestry has been completed. The PCC is now looking to improve the ventilation and heating in this area. Some of the nave flashing has been re-pointed to ensure water does not seep in. Thank you to the anonymous person who has done some work on the gates.

Donations

Thank you to everyone who has donated money to the church in memory of Mrs Mary Buckler. Cheques forwarded by the undertaker bring the total to £264 and the cash on the plate came to £217.

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

October, 2016

As we herald Autumn with all its colourful landscape, but also lots of spiders with their webs, darker nights and shorter days, we now look forward to next year's gardens, especially setting ready for the Spring. If anyone tells you that seeds have a short life, don't believe it, as this year I sorted through Dave's seed bag and found 3 packets of Sunflower seeds, which I set in trays and put them in the greenhouse. When they were about 8" tall my granddaughter set them out for me, and now they are wonderful – over 11ft. high with flowers the size of dinner plates. So, don't ditch old packets of seeds – set them.

We have been hearing a lot recently about Roald Dahl as it is 100 years since he was born, and what a legacy he left behind. He wasn't only a writer, as he served in the 2nd world war years in the Royal Airforce, where he became a flying ace and intelligence officer. We all know about his children's books which fired the imagination of generations of children, and because my favourite is 'The BFG' I went to see the film and it was great, but he also had a charitable vision and even now 10% of all Roald's Dahl's income goes to charities which include specialist children's nurses, grants for families in need and educational outreach programmes.

There was a programme recently on T.V. called 'Earth's Seasonal Secrets' and it was amazing. One part showed migrations of animals and birds for food, water etc. The most surprising was the Arctic Tern which travels from the Arctic to the Antarctic, so it spends all its life in Summer. During their time in the Antarctic the chicks have to be fledged, fed and ready to return to the Arctic. I don't like the Winter, but I wouldn't like to travel all those thousands of miles to live in perpetual summer, even with today's transport.

Roald Dahl said,

"If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely."

Marie Cove