

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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EDITORIAL

October 1st, 2002

As we celebrate Harvest this year, we certainly have a lot to thank God for. The cereal crops have ripened, the hay has been gathered, there has been a bumper fruit crop and the fields are once again full of livestock. Our country has certainly seen a great harvest but let us also at our Harvest Festival services on October 13th remember those whose crops have failed or have suffered severe weather conditions. We see our green and pleasant land and enjoy the fruits of our harvest and we give thanks to God for His goodness to us, and pray that we may share God's harvest with all His children.

We have just been for a short holiday on the West Coast of Scotland and what a surprise to find it so mild, helped, we are told, by the Gulf Stream. We visited lots of walled gardens and every one had Palm Trees. They were havens of peace, tranquillity and beauty, and of course we couldn't resist buying some plants. It seems holidays go in different phases and as the children return to school, away go buckets and spades and along come the older generation to enjoy their holidays at a much slower pace. I must say that I loved the beauty and the peace, but also missed the zest for life and enjoyment which the younger generation enjoy and, believe it or not, I missed the chatter and noise of children.

As we drive up Tuttle Hill and see Judkins Quarry gradually filling up, I remember when the quarry blasted twice a day at precisely the same time. There were some cottages on the same side of the road as the quarry, but gradually the quarry took over and the cottages were gone. All us children and grown ups knew how deep and dangerous the quarry was so nobody went too near. All we knew was that it was a granite quarry and the hill was Mount Jud. It is strange now to see half of this level with the road. It must have taken an awful lot of rubbish to fill that deep quarry.

Watching the London Fashions on T.V. I thought them absolutely ridiculous and totally unwearable, but then I cast my mind back to the late 1950's. In the Sunday newspaper the latest London and Paris fashions were published and they were out of this world. Just like today you could hardly imagine any ordinary person wearing them. My younger sister eagerly awaited these publications and she would go to Nuneaton the following Saturday, buy the material and get down to copying them, using my mother's treadle machine. What a sight! They were so outlandish that our Dad refused to let her go out wearing them. Then we had the Sixties minis and hot pants and even as far back as the 1920's certain people wore some very extraordinary clothes. So, I decided to watch the London Fashions and take them with a 'pinch of salt.'

Marie Cove

If you require the services of a vicar please have a word with Moreen who is dealing with baptisms and Margaret weddings. Funerals can be arranged with either.

St. John's Hall, Ansley Common, Services 10.30 a.m.

Oct. 10—Harvest Festival Family Service and Sunday School.

Oct. 27—Holy Communion and Sunday School.

St. Laurence Church Services 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

Oct. 6—a.m. All Age Worship Team and Mandy. This will be Mandy's first service as a licensed Lay reader.
p.m. BCP Holy Communion. Rev. L. Beard,

Oct. 13—**Harvest** 8.00 a.m. BCP Holy Communion. Rev. L. Beard.
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. Rev. M. Peppiatt,
p.m. Festival Evensong. Rev. A. Wellsby.

Oct. 20—a.m. Holy Baptism. Rev. D. Jupe.
p.m. Holy Communion. Rev. D. Jones,

Oct. 27—a.m. The Lord is Here Communion. Rev. Simon Nicolls.
p.m. Evensong, Lay Reader,

Senior Citizens: Monthly Service on Tuesday 22nd at 9.30 a.m.

The Ansley Common Fellowship meets on Monday 28th this month.

The Wednesday Fellowship group meet on the 9th and 23rd,

The PCC meet on Thursday 24th in the Village Church Hall at 7.45 p.m.

Harvest

We shall be decorating the Church on Friday 11th from 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. and Saturday 12th from 9.30 onwards. If you can spare the time and would like to help please come along do not wait to be asked, plenty of help is needed as there is a lot to do.

All gifts of flowers and produce or donations will be gratefully received. As we thank God for his goodness to us all.

The church always looks at its best when decorated. This year it has been decided to have an open Church in the afternoon from 1.00 to 4.00 p.m. There will be a cup of tea, etc., available and any one can come and have a look round or have a quiet moment in Church.

The Harvest Services will be led by:

Dave and Marie Cove at St. John's,

8.00 a.m. Rev. L. Beard, the Vicar of Hartshill,

10.30 a.m. Rev. M. Peppiatt is one of the five trustees of the Church Patronage Trust for our Patrons. He with the others will have a considerable say in who will be our new vicar.

6.30 p.m. Rev. A. Wellsbey, the new vicar at the Abbey Church, Nuneaton. It will be his first visit to Ansley.

On Monday morning the children of Nursery Hill School will be coming to Church for a harvest service led by Donald. From approximately 10.30 a.m., all the produce will need to be taken to the Village Church Hall and arranged ready for the sale. If you have transport and can give assistance with this please come along.

7.30 p.m. Harvest Sale. All the produce will be auctioned and the proceeds go to Church funds. There will be a cup of tea, etc., and it will be an amusing evening.

Harvest Supper. This year will be on Wednesday 16th, tickets will be £5. There will be Fish and Chips or Chicken and Chips followed by apple pie and trifle. There will be entertainment after the meal. This will be a very enjoyable occasion and a fitting way to finish our Harvest Celebrations.

From the Registers

Holy Baptism

Sunday, 1st September was the day Morgan Leigh Barry became a member of our Church. She was brought by her parents Mark and Wendy and baptised by Rev. Derek Jupe. How she did smile at us all.

Funerals

On September 13th we laid to rest Mrs. Ann Barrs. She was 75 and had lived at Little Brook Farm for over 46 years. Many of her friends and relations came and bade her farewell on a lovely sunny day. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Stuart and children Helen and David at this time.

On September 18th Mrs. Margaret Batchelor's ashes were interred in the Churchyard. She had lived all her life in Ansley, having been born at Ansley Hall where her family worked. She was 79 and had been married to Bert who died 9 years ago. There are five children, twelve grandchildren and seventeen great grandchildren. We send our condolences to the family at this time.

On Saturday, 5th October at 2.30 Mandy Watts is to be licensed and admitted as a Lay Reader. This will be at the Cathedral and Bishop Anthony and the Dean will be conducting the service. Everyone will be welcome to attend. We all send Mandy our best wishes and prayers for her future work, in Ansley and in the area where she will be working. It is normal for the P.C.C. to make a token gift in recognition of all the hard work and dedication over the past few years of study. At the last meeting it was decided at Mandy's request that this be towards the cost of her robes.

Flower Festival

Once again our Faith was rewarded and it was, (although down in number of visitors), another resounding success, both to the parish in bringing people together and financially. Its final result is £1720. This will be divided as agreed by the P.C.C. 25% to The Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends, 25% The Acorn Children's Hospice Selly Oak, and the remainder to the Church Building Fund.

As in previous years there are so many people to thank for so many different things, it would not be possible to thank individually, so if you contributed to the festival in any way "Thank You." The whole event is such a wonderful team effort. It was while the Bishop was with us at the morning service that he dedicated the new pyx for use in our parish. If you know of anyone who would welcome Home Communion please let it be known. The P.C.C. and Church wish to thank the Sturges family for this beautiful and practical gift.

The New Church Annexe

In June I mentioned that there had been an application submitted for some funding. This application has been processed and the agency came and visited the site and further reports and information have been submitted. However a decision on our application at the August meeting was postponed. The additional information sought has been sent and the next meeting will be in October. Although the project has been delayed, and work will not now start until after December, (provided we get some funding) we must still however look forward and remember we have already raised just

under £60,000 and with a last effort by us all and with the additional funding it can be done. Please remember the jar in church for the building fund. If you can do any fund raising or you have any ideas of what we can do, please do not wait to be asked please let us know.

It was in the July magazine that I described the process of getting a new vicar. We are able to say that the advertisements were in the relevant Church press on the 20th and 27th of September. Any applicants will send for details to the Church Patronage Trust (our patrons) who are administering the search for the new vicar. Provided there are applicants then, those short-listed will be interviewed at the end of November. As clergy have to give three months notice it will mean that Easter time next year will be the earliest we can hope to have a new vicar or it could be longer.

Strange Happenings in the Churchyard

At the Flower Festival when the sheds were being emptied to put up the tent we found we had acquired a wicker commode and some kind of enormous tripoded trough. Neither of these belong to the Church. On several occasions different people going to Church in the week have found the shed doors open, nothing seems to have been taken from them. However the sandstone rock, that was used for Peter the Rock in the Chancel at the festival, which weighed well over 1cwt, it was left by one of the cherry trees for assistance and suitable transport to take back to where it came from has disappeared. This was a particularly useful stone and has been used on quite a few occasions at the Flower Festival. It is disappointing that it seems to have gained legs and walked. If anyone sees anything suspicious in the Churchyard please report it to the Church Wardens.

If anyone has surplus bulbs snowdrops, daffodils, crocuses, tulips or bluebells, etc., there is space for them in the Churchyard. Please let the wardens know if you have the time to plant them all the better. The idea is to plant them under the lime trees at the bottom of the Churchyard. This is a place where the grass does not grow well and if not careful becomes a dumping ground.

Jam Jars. If anyone has surplus jam jars either 12 oz or 1lb, jars with good lids please let me have them and I can use them for marmalade. Thank you Margaret Antill.

When David Morley was removing mole hills and using the soil from these to put on the flower beds around the cremation plot at the back of the church, he was expecting lots of different seeds, weeds of course, to be in this soil. However, the only plant to come up is the Musk Mallow which, in contrast to the Common pink Mallow, is white. It seems years ago local people would collect this Musk Mallow, and prepare a potion from it to cure aches and pains. If anyone knows any more about the Musk Mallow, we would be interested, as I cannot find anything in my wildflower books.