

# **Church of St. Laurence Magazine**

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

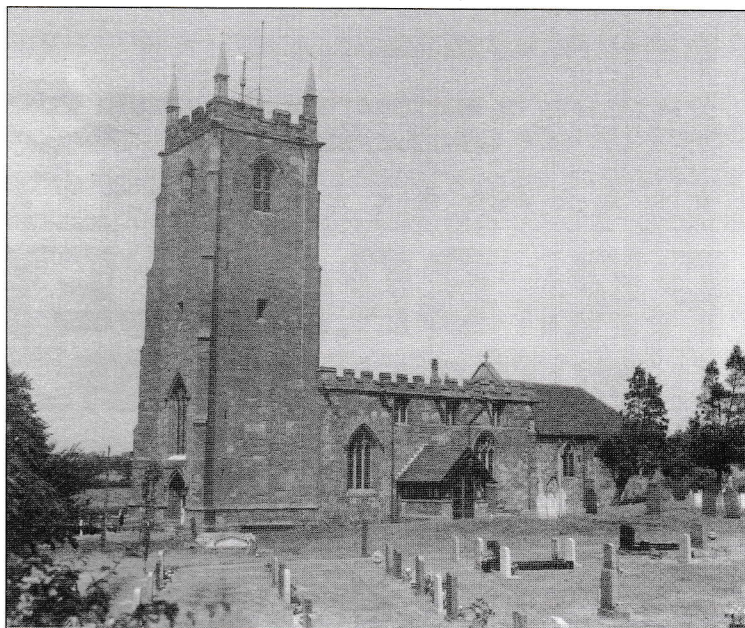
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## Harvest and Aberfan

Our worship in October is marked by two quite contrasting events.

At the start of the month on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October with services at 8, 10.30 and 6.30 at St. Laurence and at 10.30 at St. John's we shall be celebrating harvest and the next day we shall share together in the Harvest Supper at the Village Church Hall. It will be a time of joy and thanksgiving as we thank God that year by year He has given us the fruits of the earth in their seasons.

Two weeks later, we shall gather at the Aberfan garden to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrible disaster. This garden created in the churchyard by the children of Ansley Church School, as a memorial to the children who died.. The Old School and Nursery Hill School will be there on the 20<sup>th</sup> October. St. Laurence's morning service on the 22<sup>nd</sup> will include an Act of Remembrance.

At first sight the two events could not be more contrasting-one joyful, the other saddening. Yet both remind us of our responsibility to care for the world and to use the world's resources for the good of all. Vital in all this, especially as the need to address the issue of climate change becomes ever more pressing, is the safe disposal of waste. We look back in joy at the Harvest, we look back in sorrow as we remember the tragedy at Aberfan, We look forward in a shared commitment to care for the whole of the created order so beautifully created by God and so frequently abused.

May God bless you and the world in which we live,

Your friend and vicar,

Peter

## October What's On

### St. Laurence's Church

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Trinity 16	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion and presentation of gifts.
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>		9.30 a.m.	Nursery Hill School and Families Harvest
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 18	10.30 a.m.	Civic Service
		4.00 p.m.	Baptism
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>		10.00 a.m.	Aberfan Anniversary service
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Trinity 19	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
			Gather at the Aberfan gardenh
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

### St John's Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Trinity 16	10.30 a.m.	Family Service & Sunday School
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Sunday School
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Civic Service	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St. Laurence
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Trinity 19	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Sunday School
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Songs of Praise

### Other Activities at St. John's Church Hall

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.00 p.m.	Hall Committee Meeting
Mondays 2 <sup>nd</sup> 16 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 p.m.	Indoor Bowls
Tuesdays	9.00 – 11.30 a.m.	Krazy Kettle Kafé
Tuesdays	1.00 p.m.	Sure Start
Wednesdays	5.00 p.m.	A.C.Y.C. younger children
	6.30 p.m.	A.C.Y.C. older children
Thursdays	9.00 – 11.30 a.m.	Krazy Kettle Kafé
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Dance

### Activities at Village Church Hall

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Harvest Supper & Sale
Tuesdays	10.00 a.m.	Senior Citizens
Wednesdays	10.00 – 11.30 a.m.	Ansley's Little Angels
Wednesdays	2.00 – 3.30 p.m.	Community Café
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Bingo
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Harvest Service before Senior Citizens
	7.30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting

### Other Parish activities

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup>	7.00 p.m.	Ringling practice in Church
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	M.L.T. Meeting in Annexe
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	P.C.C. Meeting in Annexe

### From the Registers

#### Baptisms



On 20<sup>th</sup> August nine year old Billy Deeming was very proud to be baptised with his little baby sister Daisy.

#### Wedding

On a blustery 2<sup>nd</sup> September Carl Mackay married Louise Hayes. After the service the bride and groom returned into church for their photographs as the weather had taken a turn for the worse.

#### Funerals

The funeral of Frank Spicer took place at the Heart of England crematorium on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, just seven weeks after his dear wife Meg, both originally from Hartshill, but lived in Ansley Common for most of their 65 years of marriage. Frank worked most of his life at Sterling Metals; he was a keen gardener and great storyteller.

Our thoughts and prayers continue at this sad time for their son Rod, his wife Sheila, grandson Jason, great granddaughter Jasmine and her father Steve.

The funeral of Ray Smith, Ansley Common took place at St. Laurence's Church on 31<sup>st</sup> August followed by cremation at the Heart of England Crematorium. From a lad he always had a great sense of humour and a strong commitment to friends and family He will be sadly missed, especially by his wife Lydia and all his family, to whom we offer our condolences at this time.

#### Interment of ashes

On 8<sup>th</sup> September the ashes of Mrs Ann Keeling of Tamworth, aged 61 were interred into the family grave.

#### Harvest

Our harvest celebrations will take place in keeping with our tradition, the second weekend of October. Although there are now fewer farms in Ansley than in past years there are still many parishioners with gardens and allotments. The weather, this year has again been difficult with heavy rain in May and then a long hot dry spell followed by the heavy rains the middle of August.

We come at harvest to offer our thanks to God for all our food and his goodness to us, everyone is always welcome to our services and especially at harvest. If you have something for which to thank God, do come and join us at one of our services.

They are:- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion with presentation of gifts and 6.30 p.m. Evensong at St. Laurence's and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. John's.

Preparations for Harvest will commence with the decorating of our churches at St. Laurence Friday 6<sup>th</sup> from 2 p.m. and then on Saturday from 9 a.m. (We will need to be sure of an good start as there are two weddings in the afternoon the first being at 1.30 p.m.)

Decorating at St. John's will commence at 2. p.m. on Saturday with the presentation of gifts at the morning service. All the produce given at St. John's will be taken to Nursery Hill School to be distributed with their gifts to older people in the Common.

On Monday the produce from St. Laurence's will all be taken to the Village Church Hall and in the evening it will be sold at the Harvest Supper Which will commence at 7.30 p.m. Some of the items will be priced and then there will be an auction of other items after the supper. Tickets will be available.

St. John's Church Hall

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August the ladies of the Krazy Kettle Kafé gave a buffet as a thank you to Frank Haslem Milan who are carrying out the refurbishment of the homes in the area. The residents of the Common, and others were invited to see the work that the company had done to improve the toilets. All this has been given free by the company and the workforce were able to come and enjoy the social event in the hall.

The company gave raffle prizes, and this raised £60 which is being donated to the Acorn Children's Hospice.

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> there is to be a "Vicars and Tart's" fancy dress dance in the hall at 7.30. Tickets are £1.50 each, available for Hetty Sharman and Joy Pethick. Please bring your own food and drink, tea and coffee will be provided.

#### Village Church Hall

It is with regret that we have to say that a 6<sup>th</sup> window has been broken at the hall This has now been repaired. Please if anyone can help with information about this wanton vandalism contact one of the wardens as we will not hesitate to seek recompense from those responsible.

#### Civic Service

On 15<sup>th</sup> October everyone is invited to join the Mayor of North Warwickshire, Councillor Adrian Edgington at a special Civic service to be held at St. Laurence at 10.30 a.m. He has particularly requested the residents of Ansley Common to join him at this service, therefore there will be no service at St. John's that morning. Transport will be provided please have a word with one of the wardens who will arrange this. After the service everyone is invited to join the Mayor and Mayoress at Ansley Village Social Club for a buffet lunch.

At this service we will commit to God the work of our Borough Council for the year ahead.

#### Flower Festival

The 2006 festival was a wonderful success in every way. The flowers, refreshments and produce were enjoyed by our many visitors. We wish to say a big thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to make the festival such a success. The requests for prayer that were placed in the jar were all read out at the final service and were extremely moving. We had a record financial result at £2104 this will be divided equally between The Acorn Hospice, Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends the Church Fabric Fund and the General Fund. It is planned that the cheques will be presented at the Harvest Festival.

#### Aberfan

After the Aberfan disaster on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1966 as a mark of respect from one mining community to another Ansley Church School created the Aberfan garden in the Churchyard. The Old school took on its maintenance. In Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October members of The Old School and Nursery Hill Primary School will gather at the Aberfan Garden to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We shall remember those who died and think especially of the children who lost their lives. The time will be 10.00 a.m. You are invited to join us. We will also gather at the garden during the Sunday morning Service on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Church Yard

To the great surprise of us all Ansley Churchyard came second in the Best Kept Churchyard competition for the County of Warwickshire. The weather has not been kind to our grass cutter this year and we are aware that when the judges came it was during the very wet weather earlier in the year. Thank you to everyone who helps keep the churchyard tidy.



October, 2006

English weather is unbelievable. We had some amazingly warm weather in July, when there was real worry about the lack of water. August came, the heavens opened and it didn't know when to stop raining. Now we are in fear of floods! We had a few more days of oppressingly hot weather in September mixed in with violent thunder storms and torrential rain. However, this didn't deter visitors to the Flower Festival, as I have never seen so many people, and what a treat they were in for. The church was a picture with glorious displays from some very talented, dedicated and hard working people. Many people commented that each year they think it can't get any better but it does. We shouldn't, however, be surprised that the rain didn't deter the visitors. After all Britain is renowned for its temperamental weather and equally resilient residents.

On many occasions I find myself saying amid chaos "It's like Fred Karno's Circus" not knowing where this saying came from. Now I know! Fred Karno was a comedian and a theatre producer. but he was famous for his chaotic slapstick routines and was very popular with the British Troops during the first World War. So the saying came from Fred Karno's mad act with his troupe which originally included people like Charlie Chaplin and Stan Laurel, but I don't know where the circus came from.

Many years ago my Auntie had a wind up gramophone and some very old records. One of my favourites was 'Just a song at twilight' sung by a boy soprano 'Master Joe Peterson'. Imagine my surprise when I read recently that the boy soprano was actually a woman named Mary O'Rourke, married with two children. She made many records and I still think she had a beautiful voice.

I was listening to a financial expert giving advice on dealing with the high cost of heating and lighting, and it was like going back in time, when he advised plugging up all the draughts, especially along the bottom of the doors. Do you remember the 'snakes' we made to use as draught excluders? Perhaps these will make a comeback and we might make some for Christmas Fayres. He also suggested we turn the heating down and wear an extra sweater. It's like living during World War 2 saving heat and lighting. Perhaps, you never know, one of these days we will be advised to put out the lights altogether and go back to candles.

Marie Cove.