

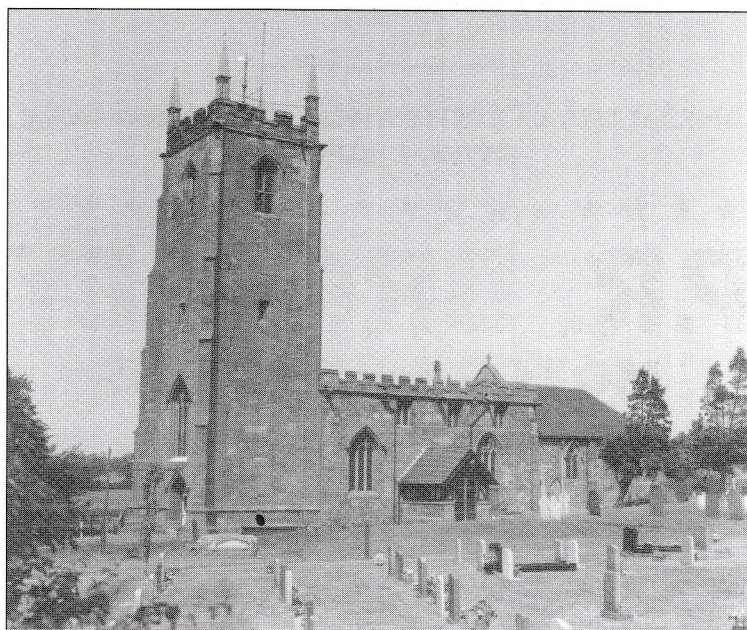
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 987

OCTOBER 2007

Price 25p



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Autumn Days

It's getting chillier.

The winds are stronger.

The days are shorter.

All calculated to take the smile away!

At first sight October is dull and cool.

Not a month to celebrate!

Look more closely.

In the midst of it all, the trees are at their most beautiful.

The fields and gardens are being harvested.

We need to use our eyes to see the good things - our lips to praise.

Life's like that.

In the difficult times we need to look and discover what is good.

Take time to look for Jesus and find Him in the beauty of creation, in prayer and in worship, in the neighbour in need.

When life feels like one rainy day after another, stop and focus upon the golden leaves of God's love and care - and look forward to the sunshine.

And if you find it hard to do that by yourself remember you are not alone. As a church we are here to help. Do get in touch or join us at our worship or at any of our activities.

Your friend and vicar,

Peter

St. Laurence's Church - Services

Sunday 7 th	Trinity 18	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 14 th	Harvest	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 21 st	Trinity 20	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 28 th	Bible Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Wednesday 3 rd		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 7 th	Harvest	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 14 th	Trinity 19	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 17 th		9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 21 st	Trinity 20	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 28 th	Bible Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Other regular activities

These continue as normal full details on the notice boards

From the Registers

Baptisms

It was a lovely occasion when Jack and Steven Smith were baptised at St Laurence's. It was a wonderful family occasion and Granddad John was very proud.

Wedding.

The marriage of Kevin Muggleton and Emily Gunn took place on 18th August at St. Laurence's. They had their photographs in Church as the weather was so wet that day, but it did not dampen their spirits.

On 8th September Paul Whitehead married Kelly Wilson. During the service Kelly lit a candle in memory of her father and the Atherstone Choral Sang as they signed the registers.

Funerals

On 18th June Elizabeth Hannah Martin died at the age of 86. She spent the last years of her life at Chapel End, but she was born and bred in Ansley Common, and lived in Beech Terrace the row of houses that have just been demolished. She lived for a brief spell at Hartshill before returning to Ansley to look after her father. Back at her childhood home with her husband Ronald she raised her own family of five children. Her son Glen (who is ordained) gave an emotional eulogy at her funeral. Her family was everything to Elizabeth and she will be sadly missed by her 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

The funeral of Cyril Basil Allan took place at St. Laurence's Church Ansley on Tuesday 11th September followed by interment in the churchyard. The church was full as family

and friends shared the sadness of his untimely passing. Cyril, despite protestations to the contrary, was always there for family and friends, supporting, helping and caring. He is deeply missed by all especially by his wife Sue and all his family.

On Wednesday 12 September, a funeral service was held at The Heart Of England Crematorium, for Shirley Loughan who had lived in Ansley Village for almost all of her 73 years. Shirley trained as a secretary and held several very responsible positions. Following retirement she worked as a volunteer at the Mary Ann Evans Hospice for three years. She always enjoyed living in Ansley and was often seen in the churchyard tending the graves of her sister Sonia, who passed away aged 7½ years, her parents and grandparents. Shirley will be greatly missed by husband Peter and children Julie, Jill, Andrew and all who knew and loved her.

Harvest

This year we will commence our harvest celebrations in St. John's Ansley Common on Friday 5th October when there will be a harvest supper and dance. Tickets are £2.50 to include food and entertainment, please arrive at 6.30 for 7 p.m. On Sunday 7th October there will be the Thanksgiving Service at 10.30a.m. Any gifts brought to this service will be forwarded to Nursery Hill School to be distributed with the gifts they receive to the older residents of Ansley Common.

On Monday 8th the younger children from the school will attend a 9.30 a.m. service and a presentation of their talents on the theme of harvest. Parents and friends are invited to attend.

We will commence decorating St. Laurence on Friday 12th and continue from 9 a.m. on Saturday 13th. Gifts of flowers and produce will be much appreciated. The church will be open for anyone to come and have a quiet time in the building and there will be light refreshments available in the annexe from 1.00 – 4.00 p.m.

Then on Monday 15th the older children of Nursery Hill will come to the Church for their service, and again parents and friends will be most welcome.

Once the children have left the produce will be taken to the annexe and prepared for the auction to take place after the Harvest Supper which will commence at 7.30 with a fish and chips or chicken and chips supper, with trifle or apple pie to follow. Do book your tickets for the supper in good time so that your meal can be ordered.

2007 being dry in the spring and then so much rain in the summer it has been a very difficult year for all farmers, growers, and gardeners, but it is important that we thank God for our daily food. Do come to one of our services and give our bountiful God your thanks and praise.

Village Church Hall

On a lovely warm day we celebrated the completion of the refurbishment of the Village Church Hall. The service was followed by the Polesworth Pioneers Band marching round the village, a buffet lunch games for the children on the vicarage lawn, Morris Dancing by the Glorishears of Brummagem with some having a lesson in one of the dances and a Chinese Lion Dance with Long Fêng Martial and Cultural Arts. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event. There was a display of photographs showing the hall before and during the work. The after could be seen at first hand.

We are very grateful to all who helped with the refurbishment, the funders, (Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) 3rd Party funding by Central Church Fund, Coalfields Regeneration Trust (Bridge the Gap), Awards For All, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Alan Edward Higgs Charity, Baron Davenport's Charity Trust, North Warwickshire Area Community Development Fund, North Warwickshire Borough Council Area Forum Fund and Ansley Parish Council.) , The contractors and those who gave so willingly of their time to see this project to its fulfilment.

Both the Village Hall and St John's Hall are there for the good of the community. You are always invited to join in any of the community activities taking place in the halls new members are always welcome. Please see notice boards for details.

St. John's Church Hall

We are very grateful to the Krazy Kettle Kafé for the gift of an Irish linen altar cloth to replace the old one which was worn out. The new one has been made to measure and has crosses woven into the fabric and 'IHS' in the lace fringe.

Following the break in, in May, new doors are being fitted to the hall this month this will ensure that the hall is more secure and hope that all the good work that is being done in the Hall will not be wasted.

It is pleasing to report that we have received £1000 from the 'All Church's Trust' towards the building project to extend and incorporate improved access and do the structural repairs to the hall. This is the first grant we have received for the project and we hope in the fullness of time we will be able to report on further progress.

Flower Festival

We had one of our busiest Flower Festivals for many, many years, the Saturday and Mondays in particular.

The theme of healing provoked much thought and was much appreciated. The most pleasing comments to be heard were that the 'Church' was so warm, welcoming with everyone working together for the good of all. It was a very happy time for everyone. A total of £2466 was raised and the presentation of donations of £616.50 to each of our nominated charities, The Acorn Children's Hospice and the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends will take place on the 14th during St. Laurence's Harvest Festival service.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the festival in any way, there are so many different aspects to this event each year and without the help of so many it would be difficult to see how it could work so well.

Lay Readers

On Saturday 15th Gwyneth and Mandy were licensed as Lay Readers to our parish for the next five years. Bishop Colin asked each reader and the congregation to think of the importance of the cross and quoted the words of the old hymn that Archdeacon Mark chose at his service of consecration at York Minster just two days earlier, 'It is a thing most wonderful' and in particular the verse 'I some times think about the cross, Please pray for Mandy and Gwyneth in their ministry.

Operation Christmas Child

A reminder - if you wish to contribute a shoe box, please contact Marie Cove on 024 7639 4114 or Pauline Allan on 024 7639 9070 for details, or pick up a form.

This year's theme for the Flower Festival - 'Healing' was a very appropriate theme as flowers do have many healing properties. The scent of some flowers, especially Roses, is fragrant; if you run your hand along Lavender it is so calming and pleasing, and when you see a garden full of flowers, it reminds you of just how wonderful God's world can be. We all have favourites flowers, but also they can be so symbolic, e.g. Sweet Peas and Sweet Williams remind me of my mother as she loved them, but she hated Hyacinths or Lilies in the house, because she said they reminded her of death. She also would not allow wild flowers inside the house, so we would get jam jars and leave Bluebells etc. in the veranda. When you walked into St. Laurence and saw the skilful way many people had used to portray 'healing' in flowers, it really was amazing, and I often wonder just how many different sorts of flowers are used, and marvel at the talent and dedication that goes into this event. It is obvious from the remarks by many visitors to the Festival, after seeing the displays, that these are the feelings of everyone and the most common comment was 'I never thought it could get better, but it does'.

We have been watching a fabulous programme called 'The way we were' and what memories it invoked - school days, working days but especially it showed the opening of Wickstead Park, and this reminded me of when we went there with the Sunday School. It was a real thrill for us, because our whole world was contained in about 2 or 3 miles with Nuneaton as our boundary. We did go to Birmingham after the War to see our Auntie and that felt like going into a foreign country. We didn't see the sea until we were in our teens, so this trip to Wickstead was great. We only went on one other trip for the Sunday School Treat and that was to Billing Aquadrome, and although my mother went with us, she was terribly worried as there was a lot of water and this acted as a magnet to our younger brother. We did, however, come through unscathed. On other years the Treat was held on Miss Trye's Park (where Hartshill High School is now), which I must admit we enjoyed just as much and after hours of games, races, picnic, etc. we were all sent home with a sticky bun, which Miss Trye presented, we all thanked her and walked home dog tired but very contented

After talking about friends last week, there was a man on the T.V. News Programme who was inviting everyone to a party where you had to promise to have a conversation with someone you didn't know on the topics he had listed on the invitation. This was to make people more friendly, as with today's rush-around world, nobody seems to have time for a conversation. This is one reason why we at Ansley Common enjoy our fellowship after each service, when hardly anyone has to rush off, and on alternate Monday evenings. We share the Word of God, and we also share our joys and our sorrows, and we all feel part of God's family.

A quote from Helen Steiner Rice: -

'Some folks grow older with birthdays, it's true,
But others grow nicer as years widen their view,
No one will notice a few little wrinkles,
When a kind, loving heart fills the eyes full of twinkles'.