

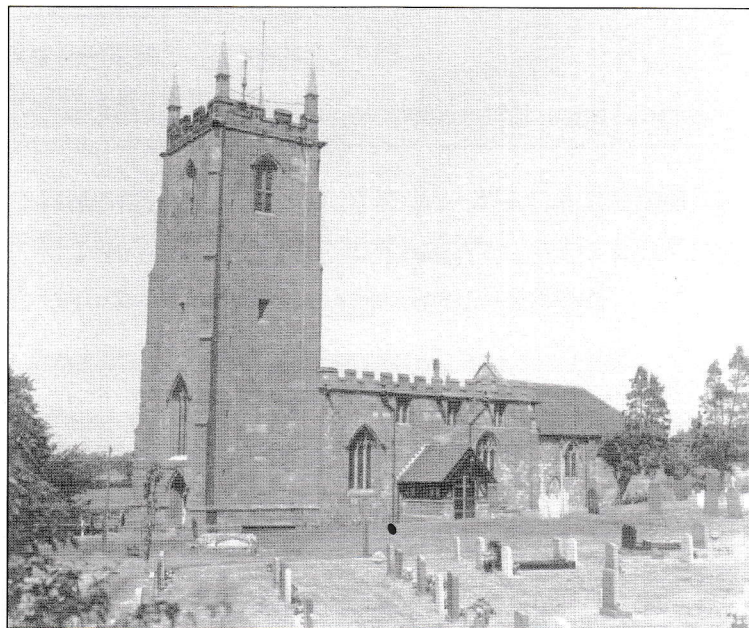
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Not just atoms and bodies!

What makes me 'me' ?

No, I am not asking (or answering) a personal question.

It's a question to ask yourself. What makes me 'me' ?

Part of that answer lies in our bodies. Our gender, our physical abilities and disabilities have all played their part in making me 'me'.

But I am far more than my body.

Different experiences, different values, different interests have all helped to make the unique 'me'.

It's not only a matter of personality - it's the life force that energises and guides us. Christians call it the soul.

Without the soul there is no life and each soul is different.

But what about the planet in which we live?

It's far more than a cluster of atoms. It is energised, guided, given purpose. It too has soul. We call that God.

We are made in God's image. But there is a vital difference between ourselves and God. Whilst each individual person is different there is only one God.

And how do we know God? Through Jesus whose life, like no other, was in tune with the soul of the Creator.

And what is our task? To be like Jesus - in tune with the energy, the personal force that makes the world the place we enjoy.

And what is the task of the Church? To encourage the soul of every individual to reach the highest possible joy in tune with one another and in tune with God.

If that excites you. Or you want to think about God and Jesus afresh please ask me about confirmation classes. You are welcome to come on the journey of discovery. NO obligation to continue or complete!

Your friend and vicar,

Peter

October, St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 5th	Trinity 20	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service in Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 12th	Harvest	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 19th	Trinity 22	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	Bible Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Wednesday 1 st		9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 5 th	Trinity 20 th	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 12 th	Trinity 21	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 15 th		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th	Trinity 22	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 26th	Bible Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards

From the Registers

Wedding

On Saturday 12th September Rev. Paul Messam from Bulkington conducted the lovely marriage service of Richard Jones and Lisa Makepeace. Although the weather was showery the photographer was bale to take some photographs outside.

Funeral

Frank Bradbury born and brought up in Stockingford, Frank worked in a variety of careers including fireman on the railway, quarry manager and motor mechanic. He loved his sports especially water sports and was an avid home improver. Married to Margaret Rose (Peggy) whose passing was a source of great grief, he was also the proud father of Jean, Janet and Mark. He will be sorely missed.

Harvest Festival

The second half of 2008 has been particularly difficult time for our farmers and growers, the delays in harvesting could well have repercussions next year, because they have been unable to sow the seeds for next year. In the last few weeks we have heard of storms in the Caribbean and floods in India and Australia as well as the problems in this country. For those who work on the land the very wet weather for the last three months has made everything much more difficult to harvest and the added costs of the drying and delays will further add to the problems.

However we still have much for which to thank God, He gives our 'Daily Bread'. Do come to one of our harvest services and thank Him for all the good things He has done for you

over the last years, our homes our families and friends our food and clothes, our holidays times of rest and life itself.

We will be celebrating at St. John's on Friday 10th (a change of date) with their harvest supper with meat pie and trimmings there will be a quiz and music Tickets are £3.

At St. Laurence's the celebrations start on that afternoon with decorating from 2-4 p.m. and again from 9 a.m. on Saturday 11th. Any gifts of flowers and produce will be much appreciated. The Church always looks wonderful when decorated to the Glory of God. If you do not feel up to decorating, please come and help with the cleaning and tidying which is just as important.

The Church will be open for visitors from 1p.m. to 4.15 p.m. and light refreshments will be available in the annexe. If you wish to bring your gift during that time please place it in Church there is always a space. There will also be a team of visiting bell ringers coming that afternoon, you may like to come and listen to the bells. They will be ringing from 3.30 to 4.15

On Sunday 12th our Harvest services commence at 8 a.m. with 1662 Holy Communion, Common Worship Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m. and Evensong at 6.30 p.m. when we will welcome Lord Plumb of Coleshill as our preacher. Known to many in Ansley as Henry Plumb he was born at Park Farm and was president of the National Farmers Union for many years.

"We thank Thee, then O Father, For all things bright and good
The Seed-time and the harvest, Our life, our health, our food."

On Monday 13th at 9.30 the younger children for Nursery Hill School will be coming with their families and friends to offer their Harvest songs readings and work to thank God for His goodness to them. Everyone is welcome. Once the children have left the Church will be cleared of the produce and taken to the annexe when in the evening it will be auctioned and the proceeds used for the work of the church. There will also be a fish and chips/chicken and chips supper followed by apple pie or trifle please remember to order your meal.

The final celebration this year will be at St. John's on Monday 20th when the older children of Nursery Hill School will be offering their thanks, also in the presence of their parents and friends at 9.30 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

St. John's Halloween Party

The 31st October this year falls on a Friday and the people of St. John's have decided to have some fun by having a fancy dress dance at 7.p.m. with a theme of Halloween. It will be a lovely time to get together and enjoy a dance for the young and the young at heart. Please bring your own food and drink and be prepared for a good night. Admission £1.50.

Flower Festival

Considering the weather over the last few months we were so blessed over the bank holiday weekend to have dry days for the whole of the festival. This very happy event from start to finish with many people working together, helped each other and enjoying the time together.

With many visitors throughout the weekend some coming for the first time and others who make a point of coming each year we had very favourable comments in our visitors book which was used for the first time at a Flower Festival. Our prayer jar had over 40 prayer

requests again showing a great plea for prayer. Each one was read out at one of the services during the festival.

There were some lovely photographs taken and in due time we hope to be able to put some of them on the church web site.

The financial results this year showed a marked difference to previous years in that the donations in the jars were down but the produce and raffle for the cake were considerably up, however once all the bits had been added together the final total was the same as last year £2,466 a remarkable result when considered with the current economic climate. Thank you to everyone who has helped, or supported this event in what ever way, without this help, the festival could not take place. It is by working and helping each other that the result is always a benefit to the community and to all who visit.

1968 a year of great change

On Radio 4 over the last months there have been snapshots of 1968 as it was such a momentous year around the world.

Here in Ansley there were events that had an impact on the lives of those who lived and worked in the parish. It was announced that Arley Pit was to close and it did so, which was nine years after Ansley Hall closed, many of the workers at Arley pit had moved there from Ansley Hall and also lived in Ansley. The closure was to have a marked impact on the lives of many.

It was in 1968 that the first real talks were taking place that Ansley C of E School should close although it was some time before it did so this again had a big change on the life of the parish especially in Ansley Village and the Church.

In Ansley Common it was the leaving of Captain Armstead the Church Army Captain which was to have an impact as he was the last Captain to live and work in the area. It was at that time with no captain that the decision was taken to run transport to St. Laurence for the evening service. In those days it was a bus but today we still run a taxi. If anyone in the parish who wishes to attend the evening service and has transport difficulties please do contact one of the wardens and the taxi will be organised.

In the Churchyard the old evergreen trees near the church were removed as they were becoming dangerous and it was at this time that the new evergreen and flowering trees were planted.

First talks were taking place to have a church car park at Church End

In 1968 we had the last Flower Festival with the girders in the church and the theme that year was Mission to coincide with the Mission being run by the then bishop Cuthbert Bardsley. The total raised was £230.

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 forwho is

At this time of year we see more and more spiders - not only outside but in the house, but what is this aversion the female race has to spiders? From very small girls to very elderly ladies, it is always there. Our small granddaughter recoils at the sight of the very smallest spider, but thinks Woodlice are nice, Caterpillars are great and considers Leaf Hoppers as pets. I cannot explain it because I feel just the same, as spiders of any size make me shudder.

As we are all aware, the school leaving age is going up to 17. I can remember when my sister was so happy to be leaving school at 15, while I had to stay on until at least 16 as I was at Grammar School. My eldest sister left school at 14 years old, and it makes you wonder if this is why they seemed more grown up and sensible, as they got jobs and stood on their own two feet. Perhaps the last year now should be called 'College' and no uniform to make them feel more grown up, not school children, as many will be driving cars and come of age before they leave school.

In this age of labour saving devices it is logical to think we would all have lots more spare time.

Gone are the days when washing day was all day, but despite washing machines and dryers, modern cleaners, no fireplace to clean out, duvets instead of sheets and blankets and even shopping can be done from your armchair, everyone seems to have less time. I can't count how many times I have been asked how I find time to do so much knitting, reading, writing, quizzes etc. Well these activities are my spare time, and the house is still clean, washing done and the shopping. You don't have to ask how the younger generation spend their spare time, as they are continually talking on their mobile 'phones or listening to I-Pods, even when they are in cars, walking about and even during meals. In fact I often wonder what on earth they find to talk about, as the person they are talking to has only been in their company perhaps a couple of hours before, but this I suppose you could say is their spare time.

The golden month of October is upon us and now we start to enjoy the Autumn colours. The moon is clear in the sky and the dark nights have returned, but this time of year always seems to me to be the lull before the storm. Children are back at school, Bonfire Night is approaching, but then the rush for Christmas starts, so I always think of October as a month of cosy nights in, celebrating the harvest, but also drives through beautiful countryside as the leaves change colour and the sky comes to life.

October was the eighth month of the old Roman year. By the slaves this was called 'Yellow Month, from the fading of the leaf; to the Anglo-Saxons, it was known as winter fylleth, because at this moon (fylleth) winter was supposed to begin.

Marie Cove.