

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

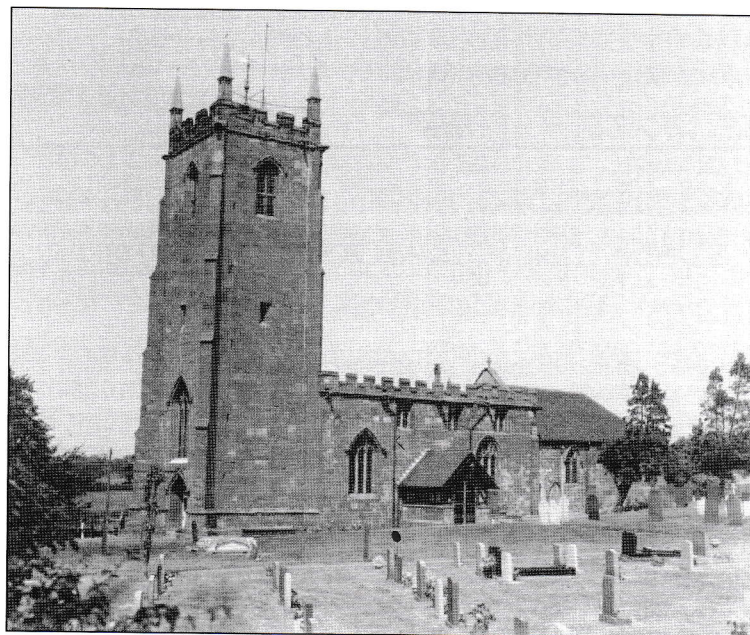
---

No: 1008

OCTOBER 2009

Price 25p

---



Vicar:

REV. PETER ALLAN

Tel: 024 7639 9070

Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL  
MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 01827 874520  
Tel: 024 7638 1833

St. Johns Leaders

DAVID & MARIE COVE

Tel: 024 7639 4114

Lay Reader:

MANDY WATTS  
GWYNETH HICKMAN

Tel: 024 7639 7654  
Tel: 024 7639 8901

[www.ansleychurch.org](http://www.ansleychurch.org)

---

Print Centre 0800 389 4089

## Celebration and Commitment

I hope you were able to share in the joy of the opening and rededication of St. John's Hall by the Bishop of Coventry. It reminded me of a wedding. It was a celebration and a commitment.

We celebrated as we gave thanks for the skills, the gifts and the perseverance that made this possible. We looked back to thank God for being with us through difficult times, through problems and disappointments and for guiding us to this wonderful time.

We committed ourselves afresh to the service of Jesus to use the Hall to God's glory - glorifying God by creating a place where people can meet, experience new opportunities, build relationships, learn new skills and develop a flourishing community and glorifying God by worshipping Him, witnessing to Him and praising His name.

There are some who say buildings don't matter. The prophet Haggai (chapter 1 verse 9) addressed this. As the exiles returned to Jerusalem having been away 70 years they complained that God was not looking after them. "What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the Lord Almighty. "Because of my house, (the Temple ) which remains a ruin while each of you is busy with his own house".

Poor quality buildings give a very bad witness. A good quality building speaks of love and care. And we have - may God be praised - a wonderful building now at St. John's .

This is a time of celebration and commitment. The strap-line of a leading house builder read "House to make homes in." May St. John's Hall be a place which we can make our home. May it be a place of comfort and security, joy and laughter, life and love. Our home and God's home too.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

### October, St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 17	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service in Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Special Family Service
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 19	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

### St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 17	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 18	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>		9.15 a.m.	
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 19	10.30 a.m.	Morning Service
		4.00 p.m.	4 o'clock club
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Special Service
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>		9.15 a.m.	

Bible Study Group Monday 5<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m. 46 Nuthurst Crescent  
Open Church Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 1.00 -4.00 p.m.

Other regular activities - Full details on the notice boards.

### From the Registers

#### Funerals

The funeral of Iris May Mather took place at Corley Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, where Iris was brought up. Iris lived in Ansley 52 years and took an active part in community life helping especially with the Bingo in Croft Mead. She was also school secretary at the C of E School Church End and P.C.C. secretary for some years.

The funeral of Ian Cartwright took place at St. Laurence's Church on September 3 followed by burial in the churchyard.

Loving husband of Anne and devoted father of Haydn, Sian and Owen, Ian was a keen motorcyclist, brilliant engineer, superb musician and talented teacher with a great sense of humour. Earlier this year he became Parish Councillor for our village, but sadly did not live long enough to see his dreams come to fruition. He will be greatly missed by family, friends and our whole community.

### Harvest Festival

As the year passes on, we have much to thank our Lord God for, at St. Laurence on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October we will be celebrating with our annual Harvest Festival.

Preparations will commence on Friday 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. with decorating and continuing on Saturday from 9 a.m. Any gifts of produce or flowers will be much appreciated. It is lovely to enter the church with the smells and sights of harvest.



The Church will be open for private prayer and there will be opportunity to light a candle and written prayer requests will be brought to God during our Sunday services. Visitors will also be welcome to have a look at the displays and produce that will adorn our lovely ancient church from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>.

On Sunday our services will commence with Holy Communion at 8.00 a.m. The 10.30 service will be a specially arranged family service with special activities for children and young people. At this service there will be time, for those who wish, to present their gifts at the altar. There will be our traditional Festival Evensong at 6.30 p.m.

The gifts will be cleared from the church on Monday morning and taken to the annexe where preparations will be made for the sale and supper to commence at 7.30 p.m. Please book your requirements on the list in church or telephone by Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Ashes in Church Yard

The loose ashes that had been left in the church yard have been as respectfully and reverently as possible interred in the Garden of Peace. As the name of the deceased was known only to God it has not been possible to remember this deceased as we would have wished.

The PCC would ask that arrangements are made with the vicar so that all interments are done so reverently. Also the name of the deceased can be properly entered in the registers and the records kept for posterity.

It should be noted that while there are restrictions to who can be buried in the churchyard and Cremation Garden the 'Garden of Peace' is open to all, and their names may be entered into a Book of Remembrance.

### St. John's Opening

A full report of the builder's dance on 25<sup>th</sup> and the celebrations of the 27<sup>th</sup> September will be made in the November issue.

This hall is now fully open and is available for hire by contacting Donna Salisbury on 024 7639 3967.

### St. John's Bingo

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August saw the first social event to be held in the refurbished hall. It was a fun time for all and the proceeds amounting to £144.50 will be used towards the running costs of the hall. Thank you to all who supported this event.

### 4 O'Clock Club

Starting on 18<sup>th</sup> October each month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month there will be a 4 O'Clock Club running in St. John's Hall. This is a special service especially for very small children. It will run along similar lines as the one in the Village Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday each month. There will be a short story, singing with actions, a short prayer slot, crafts and refreshments.

### Bible Study Group

This month the meeting will be on October 5<sup>th</sup> and on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each subsequent months anyone interested is welcome to come to the study group meetings being held at 42 Nuthurst Crescent at 7.30 p.m. As mentioned last month for the next few months the parables will be discussed. This is a time for meeting together, listening, discussing, and learning.

### Flower Festival

It is difficult to express in words the Flower Festival of 2009. From start to finish it felt God had put His hand upon the whole event. It was such a happy occasion with so many working together for the good of the whole event.

This year was so very busy especially on the Saturday afternoon, with over 50 people watching Ansley Morris dancing in the churchyard, a substantial number in church and many also having refreshments. It was wonderful to see the place so busy.

It has been very pleasing to read the comments in the visitors book:-

'Learnt something about different crosses, lovely display, made welcome by lady at door',

'Beautiful as ever and very, very moving!',

'Fantastic flowers full of spirituality and hope and faith',

'Mind-blowing and should affirm faith' etc.

Thank you to the vast number of people who contributed to this event in any way which raised £2812. The P.C.C. agreed that 10% of the proceeds will be donated to the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and the Acorn Children's Hospice, and this will be forwarded shortly. The remainder is for church funds.

### Shoe boxes

As in previous years Marie Cove will be collecting 'Shoe Boxes' filled with small presents to send to children in the poor parts of the world. If you would like to participate in this scheme which will bring Christmas cheer to so many children and young people please ask Marie for an instruction sheet. 024 7639 4114. It is important that these are followed as some countries do not allow non authorised presents to be sent into their land.

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'.

The total paid into our Fabric Fund in August was £92.00 increasing the total to £547.50 all from the small change collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed. The jars will be in Church for the rest of the year

### Stressful Times Advice from the Arthur Rank Centre

#### Worried? Troubled? Stressed?

It can help to talk. We're here to listen.

Would you like specialised or local support?

We can find it.

Rural Stress Helpline 0845 094 8286

Email: [ruralstresshelpline@rase.org.uk](mailto:ruralstresshelpline@rase.org.uk)

[www.ruralstresshelpline.co.uk](http://www.ruralstresshelpline.co.uk)

#### 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 for .....who is .....



October, 2009

I know it may seem as if I am a sad old person, but during numerous shopping trips both in supermarkets and high street shops, there is a distinct lack of personal and sometimes friendly service. If you ask for something specific which you can't find, it takes an absolute age for an assistant to find another assistant to help. What I say is bring back the 'Home & Colonial', the old Co-operative, Masefield! Of course this is only a pipe dream as we are now in the I.T. age and we must move with the times, even if we do think this is a step backwards.

Have you noticed how many women wear black? From young girls to the elderly, very few wear light or bright colours, even during the summer months. When we were young I can never remember having any black clothes, and the only time adults wore black was after a bereavement, or when they were old and they still wore the mourning clothes as they couldn't afford new. We longed for a wedding or a very special occasion so that our Mam could have a new dress and, of course, not in black.

We are trying to fill our garden, as far as possible, with perennials, and one perennial which has thrilled us is the Sweet Pea. It has flowered and flowered for months and although it is limited in colours, it still has the delicious smell of all Sweet Peas. After setting packet after packet, year on year, of annual Sweet Peas, putting up nets, etc. at last this year we had some to cut. We have also had great success with Lupins, but although we want to set perennials, we won't desert the annuals altogether.

As we are remembering that World War 2 was declared on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1939, I can't help thinking that as today with parents and loved ones of serving soldiers, sailors and airmen, back then it was just the same. Everyone listened avidly to the news to see what was happening, and loved ones dreaded the sight of the telegram boy in case it was bad news. I remember asking my mother why our eldest brother was with the Air Force in West Africa, when we were fighting the Germans, and was told our forces were defending the Gold Coast. Then our mother got a very tactless letter from her son saying 'This place is called the white man's grave' which horrified her, until he explained it was because of the climate and Malaria.

I find myself on many occasions saying 'It looks a bit black over Bill's mother's' and often wondered who Bill was. It seems there are various explanations, but the most convincing is that it originated in the Birmingham area and referred to storms coming from The Atlantic and being seen over Stratford, where Bill Shakespeare's mother supposedly lived. Now we know who 'Bill' was, in fact William Shakespeare himself.

Marie Cove.