

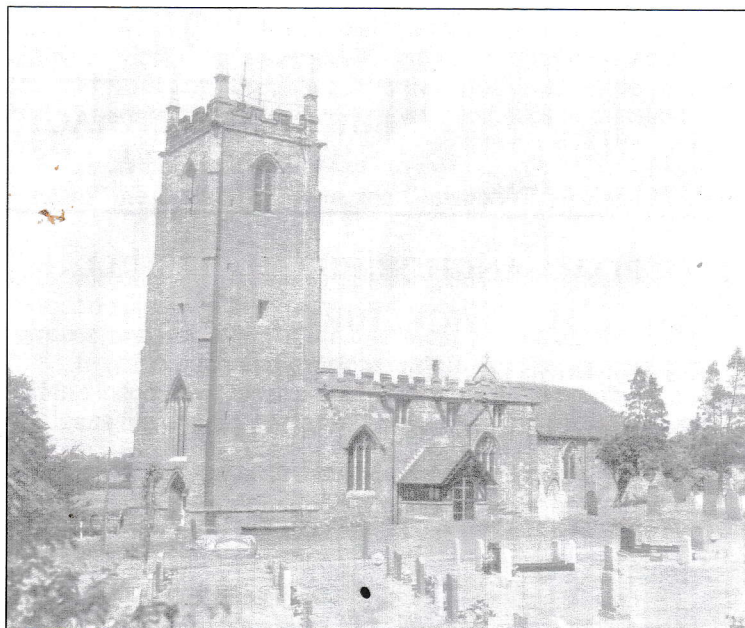
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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Bad News? Good News!

Just over four years when I returned to work after my sabbatical I was informed that the church finances were not in as good a state as we would wish. Expenditure was exceeding income. I was told not to worry but we would face crunch time in 2012.

That has proved exactly right. Four years on, as expenditure continues to exceed income and we no longer have reserves to fall back on we have to take action.

Expenditure has been carefully monitored and money has not been wasted. We could, of course reduce our expenditure, but any further reductions will reduce our ability to do the work God has given us to do. I don't want to do that. I believe God has placed us here to share His love and we must stick to that work.

We need to tackle income. Our capacity to raise money by fundraising events - the Flower Festival, the Christmas Fayre, the Christmas Tree Festival is stretched to the full.

We need to look at giving. Humanly speaking this is ridiculous. How can members of the congregation increase their giving in this economic climate? I am fully aware that there are some who are giving to the uttermost, but we all need to pray and ask God, by His Spirit, to guide each and every one of us whether we can give more. That will depend on the income we receive but for all of us it will probably also involve making sacrifices. Jesus never promised us an easy time!

I shall be writing to everyone on the electoral roll asking them to think and to pray about what the Bible says about money and giving. I shall preach about giving at both services on October 21st. Then when you have listened, thought and prayed I will ask you to fill in a form on which you will have the opportunity to pledge anonymously to increase your giving. •

When these pledges are returned we shall know whether God has turned bad news into good news. I believe He can and, with your help, I believe He will.

As I thank you for all you have done for our churches in the past and for all you are doing in the present, I would ask that you join me in praying for the life of St. Laurence's and St. John's. At this time pray, in particular, that God will release us from the fears of low income and guide us as we seek to do His will.

With prayers and best wishes for a joyful and blessed Autumn.

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

Sermon Series. With the exception of October 14 (Harvest) and November 11 (Remembrance Day) we shall, from September 23 until November 25 be exploring an unusual theme in our sermons. We shall be looking at Jesus' family tree. Who were his human ancestors? What is their story? And how would they have shaped Jesus understanding of himself and his mission? From the famous to the obscure they all had their part to play. Join us each week for this journey of exploration.

October St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 7 th	Trinity 18	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
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
Sunday 28 th	Bible Sunday	10.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 7 th	Trinity 18 th	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 14 th	Trinity 19 th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st	Trinity 20	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 28 th	Bible Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Discussion Groups

The year through the Bible' Wednesday 3rd October 7.30 p.m. 10 Nuthurst Crescent. (Please note the change of day)

Discussing the Christian Bible – Tuesday 9th October at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

From the Registers

At St. Laurence's Church on September 2nd we celebrated the baptism of Millie Claire Wilson. On September 16th we celebrated the baptism of Kayla Mai Ward Wood and Jack Thomas Thorpe.

On September 1st we delighted in the marriage of Carl Coton and Kelly Allton and, later that day, of Thomas Edwards and Jemma Bailey.

On August 17th at St. Laurence's Church the funeral took place of Keith Fallows followed by burial in the churchyard.

On September 4th the funeral took place of Ray Kimberley followed by burial in the churchyard. Formerly of Holly Tree Farm, Ray's enormous practical abilities, his quiet reassurance and his generosity of spirit will always remain an inspiration to friend and family alike. He is dearly missed and deeply mourned by Margaret, Anne, Jane, Martin and all his family and friends.

On September 12th at the Heart of England Crematorium the funeral took place of Brian Alan Osborn followed by interment in St. Laurence's Churchyard on September 14th.

Harvest

At the time of writing this issue the farmers are hard at work trying to catch up with the harvest after a very, very difficult year. Yields for many crops are lower than would be expected but

others have been better than could have been hoped for in the wet conditions. Gardeners and allotment holders have also had a difficult time.

However we do have to thank God that He has given us our "Daily Bread" and continues to provide for all our needs.

As is our custom in Ansley we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival on Sunday 14th October. Preparations will commence on Friday 12th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. when decorating will start in the church and will continue on Saturday from 9 a.m. finishing about lunch time.

Any help or gifts of produce or flowers will be much appreciated; please do not wait to be asked. Cleaning the church after will also be necessary again please help if you can.

The church will be open for visitors from 1 to 4 p.m. with light refreshments available in the annexe that afternoon.

The Sunday celebrations will commence with 8 a.m. Holy Communion followed by 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion with the presentation of gifts. Everyone is invited to bring a gift to the altar as an offering of thanksgiving. The presentation of the Flower Festival donation to the Acorn Children's Hospice will be at this service, the day will conclude with Evensong at 6.30 p.m. when the donation to the Hospital League of Friends will be made.

On Monday from 9 a.m. the produce will be taken to the annexe ready for the sale and supper at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. with a Fish & Chips, Chicken & Chips or Vegetarian, with a sweet option. Tickets are £5.50 each please order your meal by contacting Diana Kealey on 024 7639 5089

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. Please return by 11th November

Ride & Stride

Many thanks to Phil Rees who completed the route suggested on Saturday 8th September in just over 7 hours visiting 14 churches in the area. He has raised over £130 from sponsorship half of which will be for the Historic Churches Trust and the other half for our own Fabric Fund. Thanks also to the people who had the church open on that day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and supplied visitors with tea and biscuits.

St. John's Harvest

St. John's celebrated their Harvest this year on Sunday 9th September by bringing flower and produce to the hall. On the following Monday the produce was taken to the Salvation Army Citadel in Nuneaton where it was very much appreciated. They held their Harvest Supper on Friday 7th which was very enjoyable and the food much appreciated. A total of £100 was raised for hall funds. Many thanks to all who prepared and supported this event.

Flower Festival

We have had another wonderful Flower Festival, we were so very lucky with the weather, especially on the Saturday afternoon, when the thunder and lightning was all around and areas close by were getting a real soaking, but Ansley seemed to just have a few drops. The number

of people visiting did drop off considerably but we were able to enjoy being around the churchyard as well as in the church and annexe.
The church looked wonderful and the messages portrayed to visitors the various aspects of giving both by ourselves and what God has and continues to give us.
Some comments from the visitor's book can best express what people thought
"Very nice to see the church looking great."
"Absolutely gorgeous well done."
"Highest standard as always."
"Beautiful as always (food for thought)."
"Absolutely stunning displays very moving and lovely atmosphere in church."
"Wonderful! We could be any place in the world but, at this moment there is no place we'd rather be."
"A message most beautiful told in flowers."
"Truly inspiring!"
"Breath-taking!"

The presence of an original Olympic torch on the Saturday afternoon was an added attraction. This torch was one of a very few that was never lit and a member of our church family was able to obtain it with all its certification and is raising money for children's charities. Visitors were able to hold the torch, have a photograph taken and the total donations of £90 will be forwarded to Acorn Children's Hospice.

The members of Ansley Morris, who came on the Monday afternoon added a further attraction to the event and luckily the weather remained dry as they danced various dances in the churchyard.

This Flower Festival raised £2528 (£126.40 has been presented to Acorn Children's Hospice. and Nuneaton Hospital League of Friend).

In all we have had a wonderful event with our faith, fellowship and friendship strengthened. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported this event.

St. John's Events

The next Prize Bingo session will be on Monday 15th October eyes down at 7 p.m. This is a fun evening for all to enjoy

On Friday 26th the entertainment committee at St John's are holding a Halloween fancy dress party with entertainment of various kinds. Jacket potatoes with various fillings are included in the ticket price of £3. Please book your ticket with any member of the St John's congregation or contact Marie Cove on 024 7639 4114. A good time will be had by all.

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

When we had a couple of weeks warm weather, with wall to wall sunshine, recently, it was amazing to see how everything and everyone came alive. We were told there would be no vegetables due to the wet summer, but surprisingly we grew some lovely potatoes and our son has had enough runner beans for now and to freeze for a meal every week until Christmas. We have also grown tomatoes in the greenhouse and outside, lots of cucumbers grapes and now we have two melons ripening in the late sunshine. So, although it was a horrible summer, it has redeemed itself just a little, but perhaps not for the farmers.

Having lived all my life in Nuneaton, I was interested in a book from the Library called 'Nuneaton in old photographs' and it was hilarious. I know most of the photos were over 100 years old, but you couldn't imagine the fashions, the shops and the transport. It brought back memories for me of the cinemas in the town – The Ritz, which was the most upmarket and where I took my children to see musicals put on by Nuneaton Dramatic Society, as well as many films. There was also The Palace, The Scala, The Hippodrome, and now there are none.

Following on from last month when I was comparing the origin and prices of fruit and vegetables, I was amazed on Nuneaton Market to see cooking apples 70p. each. They were large and I suppose they are a sign of a bad fruit harvest, but on the flip side, you could get 5 Peaches for £1.50.

As I see every other person of all ages drinking bottles of water, cola etc., I think my mother would have been horrified. We were never allowed to drink from a bottle, and our milk which was delivered in bottles, was transferred to a milk jug, the bottles rinsed and put outside for the next delivery. We also had a third of a pint of milk every morning at school with a cardboard top, through which a drinking straw was inserted, and although we were quite poor, my mother thought it the height of ignorance to see a milk bottle on a table - almost as bad as not having a table cloth.

'Happiness is as a butterfly which, when pursued is always just beyond our grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight on you.' Nathaniel Hawthorne

Marie Cove.