

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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No: 1052

OCTOBER 2013

Price 30p

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## AUTUMN COMES QUICKLY

After a double winter we have had a beautiful summer.

Only two weeks ago I was wearing the sun hat that had proved so invaluable in Nigeria. As I look out of the window this seems so long ago!

Almost overnight Autumn crept in. The cooler weather, the leaves beginning to turn and even to fall, the rain, the threatening clouds and the beauty of the autumn flowers.

And with Autumn comes Harvest. Do join us for the Harvest celebrations. Of course there are always two celebrations- the worship of God *and* the time of food and fellowship together. We praise God *and* we enjoy being together. Harvest is about celebrating God's love in creating this beautiful world and celebrating the human skill and sheer hard work that has made this harvest possible.

Thinking about it the whole Christian life is about celebrating the human and the divine -rejoicing that we have gifts we have inherited and skills that we have learnt and rejoicing in a God who brings us life and renews that life by His Holy Spirit. So it is that as we long for God to work to grow our churches both spiritually and numerically we need human skill and divine wisdom.

Human skill. Much careful thought has been given to discover what prevents churches from growing - how we can identify them and how we can put things right. A carefully devised survey honestly answered by all members of the congregation will help us to see how we should move forward. I would like all our churches to engage in this process but we shall start with St. Michael's and St. Laurence's morning service. That is the human angle using the best skills currently available.

At the same time we need divine wisdom. We need to place our church in God's hands, delighting in the presence of Jesus and longing for the work of the Holy Spirit. In other words we need to pray.

Enjoy Harvest. Have a great Autumn,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

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

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 19	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 20	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Last Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

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

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 19	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 20	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 21	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Last Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

#### Discussion Group

Fellowship Group – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 7 p.m. in St John's Church Hall.

#### From the Registers

We welcomed in baptism Jessica Susan Beech.

It was a very different service on September 1st when we celebrated Jessica's baptism. Surrounding the fixed order of service we had a chance to pray for Jessica informally as we lit candles, made flags, ate sweets, made pipe cleaner men and very carefully blew bubbles into a paddling pool.

It demonstrated that there are so many ways to pray and celebrate God's wonderful gift of new life.

On August 31st we celebrated the marriage of Phillip Russell and Jenna Louise Martin.

On September 14th we celebrated the marriage of Neil Russell McPartlin and Leanne Margaret Smedley.

Both services celebrated beautifully the victory of the love of God as each couple committed themselves to love for one another in the joyful company of family and friends.

#### Harvest at St Laurence's

The church will be open to visitors from 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October, with light refreshments available in the annexe.

The bells will be rung between 5.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October by a visiting team of ringers.

Our harvest services of thanksgiving will take place on Sunday 13th October with Holy Communion at 8.00 a.m., Holy Communion with the presentation of gifts at 10.30 a.m. and Evensong at 6.30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us in giving thanks to God.



Our fellowship meal and auction of produce will be held in the annexe on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October, gathering at 7.00 p.m. to eat at 7.30 p.m., followed by the auction. There is a choice of fish, chicken or vegetarian option with chips (from Ansley fish shop) and a dessert of homemade trifle or apple pie. The price of the meal is £6.00 and includes a cup of tea or coffee. You are welcome to bring your own drink and glasses. Please book your place by contacting either Diana Kealey on 02476395089, or one of the churchwardens or through a member of the church.

If you can contribute fruit, vegetables, flowers or other harvest items we should be very grateful. Your help with decorating the church from 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> or 9 a.m. to 12.00 noon on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October would also be much appreciated. Help is also needed to transfer the produce from the church to the annexe on the Monday morning from 9.00 a.m.

#### Quiz at Ansley Church Village Hall

There will be another opportunity to exercise the little grey cells on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October, so gather your team together! Sue Ricketts will be running the quiz and there will be refreshments of filled rolls and a dessert. Entry is £3.50. Please book your place through Sue, a member of the hall committee or a churchwarden. The takings will be shared between the Church Fabric Fund and the Warwickshire Association for the Blind.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Chapel End Girl's Brigade Church Parade

The first church parade at St John's, Ansley Common will take place on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October. We are very sad that the URC chapel at Chapel End is closing at the end of the year, but we are pleased to welcome GB to St John's Hall. If you would like more information you can find us on Facebook, 1st Chapel End Girls' Brigade, phone 02476 395326 or mobile 07787989191. There is also the Girls' Brigade national website if you would like to find out more <http://www.girlsb.org.uk/> Ruth Kinderman (Captain of 1st Chapel End Girls' Brigade)

#### St. John's Halloween Pie and Sweet Social

This event will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> November at 7.00 p.m. Tickets are £3.50 and should be booked in advance.

#### Apology

A sincere apology is offered to all our readers for the repeated page last month. We shall endeavour to do better in the future! We have incorporated some missing paragraphs into this month's magazine and will put the rest in next month.

#### Flower Festival

Our 49<sup>th</sup> festival was from start to finish a great bringing together of many people in a shared undertaking. Those who did the host of jobs all contributed to making this year's festival a wonderful event. We are very grateful to everyone who helped to make it such a success, not only financially but also in the fellowship and friendship that has been created.

The members of Ansley Morris, who came on the Monday afternoon, added a further attraction to the event and this year danced in lovely summer sunshine, while visitors were able to have their cups of tea sitting in the churchyard.  
This very happy event raised £2640, 15% of which will be divided equally between the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and Acorn Children's Hospice, which is £198 each. Although not a record, it is up on last year's event.  
There are some photographs, if you did not manage to get to the event, on the church website at <http://ansleychurch.org/articles/articles.php?id=443>

#### St John's Harvest Festival and Ploughman's Supper

St John's members enjoyed some delicious food and shared fellowship. They made £100 and donated the produce gifts to the Salvation Army, who were very grateful.

#### Ride and Stride on 14<sup>th</sup> September

Mr Philip Rees courageously took on the challenge of cycling a route that enabled him to visit local churches as part of this event which raises money for the upkeep of historic churches in Warwickshire. So far he has collected over £100 in sponsorship. It is not too late to contribute to his total!

#### **WOULD YOU LIKE ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCHYARD TO BE CUT AND CARED FOR IN 2014 to the same standard as it has been cut this year (and for many years previously)?**

That's not a silly question because if your answer is YES we are going to need your help. We get no guaranteed income to care for the churchyard. Our reserves will only give us enough money to keep cutting until next Easter. We rely entirely on fees and donations. We have only received £1946.49 this year but have spent £3272.00. If we are going to keep the churchyard in the condition to which we are accustomed we need your help.

Here are some of the ways you can donate

.....Give it to a member of the church,  
send it to the church treasurer at Heanley View, Hurley Common, Atherstone. CV9 2LR  
or telephone 07788917822 to discuss an alternative.

#### Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence's and at 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.

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Please pray for .....who is .....



October, 2013

Well, come September and we lost all the warm sunshine, the days got shorter and there was an Autumn chill in the air, and as Autumn has come early people are thinking about putting the heating back on, so when I read the article 'Wheat & Chaff' in Home Words in the last magazine it reminded me of when the chill started at home. We didn't have central heating – just one coal fire in the kitchen; there was a fireplace in all 4 rooms, but I cannot remember the bedroom fires ever being lit and the one in the front room was only lit Christmas Day and then it smoked so badly we would rather have been cold. Also there were no fancy hot water bottles, as we used the earthenware bottles which had contained Ginger Beer or our Mam would wrap a shelf out of the fire oven and we would use that as a hot water bottle, except I was banned from using it as I suffered from Chilblains. However, we must have been very hardy as we were not allowed to sit near the kitchen fire because we didn't want mottled legs. Even now this winter many families will be having to economise on heating so hot water bottles and bed socks will come into their own.

However, as I write this letter the gardens are still ablaze with colour as Summer flowers continue to bloom, even though it is time to set Winter Pansies, Primulas and Bulbs, so prolonging the Summer, and if you watched 'Harvest' on T.V. you can only wonder at the miles and miles of polytunnels used to protect precious plants and trees. One farmer had 3 miles of these tunnels covering Cherry Trees which protected them from bad weather, but even so it is still essential that they have light and warmth from the sun, which we have had in abundance this year.

In September the largest library in the world was opened in Birmingham at a cost of 180 million pounds. It is magnificent but it seems a shame that small libraries are closing and this huge library does not cater for people who cannot get there and need local libraries. It seems that Birmingham had an even bigger project when they bought lots of land in a valley in Wales and built huge dams to provide Birmingham and us with water. This really was a great achievement and we still reap the benefits now.

Did you know planet Earth is one of 8 planets and YOU are one of the 4,500,000,000 people who live on it?

'When I look at the sky at night and see the work of Your hands, the moon and stars You set in place – what is man that You think of him? Human beings that You care for them?'

Marie Cove.