

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Price 30p



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Not just the Sunday service

I really love the Old Testament. Yes I know it speaks of a period in history when battles were frequent and life was cheap. But it also speaks of a time when individual men and women responded to the situations in which they found themselves with integrity, insight and courage.

One such woman was Huldah. Consulted by King Josiah, one of the unsung heroes of the Old Testament, she was the first Biblical interpreter. She read a newly found scroll of the Law of Moses and told the King not what it had meant in days gone by but what it was saying to him and his people that day.

One such man was Isaiah. He had to contend with those who said that God ought to be blessing them because they were offering generous sacrifices and fasting. Frequently. Isaiah's response was emphatic. The sacrifice God wants is to share food with the hungry, clothes with the naked and bring freedom to the oppressed. When -and only when- you do that you will rebuild the ancient ruins on the age-old foundations.

Sometimes caring for the poor and needy is seen as an optional extra for Christians. This was not so in the days of St. Laurence and St. Wilfrid, nor in the early Christian communities spoken of in the New Testament. As we reclaim this task we rebuild on age-old foundations and rediscover ancient truth.

Let us thank God for every opportunity to care,

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

October St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 5 th	Trinity 16	10.30 a.m.	Morning Service
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 th	Harvest	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
		10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 19 th	Trinity 18	6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 th	Last Trinity	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
		10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 5 th	Trinity 16	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 12 th	Trinity 17	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th	Trinity 18	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 26 th	Last Trinity I	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

From the Registers

Baptisms

On Sunday 7th September we celebrated the baptism of Warwick James Mason. We recalled how Jesus welcomed little children and how his love extended to us all and how he inspired us to love unconditionally.

Weddings

On Saturday 30th August we celebrated the wedding of Jonathan Spencer and Claire Neale.

On Saturday 6th September we celebrated the wedding of Christopher Fellows and Kelly Pugh.

On Monday 8th September we celebrated the wedding of Mark McKenna and Alice Hardy.

Funerals

On Wednesday September 3rd the funeral service took place of Betty Richmond, followed by burial in the churchyard. Better known to Ansley residents as Betty Steel she always felt Ansley was "home". A lady of deep faith and full of love, her life was celebrated in the tribute read by Rev. Jim Cox, her minister for many years, who also lead the service.

Harvest at St Laurence's

The church will be open to visitors from 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Saturday 11th October, with light refreshments available in the annexe.

Our harvest services of thanksgiving will take place on Sunday 12th October with Holy Communion at 8.00 a.m., Holy Communion with the presentation of gifts at 10.30 a.m. and Evensong at 6.30p.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 13th October, meeting from 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 10th or 9 a.m. to 12.00 noon on Saturday 11th 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.

St John's Halloween Pie and Sweet Social

This event will be held at St John's Hall on Friday 31st October at 7.00p.m. Tickets need to be booked in advance.

Bishop John's Appeal for Al-Ahli Hospital, Gaza

Sums of £40 from St John's and £120 from St Laurence's have been sent to this appeal. Thank you to everyone who gave to this cause.

St Laurence's 50th Flower Festival

What an amazing bank holiday weekend it was at St. Laurence Church Ansley for the 50th Flower Festival. As in previous years the atmosphere of friendship and Christian fellowship was almost tangible with everyone working so well together. To those who did the decorating, made the cakes and other food, grew the produce, provided flowers, tidied the churchyard and the church, served the refreshments, helped in the car park, welcomed the visitors, and the host of other little jobs that all work to make such an event such a wonderful event, a big thank you. Thanks also to the people who gave donations towards the costs of the event which ensures that there are no bills to be paid from the proceeds. The numbers of visitors, despite the showers on the Saturday and the constant rain on the Monday, were considerably up. The weather also did not dampen the presentation by Ansley Morris on the Monday afternoon, who, because of the weather, danced inside, first in the annexe and then in the church. This was much appreciated by those who were visiting at the time.

As always there was time for old acquaintances to meet and "catch up" but also for new friendships to be made. It was also a financial success with over £3,400 being raised. (a record) From this 10% will be given to the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends, 10% to the Acorn's Children's Hospice, 20% to the church fabric fund to help keep the ancient building in good repair and the remainder will be used for the general running costs of the church.

To better portray the atmosphere and impact on those who came here are a few quotes from our visitor's book:

"Music, dancing and flowers! What a wonderful 50th. Thanks." S.G.

"Excellent as always – impressed by interpretations of theme." D. & J. Birmingham.

"Exquisite, Sacred hands of the Lord sharing the earth's beauty. Thanking you all. Love & light." H. Nuneaton.

"Absolutely stunning." R.S.

"A wonderful display, so much thought for all of it. Congratulations." I.C. Coleshill.

"Wonderful and inspiring as ever – Thank you." S. & J. S Bulkington
Again a big thank you to everyone who helped in any way.
In all we have had a wonderful event with our faith, fellowship and friendship strengthened.

Girls Brigade Presentation Evening

On Thursday 11th September the members of the Girls Brigade received their awards from Rev John Poulton (He ministered at them when they met at the Chapel in Chapel End). The awards were for the work the members had done during the previous 12 months. The evening included a power point presentation with photographs and the girls told stories that had happened to them during the year. To emphasise their learning they asked two adults to put tooth paste on a tooth brush while blind folded!
The Brigade meets at 6.30 each Thursday week, during term time, in St John's Church Hall and if you know of anyone who would like to join please contact Ruth Kinderman 024 7639 5326

Day of Prayer

On Tuesday 23rd we had our day of prayer in the church. It started with a short time of contemplation and a few hymns with the Senior Citizens and ended with Compline at 6 45 p.m. with some of the bell ringers. The rest of the day the church was open and people were there to ask for God's guidance to help us in our way forward to come closer to Him.

Ride and Stride

Mr Philip Rees successfully completed his sponsored bicycle ride around local churches to raise funds for The Warwickshire Historic Churches Trust. Half of his sponsorship money goes to the trust and half is returned to St Laurence's. The trust helps to repair and maintain historic churches, which are such an important part of our landscape and heritage. Phil's hard work has raised £182 •

Advance Notice of St Laurence's Ninth Christmas Tree Festival

This will take place during the weekends of the 6th 13th and 20th December. The reason for this early notification is to remind tree decorators to ask for a form to reserve a tree. The will be the same price as last year £14 each.

Visit by Mishael Andy

Mishael from Nigeria report next month.

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.

Please pray for who is

October, 2014

We have had a wonderful Harvest Festival at St. John's, starting with the Harvest Supper, followed by decorating the Hall, and finally a special Harvest Service. It was surprising how much produce we had given for such a small church, and we finished off our Harvest celebrations by taking these offerings to The Salvation Army. This was a great weekend and we want to thank everyone who attended, helped and made this such a success.

Would you believe that a 10 year old Goldfish in Australia has been given a life-saving brain operation to remove a tumour, and it should now live another 20 years. I just could not believe this as although we have had Goldfish when the children were young, they never lived more than three or four years.

As an avid football fan, I am fascinated how the game has changed – the transfer fees, the players and the kit. I have never seen so many different coloured football boots (which cost a fortune for ordinary youngsters). Then there is the Goalie, as years ago every Goalie wore a green jersey, but now they are dressed in Yellow (like big bananas), some are in Shocking Pink, and then we have the pretty Lilac. Now even the referees are getting in on the act as they were always dressed in black, but now they wear different colours. I suppose it's a case of 'If you can't beat them, join them'.

Tax Discs have had to be displayed on cars for 90 years, but now this is all coming to an end. It seems that if you are stopped, the Police can tell if your car is taxed, and there are also Registration recognition cameras everywhere to do this. I suppose you will still have a reminder when it is due, but what is wrong with Tax Discs anyway?

I would like to share with you a verse from a poem I wrote many years ago –

'Harvest Time'

We thank you Lord for Harvest Fair, but think of others whose cupboards are bare,

Thank you for food and water, as decreed, but make us generous to the millions in need.

Just for a laugh: A friend was in front of the person he had gone with coming out of church one day. The preacher was standing at the door shaking hands and he grabbed this friend by the hand and pulled him aside, and said, "You need to join the Army of the Lord." The man replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." The Pastor questioned, "How come? I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter." He whispered back, "I'm in the Secret Service."

Marie Cove