

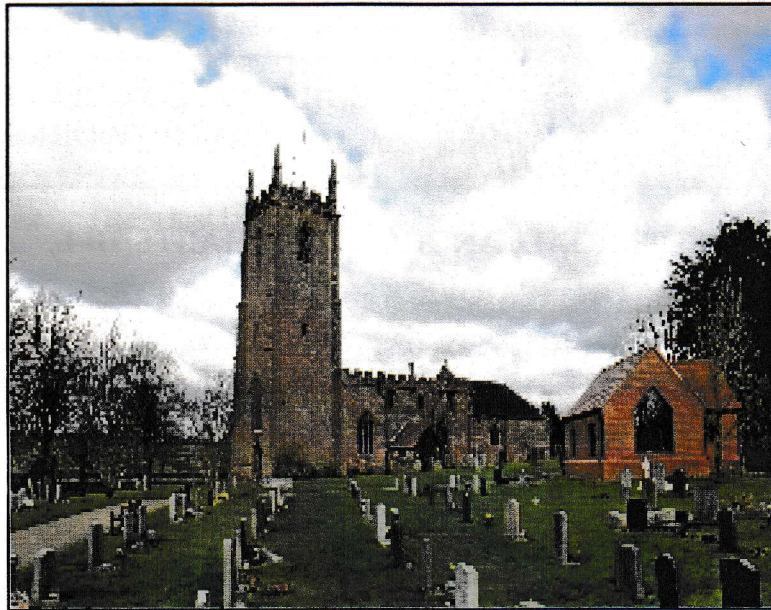
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Islington and Nuneaton

After Jeremy Corbyn's election as Leader of the Labour Party television and radio commentators went on tour.

Some came to Nuneaton. It is THE Bellwether seat. Whoever wins Nuneaton forms the government. This is not because Nuneaton is the powerhouse of the UK but rather it follows (or leads?) the national trend. If the Labour Party is going to form a government again they will have to recapture Nuneaton. Others went to Islington just north of the heart of London. That is where Jeremy Corbyn is MP. For me both places are key in my life. I have lived here for longer than anywhere. Islington is special for a very different reason. I was there for barely three years but it was there I met Pauline and there that I received my call to ordained ministry.

At the time I was in Islington, it was a place of contradictions. Rich and poor lived beside each other. A large Victorian house belonging to a rich (and I mean rich!) family was next door to an identical house full of poor tenants. Generally you were either very poor or very rich. It has since gone upmarket though I am sure serious pockets of poverty still survive. It is a totally different place to Nuneaton.

So to Jeremy Corbyn's election. Not since the 1980's has there been such a contrast in the values of our two political parties. It is no longer possible to see elections as the rivalry between two parties saying much the same thing or for a Christian to argue that his or her faith cannot affect the way they vote. Politics is now a debate about very different values.

I am not here to tell you what to think. I can only remind you to consider the main values of each of our political parties and match them against Jesus' life and teaching. But think and pray we must for the issue is no longer about who will best deliver what we all believe. It is about choosing from very different value systems. It is about choosing what we believe will build God's kingdom on earth and creating a society that best reflects God's heavenly glory. What we believe is, and always will be, at the heart of the Christian faith and what we believe must determine how we vote. Life is never easy for the Christian but it is infinitely rewarding!

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

October St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 4 th	Trinity 18	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time [Screen]
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 th	Harvest	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18 th	Trinity 20	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th	Bible Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 4 th	Trinity 18	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 11 th	Trinity 19	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 th	Trinity 20	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 25 th	Bible Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

From the Registers

Baptisms

The baptism of Holly Diane Barsby of Birchley Heath took place at St Wilfrid's, Arley, on Sunday 30th August. In this joyous occasion we celebrated the love of Jesus that draws us all into the family of God and calls us to share that love with others.

The baptism of Lydia Emine Wright daughter of Shaun Wright and Lydia Brockwell took place at St. Laurence's on Sunday 6th September. As we celebrated the joy of her birth we rejoiced in the sacrament of baptism which Jesus called his disciples to practise nearly 2,000 years ago.

Funerals

It is with sadness that we mark the funeral of Peggy Woods (87 years) on Tuesday 25th August at St Laurence's Church. We cannot possibly remember Peggy without also remembering her husband Norman, who was her lifelong love. They were married for 54 years, and are now buried together in the churchyard.

Peggy lived most of her married life in Ansley Common, and then moved to Bracebridge Court for the last four years. She suffered ill health bravely for twenty years and always had a smile.

Peggy will be deeply missed by her sister, Cissie, her six children and in-laws, nine grandchildren, and a great granddaughter.

We remember Peggy in our prayers and with confidence in the Easter promise, that one day she will be re-united with those she loves.

On Thursday 10 September we celebrated, at her funeral, the life of Lydia Mary Smith. Lydia's life was characterised by love and laughter as she cared for her clients when she was a Home Help in ways that went far beyond the call of duty and as she enjoyed sharing in family life, which meant so much to her. The funeral service was followed by interment in the churchyard. She is reunited with her husband but much mourned by her family.

Confirmation Class

If you are thinking about being confirmed at Coventry Cathedral on 21st November, are interested in finding out more about the Christian faith or would like to support the candidates, please contact Peter ASAP as the class which will be held on Tuesday evenings is just starting. ALL ARE WELCOME.

St Laurence's Harvest Festival and Supper

Most of our local fields have now been harvested, ploughed and sown with next year's crops. Preparations for this year's harvest festival begin with decorating the church from 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Friday 9th October or between 9.00 a.m. and noon on Saturday 10th October. Your help with this would be much appreciated and donations of fruit, vegetables non-perishable food [cans or packets] and flowers will be very welcome. Perishable items will be sold by auction at the harvest supper and non-perishable items will be passed on to the local food bank.

Help will also be needed to transfer produce from the church to the annexe on the Monday morning from 9.00 a.m.

There will be a service of Holy Communion at 8.00 a.m. on Sunday 11th October, followed by 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 thanking God for all he provides.

On Monday 12th October the fellowship meal and auction of produce will take place in the annexe. The supper of fish, chicken or vegetarian option and chips [from Ansley Fish Shop] will be delivered at 7.30 p.m., so we will gather from 7.00 p.m. onwards. The price of the meal is £6.00, including a dessert and tea or coffee. You are welcome to bring along your own drink and glasses. Please book your meal by the end of Wednesday 7th October by contacting Diana Kealey on 02476395089, one of the churchwardens or through a member of the church.

Girls Brigade

St John's congregation will welcome the Girls Brigade for their Parade at the 10.30 a.m. service on Sunday 25th October.

Dedication of the New Window

The new window given in memory of Jennifer Woolliscroft will be dedicated at the morning Communion service at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 1st November.

Christmas Tree Festival 2015

Application forms for Christmas trees are available now from the churchwardens. The cost of a tree remains at £14. Please return your application in good time.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

You may wish to be thinking about gathering items for this appeal, as the shoe boxes have to be collected in November to be delivered to the local distribution centre. Remember to check the information about suitable gifts by searching "Operation Christmas Child" which is under the Samaritan's Purse charity. More details next month.

Mercian Supremacy: the Age of Aethelbald and Offa.

This course will be held in the annexe on the first three Tuesdays in October and each Tuesday in November from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. The sessions will be delivered by Professor John Hunter and places should be booked by completing an application form.

Prayer day

Thank you to everyone who joined in prayer on this day, whether at church or elsewhere. Please continue to pray that our church may provide a "Door to faith" for the many visitors who enter during each year.

Flower Festival 2015

Our 51st festival was a great success, in spite of poor weather on the Sunday and Monday. It was lovely to welcome people from a wide area, some with long standing associations with the church, some renewing past friendships or making new ones and sharing news. Mrs Bennett was the lucky winner of the fruit cake raffle.

Many visitors showed an interest in the small display of photographs and other items from the first festival back in 1965. They enjoyed trying to identify the people in the newspaper cuttings etc.

The Ansley Morris Group was an attraction on the Monday afternoon. They performed dances from the Cotswold area, which were much appreciated by the audience. Both dancers and spectators were relieved to be in the church and not out in the rain! Financially it was a wonderful success. The final total of £2960 was the second highest we have raised. From this sum we will be sending £370 to both the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and to the Acorn Children's Hospice. A further 20% will go 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.

We wish to convey our grateful thanks to everyone who has helped with this event in any way, from the provision of produce for the produce stall, cakes for the refreshments, financially towards the flowers [including the person who gave anonymously], those who came to help and those who prayed for the event.

The following quotes from the visitors' book give a sense of the impact on those who came. "An inspiring display, Beautifully created. Well done. Thank you." AB Coventry "Superb. One of your best." JB Nuneaton "Excellent, Very uplifting" ES "Unbeatable Lovely" AW

"Excellent as usual, very cheerful, uplifting and thought provoking." D&J Birmingham

St John's Harvest Supper

This was an especially enjoyable event, with entertainment from the Nuneaton Ukulele Band. A sum of £100 was made for hall funds

Sponsored Cycle Ride

Mr Phil Rees completed his sponsored cycle ride for the Historic Churches' Trust and at the time of going to press had raised over £150, half of which will be returned to St Laurence's church fabric fund.

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

2015 was a strange summer when we couldn't string together more than two days of sunshine, before gloomy days returned. It was very muggy and cloudy with sunshine in short supply. Despite this the flowers in our garden were a picture, and we had a bumper crop of grapes, but the tomatoes were very slow to ripen. However, we were very lucky, as Scotland had a terrible summer, with day after day of rain, frustrating everyone but especially the farmers.

We all know that America can have some wacky ideas, but now after seeing a famous person carrying her dog in her handbag, they hit on an idea. America is now producing a range of state-of-the-art buggies complete with rain covers. Talk about pampered pooches!

Have you heard of egg-white crisps? I certainly hadn't. A man created these when he realised his children loved the crispy edges of egg white. He now includes them in his diet to lose weight by eating more protein.

This year is going to be the best apple harvest for many, many years and this is in some way due to technology. What does this mean? Well now they have machines which sort the apples and infra red x-rays to look inside the apple to make sure they are sound inside. However, there is another factor and this is the way apples are grown. Gone are the orchards with huge trees. Instead they plant smaller, slimmer trees so these are grown closer together, easier to pick and a giving a higher yield.

Some wise words from Kris Kristofferson who has been a singer/songwriter for half a century. Talking about the good times and the bad he described what had sustained him,

"The faith of my father got me this far. The smiles of my children will take me the rest of the way."

Marie Cove