

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

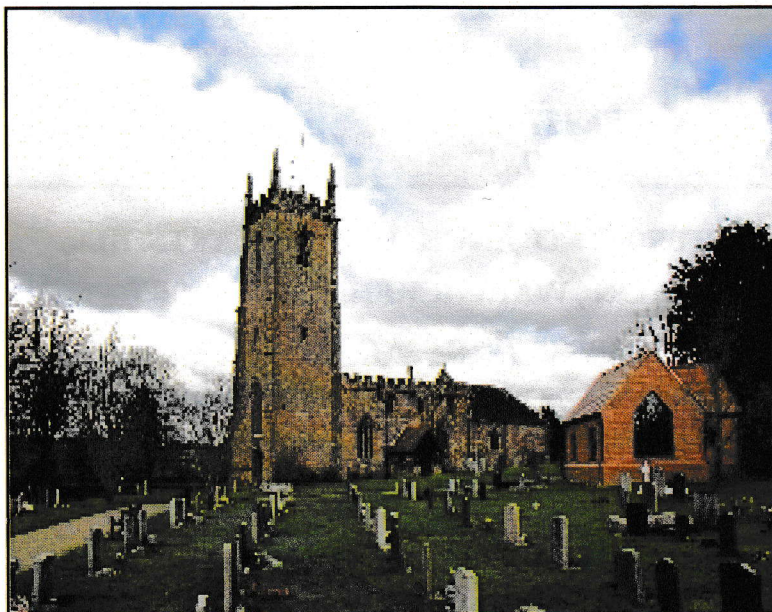
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Rev John's Jottings

Dear Friends,

Over the past few months there have been a number of major hurricanes and floods across the world. Our hearts go out to those who have experienced such frightening devastation. Like many natural events, despite all the technology to predict such storms, there is little that can stop the forces of nature, no matter how well prepared we can be. They can strike at any time and place, and they are no respecter of persons.

It was a fisherman's prayer that once said, 'Lord, the sea is so vast and our boat is so small, please help us!'

As human beings we can often convince ourselves that we are invincible and masters of our own destiny, when more often than not we are fragile and weak and don't even know what tomorrow will bring. Things can happen to us that, far less huge than tidal waves, can bring us to our knees. Our perspective on life and the world gets distorted. This is when having an anchor in life is extremely important.

For a number of years, I lived on the north-east coast of Essex, not far from a lifeboat station. Whenever there was a vessel in trouble, the 'maroon' (I leave you to Google it, if you don't know what this is!) would sound and the whole town would know the lifeboat crew would be embarking on their mission of rescue. It was my call to pray 'for those in peril on the sea'. Throughout my life, faith and prayer have been my anchor not just in the storms of life but every moment of each day. Dare I ask you - do you have an anchor in your life or are you just drifting in the sea of life? None of us are immune from the storms of life.

Wishing you a safe life's journey.

Rev John

## October St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 19	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time Screen
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Trinity 21	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup>	Last Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time Screen
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong

## St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 19	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 20	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Trinity 21	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup>	Last Trinity	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

### From the Registers

The baptism of Carter Lee Faulconbridge took place at St Laurence's Church on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September. He/she was surrounded by his/her parents, godparents, family and friends as he/she was welcomed into the Christian family. We wish him/her much love, laughter, good health and happiness through life's journey.

### Harvest at St Laurence

#### Preparations

Decorating the church for the harvest services will take place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Preparations will continue on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October from 9.00 a.m., followed by cleaning the church.

The church will then be open from 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Your help in supplying produce, flowers, arranging or cleaning will be very welcome.

#### Services

Harvest Holy Communion will be at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October at St Laurence's, when containers of gifts will be received at the altar during the service. Harvest Evensong is at 6.30 p.m.

#### Supper and Auction

The harvest celebration will conclude with a Harvest Supper and auction of produce in the Annexe on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> October. There will be a choice of fish and chips or chicken and chips, followed by apple pie or trifle. The cost is £6.00 per person. Please book your meal by contacting Diana Kealey (02476395089) or through a church member.

### Safeguarding Presentation

There has been much coverage in the press over recent years of incidents of abuse of young people by those in positions of responsibility in a number of organisations, including the Church of England. In order to better protect young people and vulnerable adults, the Church of England has reviewed its procedures and is ensuring that PCC members, and church officers (Anyone appointed or elected by or on behalf of the church to a post or



role, whether, ordained or lay, paid or unpaid) are clear about their responsibilities and the actions they should take.

The PCC has adopted the Diocesan Policy on Safeguarding and this is available for you to read in the Church Halls. You can also access the information by searching for safeguarding on the Coventry Diocese website.

On Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October there will be a Safeguarding Presentation at 2.00p.m. in the Annexe by a member of the Diocesan team. Everyone is welcome to attend. The purpose is to clarify various aspects of safeguarding and to explain the reasons behind the actions to be taken by us as a church. Do come along if you feel you would benefit from a clearer understanding of what requirements are now in place.

Our PCC Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Moreen Freestone. Please contact her if you have any concerns. (See front cover.)

### Children's Club

The Reverend John Langlands and his wife Frances will be running a children's club on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. in Ansley Village Hall. This is during the school half term week. Do pass on this information to families you know who may be interested. Further information is available from John. (See contact information on the front cover of this magazine.)

### Looking Ahead

#### November

#### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Diocese Centenary Event

This event entitled "Into a shared future," will be held at Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November from 10.00 to 16.00. Its aim is to offer a vision for the next 100 years for the Diocese, looking at three aspects,

Whole Diocese – Working together for God

Reconciliation – Participating in and with God

Deepening Faith – Receiving from God.

The day will include worship, a keynote speaker and a choice of workshops. A light lunch and drinks will be provided.

There will be a free children's programme for primary school children and provision for parents with pre-school children.

October. Bookings and workshop choices (2 per person) can be made online at [cov100.org](http://cov100.org). If you need help to make a booking or with transport, please speak to a church member.

#### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November - Back to Church Sunday

It may seem difficult to return to church if your attendance has lapsed for any reason.

This day will give you the opportunity to come along to one of the church services in Arley or Ansley as a fresh start. You will be made very welcome and the services will be user friendly! You can of course come if you haven't been to church before! Sometimes a situation we are facing in life, an event in the news or some other prompt leads us to want to rethink our priorities. The services on this day are for regular members of the congregation too!

### Shoebox Appeal

The annual appeal to fill a shoebox with presents for a boy or a girl will shortly be upon us.

Please check that you have read the leaflet (from St Laurence's or St John's) that explains what types of gifts are suitable. The boxes will need to be handed in by mid-way through November, so they can be taken to the local distribution centre.

### Christmas 2018

Autumn has barely begun but Christmas will be with us soon enough! If you would like to decorate a Christmas tree for our Christmas Tree Festival, the order forms are available now. Just speak to a church member or contact Margaret Antill or Margaret Kimberley. The cost of a tree is the same as last year - £14. Do remember to put a title for your tree on the order form.

The Christmas Raffle tickets will be distributed for sale next month. We appreciate your help in selling tickets and also would like to ask you to consider donating a prize (£5 to £10 value).

### St John's Harvest Celebration and Supper

Over thirty people enjoyed the supper/social at St John's. It was great fun. Donated produce and £100 was given to the Salvation Army.

### Sponsored Cycle Ride

Mr Phil Rees completed his cycle route on 8<sup>th</sup> September. He has been raising money in this way for Warwickshire Historic Churches Trust for many years and we are very grateful for his efforts. Half the amount he raises will be returned to St Laurence church funds. It is not too late to sponsor him! We will be able to advise you of the total he has made in next month's magazine, once we have collected his sponsorship money.

### Art Exhibition and Sale

The day was wet and the morning was quiet but it was quite busy during the afternoon. Over £140 was made for church funds. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

### Flower Festival

Once again this was a wonderful event, despite poor weather on the Sunday. It is pleasing to report a final total of £3230. Our charities, George Eliot Hospital League of Friends and The Acorn Hospice each received £403.75 and a sum of £646 was allocated to our church fabric fund. This could not be such an enjoyable event without the help and support of many people undertaking a wide range of tasks and responsibilities. It is very rewarding to see so many visitors enjoying the flower displays and the friendly atmosphere. Thank you to Ansley Morris for their entertainment on the Monday afternoon and to everyone who knows they helped in some way towards the weekend's success.

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### 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 a warden. Phone numbers are on the front cover of this magazine. Please remember that a visit can be arranged to anyone who is sick, but the wardens do need to know, so again please ring.

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



October, 2018

Welcome Autumn with all the sounds and sights it brings – the beautiful leaves of gold, yellow and orange and the nuts nestled among the leaves. We await this time of year to replenish our conkers, as we put them on the window sills in the house to keep away the spiders, and believe me it really does work.

St. John's has for the last few years given the Harvest offerings to the Salvation Army. This year, as we took in our donation, the place was full of men and women having breakfast. The smell was delicious; they were very thankful for our donation and it was a pleasure for us to see good works in action.

Bobby Jones was considered one of history's greatest golfers, but for all his victories he's famous for what happened in the 1925 U.S. Open. He inadvertently touched his ball and assessed himself a one-stroke penalty, even though no one else saw him touch the ball. He couldn't violate his conscience. By doing this he lost the Open by one stroke. When tournament officials tried to compliment him for his integrity, Jones simply said, "You might as well praise me for not breaking into banks. There's only one way to play this game." Bobby Jones certainly played by the rules.

The age of technology moves on and it was great to see the rise of wind power getting bigger. The wind farm they have built in Cumbria can power 600,000 homes. These turbines are enormous but best of all they use natural energy from the wind; they have been almost entirely made in Great Britain and are not belching harmful fumes into the atmosphere. Let us hope more wind farms are constructed.

There is a legend that the first Chrysanthemum was created by a Chinese bride to be who was told that her marriage would last for as many years as the petals on the flower on her wedding dress. She found a flower with 17 petals and carefully divided each petal into two, then four. The marriage lasted 68 wonderful years.

Marie Cove.