

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

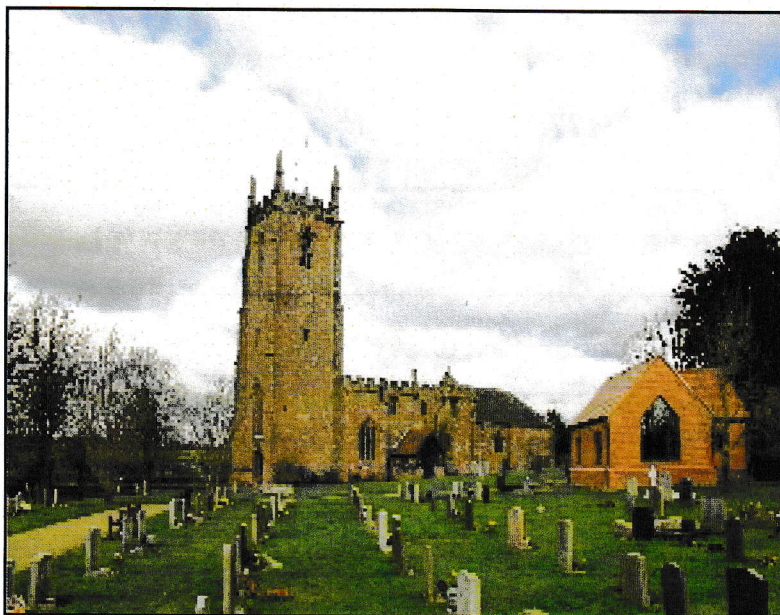
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Rev John's Jottings for October – What is Truth?

We've been hearing a lot about possible scenarios concerning Brexit – good things, bad things, hearsay, fake news, wise opinions, foolish opinions, false declarations, unsubstantiated claims, and conspiracy theories, amongst other things. More often than not, these are interpretations we face when making choices and a lot of decision making over much of life. Somehow, we need discernment to filter through what is truth and what is falsehood. Sadly, for some people, truth doesn't seem to matter. They rely on their feelings and what only matters to them, regardless of decisions based on truth, right or wrong.

However, if truth is ignored or rejected, our homes, communities, nations, and the world itself would become an even more difficult place to live than it is at present. Justice and freedom would no longer exist and people wouldn't trust each other. Wrong, cheating and evil would prevail. Did you know there was a time in history where these words are recorded in the Bible – 'Everyone did what they thought right in their own eyes' or in a more modern version of the Bible, 'everyone did as he or she saw fit'. It was a disaster. It was later spoken by a prophet of his day, Jeremiah, that 'The heart is deceitful above all else, who can understand it?' Truth was thrown out and chaos reigned. Sadly today, it is the basis of some people's ethics.

Thankfully, there is a better and wiser way to live other than relying solely on our feelings and what we think is right. It was Jesus who said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life'. Without His way there is no going, without His truth there is no knowing and without His life there is no living.

In a little while across the benefice we shall be running a series called 'Exploring Christianity' to which all are invited. Why not come along and find out more about 'What is truth'? It could make all the difference in the world!

Wishing you all a very measured and calm month– whatever happens!

Rev John

Message from Frances : Ansley Parent and Toddlers group starting in Ansley Village Church Hall early next year. Watch out for details.



### October St Laurence's Church, Ansley Services

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 16	10.30 a.m.	Ordinary Time Screen
		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 18	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Bible Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

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

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 16	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 17	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity 18	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bible Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

### From the Registers

#### Funeral

The funeral of Violet (Vi) Ashton, 94, widow of the late Jim took place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August, with the Flower Festival arrangements in place. It was felt fitting as Vi had always supported the festival, as well as many church events and services over the years. Vi was born in Ansley and lived her whole life in the Village, until her deteriorating health problems caused her to move, with her sister, to be nearer her niece's home. Vi worked for over 20 years in J.C. Smiths office (now Debenhams) before moving to Wagon Wrights and then to the D.H.S.S. until her retirement. Our thoughts and prayers are with her sister, brother and the wider family as they adjust to their loss.

### Harvest Festival

The second Sunday in October is our Harvest Festival weekend. This year has been more productive for most crops because of the rain and warmth earlier in the year. The wet August made gathering the cereal crops more difficult than last year, but most yields have been good. Potatoes have been particularly good.

To thank God for his goodness to us we will be decorating the church from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> and from 9 a.m. on Saturday and then cleaning the church. Any help would be much appreciated as will any gifts of flowers or produce.

The services are as shown above. Gifts will be presented at the altar during the 10.30 a.m. service.

On Monday from 9 a.m. we will be clearing the church and moving the produce to the annexe ready for the sale and supper that evening. To book your meal of fish and chips or chicken and chips with apple pie or trifle to follow, please contact Diana Kealey 024 7639 5089. The auction of the produce will follow. Cost £6.50. Everyone is very welcome.

### Prayer Meeting

The next prayer meeting will be held in the Annexe at 12.00 noon on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Please note the time. All are welcome to come along to this hour set aside for prayer.

The Rev. John will lead us and you are welcome to contribute or to listen and reflect in silence. The following meeting will be on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 2 p.m.

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

There was a good number at the service on the 8<sup>th</sup> September at St John's Harvest service. As previously all the produce was given to the Salvation Army who were pleased with the donations for their work with the homeless.

The Harvest Supper on the 6<sup>th</sup> was great fun and the meal was well received. Although those organising were very tired at the end of the day everyone agreed it was a good evening and £100 was raised for hall funds.

At the Hall committee meeting it was finalised that the proceeds of the Tea and Cake afternoon amounting to £300 be divided equally between three different charities. The Smile Train UK for work with children with cleft palates, The Guide Dogs and North Warwickshire First Responders.

#### Ride and Stride,

For many years now Phil Rees has loyally ridden his bike around churches in the area. This year, despite not being 100 % fit and taking a neighbour to hospital that morning was no exception. He set off and visited local churches, but was disappointed that he had not seen anyone on his way round. However he will have raised over £140 together with any Gift Aid that can be collected for the Historic Churches Trust. Half of this total will be returned to Ansley for our fabric fund in due course. We are very grateful to Phil for his continued help.

#### Art Exhibition and Sale

The 8<sup>th</sup> Art Exhibition and sale was a great success. The weather was very favourable and 88 members of the public visited and over £300 worth of paintings were sold. With more pictures than ever to display the old games room in the hall was used as well.

#### St Laurence's 55<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival

The hot sun shone and many people came to our festival this year, with the theme of "Rest". We had many comments in our visitor's book reflecting on the peace that they found. It is very rewarding to realise that our efforts helped people. Another observation was the vast number of stones that were put at the foot of the cross to help people leave their burdens with our Saviour.

Ever since our festival started the main object has been to bring the Christian message to all who come. We all need to rest from the work and daily pressures of life, and one of our first displays portrayed "On the seventh day God rested." Other displays included "Be still my soul," "He restoreth my soul," "In peace I will lie down and sleep." We all have troubles and as well as "Bringing all my burdens, sorrow, sin and care," we portrayed "I have no peace, no rest and my troubles never end," when we need to come to God for help. But then there are times when it is necessary to get up and act, e.g. "Rest not day or night," and finally from the hymn "We rest on Thee" we took "And in Thy name we go."

There were many hours of work carried out by a great many people in preparing for this event. Not just in creating the displays, but in making cakes, publicising, cleaning, tidying



the churchyard and manning the rotas, the list is endless. All this work was freely given and helped make it the wonderful event it was.

The forecast of a hot weekend after so much rain was encouraging. But with the church so warm, even overnight, it did make us wonder if the flowers would hold up, but hold up they did. People commented on how well they survived the heat, but it did mean that by the Wednesday when they were cleared there were not so many to share with others and leave in church for the next week.

The dry weather also meant that more people were able to sit out in the church yard, trying to find some shade and enjoying the Morris Dancing on the Monday afternoon. It was very encouraging for Ansley Morris that for their audience participation dance there were a lot more volunteers (including men!), that the 'dancers' took up the biggest part of the path between the church and annexe. We are very grateful to Ansley Morris for their continued freely given support to our festival each year.

The generosity of the many visitors some returning year after year, and some coming for the first time, has also made it a financial success, with a total of £3,260 raised. It will mean that £410 will be given to both Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends and the same amount to the Acorn Children's Hospice. The remainder being for church funds.

As usual the supportive atmosphere that accompanies our Flower Festivals did not change, the friendship and fellowship that is created in both the working together and helping one another was maintained.

We would like to thank all those who help and support this event each year.

#### Samaritan's Purse (Shoe Boxes)

If you are thinking of putting together a shoe box for the children of poor countries now is the time to be thinking of getting things together as they will need to be in by 19<sup>th</sup> November. Please make sure you include only things that are acceptable as listed on the form, which is available. Any queries please ask.

#### Advanced notices

Inner Wheel Club – Fashion Show 6<sup>th</sup> November Coton Sports Club, Tickets £5 in aid of Marie Curie, Mercia Therapy for Multiple Sclerosis and raffle in aid of Guide Dogs.

Spurgeons Coffee Evening - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m. At Diana's house.

Christmas Cards - Why not consider sending one card to all the congregation rather than to each individual, and perhaps make a donation to the church funds.

Christmas Tree Festival – If you wish to decorate a tree please don't forget to fill in a form.

#### 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.....

I was watching a programme about evacuees – the children who between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September 1939 were sent away from towns and cities to live in the safety of the countryside. This brought back memories for me as when I started my first job there was a girl in our office who had been evacuated from Coventry to Old Arley , which didn't seem very far from her home, However, she became very fond of the people who had taken her in, and she had kept in touch with them .

I can't imagine how hard it was for for parents to wave goodbye to their children (some as young as 3 years of age, not knowing where they were going and for how long.

We have been having some strange weather in August and September it has been really warm with sun as hot as the south of France. Then in the evening it is really cold. However, this year's harvest has been really good. We have had a good crop of Grapes, bag after bag of Runner Beans and Tomatoes and the flowers have been glorious.

As we hear on T.V. and newspapers how the high streets are going down, as we can see in Nuneaton town centre, it was lovely to read in the local newspaper that Nuneaton is to receive some funding from the Government, to fund towns with industrial and economic heritage. There is also another fund which is not the same but Nuneaton is also in the running, so let's hope Nuneaton will receive some funds to regenerate the town.

As the days get shorter and especially older people dread the cold let us remember:

Gone are the long bright summer days now autumn fires are aglow.  
Some of the trees will shed their leaves and colder winds will blow,  
But what care I what ills and chills may bring, there never was an autumn yet which did not turn to Spring.

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Marie Cove