

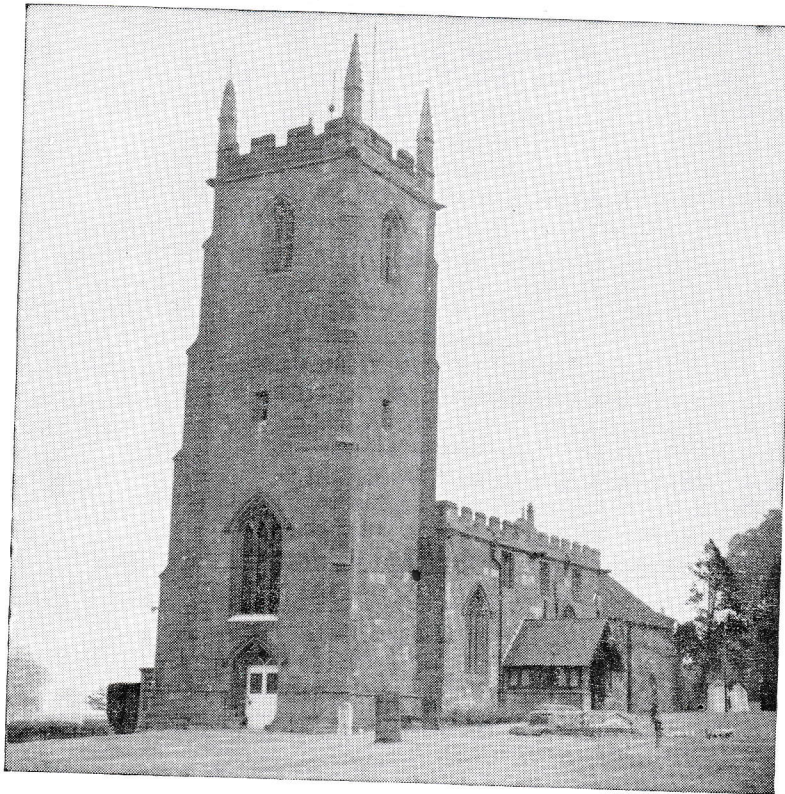
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends,

What do you think about healing? It's a subject that can raise more questions than it answers. When we see sick children, we often wonder why it's happened. Illness brings more worry and heartache than most things. Many people say 'If you've got your health, that's what matters.'

I believe that God can and does heal miraculously today. There are well-attested stories around the world which show that it happens. My own grandfather had a gift of healing, and some of the people he prayed for were still well many years later.

But for every person healed in such a way, there are many more that aren't prompting us to ask the question 'Why?' and to discover that there are no easy answers.

Healing is not just physical. People suffer for many years over sad and painful things that have happened to them. Prayer for healing can sometimes unlock the door for them to discover freedom from the past.

Relationships need healing too. Families can fall out for years, when they could have been a strength and support to each other. Friends fall out and don't speak. We even fall out with each other in the churches. In one church (not ours!) the churchwarden never spoke to the organist. When asked why, he said that they had quarrelled ten years before. 'What was the quarrel about?' he was asked.

'Can't remember,' he said, 'but we're not speaking.'

That attitude carries over into society, and we end up with a society full of broken relationships, divided loyalties, people using each other and getting hurt. Society also needs healing.

When Jesus was on earth he went about healing people and setting them free from the things that bound them. He still offers healing and peace to people today. We have to play our part as well. What can we do to bring healing to others?

A kind word, listening to one another, encouraging each other—these can all help. We also need to forgive each other, repent of our own wrong attitudes, and leave the mistakes and sins of the past behind us. Lack of forgiveness often holds up the healing process.

God has also given us the healing available through praying for each other, and through taking part in Holy Communion. Remembering Jesus died for us and our sins can bring great peace.

At the end of this month we will have services with a healing theme, when we will pray for each other and for our society. If you know of someone who would like to be prayed for, please let me know.

In God's love,
Gill and Geoff.

SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER — Theme: Jesus Teaches

Services at St. Laurence are at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

November 1st: a.m. Family Service.

p.m. Book of Common Prayer Communion.

November 8th: Remembrance Sunday service at 10.30 a.m., followed immediately by laying of wreaths at the War Memorial.

p.m. Book of Common Prayer Evensong.

November 15th: a.m. Morning Prayer.

p.m. Joint service at St. Wilfrid's, Old Arley for Confirmation with Bishop Anthony.

November 22nd: a.m. Holy Communion.

p.m. Evening Prayer.

November 29th: Advent Sunday. Services with a theme of healing.

a.m. Holy Communion.

p.m. Holy Communion.

Services at St. John's Hall are at 10.15 a.m., usually twice a month.

This month there will be a united service at St. Laurence for Remembrance Sunday, and no service at St. John's.

November 22nd: Family Service.

MID-WEEK SERVICES

Tuesday, November 3rd at 9.30 a.m. at St. John's, Ansley Common: Quiet Holy Communion.

Tuesday, November 17th at 9.30 a.m. in Ansley Village Church Hall: Shorter Morning Prayer.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fellowship and after-Alpha groups alternately on Wednesday evenings at 7.45 p.m. Venues to be announced.

Tuesday, November 10th: Youth Leaders meet at 34 Nuthurst Crescent to discuss next stage of expanding youth group.

Saturday, November 14th: Our Methodist friends have invited us to Trinity Church, Atherstone for a Quiz evening in aid of NCH action for children at 7.00 p.m.

Sunday, November 15th: We join St. Wilfrid's for the Ley Group Confirmation service. Please pray for Annette and Beryl as they prepare to become full members of Christ's Church.

WELCOME to James Davies, whose service of Thanksgiving and Blessing will take place at 2.30 p.m. at St. Laurence on Sunday, November 15th.

The church as always looked beautiful for Harvest Festival, and a happy time was had by all those who attended the auction of harvest produce. Many thanks to Norman our auctioneer, to all those who were generous both in their donations and in their buying, and to those who decorated the church and cleaned up both church and hall. The auction raised £182.28 for church funds.

NEWS FROM THE PCC

It has been agreed to replace the worn floor in St. John's Hall with new floorboarding. New fire exit doors will be fitted, the air raid shelter will be removed, and the redundant boiler house will be converted into a store room.

We hope this will make the hall safer for the groups who meet there:
Over 50's on a Tuesday afternoon;
Youth groups on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings;
Sunday morning services twice a month;
And the new drop-in centre which is due to start very soon.

St. John's is available for hire: Contact Pat Barnes, 69 Ansley Common.

At St. Laurence, some of the hymn books and bibles have been mended, but the Books of Common Prayer were very worn after many years use. We have been able to purchase new ones at 30% discount through the Prayer Book Society.

What a good idea! "Wear Denim for Diabetes." This was the recent fund raising project at Herbert Fowler School. A splendid sum of £100 was raised for the British Diabetics Association and in a very enjoyable way, when the children left off their uniforms for a day in favour of their favourite jeans and jackets. Well done!

AUTUMN

by Marie Cove

THE days grow short and sometimes cool,
The dragonfly has left his silver pool.
The flowers in the garden are getting few,
The leaves are now of golden hue.

This is the time when we long for Spring,
But still we can hear the birds that sing,
Still the sun gives her golden glow
And still the lawn we need to mow.

What a glorious season our Lord has made.
A season of light, a season of shade.
Autumn is beauty, autumn is rest.
Autumn is a time we love the best.

God gave us autumn to slow our pace,
Away from summer's frantic race.
Now when dusk comes quick and fast
By hearth and fire rest comes at last.

"All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above, Then thank the Lord, Oh thank the Lord for all His Love."

After many generations all of us from the very young to the very old know the words and along with "All things bright and beautiful" and "Away in a Manger" this harvest hymn "We plough the fields and scatter" must be the most well known throughout the age span, and as Harvest Festivals were held in schools and churches, we can be sure that this firm favourite was being sung with great gusto.

The church for Harvest Thanksgiving this year was a joy to behold and a lot of work had been done to achieve this result. You could only wonder as you looked around at the wealth of flowers, fruit and vegetables and of course the skill, surely we can't help thinking we truly have a harvest to be thankful for, and God is so good to us.

As we grow older it is strange how we lay store by different things. During Autumn as children walking to school we would bend a stick and gather dewy cobwebs—what for I do not know as we had to leave then outside when we got to school and of course they had disappeared when we came out. Now these cobwebs are a nuisance when we find them on the clothes line, prop, or along door frames and windows.

When we were walking along the hedgerow one day recently a little girl asked me what rose hips were, and this took me back to just after the war when we were paid by the pound for these at the local Chemist. These were then made into Rose Hip Syrup for babies. We girls would pick and pick while the boys were busy opening up the rose hips to find itching powder, which was dreadful if they put it down your neck. Rose Hip Syrup can still be purchased from Chemists but I suppose now it is done on a grander scale with Rose Hips grown especially for this purpose. What a shame we can't bottle these experiences so that we can uncork them for future generations to see exactly how things have progressed and changed, sometimes for the better, but not always.

I mentioned in an earlier edition that Mr. George Hodgkins was 90 years old, well Mr. Jack Thurman and Mrs. Allsop have just passed this milestone and Mr. Allsop is now 92 years old. Does anyone know if 92 is the oldest in the Parish or is there someone older?

Thinking about Proverbs and sayings, do you remember "Spare the rod and spoil the child?" Well, this is how it is put in Proverbs "Children just naturally do silly careless things, but a good spanking will teach them how to behave." Oh, how the modern generation would cringe at these words."

If anyone has any special memories, sayings or thoughts they would like to share, please get in touch with me and we can use them in future magazines.

Marie Cove.