

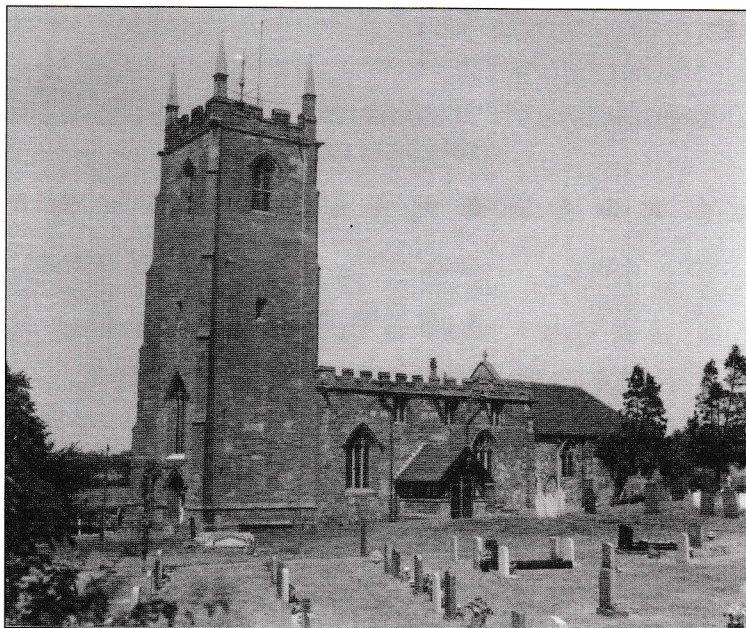
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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November

'Typical November day!' damp and dreary and the days are drawing in. What good can we say about November?

First it's special because it's a season of remembering. On November 12 we shall as we do each to give thanks for the sacrifice that so many made on our behalf and remember with gratitude all who served and gave their lives in the cause of peace. As we look back we too shall commit ourselves to the cause of peace and justice.

Second it's special because of its changes. The trees in an act of self-defence and survival shed their leaves and in so doing bring beauty to our lives.

Third it's a season of hope. After November comes the joy of Christmas and with winter over comes the delight of Spring. It may look and feel bleak but appearances are deceptive. Nature is preparing itself already for new life to come.

Enjoy November!

Enjoy life!

May the hope of Christ never disappoint us,

Your friend and vicar,

Peter

November What's On

St. Laurence's Church

Sunday 5 th	All Saints	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 12 th	Remembrance	10.30 a.m.	Special Service and Wreath Laying
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 19 th	2 nd before Advent	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship & Ministry of Healing
		4.00 p.m.	Baptism
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 26 th	Christ the King	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 5 th	All Saints	10.30 a.m.	Family Service & Sunday School
Sunday 12 th	Remembrance	10.30	Joint at St. Laurence
Sunday 19 th	2 nd before Advent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 26 th	Christ the King	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion & Sunday School

Other Activities at the halls and in the annexe will continue as normal.

Full details are on the notice boards

From the Registers

Baptisms

Missed from the last magazine – On August 20th Kirsty Ralph was baptised. On September 17th we welcomed Charlie Hutt in baptism it was good to see the family again. Our prayers and best wishes are with Kirsty and Charlie and all their families.

Weddings

On Saturday 7th October, the Church having been decorated ready for our Harvest Festival and with additional flowers provided the Church looked resplendent. First was the wedding of David Allton and Sarah Davis who arrived and departed on a tractor and trailer. Secondly in a nearly full Church the marriage of Joanne Tyler and Kevin Kane took place. Although windy it was a lovely sunny day for both couples.

Funerals

The funeral, followed by burial in the churchyard took place at St. Laurence's Church on September 13th of Betty Meehan (née Baskett). Betty was a natural homemaker. She also had a quite remarkable ability to find and to share joy and laughter in each and every situation – in health and in illness, in special moments and in the daily pattern of life. She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

The funeral took place on Monday 18th September at St. Laurence's of Olive Allton. There was a full church and each of us had our special memories and reason to be pleased that Olive was part of our lives. Her courage and laughter, her wisdom and friendship, her faith and her love we shall never forget. After the service she was buried

in the churchyard re-united with Frank. Our thoughts and prayers are with David, Peter, Sarah and Bradley and all of Olive's family at this sad time.

Remembrance Day

On 12th November we will be remembering all those who have given their lives in the service of our armed forces and as a result of war. Thinking not only of the two World Wars, but also the conflicts that have ensued and are still taking place around the world. The special service will commence in Church at 10.30, observing the two minutes silence at 11 o'clock and following the procession, the laying of the wreaths at the War Memorial.

St. John's Church Hall

The Tea Afternoon was held on Wednesday 13th September in the hall the weather not being as had been hoped, This very enjoyable and well supported event raised £127.50 Over the summer Marie Cove ran a quiz with all the answers being parts of the body., This was won by Frank Raven who obtained 69 out of 69, and raised £45 for St John's Hall funds.

St. John's Christmas Fayre

This year the event is being held on Saturday 4th November at 2.00 p.m. The event has been moved forward to make space in the diary to have the Christmas prize bingo in December and to enable you to buy presents at the Fayre before going to the shops. The people of Ansley Common have been working very hard making many different items for the stalls particularly knitwear There will also be cakes and refreshments on sale. Do come and support this event

Village Church Hall

In September the Senior Citizens had a sponsored Hymn sing. There were 21 hymns chosen and 16 were sung in the 20 minutes set. However we carried on and all 21 were sung before we stopped for our much needed drink. A total of £164 was raised for the hall funds. Thanks to everyone involved the pianist the singers and those who sponsored the members to raise this sum.

We apologise for any inconvenience by the changes in venue caused by the work on the new toilets.

Spurgeon

Margaret Oliver will be holding her usual Coffee Evening and Box Opening on Thursday 9th November at her home 29 Nuthurst Crescent. There will be a Bring and Buy with refreshments. This will provide a time for a good chat and support for disadvantaged children in this country.

Christmas Fayre

We will be holding our annual Christmas Fayre in the Village Church Hall on Friday 24th November at 7.30 p.m. There will be the usual Cake and Christmas stalls the usual assortment of other activities and the raffle. We will again be having the sponsored carols as part of the activities. If you wish to sponsor a carol please ensure your request is made before Wednesday 22nd the lists will be available in the hall and in Church in good time.

Harvest

This year saw some very strange situations over the festival. A week before the start we received notification that the Highways were going to close the road from the War Memorial to the other side of the bridge below the Churchyard. After contacting the authorities they advised that access would be maintained at all times although on the working days it would not be so easy. Special mention was made regarding the School service on the Monday.

The Church was decorated on the Friday and Saturday morning and looked lovely. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way.

The two wedding couples were notified of the situation and they were able to contact most of their guests to advise them that they would have to go through the barriers to gain access. These plans went fairly well to plan as did those on the Sunday – the barriers had been partly opened.

However on the Monday it was a different story. Arriving in good time the workmen who were now taking the surface off the road were approached. They knew nothing of the service and that access had been agreed, however they did agree, initially, reluctantly to allow the coach to come twice and about 40 cars, followed by the return after the service. While waiting for the first parents to arrive amid all the machines and noise a Borough Council worker arrived to clean the pavements! After a short word he decided that it was not the right time and went.

Shortly after one of the lorries having tipped its load of plainings removed from the road, failed to lower his lorry in time and got tangled with the electricity cables across the gate way. There were the initial fire works and then local people came to see why they had lost the power. The Old School were told by the workman near them 'Not us Gov.' He had not seen the happenings in the lane. By this time the parents and children started to arrive.

The service and presentations by the children proceeded, but with no light or music, they sang and recited their pieces and were told of the goodness of God to us, but to remember those less fortunate than themselves.

During the service the light was deteriorating and just as the children were about to leave the heavens opened. Fortunately it was not for long.

The plans for the Harvest Supper also changed. It had been arranged that work on the toilets in the Village Church Hall would commence in time for this event to carry on as planned, but the workmen were delayed and there was no hot water, or ladies toilets available. It was decided to move the Supper and Sale to the Annexe. With a bit of fetching and carrying this proved a very satisfactory change of plan.

The sale went ahead under the direction of Phil Rees and £215 was raised for church funds from the evening. The events of earlier in the day were recounted and everyone had a very enjoyable supper.

Christmas tree festival

This year we are planning to hold a Christmas Tree Festival in Church during December. The Church will be open 9th, 10th, 16th and 17th. If you as an individual, as a group or your business would like to decorate a tree for this event please contact Margaret Kimberley as soon as possible on 024 7638 4680. We have already allocated over 30 trees. Full details will be in the December magazine.

Just lately I wonder if we are having more than one April Fools Day a year, as very strange things are happening, e.g. some time ago we had a judge telling a blind man who in fact had no eyes, he had to have an intensive driving test before he could drive a car. I just thought this was hilarious. Also there is an advertisement for 'self-cleaning' glass. How on earth does that work?

After all the technology, not to mention the money paid out for C.D's, I-Pods etc., young people are now buying 7" vinyl single records.. At last I am back in fashion with my record player and my huge collection of 78's, 45's and long playing records. One teenage boy was asked how he would be able to play the records and he said 'I'll borrow my Granddad's record player', so watch out grandparents everywhere that your record players don't mysteriously disappear.

When out and about I can't help but notice changed behaviour. No longer do we see courting couples holding hands and going for walks; Mums and Dads no longer take baby out in a pram, but just strap them in the car and go to theme parks. It reminded me how I loved our Silver Cross high pram which I polished, my sister embroidered pillow cases and we had warm covers, making it very snug and comfortable - not like the flimsy buggies of today. In fact I did see a Silver Cross high pram the other day, but it was a doll's pram, and they can cost more than the modern prams.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the quiz and I must apologise that No. 45 was the wrong clue it should have been - Add EU to 55 and confuse, which would have made the answer Moustache. I have been asked to give the answers, which are as follows:

1. Hearts. 2. Hair of the dog. 3. Kidney. 4. Eye. 5. Iris. 6. Skeleton Key. 7. Skull & Crossbones. 8. Back off. 9. Tongue in cheek. 10. Headstrong. 11. Palm Sunday.
12. See eye to eye. 13. Backgammon or Mastermind. 14. Calf. 15. Chest of drawers. 16. Headquarters. 17. Eyesore. 18. Thumb a lift. 19. Waist. 20. Appendix.
21. Shoulder. 22. Toe the line. 23. Mouth. 24. Arm. 25. Eye witness. 26. Lip.
27. Colon. 28. Muscle. 29. Intestine. 30. Elbow grease. 31. Ear. 32. Shin. 33. Tooth & Nail. 34. Cheek. 35. Skinflint. 36. At arms length. 37. Vein. 38. Hip. 39. Iris.
40. Tongue or Ard toe. 41. Biceps. 42. Pancreas. 43. My left foot. 44. Eye lash. 45. --
46. Temple. 47. Scalp. 48. Brain drain. 49. Palm. 50. Eyebrow. 51. Instep. 52. Knuckle down. 53. Heel. 54. Pupil. 55. Stomach. 56. Kidney. 57. Tongue twister. 58. Eyes.
59. Anyone who had a heart. 60. Tom Thumb. 61. The Liver Birds. 62. Brain wave.
63. Back bencher. 64. Head start. 65. Hand. 66. Rib. 67. Nail. 68. Brow. 69. My heart will go on. 70. Adams Apple.

I am hoping to do another quiz for Christmas, but you'll be pleased to know this will not be so difficult and will only be for fun.

Marie Cove.