

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Celebration AND Commitment

Did you see the full page account in the Heartland Evening News for the celebration of the refurbishment of the Village Church Hall?

What a lovely time it was.

And what hard work has gone into the Hall over the past 3 years! It was good to celebrate in worship and with food and entertainment.. But also the service was about commitment.

Commitment to continue to look after the Hall.

Commitment to use the Hall for the benefit of the whole community.

Commitment to improve and extend St. John's Hall.

Commitment to the Lord Jesus who calls us to serve Him.

Celebration and commitment go together.

On Remembrance Day we shall celebrate the self sacrifice of those who fought and died in the service of mankind.

We shall commit ourselves to work unstintingly for peace and justice wherever it is under attack

At Christmas we shall celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace.

We shall commit ourselves to following Jesus in love and peace.

Celebration and commitment go hand in hand. Without celebration we have nothing to inspire us. Without commitment celebration can lapse into empty self indulgence. May celebration inspire commitment and commitment give you reason for celebration.

Your friend and vicar,

Peter

St. Laurence's Church - Services

Sunday 4 th	All Saints	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service In Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 11 th	Remembrance	10.30 a.m.	Special Remembrance Service
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18 th	2 nd before	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	Advent	6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion & Ministry of Healing
Sunday 25 th	Christ the King	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 4 th	All Saints	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 11 th	Remembrance	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 14 th		9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 18 th	2 nd before Advent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 25 th	Christ the King	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wednesday 28 th		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

Please note the 4 p.m. service will be in the Village Church Hall for November and December for craft work.

Other regular activities

These continue as normal full details on the notice boards

From the Registers

Baptisms

Ruby Ella Norman was baptised at the 10.30a.m. service on 30th September. She was such a contented baby with lovely smiles and gurgles for all especially when she was taken around the congregation after the baptism

Weddings.

At a lovely service, in which a member of the family and a friend did the readings, Jennifer Johnston married Jilles Swain at St. Laurence's Church on 22nd September. Both Jennifer and Jilles lit candles to entrust to God's love family members now departed who had made the day possible.

On a sunny Saturday 29th September Gail Sutton married Keith Cooke, before a large congregation of family and friends. The hymns were enhanced by Atherstone Chorale who also sang during the signing of the registers

Funerals

The funeral of Miss May Stain took place at St. Laurence's on 21st September followed by cremation at The Heart of England Crematorium.

A lady of passionate loyalty to family, friends and colleagues and an unswerving commitment to principle, May's long life of 95 years was an act of service and faithfulness to her friends, family and church. She asked that her funeral service to be a time of thanksgiving and that is precisely what it was – a celebration of her life and more importantly of the God she had served so faithfully. We shall treasure the stories of May but she will be greatly missed.

The funeral of (Alfred) Dennis Worrall (82 years) took place at the Heart of England Crematorium on 5th October. Dennis was born at Ansley Hall, and moved to the village when he married, and was often seen working his allotment. Dennis was quite a character, always had a smile for everyone, and loved nothing better than being with his family and friends. He will be greatly missed by his wife Eileen, sons Stephen and Andrew, their wives and the grandchildren and by all who knew him.

Remembrance Day

This year Remembrance Day falls on 11th November the date of the original armistice in 1918. At our special services we will remember those who paid the ultimate price in the service of our nation both in the World Wars, in the many conflicts since and still do so today. The services will commence at 10.30 both at St. Laurence's and St. John's the two minutes silence will be observed at 11.00 a.m. in conjunction with those at the Cenotaph and around the land.

After the service at St. Laurence the congregation will process to the War Memorial for the laying of the wreaths.

It is important, that as so many of the 'comrades' get older and are no longer able to recount their stories that we ensure that the sacrifice, and terrors of war are not forgotten. We also bring to God the terrible ordeals that, even today our servicemen and women as well as the indigenous peoples face in the troubled areas of our world.

Spurgeon' Child Care Trust

This year Margaret and Martin Oliver will be holding their annual box opening coffee evening with a 'bring and buy' on Thursday 8th November at their home 29 Nuthurst Crescent. Everyone is invited to come for a chat and help support disadvantaged children in this country.

St. John's Quiz

There will be a quiz evening with a bring and buy on Friday 9th November in St. John's Church Hall. This fun event will commence at 7 p.m. and teams of 4 will compete in the competition of questions on different topics. Teams can be made up upon arrival at the hall so please don't hesitate if you are not part of a foursome'. The cost will be £1 each.

Christmas Fayre

This year the Village Christmas Fayre will be on Friday 23rd November in the Village Church Hall commencing 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 21st the lists will be available in the hall and in Church in good time.

Christmas Tree Festival

We will be holding our second Christmas Tree Festival in December, anyone who saw last year's could not fail to have been impressed with the standard and variety of the sixty trees and the wonderful impression and atmosphere that generated from the church and all around. If you would like to decorate a tree this year please obtain a form from a Church member and return it as soon as possible. The cost of a tree is £10 and we ask that the tree be given a title with a tree theme. 'carpentry'. Decorating will be on 6th & 7th and the festival will be open Saturday 8th Sunday 9th and Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th December. The trees will remain in church for our Christmas services.

Again this year we will be supporting the local Air Ambulance charity.

Harvest

Our harvest thanksgiving got off to a wonderful start with the supper at St. John's on Friday 5th October. About 30 people sat down to a buffet dinner of meat pie, baked potatoes, quiche, and mixed vegetables, followed by apple pie and cream. Afterwards they had dancing, but by request it was mostly singing. Every one had a wonderful time. Thank you to all who helped organise this new event and made £157.50 for hall funds. The Sunday service was enhanced by the children and their drawings. The many gifts were given to Nursery Hill School for distribution with the gifts that they collect. Thank you to all who gave them.

The hall was packed and everyone, including the many parents and grandparents, really enjoyed the harvest songs, presented by the younger children from the school. Report on St. Laurence's harvest next month.

Morris Dancing at the Village Church Hall

Following the interest shown at the celebrations on 9th September there will be Morris Dancing classes by the Glorishears of Brummagem in the Village Church Hall on Thursday evenings commencing at 7 p.m. Those that have attended to date have had a really good time and are commenting on how much 'fitter' they are becoming. It is hoped these classes will be on a regular basis but, please note they will be arranged around the Parish Council meetings.

St. John's Church Hall

It was at a lovely service on Sunday 23rd September when the new items for the altar were dedicated to the service and glory of God. We thank the members of the Krazy Kettle Kafé for the gift, who work so hard each week cooking breakfasts. We also thank the many very appreciative customers who come and support the café each week.

Colouring Competition

Congratulations to Jody Goddard who won the July colouring competition on the last page of the 'Home Words' section of the parish magazine. Jody has been entering this competition each month for some time. The illustration she coloured was called 'From the highways and byways', by Angelo Ruta from the Parable of the rich man who invites his friends to a feast, but they all make excuses, so his servants are sent out to gather a crowd from the streets and alleyways. Well done Jody!

Coast to Coast Walk

Thank you to all who sponsored our walk a total of £560.25 was raised for the fabric fund. Ian & Margaret. Antill.

Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence and St. John's please hand the attached slip 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 forwho is

November, 2007

A religious Historian has written a book on English Country Churches, and to put his views into a nutshell, he wanted churches not only to be for worship, but also community centres. It seemed a bit strange to see an ancient church, which he showed, with computer stations at the back and it seemed irreverent as the church was so beautiful. He obviously, however, has not heard of St. John's as we have been putting his views into practice for many years. Of course we are not an ancient church, but we at St. John's have certainly moved into the 21st Century, as we offer church services and social events to every age in Ansley Common and beyond. St. John's is a happy place whether you bring your joys and concerns to our service, enjoy a tasty breakfast at the Krazy Kafe, join in the Youth Clubs, Sure Start, or come to our social events. We are, however, very lucky, as although we are a church we can also adapt with very little effort, and there is something for everyone and everyone is invited, and made very welcome.

I was thinking the other day of an old saying which isn't very 'politically correct' today - 'a little of what you fancy does you good'. Now it seems that everything you would like to eat is bad for you - it either makes you fat, gives you high cholesterol, heart attacks or diabetes. At one time I couldn't walk past Sherbert Fountains, Dolly Mixtures, Jelly Babies etc. I would buy at least a pound of mixed sweets every weekend (I didn't of course eat them all myself) and I was quite a connoisseur on all things sweet. Now I don't find it hard to resist sweets, not because they would be bad for me but because as I have grown older my sweet tooth isn't so sweet. Now I love Prawns, Yellow Plums, Dates etc., and I completely leave out the sweet aisle at the Supermarket. I would add though, I am not a lover of salad or vegetables, especially Parsnips and Turnips, but I just wish the Runner Bean season was a lot longer. So I think that our tastes change throughout our lives and what you loved once, now doesn't appeal at all. There is hope for all the young chocoholics!

I was given a lot of very old knitting patterns by a man whose wife had died and among them were some complete 'Woman's Weekly' magazines. I read them all as I was so fascinated with the adverts, the stories and the letters. Life was so much simpler, morals more defined, but most amazing was that so many designs can be made from a few simple stitches. As an avid knitter since I was very small, I feel sorry that more young people don't knit, because this means only a very few do. As women grow older they either have arthritis and can't knit; their eyesight is quite poor or they haven't so much concentration. What a shame, because there is no better feeling than seeing a finished garment especially if it's for someone else, and they appreciate it.

Marie Cove.