

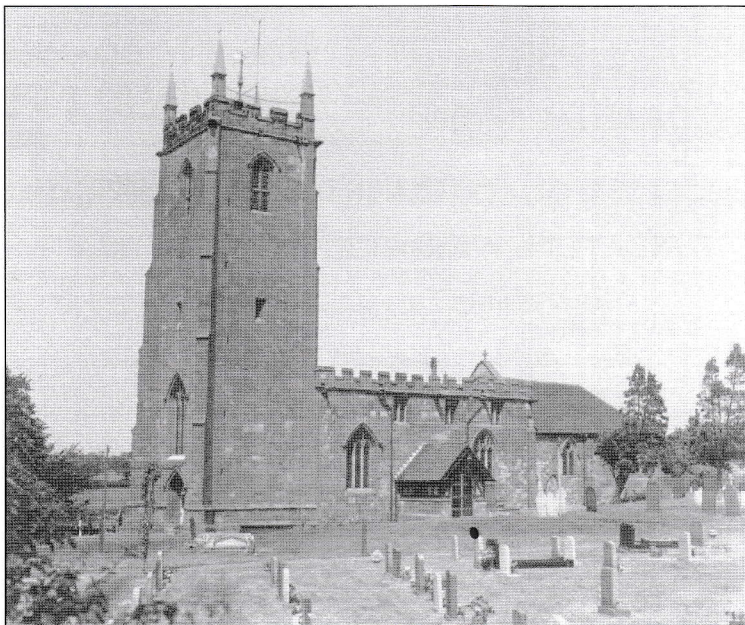
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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Vicar:

REV. PETER ALLAN

Tel: 024 7639 9070

Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL
MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 01827 874520
Tel: 024 7638 1833

St. Johns Leaders

DAVID & MARIE COVE

Tel: 024 7639 4114

Lay Reader:

MANDY WATTS
GWYNETH HICKMAN

Tel: 024 7639 7654
Tel: 024 7639 8901

www.ansleychurch.org

Print Centre 0800 389 4089

November editorial

In Time Of Crisis

It is simply impossible to predict the state of the economy as you read this letter. I hope and pray that after a time of extreme turbulence things will have settled down. But some things will never be the same again.

We can't go on borrowing money that isn't there.

We can no longer believe that the markets left to themselves will simply work everything out.

Perhaps as churches we have been trying to say this for a long time. It all seemed a little pathetic, going on about morality when the system was working well.

But the system has let us down. Times are hard and as always the poor suffer worst.

We need to return to two principles: We can not get anywhere without work and waiting
AND We must appreciate that material things can not fulfil our needs.

Money is essential but it can not sort out everything. As far as we are able let us take this opportunity to rediscover what has been missing in our lives. It is not too late to start afresh. Let us never again see money as the answer to everything. Let us not see our lives as making money to gather around ourselves the things of our choosing.

There is a better way. Let us enjoy the world that God has made. Let's enjoy the things that can not be bought and sold - relationships, a sense of wonder, prayer, love.
Let us celebrate everything that does not come with a price tag.

Your friend and vicar,

Peter

November, St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 2nd	All Saints	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service in Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 9th	Remembrance	10.30 a.m.	Special Service and laying of Wreaths
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 16th	2nd before	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	Advent	6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd	Christ the King	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 30th	Advent Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Holy communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 2nd	All Saints	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Wednesday 5th		9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 9th	Remembrance	10.30 a.m.	Special Service
Sunday 16th	2nd before Advent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Wednesday 19th		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd	Christ the King	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 30th	Advent Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St. Laurence

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards

From the Registers

Baptism

The baptism of Isabella Jeanie Osborne took place at St. Laurence's on 21 September,. In a full church, the all-star cast of 'The Labourers in the Vineyard' was only up-staged by Isabella herself!

Funeral

The funeral of Ron Darby late of Ansley Hall took place at the Heart of England Crematorium on September 29th Ron was renowned for his hard work, selflessness, courage and sense of humour. He made the most of all the opportunities life gave him and even more the opportunities he grabbed along the way! Seconded from the REME to serve with the Gurkhas his notable distinctions were honoured by a Gurkha escort at his funeral service. He will be greatly missed by his wife Muriel, his lads Paul and John, his family and his many friends

Remembrance Day

This year we will remember those who have given their lives or been wounded in the service of our nation on Sunday 9th at special service both at St. Laurence and St. John's. The wreaths that are brought to the altar at St. Laurence's will be taken to the War Memorial and placed there after the service.

We will honour those who have served our nation and pray for those who serve in the forces at this present time and face danger every day.

Spurgeon Child Care

On Wednesday 19th November Margaret Oliver will be holding her annual Bring and Buy coffee evening at her home 33 Nuthurst Crescent in aid of Spurgeon Child Care. At this event the boxes in which people have saved coins over the past year will be opened and counted. There will be cake, coffee/tea and good company for a very enjoyable evening in aid of this charity which helps disadvantaged children in this country.

St. John's Events

The people at St. John's have been working hard all year to raise funds for the work to be carried out shortly in the hall. In November there will be the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 15th at 2 p.m. There will be those little gifts, rapping things and lots of interesting things to make the season jolly with all the usual stalls and refreshments available.

On Monday 24th there will be the Christmas Prize Bingo in the hall with eyes down at 7 p.m. This event is always good fun and there will be a drink at half time. Any donations of either Bingo prizes or items to sell at the bazaar would be much appreciated.

The Christmas Fayre

This year the Christmas Fayre in the Village Church Hall will be held on Friday 28th at 7.30p.m. There will be the usual Cake, Christmas stalls and assortment of other activities plus the raffle.

Both the Bazaar at St. John's and the Fayre in the village are a good community start to the Christmas preparations in the parish. Do come to one or other or even both and have an enjoyable time.

Advent Sunday

Each year the two morning congregations of St. John's and St. Laurence join together for this Sunday which this year falls on 30th November. The joint service will be at St. Laurence at 10.30 a.m. If there is anyone who requires transport please contact one of the wardens, as the taxi will run. Please remember the taxi runs each Sunday evening and if you live in the parish and wish to make use of this service please do contact the wardens.

Flower Festival

Missed from last month's report.

We wish to thank the Ansley Morris Dancer's who came and danced in the churchyard on the Sunday of the Flower Festival. It was wonderful to see the old tradition taking place perhaps in times gone by such an event would have been common each year at such a festival. It was disappointing that there were so few people watching at the start, but it did clash with the closing ceremony of the Olympics, and there were more to watch the second presentation.

The fruit cake that was raffled was won by a lady from Sheepy Magna

The quiz was won by Kathleen Cashmore who got 55 correct modes of transport. If anyone wishes to know the answers please contact Moreen Freestone on 024 7638 1833.

Krazy Kettle Kafé

On Thursday 18th September the last breakfasts were cooked at the Krazy Kettle Kafé. It was a very busy happy but also sad time for all and the added bonus of the press coming and taking photographs added to the memorable event. Hetty Sharman and Joy Pethick went on their well deserved holiday a few days after ensuring the kitchen had a good spring clean.

Many many thanks to the ladies and men who have given their time so freely to help this venture.

Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who gave towards the wonderful display of produce that was given and the lovely flowers that made the Church so lovely. The Harvest Sale and Supper was a very happy time and the proceeds of the sale amounted to £154. The surplus of the meal and donations enabled a further £56 to be added to the total for the evening Thank you Everyone.

Christmas Tree Festival

We will be holding our third Christmas Tree Festival in December, anyone who saw either of the last two 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 £11 and we ask that the tree be given a title with a tree theme. Decorating will be on 11th & 12th and the festival will be open Saturday 13th Sunday 14th and Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st December. The trees will again remain in church for our Christmas services.

Duncan & Helen Watts

Having spent the last two years in Central Asia we are now back in the UK for 6 months, for a time of refreshment, spending time with friends and family. At 10 Nuthurst Crescent on Saturday 15th November we are going to host a series of presentations about what we have been doing and the challenges facing Central Asia. These will start at 10am, 2pm and 7:30pm. The presentations will last roughly 1 hour and include a time of prayer for the area. Drinks and Central Asian nibbles will be provided! Please feel free to come along to the session that suits you the most. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Duncan and Helen will also be speaking to us at the morning service on 16th November at St. Laurence

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 slip below 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, 2008.

Have you ever noticed that the younger generation think we 'oldies' were never young, even something from another planet. We were talking about Nuneaton years ago - Yoxalls cake shop, De Di's Ice Cream Parlour, and I said to my Grandson that his Granddad and I always met at De Di's before we went to the cinema. He thought it was hilarious - 'You didn't go to the pictures did you?' When did he think we lived - before the movies or possibly in the Stone Age before electricity? He even wanted to know some of the films we saw. Perhaps he needed proof that we really did go to the cinema.

We often take words for granted and never think of where they came from. You see notices 'Trespassers will be prosecuted'. Well, the word 'trespass' comes from the word 'misstep' which means to take a step in the wrong direction or to make an error of judgement or conduct. This sounds about right because if you ignored the notice on the gate of the farm near our childhood home, the farmer would soon chase you off, or even at one time he reported our cousin to the police.

Coming through France on our way back from holiday, we had left sunny, warm Italy and now it was getting cooler and rainy. Then we saw a beautiful double rainbow which filled the sky. This reminded me not of the legend of the crock of gold at the end of the rainbow but God's promise that He would put a bow in the sky as a promise that never again would He flood the whole earth and never again would all beings be destroyed by flood. This is a promise we still have after thousands of years.

I recently learned an amazing fact - Locusts can't really fly; their wings are too narrow, but they can jump 200 times their own height, and timing is everything. The Locust waits until the wind blow, then he jumps and the wind carries him to his destination. As you see clouds of Locusts, I would think they all co-ordinate their jump to land at the same destination at the same time. Otherwise how do they do such devastation as they strip field after field bare of vegetation.

Motto for November: If there's ice in November that will bear a duck,
There'll be nothing after, but sludge & muck.

Marie Cove.