

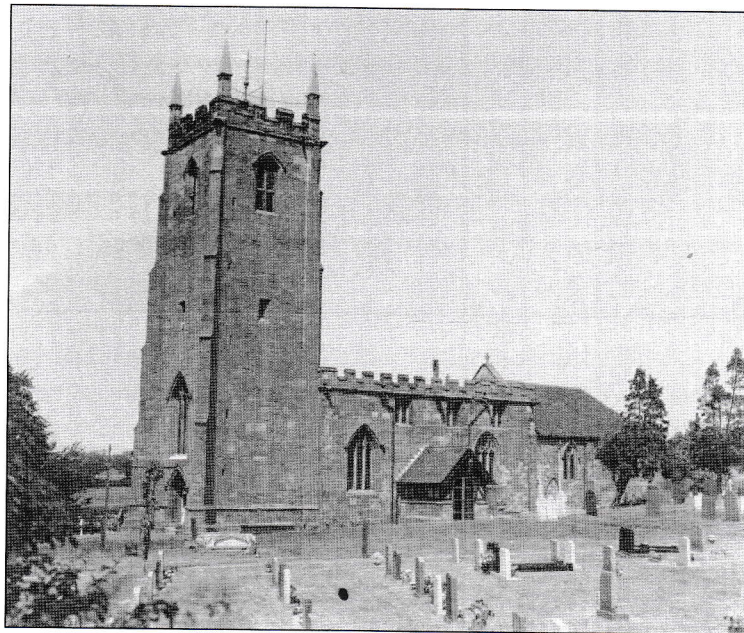
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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Who wants to be a millionaire ?

It was just before Easter 2003 when I received from Bishop Anthony Priddis the offer of appointment as Priest-in-Charge of Ansley and Arley. I wasn't expecting the offer (that's a story for another time) so I didn't know quite what to say. "Take your time" he said "pray and get back to me".

I would love to say I was deep in prayer when God spoke to me. I have to be honest. I was watching "Who wants to be a millionaire?" Then when the commercial break came and Chris Tarrant said "Don't go anywhere," I knew I had to go to the study, pick up the phone and telephone my acceptance. I am glad I did.

Ever since then that figure of a million pounds has stuck in my head. No I haven't won a million. But the churches of Ansley and Arley have raised a million pounds over the past years to renew, refurbish or extend our buildings. Leaving aside the money spent restoring St. Laurence's and St. Wilfrid's and the money raised for the Ley Group we have raised one million pounds to make our buildings fit for church and community work in the twenty first century. The Annexe was built in 2003, Ansley Village Church Hall celebrated its refurbishment in 2007, St. John's Hall's refurbishment was completed in July 2009 closely followed by the opening of Arley and St. Michael's Community Centre in October of the same year. After a gap of three years work is about to start on The Old Barn at St. Wilfrid's. I wonder whether it would make sense after the Old Barn is opened whether to celebrate the whole remarkable story.

But I don't want you to go away with the idea that building work is the purpose of the Church or that Chris Tarrant is my great hero. I want instead to think of St. Francis of Assisi whom we commemorated on 4 October. Whilst praying in the semi derelict church of St. Damian he distinctly heard the words : " Go and repair my church, which you see is which you see is falling down". He took these words to mean repair the ruined building but God took him much further than that. Others joined him and he prepared a simple,gospel-based rule for them all to live by. From that came the Franciscan Order one of the most refreshing, loving inspiring influences for the Church in the Middle Ages - an influence that continues to inspire millions today.

We have only just begun!

Your friend and Vicar,4

Peter

November St. Laurence's Church – Services

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Sunday 4 th | All Saints | 10.30 a.m. | All Age Worship |
| | | 6.30 p.m. | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 11 th | Remembrance | 10.30 a.m. | Special Service |
| | | 6.30 p.m. | Evensong |
| Sunday 18 th | 2 nd before Advent | 10.30 a.m. | Morning Prayer |
| | | 6.30 p.m. | Holy Communion |
| Sunday 25 th | Christ the King | 10.30 p.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. | Special Service |
| 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 |

Discussion Groups

The year through the Bible' – Wednesday 7th November 7.30 p.m. 10 Nuthurst Crescent. (Discussing the Christian Bible – Tuesday 13th November at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

From the Registers

Baptism

The baptism of Liam Dominic Jones took place at St. Laurence's Church on 30 September. It is always good to welcome back couples married at St. Laurence's so it was particularly good to welcome Richard and Lisa as we celebrated the birth of their second child.

Remembrance Day

This year we will be holding our special Remembrance Day services at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 11th November. We will remember all those who have laid down their lives or been wounded in the service of our nation that we might live in freedom. We thank God for their sacrifice and we will pray for peace and reconciliation around the world.

The poppy wreaths will be taken to the altar during the service, and at 11 a.m. the two minutes silence will be observed with the live broadcast from the cenotaph. After the service the wreaths will be laid at the War Memorial.

At St. John's they too will be observing the two minutes silence in their own special service. Everyone is welcome to join in these acts of remembrance.

Quiz

We will be holding another of our quiz evenings in the Village Church Hall on Friday 9th November. It will start at 7.15 and questions will commence promptly at 7.30 p.m. Teams of 4-6 members each, (If you are not in a group but wish to participate please come along and there will be teams you can join).

After the first session of 5 rounds there will be a "supper" of vegetable soup with bread followed by dessert. This will be followed by a further session of 5 rounds. Answers will be given after each session. There will be prizes for the highest scoring team as well as a booby prize. There will also be a raffle. Proceeds will be split between church funds and the Air Ambulance. Please book your tickets, from Sue Rickets or church members.

Spurgeons Child Care

This year Margaret Oliver with Martyn's assistance will be holding her annual coffee evening on Wednesday 28th November at their home 33 Nuthurst Crescent at 7.30 p.m. The boxes will be opened and counted during the evening, if anyone has a box and is unable to attend please hand it to Margaret over the next few weeks. We have supported Spurgeons Child Care for many years in their work with vulnerable young people.

As usual there will be plenty of tea, coffee and excellent cakes, together with a bring and buy stall and plenty of time to chat to friends old and new. Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Fayre

A sure sign that Christmas is not so far away. This annual event will be in the Village Church Hall on Friday 16th November, commencing at 7.30 p.m. Entrance will be £1, your ticket will be entered into the draw for the door prize and will include a mince pie and tea or coffee. There will be the usual array of stalls including the cake stall. This year as something new, we will be having a game of bingo after the refreshments, for a hamper provided by the members of the Senior Citizens. There will be a time for singing carols and a short reflection on the true meaning of Christmas. This will be a time for meeting with friends old and new and catching up with the news of others. The raffle for which tickets will be on sale during the preceding weeks will also be drawn.

If anyone has a raffle prize or items for one of the stalls please do contact a member of the PCC beforehand to let them know what to expect and get them to the hall during the preparations between 2 to 4 p.m. that afternoon.

As with all events if anyone would like to help in any way please do just say so to one of the wardens, there are always tasks to be undertaken and if more people help the few are able to also participate in the enjoyment of the evening.

Marie's Christmas event.

This year Marie and Dave are holding their Christmas Event on Friday 30th November at their home 28 Nuthurst Crescent from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and there will be a warm welcome for everyone. There will be a bring and buy stall as well as a lot of handycrafts items, also a raffle and plenty of tea and cakes to eat. Proceeds will be for St. John's Church Hall.

St. John's Christmas Prize Bingo

This year it will be held on 3rd December and will as usual be eyes down at 7 p.m. This will be the last bingo session to be wholly organised by Hetty, Joy and Barbara, who have decided to pass on some of the work to other members of the community. It is sure to be a good time and we thank Hetty, Joy & Barbara for all they have done and will continue to do for the Bingo sessions and other events in St. John's. The Hall Committee also thank Sandra, Kay and Barbara for taking on part of this work.

The session on 15th October raised £100

Shoe boxes

Please remember your shoe boxes need to be in by 11th November. Any queries please speak to Marie Cove 024 7639 4114.

St. John's Events

The Halloween fancy dress party on 26th October had not taken place when this issue went to the printers, but it was already a sell out by the 8th October – report next month.

Harvest

The weather was kind as the preparations for our Harvest Festival were carried out on the Friday and Saturday and also on the Festival day itself, and we thank God for it. It was recognised that the harvest of 2012 has been very difficult for all, the farmers, allotment holders and gardeners alike, and we continue to pray for those facing especially difficult. The church looked lovely in its festive array for harvest, many thanks to all who helped in any way, giving the produce and flowers, decorating the church and cleaning both after the decorating and also after everything had been taken to the annexe.

The three services were lovely and enjoyed by everyone. At the 10.30 a.m. service the donation of £126.40 from the Flower Festival was presented to the Acorn Children's Hospice representative. Also presented by Ian O'Callaghan was £90 that he raised from photographs taken with the Olympic torch during the festival.

At the 6.30 p.m. service the donation of £126.40 was presented to the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends.

Both organisations greatly appreciate our continued support each year

The Harvest Supper and Sale were enjoyed by all who came and for the first time that can be remembered all the produce was sold on the evening and made a wonderful £196.

Land Registry

This may seem a strange item, but all land in England is having it's "title" (ownership) registered at the Land Registry. For many centuries the ownership of land was proved by a bundle of deeds which increased in size each time a transfer took place. Then over 40 years ago all changes were registered at the Land Registry and the old bundles of deeds are being dispensed with, as far as a legal document, but could be of great interest to those doing family history.

However, St. Laurence along with many other churches do not even have a bundle of deeds so the solicitors at the diocese are having to contact each parish and ensure that the land on which the respective church is situated has the correct boundary. Mistakes in this type of work as many will know are very time consuming and can be difficult to correct. The wardens are pleased to advise you that the boundaries for our churchyard and the car park are correct on the documents circulated. It is understood the Village Church Hall will be done at a separate time. St. John's Church Hall was registered around 2000 when it's ownership was transferred from the coal authority to the church authorities.

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

Autumn is known as the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness; well we have the mists but the fruit is very sparse. We went to gather conkers and in the two usual places we go there was not one single conker, whereas other years you could gather carrier bags full. However, the trees are a picture in shades of yellow, gold and red and the roses are still blooming.

On the radio they were debating the decline of the Icecream Man as supermarkets sell packs of lollies etc. at such low prices. I can remember when Mr. Palladino (a little old man with white hair), used to ride his bicycle around Nuneaton selling ice cream. I can honestly say his ice cream was the best ever. We were playing in the street one day when DeDi's ice cream van broke down. The man shouted to me 'look after my van while I 'phone the depot'. So there was I in the ice cream van with all of the rest of the children looking on. I didn't have to serve anyone, but the man gave me a huge ice cream for looking after his van. I was thrilled, but I think he chose me because wearing glasses I must have looked more sensible than the rest of the children.

Mr. Palladino was only one of the people whom everyone knew. We had Mrs. Dewis who kept the sweet shop on the corner of Oldbury Road who had fabulous sweets and Mr. Arnold (nee Walters), both of whom had infinite patience and I am sure if you had asked for a sweet from each jar, they wouldn't have grumbled. Mrs. Arnold also ran a Christmas Club where even children could choose what they wanted to purchase, as they sold everything you can mention as well as sweets. She would put the item away, give us a card and we would pay as little as one penny per week.

Another edict from the E.U. – don't re-use jam jars. How many millions of jars have been re-used over the years. How many people had illnesses eating jam from re-used jars – none! What is happening to our legacy of jam making, passed on from generation to generation? What with playing conkers being a dangerous sport and now this, is someone somewhere trying to destroy our English way of life.

We have all heard the expression to get off 'Scot free'. Well, it has nothing to do with Scotland. The word 'scot' is an old Norse word meaning payment made to a landlord or sherriff, so if you were allowed to get away without making a payment, you were 'scot free'. I wonder why so many expressions from Norse get into the English language.

'Every wife would be well-to-do, if the pay were as steady as the work' Anon.

Marie Cove