

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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## Happy Anniversary

I was really pleased to receive from my training incumbent an invitation to the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination.

It is six years since we last met and twenty seven years since I served as his curate, so it was good to meet up again.

It was great to enjoy worship together, to meet "old" friends and to share reminiscences. I was particularly touched to meet someone who still remained grateful for God's blessing after I had prayed and laid hands on him for the healing of his eyes. It was also good to get back in touch with the foundations of my initial training and the values in which I was nurtured. For that I am most grateful.

At the same time it became obvious to me that since I left that parish and, perhaps especially, in these past ten years at Arley and Ansley, my understanding of faith and ministry has grown and developed.

In the celebration service there were two readings, both from the Epistles. As the years have progressed I am more and more fascinated by the person of Jesus. My celebration service would have to have a Gospel reading.

The life of the world beyond the church was only mentioned in passing and that mention was negative. We were urged to ensure that those outside the church do not compromise its message or its morals. I have a different approach now. The Church that is true to Jesus must seek to exercise a positive transforming influence on the world. There is so much in the Bible about poverty, justice and the need to fight oppression. We simply cannot ignore our God given duty.

The service was a ministry of the Word. I know such services are greatly valued and I do appreciate them. However I also value worship that appeals to the senses - Candlemas and Chringle come to mind -and I appreciate services such as Messy Church in which the congregation actively contributes. So my celebration would include elements of these also.

Having written this I can imagine people thinking that I had fallen from a clear understanding of the truth into something much less clear and cogent. Or you may understand and agree with my journey. You decide and if you so wish let me know.

*Have a blessed November,*

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter



### November St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	All Saints	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Second before Advent	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christ the King	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong

### St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	All Saints	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Second before Advent	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christ the King	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Discussion Group Please note the change of time.

Fellowship Group – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 10.00 a.m. in St John's Church Hall.

### From the Registers

No entries this month.

### Remembrance Day

Our special Remembrance Day service at St Laurence's will be at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November. This is when we 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, then at 11 a.m. the two minutes silence will be observed using the live broadcast from the cenotaph. After the service the wreaths will be laid at the War Memorial.

St. John's will be observing the two minutes silence at their special service.

Everyone is welcome to join in these acts of remembrance.

### Confirmation

There will be a confirmation service at St Wilfrid's church in Old Arley on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 p.m. Our prayers are with Caroline Day from Ansley Common and the other candidates as they prepare to commit themselves to the Lord.

### Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal

Leaflets about this appeal are available from St Laurence's and St John's members. Marie Cove 02476394114 has asked for filled shoe boxes plus a £3.00 shipping donation to be delivered to her by 10<sup>th</sup> November so that she can take them to the local collection point. The website at [www.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk) gives details of the

charity's work. Find out about Operation Christmas Child by clicking on "What we do" on the home page.

#### Spurgeon Child Care Coffee Evening

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, from 7.30 p.m., Margaret and Martyn Oliver will be hosting a coffee evening at 33, Nuthurst Crescent in aid of this charity. We have supported this charity, which works with families and vulnerable young people, for many years. If you have a Spurgeon collection box, either bring it along with you, or return it to Margaret at another time. While the boxes are opened and the contents counted, there will be coffee, cake and chatting, plus the sale of bring and buy items. All are welcome to come along and enjoy this social gathering.

#### Marie's Christmas Event

This will be held in Marie and Dave Cove's home at 28, Nuthurst Crescent on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, from 2.00 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Come along and support the bring and buy stall, the sale of handicrafts, the raffle and to enjoy the refreshments, cakes and friendly company. Proceeds are for St John's Hall funds.

#### Christmas Fayre

You are warmly invited to our Christmas Fayre on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November in Ansley Village Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. Entry is £1, with a door draw prize, plus a mince pie and tea or coffee. There will be cake, gift and white elephant stalls among others. Instead of the bran tub, there will be a tombola. People who usually kindly give prizes for the bran tub are invited to bring gifts for the tombola instead. Small games will also feature, including a game of Bingo for a hamper prize, provided by members of the Senior Citizen's Group. The latter proved to be very popular last year. The tradition of singing carols will be continued and there will be a short reflection on the true meaning of Christmas. This is an excellent and enjoyable opportunity to catch up with your friends and to make new ones. Tickets for the grand raffle are already on sale, with a good variety and number of prizes anticipated.

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. Setting up of stalls and other preparations will take place between 2 and 4 p.m. that afternoon.

Help of any kind will be much appreciated and will contribute to the success of the evening, so do let us know how you would like to be involved.

#### Christmas Tree Festival

Come and enjoy the dramatic spectacle of sixty Christmas trees arranged around St Laurence's church which will be decorated by members of the local community. The trees represent the creative ideas of individuals, local businesses and organisations. They reflect all that goes to make up our local community life. Admission is £2.00, with accompanied children having free entry. Light refreshments will be available in the annexe. This event is in aid of church funds, with 10% to go to Nuneaton and North Warwickshire Equestrian Centre for the Disabled at Galley Common.

The festival will be open on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December from 11.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.



### Harvest at St Laurence's

The colourful displays of flowers and fruit looked beautiful and inspired us to give thanks to God for all he provides. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the harvest celebrations, to those who gave produce, those who decorated, cleared and cleaned the church and all who organised or came to the supper and sale. It was a very good year for marrows! The last of them were sold to members of the medieval church history group who have been meeting in the annexe over the last few weeks. A total of £244 was made for church funds, so thank you again.

### Quizzes

We were sorry to have to cancel the quiz that had been planned for 25<sup>th</sup> October in Ansley Village Church Hall and hope it can be held on another occasion. Have you attempted the quizzes from St Laurence and Ansley Common? They are both excellent tests for exercising those "little grey cells", so if you, or your family and friends, like a challenge they can be obtained from church members or around the village.

### St. John's Halloween Pie and Sweet Social

Report next month.

### Ride and Stride on 14<sup>th</sup> September

The final total raised by Mr Philip Rees for Warwickshire Historic Churches' Trust was £120. St Laurence's will receive half of this sum in due course.

### Prayer Day

Several people took the opportunity on 17<sup>th</sup> September to spend time in church listening to God and praying for the church, the community and individual needs.

### Churchyard

The churchyard wall along the lane has been pointed with lime plaster and should now last for the foreseeable future.

Following last month's appeal, a total sum of £200 from three generous donations has been added to the churchyard fund. Further donations would be much appreciated.

### Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer at our Sunday Services both at St. Laurence's and at 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.

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Please pray for .....who is .....

It is remarkable how television has changed from the early days. I can remember when I was taking my 'O' levels and one of the set books for English Literature was 'Pride and Prejudice' (one of my favourites). This was being televised in serial form on B.B.C. television on Saturday nights, and my Dad made me watch every episode, but now we can record programmes, watch them an hour later or find out everything you want to know about the book on the internet. I must say though that I passed English Literature and I remember every detail of 'Pride and Prejudice'.

I was reading an article in the newspaper called 'Who is more entertaining to talk to than your own children?', but it was more about communication with all people. I must admit I will talk to anyone – in a lift, in a supermarket, in the market and for the best part people talk back, but I must admit I do like to talk to younger people and hear what they have to say. Their lives are and will be so different to people of my generation, but also in a way very similar. Our children still worry about their children – their health, their education or work, their finances and it seems they are not so different to us, but the main thing is to talk to each other.

Another thing that has vastly changed is beds and bed linen. Years ago there were no duvets – we had top and bottom sheets, cotton in summer and winceyette in winter, then a thick woollen blanket (some people had two of these), a bedspread and an eiderdown, and making the bed every morning was quite a chore. Our mother washed the blankets once a year in June and what a marathon it must have been for her as she only had a dolly tub and wringer with huge rollers. Also we had three double beds and two cots. I have often wondered how she managed to put them over the washing line to dry them as she was a tiny person, as believe me those blankets were very heavy. Also our mattresses were made of flock which you had to shake and work on to get it even, as it could be very lumpy. Mam and Dad had a heavenly feather bed. So now fluffing up the pillow and shaking the duvet is a doddle.

A lady wrote to the gardening magazine 'I've been told you can eat Hostas. Is this true and which part do you eat?' The reply was that apparently you eat the curled leaves whilst they are still young and not yet unfurled. In Japan, where Hostas are native, the leaves – which they call urui – are used in Sushi and they have the flavour of Asparagus, but must be eaten while young and tender. We have quite a few Hostas in our garden, but would never be tempted to eat them.

October has been a month of change, of changing weather and leaves of all shades. Cobwebs make patterns like finest lace, and even the moon has a brighter face. Lots of rain but sunshine too and rainbows aplenty to see the change through.

'You don't stop playing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop playing'  
George Bernard Shaw.

Marie Cove.