

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

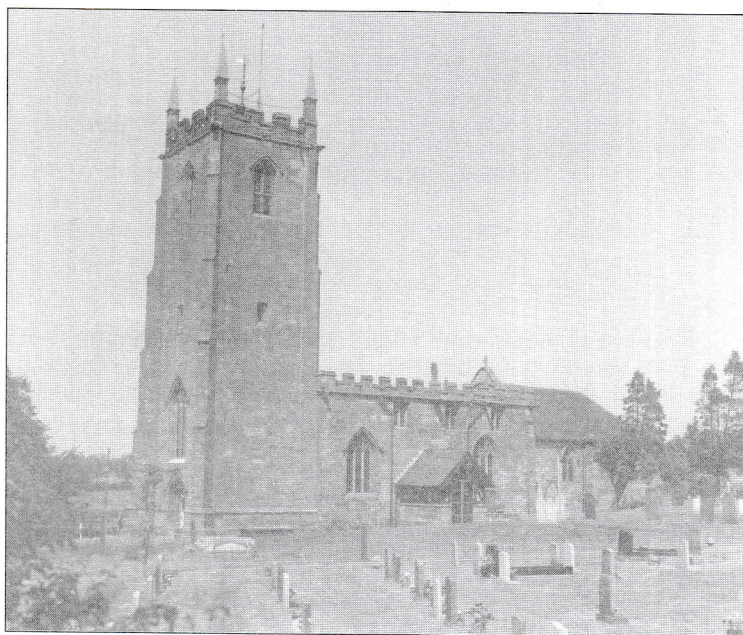
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## How was Christmas?

In January we shall get the Christmas sales figures? Which shops did best? Which sold the most goods? Which made the most impact? Which attracted the most visitors?

What would you say of a product launch where no premises had been arranged beforehand, where the main point of interest was a person who could do nothing for himself and only six people visited? Not a lot. Heads would roll as the company promised much better success next year. Laughter and mockery would turn to tragedy were I to tell you that before he reached middle age that person died in pain, deserted by his friends.

But two thousand years later he had more followers than anyone.

Baffled? But that's the story of Jesus. Against all odds the tiny baby speaks today of the triumph of love over power, suffering and failure. Amazing! No wonder we have good reason to celebrate this Christmas!

How was Christmas? I hope that in the New Year you will look back on it as a wonderful time when you celebrated the extraordinary power of love revealed in the baby boy born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

Happy Christmas!

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

**St John's Hall Ansley Common.**

Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 a.m	Holy Communion
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m Advent 2	Family Worship & Sunday School
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m Advent 3	Holy Communion & Sunday School
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 a.m	Morning Prayer
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m Advent 4	Special Christmas Family Service
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 p.m Christmas Eve	Holy Communion
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m Christmas 1.	No Service

**St. Laurence's Church Sunday services**

Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	Advent 2	10.30 a.m. All Age Worship 6.30 p.m. B.C.P. Holy Communion
Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Advent 3	10.30 a.m. Baptism 6.30 p.m. Evensong & Baptism
Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Advent 4	10.30 a.m. Jesus Birthday 6.30 p.m. 9 Lessons & Carols
Dec 26 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas 1	10.30 a.m. All age Worship 6.30 p.m. No Service

**Other events**

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 p.m.	Links Youth Club
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 p.m.	Prayer Group meet 10 Nuthurst Crescent.
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00a.m.	Holy Communion Village Church Hall
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	1.30 p.m.	Little Angels Parent & Toddlers Village Hall
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Community Café Village Church Hall
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Bingo Village Church Hall
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Wednesday Fellowship meet 10 Nuthurst Cres.
Thursdays	9.30 a.m.	Parent and Toddlers St. John's Church Hall
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Ansley Common Fellowship.
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 p.m.	Gentle Keep Fit St. John's Hall
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Christmas Fayre Village Church Hall
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Flute concert by pupils of Jane Kimberely in Church
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	St. John's Christmas Evening
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 p.m.	Brass Concert in Church
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 p.m.	St. Johns Christmas Fayre
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 a.m.	Decorating the Church
Christmas Eve	11.30 p.m.	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	10.30 a.m.	Family Communion

**From the Registers****Baptisms**

Jenny Tasker aged 9 and baby Taylor Morris were baptised on 24<sup>th</sup> October in the presence of a full church. It was a joyful occasion and Jenny said that it was something she had always wanted.

**Wedding**

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October Timothy Stephens and Karen Storer were married. The photographs were taken in Church as it was one of those days this year when it was heavy rain most of the day. It did mean that one of the younger guests was able to come and see the bells being rung.

**Funerals**

John Fletcher (63) whose funeral service was held at St. Laurence on 25<sup>th</sup> October combined a quite remarkable sense of fun and laughter in every situation with a



tremendous artistic and academic ability. A man who could never be beholden to others expectations and ambitions. He will be sorely missed by his many friends and family especially his wife Heather and daughter Joanne.

John Beale's funeral service took place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November. A lifetime of service at Alfred Herbert (Machine Tools) was followed by contentment in retirement. After 52 years of marriage he will be greatly missed by his wife Pat and his children Chris and Ros to whom he was a loving husband and father.

We were all sorry to learn of the death of Rev. Eric Jarvis on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October. He was vicar of Ansley from 1957 to 1964. We have had a collection in his memory in aid of the Addenbrook's Hospital and £50 has been forwarded to Mrs Jarvis. He will be much remembered for his work with the youth of the parish, especially the formation of the junior choir. Also the trip to the Holy Land when he brought back the figures that we use in the crib each Christmas.

#### **Christmas Events.**

As you can see from the list of activities there is a lot happening over the Christmas period and there will be something for every one. We would appreciate gifts for the Christmas Fayre in the Village church Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30 p.m. and also and your support on the evening which will include Christmas carols and message.

Anyone wishing to order holly wreaths please contact 01827 874520.

St. John's will have their Fayre on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> from 2 p.m. and there will be an evening of Christmas carols and songs on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30.

#### **Concert**

There is to be a concert of seasonal music in Church on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m. This is being given by a 10 piece Brass Ensemble – Sutton Brass, there will be light refreshments. Donations will be to help swell church funds and cover expenses. Please so come along last year this was an extremely enjoyable evening.

#### **Other Christmas Events**

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 the local W.I. Will be holding their Christmas service at St. Michael's New Arley. A warm welcome will be assured to everyone.

The Good companions will be having their Christmas carol service at the Club Birmingham Road on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m. This will be lead by Daw Mill Band. Every one is welcome membership is not required.

#### **Prize Bingo**

Great fun was had at the Prize Bingo on 8<sup>th</sup> November with over 50 people present. Many thanks to those who organised and gave the prizes for the event which raised £203.50 for St. John's hall funds.

#### **Free will offering envelopes**

The envelopes for 2005 are now available. These are for non tax payers who wish to give each week. These ensure that the gift is not forgotten if you are unable to attend. If you would like to know more about regular giving to the Church or how the Church can reclaim tax please have a word with one of the wardens or Margaret Kimberley our Gift aid secretary.

#### **2005 Calendars**

These are now available. They depict pictures from various flower festivals of the past 40 years and are £4 each.

#### **Sussie Wright**

A total of £760 has been forwarded to her parents after the special concert held in church. Thank you to everyone who has given towards her costs. She is making good progress. There will be more details about Sussie next month when space permits.

December, 2004.

We had a treat in our garden in November, as an acrobatic Squirrel put on a real show. He was trying to get nuts from a squirrel-proof container and he almost turned himself inside out. It was very entertaining, but we felt quite sorry for him as he saw Blue Tits and Greenfinches happily feeding, so we put some nuts on the path for him.

Anyone who knows me, knows I love knitting, but for the last few years I have felt the younger generation didn't appreciate hand knitted garments. Everything is so cheap to buy and fashion is so fleeting in this 'throw away' world, but low and behold my knitting is now in great demand. The Poncho is now the latest fashion accessory, and my teenage granddaughters are delighted to have a Grandma who can knit, and of course I am very happy to oblige.

As Christmas approaches, it brings back many memories. In our family of seven children, we all got very excited as we wrote letters to Father Christmas and sent them up the chimney. We must have been very sensible, as we only asked for what we thought our mum and dad could afford - a 'Girl's Annual', or in my brother's case perhaps a 'Bobby Bear Annual', and some crayons or a magic painting book. What a difference to today when T.V. adverts suggest gifts costing hundreds of pounds. However, we were happy every Christmas morning, and as we hung up our stockings by the fireplace, we knew exactly what they would contain - a piece of fruit (usually an apple or a pear as other fruits were unobtainable during the war), some nuts and one penny. What simplicity but what happiness!

Then there was Christmas dinner to look forward to. We had a cockerel, which we only had at Christmas; we had never even seen a turkey, and as we got older and had families of our own, we had to have two tables, one in the kitchen and one in the front room, and we still do this in our own family, and even now I love buying presents, writing cards, preparing Christmas meals and parties and singing carols. May the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ be celebrated this year and for every year to come.

It's Christmas eve, what joy, what bliss.  
Was there ever such a night like this.  
The children sleep, shopping done.  
All that's left now is fun, pure fun.

We know He would want us to enjoy His birth.  
Sing carols, eat goodies and have lots of mirth.  
But let's not forget, just what comes first  
Not tinsel, not Santa, no Jesus comes first.

Have a lovely Christmas and a healthy peaceful New Year.

Marie Cove.