

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 998

DECEMBER 2008

Price 25p



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

Happy Christmas.

Christmas is time for giving.

It is a time of spending money.

But more than just spending it's a matter of getting the right present.

There are times when giving money just won't do.

We can get things wrong. Have you ever given someone the present you gave them last year or even worse perhaps the present they gave you!

But when you do get it right, especially the present for child or grandchild, what a wonderful abiding memory you have as their eyes light up with joy. How re-assuring those words which if truly meant are so wonderful to hear: 'It's just what I wanted!' I hope you will experience that joy this Christmas!

So where does Jesus fit in? I hope you will so prepare beforehand that this will feel like your first Christmas. Through prayer and worship may you discover Jesus afresh. May your eyes light up with joy. May you say to him; 'You're just what I wanted!'

But if his present brings you joy what are you going to give him in return? What will make his eyes light up with joy? What can we give Jesus that will make him say 'That's what I've always wanted'?

I won't tell you now! Join us this Christmas at St. Laurence's at either the Christmas Flame Family Service at 10.30am on December 14 or at the Christmas Eve Services -10pm at St. John's, 11.30pm Midnight Communion at St. Laurence's and find out more.

And don't forget the Service of Readings and Carols at 6.30pm on December 21.

HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS,

Peter

December, St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 7th	Advent 2	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
		4.00 p.m.	Family Service in Village Church Hall
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 14th	Advent 3	10.30 a.m.	Christmas Flame Service
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 21 st	Advent 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Nine Lessons and Carols
Wednesday 24 th	Christmas Eve	11.30 p.m.	Midnight Holy Communion
Thursday 25 th	Christmas Day	10.30 p.m.	Family Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th	Christmas 1	10.30 a.m.	Joint service St. Wilfrid's

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Wednesday 3rd		9.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Sunday 7 th	Advent 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 14 th	Advent 3	10.30 a.m.	Special Service
Wednesday 19 th		9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 st	Advent 4	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Wednesday 24 th	Christmas Eve	10.00 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 28th	Christmas 1	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St. Wilfrid's

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards

From the Registers

Baptism

On October 26 at St. Laurence's Church we welcomed Anthony Halcombe and Leanne Smedley's son Connor Jay into Christ's family in baptism. It was a wonderful family occasion and a time of great joy. We look forward to seeing more of Connor as he grows up in the fellowship of Christ's Church.

Wedding

The marriage of James Moore and Kathryn Hubbard took place on 25th October. It was a very windy day but it kept dry most of the time. We wish them every happiness for the future.

Funerals

Following a funeral at Chapel End URC on Friday 14th November the earthy remains of Claris Lees were interred into the grave of her brother William in the church yard. Claris lived almost all her life in the same house in Ansley Village and died at the age of 91. She had been devoted to her family all her life and spent many years caring for her mother.

The funeral of Jim Ashton took place at St. Laurence on November 18 and was followed by interment in the churchyard. Jim met his wife Vi when billeted in Arley during the Second World War. They married at St. Laurence's in 1951. They were forever devoted to each other. Jim was always to cherish St. Laurence's Church. His life was noted for generosity, care and service to family, friend and neighbour. He will be deeply missed

Special Christmas Services

Our Christmas services commence with the Christmas Flame Service, on Sunday 14th at 10.30 a.m. This special service is being especially designed for all ages and there will be something for everyone. This service will be followed by refreshments in the Annexe.

At St. John's they will be having their special carol service at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 21st December,

Our traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 21st. We will be having the readings we all know, that tell of our wonderful saviour and the carols we love to sing.

On Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th the 1st Communion service will be at St. John's at 10 p.m.

The Midnight Communion will be at St. Laurence's beginning at 11.30 p.m. and on Christmas morning at 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

For all the services at St. Laurence's the Christmas trees will be in the church.

Please note there will be no services in Ansley on Sunday 28th but there will be a united service in St. Wilfrid's Old Arley at 10.30 a.m. If anyone requires transport please contact the churchwardens.

Christmas Tree Festival

Preparations for our third Christmas Tree Festival will commence on Monday 8th December when the trees arrive and will be put in place. Help would be appreciated from anyone who could be around at 2 p.m. onwards to help with this task.

Decorating will be on Thursday 11th from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and again on Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you would like to decorate a tree and have not already booked one please do contact Margaret Kimberley on 024 7638 4680, a tree will cost £11 and the decoration and title is of your choosing.

At 3.30 p.m. on the Thursday we will be holding a very short service of dedication to commit the festival to God, and pray for all those who will be preparing, helping and visiting the church during the event.

The Festival will be open to visitors from 10 a.m. Saturday 13th and 20th. On Sunday 14th and 21st it will open after the 10.30 a.m. service around 12 noon each day it will close at 6 p.m. Admission £2 accompanied children free. Throughout the event there will be refreshments of mince pies etc, with a warm cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate. There will also be a raffle for a Christmas cake and a quiz to keep you thinking over the holiday period.

There will be a Prayer Tree where you can bring to God your cares, concerns and thanks. These prayers will be read out over the Christmas period at our services. A Memory Tree where you can buy a star, add the name/s of your loved ones and put it on the tree. (the proceeds for which will be for the Church Yard Fund)

St. John's

On Friday 19th December there will be a Christmas social in the hall to enable everyone to meet together to enjoy good company, eat and a drink (please bring your own) sing

carols and Christmas songs, old and new, and have a good chat, admission will be £1. As with all events at St. John's at the moment the proceeds will go towards the refurbishment

At the time of writing it is hoped that the Christmas events and services will be the last to be held in the hall before it is closed for the hall refurbishment

St Johns Christmas Bazaar

A very happy time was had by all on Saturday 15th November when Father Christmas came to St. John's Hall, despite the miserable weather that afternoon. The stalls had plenty to sell and refreshments etc. had been provided. A profit of over £150 was made. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported this event.

Spurgeon Child Care

On Wednesday 19th there was a very warm welcome to the home of Margaret and Martyn Oliver for the box opening, coffee evening and bring and buy in aid of Spurgeon Child Care. Martyn spent the evening counting the coins in the boxes while Margaret was able to provide tea, coffee and cakes while those attending had time to a chat and meet together. A total of 385 was raised.

Ansley Village Christmas Ceilidh/Barn Dance

There is to be a Ceilidh/Barn Dance in Ansley Social Club in the evening of Saturday 13th December with 'Steamchicken' one of the Country's leading ceilidh bands and the caller is Tom Tilley. Tickets are £6 adults and £3 children to book and further details phone 02476 392555 proceeds in aid of The Air Ambulance.

2009

In many ways 2009 could be another very busy year in the life of the Church in Ansley, The refurbishment work at St. John's which we hope will be completed in good time to have a celebration in September.

We have the continuing major repairs at St. Laurence's both inside and out.

Our Youth Worker has many ideas for work with the young people of the parish.

Also we will be continuing to minister to all the people in Ansley and those who worship with us.

The P.C.C. and all the Church family wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

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

December, 2008

There are many things that can make you feel your age - when you are small you can't wait to grow up. Then we have the golden years of teenage and family life, but there is an advertisement on the television that certainly makes me feel my age. I have always been a cricket and football fan, but now the advert shows one of the greatest players of yesteryear as an old man (which Bobby Charlton is) walking his dog at the side of a field where youngsters are playing football. Also the next generation after that are now retired and are football managers. My grandchildren think I must be an expert on football managers, but don't they realise that most of them were the famous footballers of my day?

There is a book called 'Teach your Granny to text'. I must admit this doesn't appeal to me as I haven't a clue and like to talk to someone on the 'phone or face to face. However, I can see where this would be great for someone who has grandparents who live a long way off, or even abroad, as this would be a great way to keep in touch.

Have you noticed how the wise words of the past are now more or less completely ignored. My mother always told us to wrap up warm against the cold and especially to always keep our feet warm. In October when we had a few bitter cold days, and even snow, there were people walking about in tee shirts and sandals, and we even saw a child in a pushchair with no cover and no socks and shoes. I am always being told it's no good worrying about other people but I do think that a little commonsense would help.

Child of God.

A King was born that starry night; In a stable with angels bright.
A Child to change this sad world for all; A Child of God to save us all.

That starry night so long, long ago; When the world stood still in angel glow.
O Child of God, O Babe divine; Send down your love this Christmas time.

You came to save, to heal, forgive; You came your own precious life to give.
Help us now and throughout our lives, to be worthy of your sacrifice.

May you all have a wonderful, healthy and happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Marie Cove.