

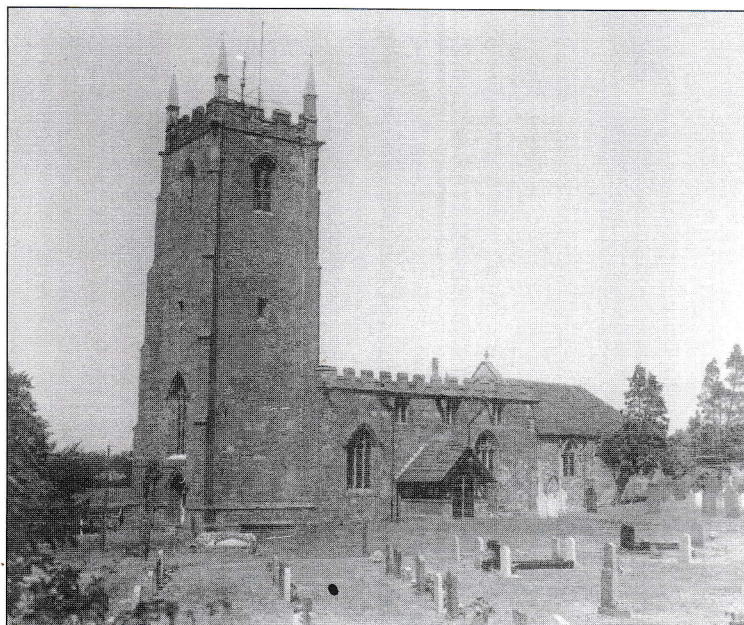
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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Celebrating Babies!

Our grandson Toby will be one this month.
Hasn't the year gone quickly!
And hasn't he changed!
Every single moment is special and every waking moment he is learning.

So this month is Toby's birthday.
And it's Jesus' Birthday too.
We remember when he was born, when he was a baby.

But why do we think of Jesus as a baby? The Bible says little about the births of most of the great men and women of which it speaks. Their story begins when they are older and with the possible inclusion of their parents' names there is no mention of their birth or childhood. So why did Matthew and Luke (unlike Mark and John) choose to tell us the story of Jesus' birth?

Perhaps it's this. God came to this earth not as a strong, educated man but as a tiny dependent babe. No-one can beat Jesus for his understanding, teaching, miraculous power or depth of compassion but still the two greatest images of Jesus that draw us in worship are the babe in the manger and the dying man on the cross.

If we take this seriously it has got to effect the way we view others. It compels us to value those who need help as much, perhaps even more, than we value those who obviously have much to give. It must also impact on the way we view ourselves. God is often most at work when we feel powerless, depending on others and not able to give.

Think about that when you feel the pressure to *do* everything you can to ensure that everyone around you has a perfect Christmas,

Don't be afraid to relax,

**GIVE YOURSELF TIME AND SPACE TO ENJOY WORSHIPPING JESUS AND
HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS,**

December St. Laurence's Church – Services

Sunday 4 th	Advent 2	10.30 a.m.	All Age Worship
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 11	Advent 3	10.30 a.m.	Christingle Service
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 18 th	Advent 4	10.30 a.m.	Special Christmas Service
		6.30 p.m.	Carol Service
Saturday 24 th	Christmas Eve	11.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 25 th	Christmas Day	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 4 th	Advent 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 11 th	Advent 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 th	Advent 4	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Saturday 24 th	Christmas Eve	10.00 p.m.	Holy Communion

Discussion Groups

Discussing the parables – Tuesday 13th December at 7 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall.

'The year through the Bible' Thursday 3rd November 7.30 p.m. 10 Nuthurst Crescent.

Other regular activities

Full details on the notice boards.

From the Registers

Baptisms

WE WELCOMED IN TO THE CHURCH FAMILY

Sunday 23rd October Isla Esther Rowe

Saturday 5th November Frederick John Sean Taylor

Wedding

On 4 November we celebrated the marriage of Stephen Reg Oldbury and Zoe Askew

Christmas Tree Festival

What can people's imagination do to put on a different Christmas Tree. For this our 6th Festival we have increased our opening hours so please make a note

Saturday 10th December 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Sunday 11th December 11.30 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Wednesday 14th December 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Saturday 17th December 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Sunday 18th December 11.30 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

The trees will be arriving on Monday 5th and any help to get them into the buckets and into church will be much appreciated. The main times for decorating are 2-8p.m. on Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th. This change of decorating time is to ensure that the church will be clean and tidy and the programmes printed before the opening on the 10th.

Any help throughout the festival, in church and in the annexe, serving refreshments and welcoming people would be much appreciated, as well as the provision of mince pies for the refreshments. Lists are in church for anyone to add their name to help. If you wish to send fliers about this event in your Christmas Cards or hand to friends please ask for some. There are a few photographs on the church web site www.ansleychurch.org in the 'What's on' section.

Proceeds are in aid of church funds with 10% being given to the Northamptonshire and Warwickshire Air Ambulance. The donations for the memory tree stars are for the churchyard fund.

This "magical" event is to help everyone to enjoy their Christmas and help bring the knowledge of the birth of our Saviour to all around.

Special Christmas Services

Our format of Christmas services will commence with the Christingle service at 10.30 a.m. Sunday 11th, this service is designed for the young, but will give those young at heart things to ponder. The traditional Nine Lessons and Carols will close our Christmas Tree Festival at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 18th. It will follow the usual format so loved by so many.

To celebrate the birth of our Saviour there are the following services.

Christmas Eve Communion 24th December 10 p.m. at St. John's

Midnight Communion 24th December 11.30 p.m. at St. Laurence

Christmas Day 25th December Family Communion Celebration 10.30 a.m. at St. Laurence

Soup, Sweet and Carols at St. John's

There will be another social meal in St. John's Church Hall on Friday 16th December at 7.30 p.m. As the title says there will be soup and a sweet to eat and then carols to be sung.

There will be tea and coffee available but you can bring your own drink if you wish. Tickets are £2.50. Please book your seat early as there are a limited number of places available.

The Halloween meal on 28th October was sold out, everyone had a wonderful time and £160 was raised for hall funds. Thank you to everyone who helps, provides, and supports these lovely social events.

Church Treasurer

At the next A.G.M. in 2012 the P.C.C. will need to appoint a new treasurer, so please remember this position in your prayers.

Cleaning Rota.

We will shortly be drawing up a new rota for cleaning the church, and it is hoped that each name does not appear too often. If you do have some time available and would like to help keep the church clean and tidy please have a word with one of the wardens.

Quiz night

About 60 people came to our first Quiz Night which was greatly enjoyed by everyone, and there were many requests for another.

We wish to thank Ansley Fish Bar, C.H. Rowley (Butchers) and Ansley Post Office for donating prizes and JCK Bakery for the bread. We are also particularly grateful to Sue Ricketts, who's idea this was, for all the preparations and organising that she undertook.

This happy event raised £264.00 which has been divided equally between the Air Ambulance and the Church Fabric Fund.

Spurgeons Child Care

Margaret and Martyn Oliver welcomed all those who came to the coffee evening at their home on 9th November, in aid of Spurgeons Child Care. There was a wonderful selection of cake and plenty of tea and coffee. Those who attended had plenty of time to chat to friends old and new, and enjoy a thoroughly lovely evening.

The boxes were opened and a total including the money raised on the bring and buy, amounted to £390 which will be forwarded to the charity. A splendid effort.

St. John's Christmas Prize Bingo

There was another good attendance at the Christmas Bingo session on Monday 14th November. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed the option of mince pies with the drink at half time. The evening made a total of £140 of which £50 has been donated to the Salvation Army for their work with homeless people. We are very grateful to all who work so hard to run these events which help keep the community spirit going.

Magazine

As mentioned in the October issue the price from January will be 30p each £3.60 for the year and if posted it will be £8. Thank you to those who have given a bit extra to help cover the cost of production of this source of information and communication.

The Christmas Fayre and Marie's Christmas Event

These two events took place after this issue went to the printers, a full reports next month.

In Search of Medieval Ansley.

The next presentation by Dr John Hunt has been arranged for Wednesday 9th May 2012. If you wish to book your place now please contact Margaret Antill on 01827 874520.

'From tiny acorns mighty oaks do grow'

It has been decided to continue with this small change collection and anyone who would like a collecting tin please ask and one can be organised. The total paid into our Fabric Fund in October was £17 bringing the total to £201 so far this year all from the small change collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

We wish everyone 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

When we were young we thought it was quaint how when our Mam went shopping, she took a list, her purse and a shopping bag. Of course we didn't have plastic carrier bags, as all fruit, vegetables, and all other food items were weighed into paper bags. But, I now find myself doing exactly the same and even start my list the day after I have been shopping and realise some things I need. So now we all have to take shopping bags, and if you are like me, a list is essential.

I was watching a review of this year's most popular toys for Christmas and apart from how expensive they are, one thing is certain children now like toys which are noisy, but despite this when our younger grandchildren visit they love a game of snakes and ladders, and this has been the same with all our grandchildren. Also during our parties if things are getting hectic, I start counting down from 10 for a game of Dead Dogs and suddenly all the youngsters are lying quietly on the floor.

Thinking of games, I saw an item on 'Rounders' which brought back many happy memories, as this was one of our favourite pastimes at school and at play. We, in Ansley Village, even had a game in the 'Rec' (which the younger generation tell me is now 'The Park') when the women played the men. It was absolutely hilarious. However, there is now an England Women's Team and whereas we only had one bat between the two teams, or in our case as children, for the whole street, they had a bat each which they have to carry round. We had to drop ours (not throw it).

Lots of people said we were having an 'Indian Summer' during this Autumn, but what exactly is it? This phrase does not refer to India but to the Native American Red Indians. As far back as the 1770's the phrase was used in New York. It always referred to good late summer weather, but it is not clear whether it was a supposed climatic period enjoyed by the Red Indians, the habit in late summer of launching raiding parties or when they harvested their crops. So, this makes the phrase 'Indian Summer' as clear as mud.

Well, the countdown has started to Christmas. I love this time of year when the children start making their lists for Santa, meals are planned and the media go mad advertising everything from chocolates to very expensive presents. I think if we could all have the best present ever, it would be for peace – peace in our communities, peace in the world and peace in our hearts, as we remember the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of the Prince of Peace, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Wishing you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Marie Cove.