

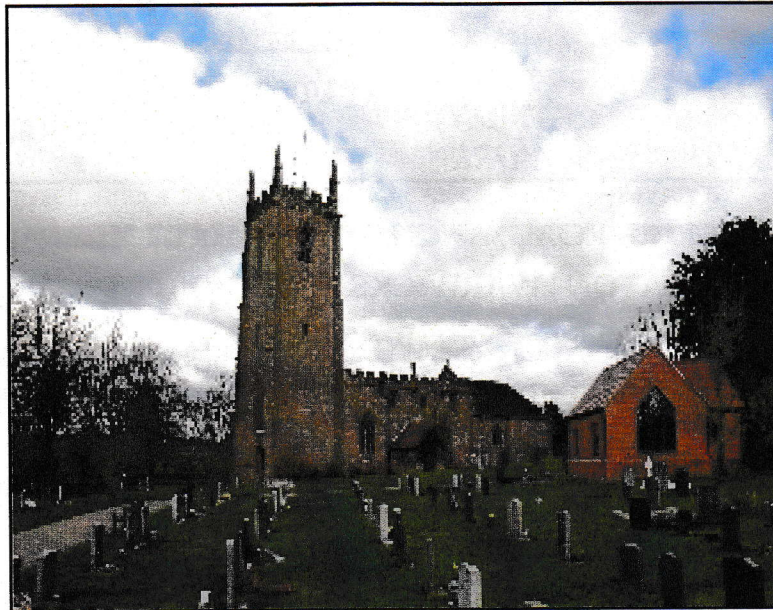
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1078

DECEMBER 2015

Price 30p



Vicar:

REV. PETER ALLAN

Tel: 024 7639 9070

Email: peter@ansleychurch.org

Wardens:

**MARGARET ANTILL
MOREEN FREESTONE**

Tel: 01827 874520

Tel: 024 7638 1833

St. Johns Leaders

**MARIE COVE
JOHN COX**

Tel: 024 7639 4114

Tel: 024 7639 4802

Lay Reader:

**MANDY WATTS
GWYNETH HICKMAN**

Tel: 024 7639 7654

Tel: 024 7639 8901

www.ansleychurch.org

Print Centre 024 7638 6017

Time to go?

On November 15 I announced to each of our congregations that I shall be retiring in June. I shall miss you all very much indeed but after a lot of thought and prayer it seems the right time to go.

We have just bought a house in Mapperley, North East Nottingham near our oldest son Robin and the grandchildren. From there it is easy to get into the countryside or into the city. It will be a new stage in our lives and a real contrast for me after thirty-three years of parish ministry in the Church of England and nearly thirteen years here, but it will be good to spend a little bit more time with the family and have more time to myself. After a six months' break I expect to take up ministry two days a week enjoying new opportunities without the responsibilities that come with leadership.

For you all it will be a new beginning as you plan for a new Vicar who will bring with him/her new skills and a new vision for the future. I am hoping the process for this will begin as soon as possible.

For all of us it will be unsettling and different and we shall miss each other but I know the Lord will lead us through to all He has in store. And I do hope you will keep in touch.

In the meantime there are seven months left, which leaves time for a great Christmas and great Easter together (including my final confirmation class) and time after Easter for clearing up loose ends and farewells. There is also time, particularly between Christmas and Easter, to complete tasks which we have set ourselves but have not accomplished. I would like in this period to complete the leaflets and booklets that provide a welcome for visitors. We long that those who come through the door of our church will find not only a ready welcome but an opportunity to discover Jesus. May the door of our church be truly a door of faith.

But for now let us turn our thoughts to the great celebration of Christ's birth.

HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Your friend and Vicar,

Peter

December St. Laurence's Church Services

Sunday 6 th	Advent 2	10.30 a.m.	Advent Service [Screen]
		6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 13 th	Advent 3	10.30 a.m.	Christingle
		6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday 20 th	Advent 4	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Carol Service
Thursday 24 th	Christmas Eve	11.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Friday 25 th	Christmas Day	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 th	Christmas 1	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St Michael's
		6.30 p.m.	No Service

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday 6 th	Advent 2	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday 13 th	Advent 3	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 th	Advent 4	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Thursday 24 th	Christmas Eve	9.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 27 th	Christmas 1	10.30 a.m.	Joint at St Michael's

From the Registers

The baptism of Olivia Mary Sutton took place at St. Laurence's Church on October 18th. It was a really happy occasion on which family and friends gathered to share Graham and Kerry's joy.

Special Christmas Services

The Christingle service takes place at St Laurence's at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 13th December. People of all ages will be able to appreciate the Christmas message. The Christmas Tree Festival closes with the traditional carol service at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 20th December.

The following services will be held to celebrate the birth of our Saviour:-

Christmas Eve Communion 24th December 9.30 p.m. at St. John's,

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

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

On Sunday 27th December there will be a joint benefice service at 10.30 a.m. in St Michael's, New Arley.

St Laurence's Tenth Christmas Tree Festival - Final Reminders

Trees will need to be placed in pots and moved into church on Monday 30th November.

Please help with this if you are fit enough for the task!

Decorating the trees will be on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd December from 2.00 p.m. to 8 p.m. Trees will need to be dismantled on Monday 28th December, from 9.00 a.m. It would be great if you could do this by 10.30, so that trees can be moved out and cleaning started. If you would prefer us to clear the tree, please let us know.

Visitors will be welcome during the three weekends before Christmas, from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on the Saturdays 5th, 12th and 19th December and from 11.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

on the Sundays 6th, 13th and 20th December. There is an entry charge of £2.00 per person. Accompanied children under 12 have free entry. Proceeds are in aid of church funds with a donation of 15% to be given to the Mary Ann Evans Hospice.

A star bearing the name of a loved one may be placed on the Memory Tree near the pulpit and a candle lit for a donation of £1. This will go towards the cost of cutting the church yard grass, which at present is £260 for each cut.

You may like to peg a prayer to the Prayer Tree at the back of the church. Each prayer will be used in our intercessions.

If an organisation/group would like to arrange a visit on a week day please contact 01827 874520.

Throughout the weekends there will be tea, coffee, hot chocolate and mince pies available in the annexe and also a raffle for a Christmas cake. Please add your name to the lists for stewarding and/or serving refreshments if you are able to offer an hour or two of your time.

Donations of mince pies would be welcomed too!

Seeing the sixty trees, decorated by organisations, groups and individuals from the local community is a wonderful way to add to your experience of Christmas.

Concert

On Friday 4th December at 8.00 p.m. Jess and Richard Arrowsmith with special guest Jo Maher will be performing Christmas and traditional English music among the trees at St Laurence's church. Doors open at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are £8 and include seasonal refreshments. Under 12s have free entry. Tickets are available from Pat Arrowsmith 024 7639 2555, or at the door. We are very pleased to welcome these accomplished musicians again. Details of this group, "New In", can be found on their website, <http://www.arrowsmithmusic.co.uk/>. It should be a very enjoyable occasion.

Nursery Hill School Visit

We look forward to the children, staff, families and friends of Nursery Hill School coming to a special end of term service at St Laurence's on Friday 18th December at 9.30 a.m.

Anyone who would like to attend will be made very welcome.

St. John's Christmas Social

This event will be held on Friday 18th December in St John's Hall at 7.00p.m. A supper of jacket potatoes with fillings and a sweet will give energy for carol singing and an enjoyable social gathering. Don't forget to book your ticket.

Girls Brigade Parade

The Girls Brigade Parade at St John's on 25th October was a lovely service, led by John Cox. Elizabeth Kinderman, as part of her Queen's Award, presented a dance interpreting words from a song. She had had just two weeks to teach five other members of the troop the actions. Considering that they only meet for two hours a week this was good going. The congregation greatly enjoyed the performance and applauded enthusiastically.

Dedication of New Window

On All Saints Day, Sunday 1st November, the first new window at St. Laurence's since 1930 was dedicated to the glory of God. The window was given in memory of Jennifer

Woolliscroft. The inscription, written by her family, sums up so much of Jennifer's life and reads,

"In dedication to Jennifer Woolliscroft, who gave and received great support and love within this church from 1966 to 2012."

The window depicts the local countryside with its blue bells, pastures and woodland that she loved so much and that many appreciate today.

The window has been fitted into one of the oldest parts of the church in an opening which was lost from view for over two hundred years. The stone work was discovered in the early 1970s and a plain pane of glass fitted, bringing much needed light into quite a dark corner of the chancel. However this pane of glass had become cracked and very draughty. This lovely new window's design lets light stream into the chancel, as the bright sunlight did during the dedication.

It was lovely to welcome her large extended family to this very special service. We hope and pray it will continue to be enjoyed, giving light and glory to God for centuries to come.

Spurgeon Coffee Evening

A huge thank you to all who collected loose change over the year and provided gifts for the bring and buy. The coffee evening last month raised a grand total of £400 which has been sent to Spurgeon to help with their invaluable work with children in our country.

Thank you for your continued support.

Margaret Oliver

I sincerely apologise for omitting the date and time of this event from last month's magazine.

Diana Kealey

The Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal

Eighteen boxes of gifts for children have been passed on from this parish to the local collecting centre. Thank you to Marie Cove and all who have given to this appeal.

Christmas Wreaths

If you would like to order wreaths at £7.00 or £7.50, please contact Margaret Antill on 01827874520.

Christmas Social at Ansley Village Church Hall and Christmas Fair at St John's Reports next month.

We wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year

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.

Please pray for who is

December, 2015

We recently held a 'Country & Western' event at St. John's. Many of us were in fancy dress. We had Burgers . Sausages and Chips and of course a Western quiz and music. This was enjoyed by all and we raised £150 for 'Doorway,' a charity which finds accommodation and gives advice on employment etc. for those leaving Care . We had a lovely thank you letter telling us how the money would be spent, which was very refreshing to know.

There are some strange ideas In the world today – now they are suggesting that brides have bouquets made up of vegetables, not flowers. What a stupid idea – there is nothing romantic about a cauliflower or carrots and you certainly wouldn't want onions as there are enough tears shed at weddings without the bride's eyes streaming due to her bouquet.

I was quite alarmed by a statement which said that cash could become a thing of the past, replaced by electronic means of paying. For people of a certain age, like me, this sounds very scary to only have in our purses cards to pay. This would mean the end of the money box, the end of slipping the grandchildren £1 to spend at the shop, and also can anyone imagine taking the Church collection by card. Thank goodness this will take a lot of organising and perhaps not be sorted out in my lifetime.

An old man had a beautiful garden with lovely flowerbeds which seemed to have something blooming all year long, and many passers-by would stop and admire his garden and he was always pleased to see them. 'Well it's like this, he said to a friend. 'I can't write a book, compose a tune or paint a picture, but if my garden gives others pleasure then I'm a happy man.'

May you have a lovely, enjoyable and peaceful Christmas.

Marie Cove.