

Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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O Come Let Us Adore Him

This year I picked up a pack of Christmas cards with a Retro look, which I have to say I recognise may not be to everybody's taste. The one thing that stood out to me was noticing the words, "O Come Let Us Adore Him."

Many people often say, "Oh Christmas is for children." In Christian terms this is rubbish. Christmas is a time of adoration and celebration for the wonderful, precious gift of God's only Son, Jesus Christ.

We feast, we give gifts in reflection of the generosity of God in sending his Son to earth to bring the Light of Christ into our lives. It is only right and fitting that we should worship, praise and adore God's Son in the best way we can. The Christmas Narrative recounted in Luke's Gospel is so awesome and mystical that it sends shivers down my spine. I have avoided using the word "magical" because it is not magic that brought Christ into the world, yet, the experience we gain from Christmas is a magical experience.

The Christmas Story never ceases to amaze me or bring a feeling of excitement to my whole being. (Yes - I know I am nearly 70!)

The angels did it, Mary did it, the Shepherds did it and the Wise men did it. So, "Come Let Us Adore Him," at this special Christmas time.

"O Come all ye Faithful....."

Happy Christmas Blessings, from Gwyneth.



December St Laurence's Church Services

Sunday	3 rd	Advent 1	10.30 a.m.	Advent Service
			6.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	10 th	Advent 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
			6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Sunday	17 th	Advent 3	10.30 a.m.	Christingle
			6.30 p.m.	Carol Service
Sunday	24 th	Christmas Eve	11.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Monday	25 th	Christmas Day	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	31 st	Christmas 1	10.30 a.m.	Joint Service at St Wilfrid's

St John's Church Hall Ansley Common Services

Sunday	3 rd	Advent 1	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	10 th	Advent 2	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	17 th	Advent 3	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
Sunday	24 th	Christmas Eve	9.30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	31 st	Christmas 1	10.30 a.m.	Joint Service at St Wilfrid's

Please Note

During the interregnum it may be necessary to change the pattern of services from time to time at fairly short notice. This would be to enable visiting clergy to hold a communion service.

From the Registers

Funeral

The funeral of Edna Lightfoot, aged 84, took place on Friday 3rd November. She worked as a valet at Michael Kiernan Cars and was often seen around the village on her paper round or walking with her dog. She and her husband Harry celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary in 2011. We extend our thoughts and prayers to her family and friends.

Christmas Services

We hope you will be able to join us to celebrate Christmas at St Laurence's or St John's. Please check the list at the top of this page to ensure you know when and where services are being held.

Christmas Tree Festival

We invite you to experience the magnificent sight of sixty Christmas trees, in or around the church, decorated by church members, community organisations, groups or individuals, plus other decorations suspended from above, which will fill St Laurence's with light and colour. The church will be open from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Saturday 2nd, 9th and 16th December and from 12.00 noon to 6.00 p.m. on Sunday 3rd, 10th and 17th December. The entry charge is £2.00 per person, with accompanied children under 12 free. The proceeds will be in aid of the church, with a donation of 20% being given to Mary Ann Evans Hospice.

If an organisation or group wishes to visit on a week day, this may be possible. Please contact 01827 874520.

A Remembrance Tree gives the opportunity to write the names of loved ones on star shapes to hang on this tree. The £1.00 charge will go towards the cost of cutting the churchyard grass, which is £260 a time at the moment.

While visiting the church you could write a prayer to peg to the Prayer Tree in the vestry and light a candle, if you wish. These prayers will be brought to the Lord over the Christmas season.

Throughout the festival there will be tea, coffee, hot chocolate, and mince pies available in the annexe. There will also be a raffle for a Christmas cake. Donations of mince pies will be much appreciated. We would also be grateful for help with stewarding or selling refreshments at this busy time. Let a church member know if you can help, or contact 01827 874520.

Please help to publicise this event. There are fliers and posters available from church members or you may wish to forward the internet link below to family and friends. Click on the Ansley Church November magazine option.

<http://ansleychurch.org/articles/articles.php?id=616>

Retiring Collection

A sum of £120.50 has been sent for Rohingya refugees from Rakhine in Myanmar following an appeal by the Disasters Emergency Committee.

Christmas Raffle

By the time you read this, our Christmas raffle will have been drawn and the lucky winners will know who they are!

Christmas Tree Festival Quiz

This year's quiz is now available and copies will be in the annexe during the Tree Festival. For the price of £1.00 you can test your brain power! The prize is a £10 book voucher. The closing date is 10th January 2018. If there are several entries with the same highest score, a winning name will be drawn from a hat after one of our Sunday services.

Concert at St Laurence's

We are delighted to inform you that, as for the last few years, Jess and Richard Arrowsmith, with Jo Maher, will be entertaining us in church on Friday 22nd December at 7.30 p.m. Tickets will be £10 for adults and £5 for children, with under fives free. The mix of traditional English music with a Christmas theme makes for a very enjoyable evening. Mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments will be provided during the interval.

Operation Christmas Child

We are pleased to announce that, in the middle of November, 24 shoeboxes, decorated and filled with small items, were sent off to be given to children who have few possessions.

Quarter Peal

On Wednesday 15th November the Coventry Guild rang a quarter peal of Bob Doubles at St Laurence's church. This was in honour of the 70th Wedding Anniversary of Her Majesty

the Queen and His Royal Highness, Prince Philip. The Guild aim to complete 70 quarter peals around the Diocese.

Visiting Ringers

The Four Shires bell ringers visited St Laurence's on Thursday 16th November and rang a variety of methods.

Acorn Children's Hospice

As in previous years, we presented the Flower Festival donation to the Acorn Children's Hospice at our Harvest Festival. The same amount, £467.50, was also presented to the Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends. Joanne, from the Hospice, advised us that one of their children, who has endured much, was awarded the Teenager of Courage at the Pride of Britain Awards 2017. They are all very proud of this and the following link will enable you to see Moin's story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUNhkwCKxOM&feature=youtu.be>

St John's Events

The Christmas Fayre on Saturday 25th December was well attended and was an enjoyable social occasion. Places are fully booked for their Christmas Party on 15th December.

Benefice Joint Meeting

A meeting was held on Thursday 16th November in The Barn at St Wilfrid's, Old Arley led by the Reverend Frank Seldon, Nuneaton Area Dean. An open invitation had been given to members and officers of the churches in Old and New Arley, Ansley and Ansley Common. Quite a number of parishes in the Diocese are in need of a vicar, but there is a shortage of candidates available. There may be the opportunity to have a curate in our Benefice on a half time basis. A unanimous decision was taken at the meeting to explore this possibility further. This suggestion will need to be discussed by PCCs and could not be implemented for several months. We ask for your continued prayers as we seek to make the best plans possible to care for God's people in this place and at this time.

WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A
PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS 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 a warden. Phone numbers are on the front page of this magazine. Please remember that a visit can be arranged to anyone who is sick, but the wardens do need to know, so again please ring

Please pray for who is

December, 2017

When we went to Atherstone in the middle of November, you would not believe what time of year it was. Round Purley Chase there were still lots of leaves on the trees and the grass on the Golf Course was so lush and green. Then in the woods where Bluebells bloom in the Spring, there was a golden carpet of leaves. It came into my mind they were keeping the Bluebells warm over the winter to flower in abundance in the Spring.

Our son gave us a book called "1,227 FACTS" and in brackets it said, 'To blow your socks off' and believe me it does. I'll tell you just a couple of these - 'In 2011 Birds Eye sold 225 billion frozen peas; enough to fill 40 Olympic swimming pools.' In the 19th and early 20th centuries, having all your teeth removed and replaced with false ones was a popular 21st birthday present. It doesn't bear thinking about.

I don't like ironing, so to lessen the tedium I play CD's of my favourite music, anything from Fred Astaire (who is great to iron to) to Classical music, but then I have been told by younger people, 'Nobody irons anymore.' No wonder a lot of them look so scruffy. Then there are mealtimes. When we were young we had a cooked meal every day but had a very limited diet - the only vegetables beside Potatoes were Swede, Parsnip, Onions and Cabbage. We really looked forward to the short season of fresh Garden Peas and Runner Beans. Now we are in the age of 'fast food' and meals of potatoes, vegetables and meat seem to be unfashionable. Well at least on Christmas Day everyone can enjoy a Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings and I must say our Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren really enjoy it.

Peace on earth, goodwill to men - isn't that what Christmas is all about? I wish you and yours a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Marie Cove