

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

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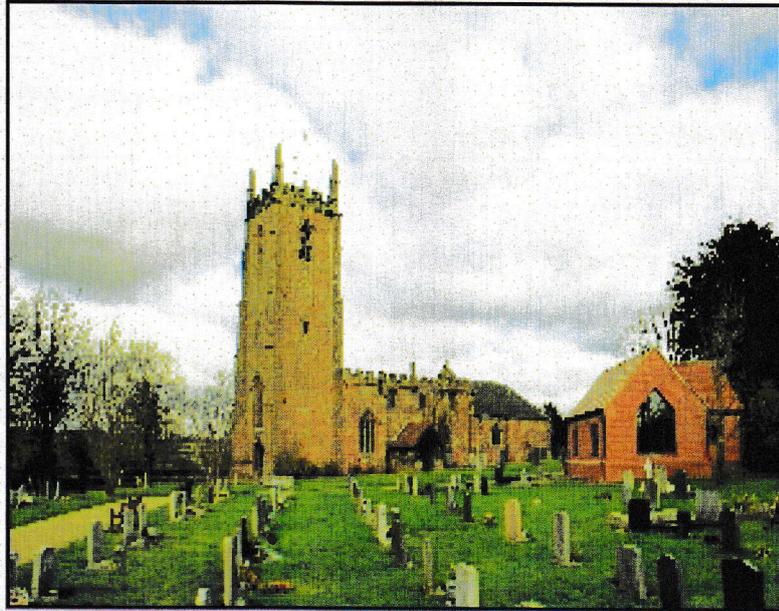
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Diana Kealey

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Margaret Oliver

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June 2021 – Rev John's Jottings

It has been 3 years since I came to the churches in Ansley and Arley on a placement, which is now sadly coming to an end. At the end of June, I and my wife Frances will be leaving. During this month it will be a time of saying our 'au revoirs' but I hope, not goodbyes forever. Over these years, I have done my best to serve you and the villages as well as possible, despite the very difficult and distressing Covid pandemic lockdown. All the churches have shown such wonderful support and have been working extremely hard to keep the churches open.

**Thank you to you all.**

Like all of us, we are on a journey through life. From time to time, I have spoken about that journey, especially when it comes to some of the many funerals I have taken. Psalm 121 is often called 'The traveller's psalm' because it marks life's journeys.

*'I lift my eyes to the hills,*

*Where does my help come from?*

*My help comes from the Lord,*

*The Maker of heaven and earth.'*

We all face daunting mountains, especially with Covid, and it may seem that there have been more valleys to get through than mountains to reach. For some, their journey is one without faith and for others, it is an ongoing journey of faith. The psalm ends with these words:

*'The Lord will keep you from all harm –*

*He will watch over your life;*

*The Lord will watch over your coming and going*

*Both now and for evermore.'*

This reminds us that whatever happens, the Lord is our keeper from our birth until our death. Just as God created and watched us in our mother's womb as we were born into this life and world, so God watches our leaving it. In between He's there, never to leave us or forsake us. This is my last 'jotting'. Farewell to those I may not speak to before I leave at the end of June. Thank you once again for enabling me to minister to you in Ansley and Arley. 'God be with you till we meet again.'

Wishing you much blessing on your journey through life,

Rev John

Please see below an update on church services for June 2021  
(As at 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021)

Following proposals from the Reverend John Langlands and consultation with PCC members in Arley and Ansley, it has been agreed that one service a week will be held in the benefice, at each building in turn, from Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The pattern for June's services can be seen below. We will have met twice for public worship by the time this magazine is circulated and hope that everyone will have had notice of the resumption of services in church. It is wonderful that we can meet each other for worship again and have very much appreciated the arrangements made by the Rev. John to deliver services and regular mid-week updates through the past weeks of lockdown. Social distancing, the use of hand sanitiser and wearing of masks will still be required. Please continue to use the church website, [www.ansleychurch.org](http://www.ansleychurch.org) or phone a churchwarden (see front of magazine) for the latest information.

#### Reverend John's Last Services in the Benefice Church Buildings

6 <sup>th</sup> June	St John's	10.30 a.m.
13 <sup>th</sup> June	St Michael's	10.30 a.m. (Damp issues resolved in the short term.)
20 <sup>th</sup> June	St Wilfrid's	10.30 a.m.
27 <sup>th</sup> June	St Laurence's	10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

#### From the Registers

No entries this month.

#### Farewell to Reverend John and Frances

It is sad to have to say goodbye to the Reverend John as he takes early retirement, and Frances at the end of this month. They have given wholeheartedly of their time and energy over the past three years and have been much appreciated by church members and the local community. St John's congregation plan to bid them farewell at the 6<sup>th</sup> June service and their final services in Ansley Parish will be the morning and evening ones at St Laurence's on 27<sup>th</sup> June, when further farewells will be made. We pray for Frances' health to further improve and for the Reverend John to have a restful July as he and Frances wait on the Lord to give them guidance on what the future should hold for them. Do come along on whichever Sunday(s) you can manage in June, whether as a regular or as a special occasion to show your appreciation for the time Rev. John and Frances have been with us. Obviously though, everyone will understand if you don't feel comfortable being out and about then. Our farewells will need to be in line with any restrictions in place at the time.

#### What happens next?

It has been agreed by the PCC that the pattern of one service per week in the Benefice should continue through July and August. Services will be held by visiting ministers or lay readers approved by Coventry Diocese.

A Zoom meeting was held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, with the Archdeacon Missioner, the venerable Barry Dugmore, Assistant Area Dean, the Reverend Gail Phillip and

churchwardens from Ansley and Arley to discuss aspects of filling the vacancy in the Benefice, including preparing to consider the Parish Profile etc. Following this meeting another Zoom meeting for the same people has been arranged for Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 p.m. at which the Archdeacon Pastor, the Venerable Sue Field will talk through the day to day running of a parish in vacancy, talk about what happens next and answer any questions.

The wardens would be grateful for your prayers that forthcoming meetings may go well and that, led by the Holy Spirit the best decisions will be made for the next stage in the life of the church in Ansley.

### Visitations 2021

It is a legal requirement for Churchwardens to attend an annual Archdeacon's Visitation service at which the Wardens are sworn in to office and commissioned for a year of service. Again your wardens would appreciate your prayer support as they prepare for a busy year ahead.

### From the PCC

#### APCM

1. The minutes of the 2020 APCM were approved.
2. The Wardens, Mrs Moreen Freestone and Mrs Margaret Antill were elected.
3. Mrs Margaret Oliver and Miss Diana Kealey were appointed Deputy Wardens.
4. Present PCC members and positions:-  
Mrs Moreen Freestone Minute Secretary  
Mrs Margaret Antill Treasurer  
Miss Diana Kealey Electoral Roll Officer and Deputy Lay Chairperson  
Mrs Margaret Oliver Lay Chairperson  
Mrs Bernice Wilkinson  
Mrs Sue Pearson  
Mrs Debbie Smith  
Mrs Margaret Kimberley
5. Deanery Synod Representatives are Mr Phil Rees and Mr Anthony Truelove.
6. Number on Electoral Roll - 51

Following the APCM a short PCC meeting was held to appoint officers as shown above.

### Churchyard

It has been noticed that five metres of churchyard wall towards the south west corner of the site is showing signs of significant mortar loss. The repair will need to use lime mortar and original stone. It has been recommended by our architect that this work should be done before winter to avoid further deterioration and this is being arranged.

The total sum returned from donations of clothes put in the Salvation Army bin in the corner of the car park for the year was £20.45. This will be placed in the churchyard fund and be used towards the costs of grass cutting and maintenance.

## Flower Festival 2021

Last year's online festival, was nerve-wracking to organise and present, but turned out to be successful and enjoyable. This year's festival is being planned to take place in church, restrictions permitting, but with significant differences to our pattern in former years as the Covid 19 situation is still unpredictable. It will have the theme 'Remember'.

Trying to plan an event in these times is not straightforward but we hope to have enough helpers to act as greeters in church and to sell refreshments and produce. The number of displays will be in keeping with the uncertainties faced by the organisers. We hope and pray that regular visitors will be confident enough to come and that new ones will be attracted along too.

Over the last fifty six years, God has guided the planning and presentation of each Flower Festival. Almost £72,000 has been raised and donations over £2,000 have been to local charities. This year the PCC has agreed to donate a total of 10% of the proceeds to the Friends of George Eliot Hospital and the Acorn Hospice, our usual charities in recent years.

As we move forward in faith, we pray that God will be with us again and that we will be able to welcome many visitors to our church once more.

## Open Gardens Reminder.

As detailed in last month's magazine insert, a National Garden Scheme Open Gardens event is being held in Ansley on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June from 2.00 to 6.00 p.m. Parking will be available at the Village Church Hall (CV10 9PS), or on the farmland opposite 1a Birmingham Road. Each garden is within walking distance (Park Cottage 25 minutes but parking available here). There is very limited parking at the other gardens for those with very restricted mobility.

## Open Church 2021

The church building will be open for visitors between 12.00 midday and 6.00 p.m. on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June and each Sunday from then on until September. In previous years visitors have appreciated this opportunity to sit in this quiet space, to pray or to ponder or to remember their loved ones. You are always welcome.

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## Prayer Requests

If you would like someone or a particular situation remembered in prayer during this time of disruption, please make contact by email or phone one of the following.

Rev. J. Langlands	024 7667 5236 email <a href="mailto:janglands@sky.com">janglands@sky.com</a>
Margaret Antill	018 2787 4520
Moreen Freestone	024 7638 1833
Margaret Oliver	014 5582 2822
Diana Kealey	02476395089

June, 2021

Being keen gardeners and having lived in the same house for almost 40 years, we have lots of flowers in Spring and Summer that remind me of people over the years. The Mimulus was always referred to by an old lady in the Village (May Stain) as 'The Monkey Plant'. When I see the Forsythia come into bloom it reminds me of little Joyce who gave me a twig and now it is huge. The last outing we went on as the Painting Group we went to Hoar Park Farm for breakfast and afterwards some of us bought plants – I got Violas and these brave little plants have battled through every type of weather and are still flowering.

When we watch wildlife programmes I have been amazed how many different kinds of birds there are, and also the many colours with beautiful males and plain females. I would love to know how many different kinds of birds there are in the world.

As my better half will tell you, I don't like neat and tidy gardens, with rows of military style flowers, and also I love to see the Dandelions, Buttercups and Daisies. What I didn't know is that Dandelion latex is similar to the latex from rubber trees, and in the 1930's the Russians planted 260 square miles of Dandelions in Eastern Europe and successfully produced rubber from them. After World War 2 with the Eastern supply of rubber stabilised Dandelion rubber became uneconomical.

As I see the hundreds and hundreds of houses being built in Ansley Village and Galley Common, it reminds me of when I was a child and there were only 3 roads in Galley Common - Tunnel Road, Valley Road and Hickman Road, and even in these roads the houses were far apart. Now the fields loved by us all are covered in concrete. How sad! One thing I must congratulate Nuneaton Council for is how they transformed the Pit Bank into a lovely green space.

As a young child in Sunday School one of my favourite hymns was –

'Daisies are our silver, Buttercups our gold.

These are all the treasures we can have or hold.

Raindrops are our diamonds and the morning dew,

While for shining sapphires we've the speedwell blue.

God who gave these treasures to your children small,

Teach us how to love them and grow like them all.'

There are many more verses.

Marie Cove.