

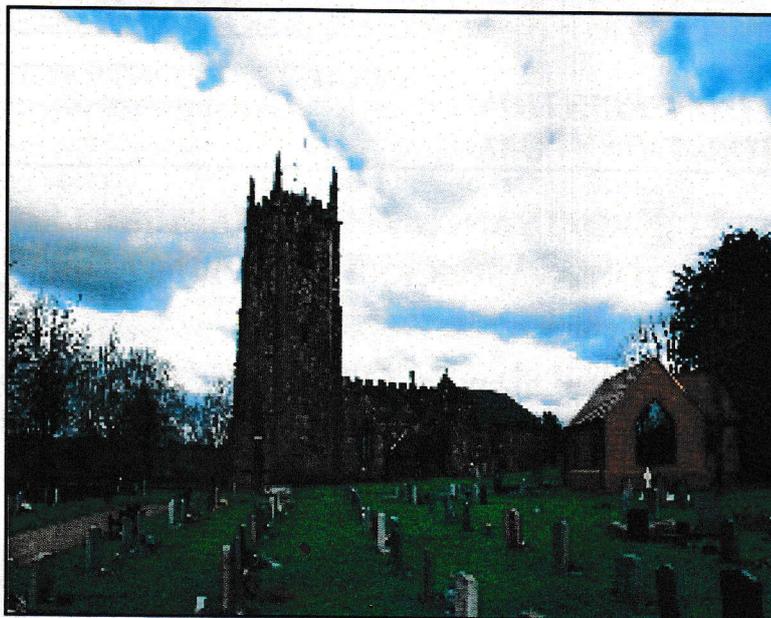
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1140

JULY 2021

Price 30p



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Ansley Jottings – What next?

Since June 21st 2021 we have been waiting with baited breath to see whether restrictions will end or at least be further eased on 19th July. Hopefully since the partial lifting of restrictions on 17th May you have had some opportunities to see more of family and friends – and to have a hug! My niece, living with her family near Paris in France was astonished to hear that there had been guidance on the internet as to how to hug others safely! We remember though, that some people may have an increased sense of isolation as others experience freedoms that they may not feel able to enjoy. Some may still feel very cautious about meeting socially. It may take some time to rebuild confidence to go into gatherings that may not have given us a second thought in the past. It is important that we give ourselves time to adjust, particularly given the uncertainty about new variants and whether a complete lifting of restrictions will indeed be possible later this month.

Last month we celebrated Pentecost - often referred to as the birth day of the church. Pentecost was a time of waiting. Waiting with prayer and expectation for God's Holy Spirit to transform timid, frightened, uncertain followers of Jesus to step out and speak up with newfound confidence and boldness so that multitudes of people from all kinds of places, cultures and backgrounds could hear good news about the impact of Jesus' life, death and resurrection and realise that this news was not only for the select few but for everyone. They heard the news in their own languages, showing them they were welcome and included in God's gift of love to the world, that they could be part of the plan.

The waiting was certainly worth it! It gave rise to the birth of the church-local and global.

Ansley and Arley parishes are experiencing a time of waiting as the process of advertising a half time post, interviewing applicants and appointing a new incumbent continues, following the end of the Reverend John Langlands' placement with us. As we wait, we will be planning the resumption of activities following the lifting of restrictions.

It will be a challenge to gather together, to rebuild our confidence and to re-establish relationships with people we have missed seeing regularly but we trust God to help us and guide us through his Holy Spirit.

July 21 D. K.

Please see below an update on church services for July 2021
(As at 26th June 2021)

Following discussion with the Diocese and the Churchwardens of Ansley and Arley it has been decided that there should continue to be one Sunday service at each church in turn through July and probably August too. A member of the Clergy or a Reader from the Diocesan list will be invited to lead the service each week.

Current government guidance on restrictions will be followed at each service. We hope and pray that the restrictions may soon be lifted and especially that we will be able to SING!

A service will be sent out once a month by post to those who cannot attend and do not have access to the internet. If you have been receiving an e-mailed or posted service and you no longer require this, please let us know. Service times and venues will be posted on the church website, www.ansleychurch.org or phone a churchwarden (see front of magazine) for the latest information.

Joint Benefice Services in July

4 th July	St John's	10.30 a.m.
11 th July	St Michael's	10.30 a.m.
18 th July	St Wilfrid's	10.30 a.m.
25 th July	St Laurence's	10.30 a.m.

From the Registers

The funeral of Colin Stain, aged 82, was held at Nuneaton Crematorium on 20th May 2021. His daughter, Stephanie gave the eulogy. Colin was a life-long member of St Laurence church. He spent most of his life in farming and in retirement spent many hours on his allotment. He made many delicious jars of jam each year for sale at our Flower Festivals. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Marion, his daughters, Deborah and Stephanie, his son, Stewart and all who knew him.

On 17th June, Kenneth Wildig's ashes were interred in a family grave.

We include these two families in our prayers as they remember their loved ones.

57th Flower Festival 2021

We are planning for this event to take place at church but with some differences this year. It will be held over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Saturday 28th 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

Sunday 29th 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday 30th 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday 30th 5.30 p.m. Thanksgiving Service

On the Monday afternoon there will be Morris dancing with Ansley Morris.

We aim to sell refreshments and to have a produce stall and a cake raffle..

Proceeds will be in aid of church funds with donations to Acorn Children's Hospice and Nuneaton Hospital League of Friends.

HELP WILL BE NEEDED, SO DO CONSIDER WHAT YOU COULD OFFER TO DO TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS EVENT.

Open Church

St Laurence church was open from 12 to 6 p.m. on Sunday 27th June as planned. The regular Sunday opening has been postponed until after 19th July when hopefully Covid restrictions will be relaxed further.

Farewells

The last service led by the Reverend John Langlands at St John's was on the first Sunday in June. Marie? Thanked him and his wife Frances for their contributions and commitment to St John's over the last three years. They were presented with a beautiful plant and a gift of £100 from St John's congregation. Thirty one people attended from Ansley Common and other parts of the Benefice. So many that even a storage room was used to ensure socially distanced seating!

The final farewells to the Reverend John and Frances were at morning and evening services at St Laurence. At the morning service Margaret Antill thanked them both for their dedication and involvement in the parish. Frances was presented with a packet of Love in a Mist seeds to sow in their garden as a memory of their time with us and the Rev. John was presented with some photos of the church. Forty four people from Ansley and other parts of the Benefice joined in the thanks and good wishes for John and Frances' as they consider God's plans for them. In the evening Moreen Freestone thanked John and Frances and presented them with a gift of £360 from St Laurence's morning and evening congregations. It will not be forgotten that the Rev. John said that he was paid to be good but that the Churchwardens were good for nothing!!!

St John's Hall and Ansley Village Church Hall

We understand that the groups meeting for activities in the halls are keen to resume normal routines. As soon as guidance allows the different groups will be informed. We hope they will not have to wait much longer.

From the churchwardens

Please bear with us as we pick up extra work during the interregnum. We will do our best to meet the needs of all. If you feel you have time and energy to help, either from home or out and about, do let us know. As soon as possible we plan to reintroduce the regular rotas for reading the lessons and leading intercessions in services and for cleaning the church. If you have any questions phone one of us and we will pass you on to the relevant person.

From the PCC

Churchyard

It was good to welcome Mark and his team back to the church for the next section of the ground gutters to be rebuilt. The work undertaken this time was to the east end of the chancel and the part of the south wall below the porch. All the concrete and cement has been removed as these materials cause damage to sandstone buildings. Properly built brick and limestone mortar gutters will now take the water away from the building and ensure it does not seep into the walls.

Some bushes that had been in the shrub bed below the porch for many years were removed. This was done to let in more light and will help to keep the wall drier. This project had been planned for last year but was delayed due to Covid.

The total cost of the work is £6804. A rebate of the VAT element (£1,134) will be reclaimed from the Government through The Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

Another section of gutters will need to be sorted in due course. As with all old buildings, there are quite a lot of projects outstanding. We try to have a continual scheme of repairs to ensure the building is kept in good order. We hope to continue to raise funds and ensure the building will be in a good state for future generations.

Finance

Although we managed to pay our full quota to the Diocese at the end of 2020, our funds, as for many organisations and individuals, did suffer last year. We do aim to cover the running costs for the churchyard and church year by year. Understandably the lockdown in early 2021 has affected both the churchyard fund and church general income. Both these accounts are somewhat low for this time of year. We pray that this situation may improve as life hopefully becomes more normal.

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.

Margaret Antill	018 2787 4520
Moreen Freestone	024 7638 1833
Margaret Oliver	014 5582 2822
Diana Kealey	02476395089

July, 2021

I saw where someone interviewed a book restorer and it was absolutely amazing how they took a book which was a wreck and when they had finished it was in a wonderful condition, not perfect but almost. I have a Bible given to a Sunday School Superintendent in 1886 who passed it on to my mother when she became a Sunday School teacher. It is in quite a bad condition but I suppose it would cost a lot to restore it.

Over the years I have accumulated so many things which perhaps should have been thrown away long ago but I still hang on to them. The first Christmas present my better half bought me was in 1957 - a musical box which was a Swiss wooden chalet which played Lili Marlene and is now looking battered. I also have a silver locket which has teeth marks in it made by my eldest son as a baby. I suppose they mean nothing to anyone else but me.

I am a dinosaur where technology is concerned but at my age have witnessed so many advances. I started my work life on a manual typewriter, moved to electric, then electronic and finally computer. When I used the FAX machine for the first time I thought it was marvellous. Since then there have been even greater advances - the internet with Facebook etc. and now they are promoting driverless cars - I hope they know what they are doing. However, what really freaked me out was when a presenter was talking to a life size woman robot and she was answering him. It was like the start of machines taking over the world.

My son made us laugh as he said scientists reckon in years to come people will live on the moon. He said people hate face masks, so how would it feel to have to wear a huge helmet to help you breathe as there is no oxygen on the moon.

The sun is the harbinger of many good things.
The lonely take heart; the poor have wings.
The sun brings new life, new hope, new joy.
Gifts both young and old can enjoy.

Marie Cove