

# Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

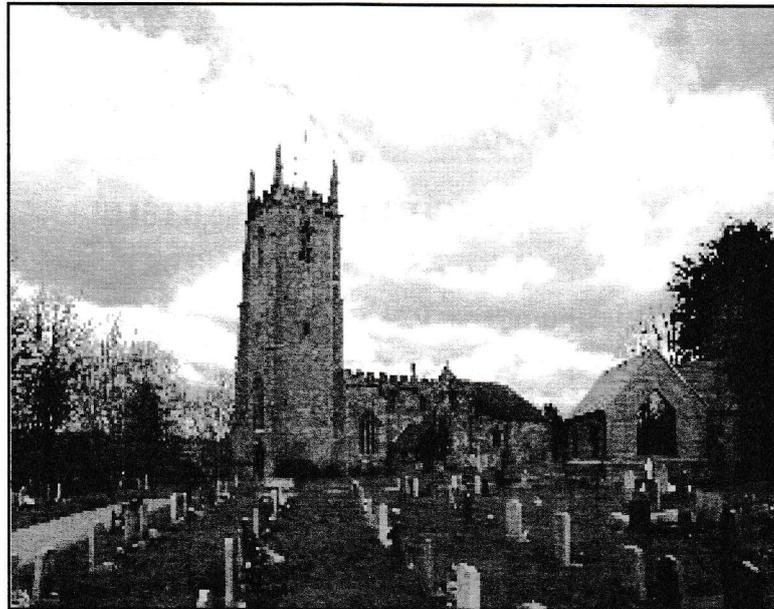
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No: 1142

SEPTEMBER 2021

Price 30p

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## Ansley Jottings – Peace

The last few months have been stressful for lots of people. Worries about personal health and safety and anxiety about family and friends have taken their toll. Many have had to cope with changes in their financial security or have suffered stress through working for long periods under difficult circumstances. Recent events in the news have also been deeply upsetting, even if wildfires, floods, the earthquake in Haiti or the political situation in Afghanistan have not affected us at a personal level. National news has been equally depressing with frequent reports of violent deaths. Anxiety and distress for ourselves or on behalf of others is understandable. How do we find peace in these times?

During lockdowns people were encouraged to be aware of their emotions and offered opportunities to de-stress, or in modern terms to experience mindfulness. I certainly found that some of the film clips shown on television of natural landscapes and sounds were very calming. It was a relief not to have the intrusion of a human voice or background music. Like many people, listening to favourite music, walking, gardening or creating a piece of art can all bring me relief from anxiety, even tackling household chores can focus the mind on something other than the stress itself. Most of us will be aware of what works best in our particular situation.

It can be a surprise to people that followers of Jesus are not immune from these feelings. However Christians can find peace in time spent being quiet with God, in praying or singing His praise and in reading the Bible. There are some encouraging verses in the Bible that reassure us that we can be at peace with God whatever our problems or circumstances.

You may like to reflect on the following verses.

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

1 John 16:33

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all." 2 Thessalonians 3:16

D.K.

Please see below an update on church services for September 2021  
(As at 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021)

During September there will be one morning service a week in the Benefice. The PCCs of Ansley and Arley will be reviewing this pattern during September as they are very conscious that it is very difficult for some members of congregations to access churches other than their nearest one.

#### Regular Services

Welcomers will continue to wear masks and gloves as appropriate.

Although there is no legal restriction on numbers worshipping in church, social distancing will be expected for the time being.

The suggestion that people still sit away from others is a precaution as we resume the singing of hymns.

Hand sanitiser should be used as we will be handling service sheets and hymn books.

Service sheets and hymn books will be handed to congregation on entry and are to be left at pews after the service.

A QR code will be available for use or name and phone number taken for Track and Trace.

Doors will be fastened open to minimise touching of surfaces and to increase ventilation.

Singing is now possible if you wish to do so. Masks can be removed if there is a good distance between you/your group and other worshippers.

We trust that these measures will enable people to feel safe to attend worship in church.

We hope that those who now feel confident about abandoning restrictions will understand our reservations at this time.

These measures will be reviewed regularly and updates from the House of Bishops will be monitored.

#### Please Note

Visiting clergy and service leaders may wish to tweak the measures mentioned above.

Their choices should be respected so they can feel comfortable as they lead us in worship.

A service will continue to be sent out once a month by post to those who cannot attend church 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](http://www.ansleychurch.org) or phone a churchwarden (see front of magazine) for the latest information.

#### Occasional Services

There are no legal limits now on the number of people attending weddings, funerals, baptisms or other events. Please phone a church warden if you have any queries about these.

#### Joint Benefice Services in September

5 <sup>th</sup> Sept	St John's	10.30 a.m.	12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	St Wilfrid's	10.30 a.m.
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	St Michael's	10.30 a.m.	26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	St Laurence's	10.30 a.m.

### From the Registers

On 17<sup>th</sup> August the ashes of Blanch Johnson, who died last year, were poured into the ground in the area of the churchyard that forms the Garden of Peace by the Reverend G. Phillip. Blanch had spent her early years in the parish.

### Great is Thy Faithfulness

Starting at 12 noon on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September we, as part of the diocesan family, are invited to explore God's faithfulness at Coventry Cathedral. The afternoon will begin with the Litany of Reconciliation. There will be three zones to move through with creative prayer stations and reflective areas for all ages. There will be time for a picnic lunch, so please bring one with you. The afternoon will finish with a family friendly Eucharist at 2.30 p.m. You do not need to book a place – just go along and join in.

### Art Exhibition and Sale 2021

Ansley Village Art Group will be holding their annual art exhibition and sale in Ansley Village Church Hall on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Light refreshments will be available. The displays will include artwork in a variety of media and sizes, so there should be something for everyone to appreciate.

### Samaritan's Shoebox Appeal

It is surprising how quickly the time will pass between now and 15<sup>th</sup> November when the shoeboxes of gifts will need to be at the area collection point. Guidance forms are available now. It is important that you read them as some items are unsuitable for inclusion. Please bring your box to church by the end of October.

### Warwickshire and Coventry Historic Churches Trust

This year the fundraising day for the preservation and repair of church buildings is being held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September. We do not have a volunteer cyclist at the moment as he is incapacitated. It is hoped to arrange a sponsored walk between local churches on a different day to raise funds for this charity. Half of our donation will be returned to our church funds later in the year.

### 57<sup>th</sup> Flower Festival 2021

Report next month

### 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.

Prayer for meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> sept important decisions re opening up and finding a new vicar. We are in the next stage of drawing up the parish profile, which forms basis of the eventual advertisement, so it is important that it is right.

From the PCC

It was a joy to be able to sing in church during our service at St Laurence on the last Sunday in July and to hear the bells being rung for the first time in many months.

Churchyard

Work has been completed to repair a section of the churchyard wall below the car park. About 5 yards of wall was crumbling. The repair cost £750. This is specialised work. In the past odd bits of cement left over from work on gravestones have been put on the wall. Sandstone and cement are not a good mix. The repair has been done with lime mortar.

Finance

A £400 donation has been received, which was mainly for the churchyard fund with a small payment to General Fund. The church wardens are very grateful for this generous gift. Please remember we have to raise all the cost of grass cutting as we do not get any outside funding.

Thank you

Thank you to cleaners of church, halls and annexe over the last months. The care takers at St John's Hall and Ansley Village Church Hall especially deserve a mention.

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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.

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

September, 2021

One of the nicest and handiest Christmas presents I have ever had was a door stopper in the shape of a black Scottie dog. It was a good job it was so heavy as it prevented one of the great grandchildren taking it home. It has been particularly useful as we keep doors open to let fresh air all through the house during Covid.

As we have started to go out and see people, it may be only 18 months but it is like meeting up with long lost friends. What has amazed me is how we have known each other under masks and so when we could sing without masks at our Sunday service it was wonderful.

At this time of year when we are picking Runner Beans (Kidney Beans as we called them), I remember my younger brother. He wouldn't let anyone cut up the beans except him because he would cut them thin, on the slant, and lots of them. Then when we had dinner he would have a large plate of beans, gravy and a lamb chop. It was, however, different when we picked the Peas, as we only liked them raw, so there were never enough for our Mam to cook, so we had to have cabbage.

Anyone who knows me knows my favourite animal is the Donkey. This mild loveable animal was ridden by Mary to Bethlehem to give birth to Jesus and then Jesus rode a donkey through Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, so I was interested to read about Donkey Rides. These were first offered in the late 1880's. They were first used to transport Cockles, but the owners saw they had extra earning potential carrying children. The Donkey Charter was issued in 1942 giving the donkeys an hour long lunch break and Fridays off. Of course I presume that these rules only apply to this country.

Welcome the harvest, a time of corn, wheat and all sorts of grain,  
Food for the hungry, God's promise fulfilled again.  
Our harvest we should share with those who have none,  
Not only food, but love and attention,  
As we have lots we can share.

Marie Cove