

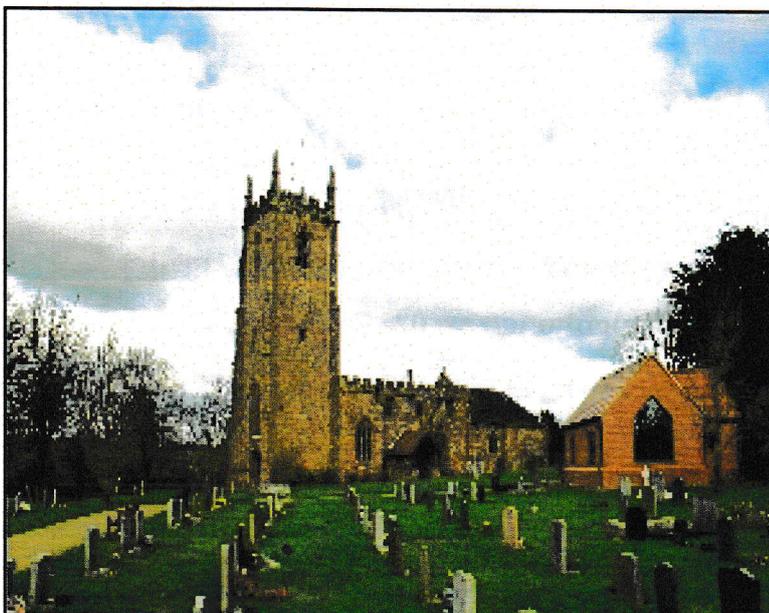
Church of St. Laurence Magazine

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

No: 1143

OCTOBER 2021

Price 30p



Wardens:

MARGARET ANTILL
MOREEN FREESTONE

Tel: 01827 874520
Tel: 024 7638 1833

Deputy Wardens

Diana Kealey
Margaret Oliver

Tel: 024 7639 5089
Tel: 01455 822822

St. Johns Leaders

MARIE COVE
JOHN COX

Tel: 024 7639 4114
Tel: 024 7639 4802

www.ansleychurch.org • email: admin@ansleychurch.org

Print Centre 024 7638 6017

Ansley Jottings – Harvest

My memories of harvest as a child are still quite fresh in my mind. I lived on a farm in West Sussex, where my father managed a herd of Jersey cattle for the landowner. I feel privileged to have experienced the heat, dust and sounds of the combine harvester on hot dry days as it gradually 'circled' the field drawing ever closer to the centre and the last remaining heads of grain. The prickly stubble was such a contrast to the waving stalks of the day before.

I remember the harvests from the garden my father tended in what spare time he had after his physically demanding working days. There was always a selection of fruit and vegetables for the family meals. In fact I and my four siblings would 'help' with this harvest by creeping silently (as we thought!) between rows of raspberries and helping ourselves to the bright red berries.

I also attended traditional harvest festivals at the local village church. The displays of fresh fruit and vegetables made a deep impression on me. I could appreciate the abundance of the harvest but was aware also that as well as the skill and hard work of the labourers, a good harvest needed rain and sunshine at the right times – both outside human control.

Harvest is a time a time to;

Recognise that God is the ultimate provider of the sun and rain and all the things we need in order to live on His earth

Thank Him for all that he provides for his people

To pray that as humans we may learn to share the earth's resources more efficiently and more effectively, while sustaining the natural world on which we all depend

Remember the passages in the Bible that describe how the farmers left gleanings for the poorest people to gather to feed themselves and their families

Acknowledge the uncertainties faced by farmers today, not just to do with the weather and climate change but also the effects of political decisions, the pandemic and pressures to find more sustainable methods of producing food that will enable the natural world to thrive.

To pray for all who grow, harvest, process, distribute and sell our food.

D.K.

We plough the fields and scatter

The good seed on the land

But it is fed and watered

By God's almighty hand.

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

As regulations and advice ease further, it has been decided that there will be a morning service at St Laurence or St John's each week. Arley will be following a similar pattern at St Wilfrid's and St Michael's. We wish each of these congregations well as another step is taken towards a more normal service pattern.

At the beginning of September 2021 further guidance was issued from the House of Bishops on opening and managing church buildings in Step 4 of the government's Roadmap out of Lockdown.

The government has moved from laying down rules to giving guidance that emphasises the personal and corporate responsibility of individuals and organisations to undertake actions to protect others and themselves.

Hand and respiratory hygiene, social distancing, face coverings and good ventilation are not mandatory but are still important public health mitigations and ought to be recognised as such when planning worship and other activities.

Current Measures

Hand sanitiser will continue to be available.

People can choose where to sit and should move to another spot if they feel uncomfortable at any point.

The QR code will be available but lists are no longer needed.

Doors will be kept open to improve ventilation.

People can wear masks if they wish but it is no longer a requirement to do so.

There is no restriction on singing.

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.

Ansley Parish Services in October

3 rd October	St John's	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
10 th October	St Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Harvest Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Harvest Evensong
17 th October	St John's	10.30 a.m.	Family Service
24 th October	St Laurence	10.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
31 st October	St John's	10.30 a.m.	Songs of Praise

From the Registers

The funeral of David (Dave) London was held at St Laurence on 14th September, followed by burial in the churchyard. He grew up in Ansley with his twin brother, John, and his eight siblings. He loved motor bikes, took up water skiing and enjoyed the outdoor life, including camper van trips around Europe. Dave had many different jobs, including thirteen years at De Mulders before buying the Oddfellows Arms in Higham on the Hill, where he became a successful pub landlord. He was immensely proud of his family. He will be remembered fondly by his son, John (Jack), Emma and his grandson, Archie, plus many other family members and friends.

The ashes of Reginald John Beale, who died in October 2004 and those of his wife, Patricia, who died in December 2019 were interred in the garden of Peace at St Laurence Church on 16th September 2021. They had been members of the evening congregation at St Laurence for many years and continued to support the church after they were no longer able to attend services.

Church members offer their condolences to the families and friends of those mentioned above.

Harvest at St Laurence 10th October 2021

The church will be decorated on Friday 8th October from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. and on Saturday 9th October from 10.00 a.m.

Help with arranging flowers and produce would be much appreciated – just come along. Donations of flowers, fresh fruit and fresh vegetables will be welcome as will food in cans, packets and jars. There will be no Harvest Supper or Sale this year but produce will be given to the Salvation Army.

Prayer Meeting

The monthly prayer meeting will be on 26th October in the Annexe at 2.00 p.m., led by Brenda Cart. Do come along if you can.

Hall Activities

Activities have been resumed as detailed below,

St John's Church Hall

Tuesday Evenings	Ju -jitsu
Wednesday Evenings	Keep fit
Thursday Mornings	Ansley Common Art Group
Thursday Evenings	Girls' Brigade

Ansley Village Church Hall

Monday Evenings	Youth Club
Tuesday Evenings	Tae Kwon Do
Thursday Evenings	Ansley Morris
Friday Afternoons	Ansley Village Art Group

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

Please make sure you take a leaflet or refer to the website to ensure you know what can be included as gifts. The boxes will need to be brought to church by mid November. A search on the Samaritans website will give you the details.

57th Flower Festival Report

After the uncertainties of planning for a 'real' event this year, we were not at all sure that people would come along. But they did! Over 500 visitors attended the Festival. We offer our heartfelt thanks to all who helped in any way; especially some members of Ansley Village Art Group who helped sell produce and refreshments, Ansley Allotment Association members who provided much of the fresh produce and Ansley Morris who entertained the crowd on the Monday. The cake raffle too was a hit, being won by a resident of Exhall. Thank you to the baker, Pat Parker.

People enjoyed sitting outside for refreshments under the warm sunshine on the Saturday, as the Annexe was out of bounds this year. Visitors on the Sunday showed true British grit as they huddled round the tables in a cold wind. Well done to them!

Two comments from the Visitors' Book were;

"First ever visit. Will love to come again."

"Beautiful as usual. Job well done, x."

Just over £2,920 was raised – a proportion of which will be donated to Nuneaton Hospitals League of Friends and Acorn Hospice.

Art Exhibition and Sale 2021

Report next month.

Coming Soon!

The Christmas Tree Festival will soon be upon us. Please let us know if you would like a tree to decorate.

From the PCC

Finance

The treasurer has been informed that HSBC will be starting to charge for cash and cheque deposits on each account held from November 2021 at a similar rate to commercial accounts. The PCC has agreed to consolidate our separate accounts into one, while keeping a record of the restricted funds, so fees are kept as low as possible.

- The PCC are investigating a scheme from the Diocese where Direct Debits are set up for regular giving. NO CHARGE.
- Standing Orders and BACS payments made directly to our one account. NO CHARGE
- Payments through Sum Up using the QR code, via the website and the card reader will continue to be charged at 1.69%.
- Payment by cheque will be charged at 40p for each cheque.
- Cash will be charged at 40p for each £100.

We will never refuse to accept any form of donation, but would appreciate it if you could review how you give to the church. It will be important that our Treasurer knows the purpose of any money paid in e.g. Churchyard, Fabric Fund, General, weekly giving etc. There is a box for this when giving online. Cheques can be made payable to St Laurence Church, Ansley or Ansley PCC but should have the desired account written on the back (Not the front).

Magazine

One page is available for an advertisement in the magazine at £80 per annum, or two half pages for £40 each. Please contact M. Antill if you are interested.

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 01455822822
Diana Kealey 02476395089

October, 2021

It is hard for many who live alone as the nights draw in but most of us are really lucky that we can put the heating on if it is cold and snuggle down in our warm beds. Someone once asked me if I won the pools (as it was then), what personal thing would I like to spend it on. I had no hesitation in replying that I would pay someone to change the bed every day. Well, it didn't happen but recently my daughter has decided to change the bed every fortnight, make it up and dry the bed linen. This to me is as good as winning the pools.

Despite the ups and downs of the weather this year, the gardens and allotments have had a good harvest, except for the tomatoes which had the blight but it only affected the outdoor plants. Those in the greenhouse have been plentiful and delicious.

For many years we bought inserts for the magazine and during one of my cleaning out sessions I found some old magazines which contained some interesting items. One was headed, 'Name this child'. Although some old names have become popular some you can never see being used again, e.g. 'Homobonus' which means 'good man'. One individual's parents chose this name for their son and he lived up to his name. He became the Patron Saint of Tailors in Cremona, Lombardy. He was not a monk, a martyr, a bishop or a king but he was a family man and a generous helper of the poor. He really lived up to his name.

I like to buy the 'Nuneaton News' as this paper keeps us in touch with local news and has a section called 'Nuneaton Memories'. This week they published the plans for Nuneaton and if this actually happens the town will be transformed with a new cinema, multi-storage car park and leisure site for the town centre, all to be revealed in early 2022. There are also plans for a 'Hilton Hotel'. Sounds as if the Nuneaton we knew and loved will be gone forever.

God is here this October morning. God is here as life is dawning.

The fields have still their sheen of green, and many berries on hedgerow are seen.

God gave this month as a gentle rest, before we tackle winter's toil and zest.

The weather continues to be mild and still giving peace and joy to mind and will.

Marie Cove.