



Church Notices for 2nd Sunday before Advent and

Last Before Advent

Remembrance Sunday and Christ the King
(14th and 21st November 2021)

Hello Everyone,

Please remember to use enquiries@saintlaurence.info from now on – the btconnect address no longer works and annoyingly there is NO bounce back!

This is a double issue this week as I'm catching up with annual leave so off duty from 15th – 23rd November.

It was lovely to see quite a few people in church on Thursday for our Act of Remembrance. We were joined by Gary Sambrook MP who presented fresh flowers in lieu of a wreath as much more 'eco-friendly.' This Sunday's service will conclude with an Act of Remembrance c10.15am

If you missed our All Souls' Services the 4pm one is now on YouTube.

Thank you to all who returned their boxes and supported the **Children's Society Coffee Morning** on Thursday. We raised just over £180 including the boxes. Many thanks Anne Stock and her team of counters and brewers.

Please display your poster for the **Christmas Fayre**. It is on Saturday 27th November so VERY SOON! If you can help before or on the day, please contact Rowena rowena.nicholls@sky.com 07724 170448

It is looking promising that work on the floor in and around the Interior Porch will resume on Monday with the glass being ready towards the end of the month. The ceiling of the North Aisle has been looked at this week and we may have to net it for the time being. Meanwhile, that area of church remains closed and hard hats should be worn if you cross in front of the St Laurence altar. Because of the building work the Wednesday service on 16th November will revert to zoom only. We will use the old link which is below.

We continue with our **"Exploring Faith"** Course by zoom on Monday evenings. Not too late to join the group which runs for 4 more weeks. Each session will last about 45 minutes. If you are thinking about baptism for yourself or a child or confirmation it will help you along the journey. Attendance will also count for school admissions purposes.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89162100473> Meeting ID: 891 6210 0473

The **Gridiron coffee morning group** is now meeting at the Black Horse public house at 10.30am on Tuesdays *All welcome*

Larry's, our Thursday young people's group, has now become so successful that we are unfortunately having to **turn down new members**. It's wonderful that those attending enjoy it so much they want to bring their friends, but we kindly ask that no further invitations are offered for the time being. Thank you. Please contact Revd Theresa for more information: 07557 472096 or theresa.curate@gmail.com

Members of St Laurence (and their friends) are invited to a **free concert on Sunday 21st November 2021**, 2.30 pm at Chatham Place B31 2JW. Join woodwind ensemble Madera for an Autumn afternoon of music. The duo will be performing a programme to suit all musical tastes including some Classical favourites. Enquiries – contact Lesley on 07770 524 700 or lcholliday@hotmail.com

Church of England Birmingham runs a series of modules under the heading “The Way of Discipleship.” If you’ve got your 2022 diary why not sign up for the next one “Becoming Like Christ.” It begins on 10th January, on a Monday or Thursday evening, 7.00 -9.15pm. It’s online, free, and each session lasts about two hours. To find out more go [here](#).

Community Christmas is again a ‘Parcel Delivery’ rather than a Christmas meal. Janice is co-ordinating offers of help with putting parcels together on Monday 13th December and delivering on Christmas Day. Janice Wones on ☎ 0121 459 7417 or janice.wones@talktalk.net by end of November.

You may remember the **Growing Up Green** activities which took place in the Northfield area in September, including at Masefield Community Garden, The Eco Centre and in our very own churchyard. A video has been produced that gives children a voice to the COP26 leaders. Watch it here:

<https://vimeo.com/643621975?fbclid=IwAR2W2rW0kQ-7rQRVv3K46YcvBEGKC92cMB55b9I6wHbU-osxLuWI7ZyDIEI>

Eco Tip: Last week’s Notices offered this link <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/> to work out your own personal carbon footprint and think about changes you could make to reduce this. But what if we don’t make changes? If world leaders, and us as individuals, don’t stick to our pledges to take action to control climate change, it’s not just people on the other side of the world who will be affected. The UK is already experiencing increased rainfall and higher temperatures, and these extreme weather events are likely to become even more frequent. To find out how climate change may affect your local area, put your postcode into this tool, developed by the BBC and Met Office. You may be very surprised by the results and more intense rain is definitely bad news for ancient churches!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idx-d6338d9f-8789-4bc2-b6d7-3691c0e7d138>

As Cop26 draws to a close we give thanks for progress made but pray for more and also that pledges will be put into action by both nations and individuals. Our greening tree will be coming down and recycled – look out for it on the mega-jewellery stall at the Christmas Fayre.....

Blessings

Can Jan

For your Prayers

Those who are ill

Barbara Finch: now home but has had a severe infection in her heel.

Peter Valentine: father of one of our recent brides currently in hospital

Roger Morton: husband of Revd Theresa

Pete Coyne: following a fall whilst cutting a hedge

Shirley E: in QE awaiting pacemaker

Those who have died

Adrian Bogle Funeral was last week

Robert Eric Summers Funeral in church on 16th November at 11am

Community News

The **Community Hotline** continues via Northfield Community Partnership ...

0121 411 2157 (10am – 3pm Monday – Friday)

for help including shopping and picking up medication as well as advice or if you'd just like a friendly phone-call.

St Bart's Local Pantry is a new venture opening at the beginning of March but is seeking volunteers now. It will be at Allens Cross Community Centre. People on a low income living within a two mile radius can become members for £5 a week, allowing them to do one shop per week worth up to £10-15. This is a step up from a food bank, enabling people to reduce their shopping bill a little and put the money they save towards something else they need. A Place of Welcome, offering free hot drinks and toast, friendship and support will be run alongside the Pantry.

If you feel able to volunteer to support the Pantry or Place of Welcome, please contact Teresa (NOT our Revd Theresa!) tkh144@icloud.com or Revd Anne Ladd on anne.stbs@gmail.com or 07752 278987

Raising Black Voices is a collective of young Black artists from, or living in, the Northfield area, set up to find ways to support each other and work creatively together. A current plan is to gather people's stories and showcase their experiences through dance, video, art, and other mediums, allowing young people to express themselves in a positive and powerful way. Email raisingblackvoices@gmail.com for information.

Don't forget it's Rowheath Pavilion's **Christmas Craft and Food Market** this Saturday (13th November, 10am-3pm) with local crafters, small businesses, bar, café and street food. Please wear a face covering.

NewStarts is an exciting Christian community re-use social enterprise, with bases at Arden Road Frankley and Bromsgrove. By providing free furniture, emergency food and household supplies to anyone on low incomes or in financial crisis they are both an environmental charity as well as poverty and homelessness prevention. Since April they have saved 19 tonnes of furniture, household items, clothes and computers from going to landfill! For anyone who needs assistance, or to offer donations or volunteer support, call 0121 679 2072 or 01527 882410, visit <https://newstarts.org.uk> or see their Facebook page.

Plans are being made by the Digbeth Dining Club team to open **Herbert's Yard**, a newly built events venue in Longbridge Town Centre, which will host a café, markets, street food, community events and more. But if you can't wait until then, a pop-up event is being held on Friday 19th November for a first look. Details to be announced in coming days on the new Herbert's Yard Facebook page and Instagram.

Covid

This week's message from **Birmingham City Council Public Health Team**:

Reported positive cases are dropping across Birmingham, however this corresponds with a decrease in testing: an increased proportion of tests are coming back positive (about 1 in 7), so it is suspected that the number of positive cases is actually higher than the figures indicate.

Europe (including the UK) is again seen by WHO as the world epicentre of the virus. We need to take personal responsibility now, or there is a higher risk that restrictions will once again be imposed as we head towards Christmas. So...

Be safe, be smart, be kind

Saturday 13th November, is World Kindness Day . With that in mind, we can all think about some of the ways in which we are being kind to one another during COVID-19.

Here are a few tips for how each of us shows kindness:

- **By being safe:** make a choice to do and encourage safe COVID-19 behaviours (For example: hands-face-space and use the NHS Test and Trace App)
- **By being smart:** know the facts (For example: find out how and where to get the vaccine or booster at <https://www.birminghamandsolihullcovidvaccine.nhs.uk/>, and see the Government's Covid guidance at <https://www.gov.uk>)
- **By being generous:** share the facts and support others

Acts of kindness help our communities stay safe during the winter months.

Remember to continue to show solidarity with affected people and check in with loved ones regularly. All of our friends, family and communities want to keep life moving during COVID-19 and to do this each one of us needs to play an active role in taking on COVID-19 safe behaviours. We can think of COVID-19 safe behaviours as some easy and effective acts of kindness.

Birmingham Festive Markets have now opened, and shopping season plus winter celebrations will soon pick up. In these uncertain times, the power of kindness can do more than ever; one small act of kindness can make a huge difference and help safeguard our communities from the virus as we enjoy the festive season.

Remember: Being safe, being smart, being generous means **being kind.**

Let's all do our bit to keep each other safe

To book for services use EVENTBRITE LINKS or, if this isn't possible phone

Revd Theresa on 07557472096. Please leave a message if no answer.

Please remember that if you are coming to a service in church or pastoral centre we ask you to :

1. Pre-book by the deadline (Sunday School Service only)
2. Demonstrate your care for others by wearing a face covering (unless exempt)
3. Social Distance – please be sensitive to those around you.
4. Avoid unnecessary conversation before the service – though we can chat outside afterwards
5. Be prepared to sit where directed by the church wardens
6. Bring a small bottle of sanitiser for use before receiving Holy Communion
7. If attending the Sunday School Service bring a 'kit bag' of pencils & crayons, scissors and a Glue-stick
8. NOT attend if you have any symptoms of Covid or you have been told to self-isolate

SUNDAY SCHOOL SERVICE
In Pastoral Centre **for the rest of the term**
PLEASE book only for the dates you can attend and cancel as early as possible if you can't make it.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/170206735929>

As usual, bookings for each Sunday will close at 2pm on the Saturday before.

SERVICES AND MEETINGS COMING UP

<p>Saturdays Church open 10am – 11.30am</p>	<p>Pop in to pray, light a candle, have a coffee and a look around.</p>
<p>Sundays 8.30am Sunday School Service</p> <p> 9.30am Holy Communion</p>	<p>In the Pastoral Centre – needs to be pre-booked</p> <p>No need to book- just come along.</p> <p>Also by zoom and zoom-phone</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84533030134</p> <p>Meeting ID: 845 3303 0134</p>
<p>Mondays 9.30-11am Stay and Play</p> <p> 5pm Evening Prayer by zoom</p> <p> 8pm Exploring Faith course by Zoom</p>	<p>In Pastoral Centre</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89992167638</p> <p>Meeting ID 89992167638</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89162100473</p> <p>Meeting ID: 891 6210 0473</p>
<p>Tuesdays 10am Gridiron ‘Coffee’</p> <p> 5pm Evening Prayer by zoom</p>	<p>Now meeting at ‘The Black Horse’ 10.30am. All welcome. Just turn up!</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89992167638</p> <p>Meeting ID 89992167638</p>
<p>Wednesdays 10am Holy Communion</p> <p> 8.30pm Compline</p>	<p>IN CHURCH and by Conference Call only</p> <p>01902 693302 Code 1139 (no Zoom)</p> <p>EXCEPT on Wed 16 November when ZOOM only due to building work.</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81798933169</p> <p>Meeting ID 81798933169</p> <p>by Conference Call only</p> <p>01902 693302 Code 1139</p>
<p>Thursdays 3.30 – 5.15pm Larry’s (for young people of secondary school age)</p>	<p>In the Pastoral Centre (Currently not taking new members as full)</p>

Also - You can Phone a Service 24 hours a day!

freephone 0800 804 8044 for Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England.

And to hear one of the **St Laurence Ministers preaching:** **0121 270 4690**

These are changed after the services on Sundays and Wednesdays (usually by early evening)

CONTACT DETAILS

PARISH OFFICE	
Lorraine Freeman (Parish Administrator) <i>Open 9-12noon Mon & Tues, Thurs & Friday</i>	enquiries@saintlaurence.info (note this has recently changed)  0121 475 1518
RECTOR	
Canon Janet Chapman <i>Off duty from 15th Nov until Wed 24th November</i>	janet.rectory@gmail.com  0121 477 3111
ASSISTANT CURATE	
Revd Theresa Morton <i>Day off: Friday</i>	theresa.curate@gmail.com  07557472096
READER	
Janice Wones <i>Day off: Friday</i>	janice.wones@talktalk.net  0121 459 7417

Church Website: www.stlaurencenorthfield.org

Twitter: @stlaurenceb31

Rector: @janetchapman5

Facebook www.facebook.com/StLaurenceChurchNorthfield

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/stlaurencenorthfield>

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. If you need to contact someone regarding a church safeguarding concern (adults or children), please call our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Rowena Nicholls, on 07724 170448.

If you have an urgent concern for the safety of yourself or someone else, call 999.

St Laurence Church Northfield is Registered Charity 1132975