



Passiontide - Ascension 2019

Organ Recital

We are delighted that internationally acclaimed organist **John Keys** (Nottingham City Organist & Nottingham University Organist) has offered to give a recital in church on **Saturday 4th May** from 4 - 5pm. The programme will include, Georg Bohn – Praeludium in C, Mendelssohn – Sonata in B flat Op65 No4, Widor – Toccata (Symphonie V).

Last year's recital by Conservatoire student Kurt Rampton was a splendid occasion and enjoyed by a full church. Do spread the word far and wide. Admission is Free but there will be retiring collection. Light refreshments from 3.45pm.

Craft and (Recycled) Art Sale

This is a new venture for St Laurence and will be held in both the Church and the Pastoral Centre **Saturday 11th May 2019** from 10am – 4pm with Refreshments and Lunches available. Admission Free

Recycled Art? This is a picture which needs a new home and the sale price will be split 50/50 between seller and church. The pictures will be on display in church and available to take home immediately.

In the Pastoral Centre (and possibly overflowing into church) will be craft stalls which need to be pre-booked and for which there will be a small charge.

We are also having a nearly-new scarf sale – so have a good sort out and then pass those someone else may enjoy on to Linda Joyes-Wallace. The scarves can be winter or summer weight (but only scarves please – sorry, no hats or gloves even if matching; save those for the Christmas Fayre.)

Eco-Church, Eco-Diocese

Did you know that Birmingham has become one of the first Diocese in the country to receive the Bronze Eco-Diocese Award? To qualify for

the silver award Bishop David is encouraging more churches to become eco-churches and St Laurence is heeding his plea! At a recent PCC meeting Fr David gave a presentation on what it involves and we are well on our way to obtaining the Bronze award. We are hoping that over the next year our older Sunday School Group will be able to help us on our way....

All over the world Christians are leading the way in tackling Climate Change. The Church of South India now has a Green Schools programme to inspire care for environment. Christian Aid has been speaking out about it for some years. Everything in the God's universe is interrelated. "If we care about nature, nature will care for us" (*a teacher from South India.*)

So this edition's eco-tip: Cut up old clothes or sheets that you were going to throw out, to use as cloths for cleaning jobs rather than buying new cleaning cloths.

Canon Janet has also set the Juniors at St Laurence School an eco-challenge for the Easter holidays: Find something which you were going to throw out and make it into something useful. A rather different take on 'from death to resurrection!' There will be prizes which will help their Lent Project which is supporting Acorns Children's Hospice.

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week this year is 12-18 May. Did you know it is the UK's longest running fundraising week? This year the theme is the Health of Mothers and Babies, focussing on Sierra Leone. In addition to individual giving, and our Bake Sale on Sunday 12th May, we do a house-to-house collection, in partnership with the other churches in Northfield. As well as collecting money to support our brothers and sisters throughout the world, this is a significant act of Christian Witness. We have a small team of faithful collectors but would really welcome more. Even if you can do only 20 houses it makes such a difference. Please speak to Gerardine Merrick or Miles Ambrose if you would like to know more. If it is your first time you may wish to go out with an experienced collector – after all Jesus sent the disciples out in pairs.

Calendar from Passiontide – Ascension 2019

April 2019		MP	EP	MP: Morning Prayer EP: Evening Prayer These quiet said services last 25 – 30mins. Church is opened just a few minutes before each service.
Mon	8	8am	5pm	9am-12noon Palm Cross workshop Pastoral Centre 9.30am-11am Stay and Play (Parent/carer & baby/toddlers) 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir Pastoral Centre 8-9pm Church Choir at the Rectory
Tue	9	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre 7.30pm-9pm Lent Group Pastoral Centre 7.15pm School Kit Session at the Rectory
Wed	10	8am HC	5pm	8am St Laurence School Staff Holy Communion (open to all) 9.45am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am-12noon Lent Group Pastoral Centre 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries) 8.30pm Compline
Thur	11	8am	5pm	9am St Laurence Infants Passion Service in church 2.30pm Funeral of Barry Gasson in church
Fri	12	8am	5pm	11am Gridiron visit to the Coffin Works 7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	13	x	x	10am – 11.30am Church Open with tea & coffee 3.30pm Afternoon Worship in Church 4pm East Anglia Bell Ringers Quarter Peal
Sun	14	Palm Sunday		8.30am Family Communion <i>Palms will be blessed and distributed at these services</i> 10am Sung Family Communion 12noon Holy Baptism (Leah, James & Che Hickey-Fisher)
Mon	15	8am	5pm	6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir Pastoral Centre 1pm CTiN Church Leaders' lunch 8.30pm Meditation & Compline by candlelight
Tues	16	8am	5pm	9.30am Holy Dusters in church 10am-12noon Gridiron Coffee Pastoral Centre 12.30pm Birmingham Passion Play from Bull Ring (nr Waterstones) 8.30pm Meditation & Compline by candlelight
Wed	17	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) & Baptism (Sharlee Oswell-Young) 12.30pm Birmingham Passion Play from Bull Ring (nr Waterstones) 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries) 8.30pm Meditation & Compline by candlelight
Maundy Thur	18	8am	5pm	12.30pm Birmingham Passion Play from Bull Ring (nr Waterstones) 7.30pm Holy Communion with Washing of Feet followed by vigil till 10pm
Good Friday	19	8am	x	8.30am Hot Cross Bun Service in Pastoral Centre 10am Walk of Witness Meet at St Laurence Pastoral Centre 12noon -3pm Three Hours at the Cross. <i>The middle hour will include musical meditations</i> 7.30pm Stations of the Cross <i>hopefully outside</i>

Holy Sat	20	x	x	10am – 11.30am Church Open with tea & coffee 7.30pm The Paschal Ceremonies.
Easter Sun	21	Easter Sunday		8.30am Holy Communion <i>Sunday School starts in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Communion <i>with Sunday School</i>
Mon	22	x	x	
Tues	23	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee (Pastoral Centre) 2.15pm Service at Chatham Place
Wed	24	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	25	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	26	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	27	x	x	10am-11.30am Church open 3.25pm(!) Wedding Blessing and Holy Baptism
Sun	28	2nd Sunday of Easter		8.30am Rise & Shine Service in Pastoral Centre 8.30am Holy Communion 10am Sung Holy Communion & Holy Baptism <i>with Sunday School</i>
Mon	29	8am	5pm	9.30am-11am Stay and Play (Parent/carer & baby/toddlers) 12 noon Informal Lunch at Northfield Baptist Church 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in CHURCH
Tues	30	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
MAY				
Wed	1	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries) 7pm Worship Committee
Thur	2	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	3	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	4	x	x	10am-11.30am Church open 1pm Wedding of Jak Shaw and Olivia Cartwright 4pm Organ Recital by John Keys
Sun	5	3rd Sunday of Easter		8.30am Holy Communion <i>with Sunday School</i> 10am Sung Holy Communion <i>with Sunday School</i> 3pm Wedding Blessing
Mon	6	x	x	
Tues	7	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee (Pastoral Centre) <i>All Welcome</i> 7pm Fabric Committee
Wed	8	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	9	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	10	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	11	x	x	10am-11.30am Church open 10am-4pm Craft Fayre in Church and Pastoral Centre
Sun	12	4th Sunday of Easter Godparents' Sunday		Start of Christian Aid week & Bake Sale after services 8.30am Family Communion 10am Sung Family Communion 3.30pm at the Cathedral (by invitation) Collation of Reverend Canon Jenny Tomlinson as Archdeacon of Birmingham

Mon	13	8am	5pm	9.30am-11am Stay and Play (Parent/carer & baby/toddlers) 2pm Mothers' Union: Speaker Canon Janet 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in CHURCH 8pm Choir Rehearsal at Rectory
Tues	14	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee (Pastoral Centre)
Wed	15	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	16	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers 6pm Gridiron Bowling evening
Fri	17	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	18	x	x	c9.30am – 4pm People & Places Day for PCC. Venue tbc 10am-11.30am Church open 2pm-4pm MU Cream Teas in the Pastoral Centre (£5)
Sun	19	5th Sunday of Easter		8.30am Short Holy Communion <i>with Sunday School</i> 9.15am KnowYourChurch KnowYourNeighbourhood Workshop 10.45am Short Communion <i>with Sunday School</i> 12noon Holy Baptism
Mon	20	8am	5pm	9.30am-11am Stay and Play (Parent/carer & baby/toddlers) 10am – 3pm St Laurence SPOTS – Stitch and Knit in PC 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in CHURCH 7.30pm Churches Together in Northfield AGM in church
Tue	21	8am	5pm	9.30am Holy Dusters in church 10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	22	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.30am funeral in church 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	23	8am	5pm	9am St Laurence Schools Yr2 & Yr5 worship in church 3pm Handbell Ringers 7.30pm Archdeacon's Visitation & swearing in of Church Warden (at Cathedral)
Fri	24	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	25	x	x	10am – 11.30am Church Open with tea & coffee 10am – 12noon KYCKYN Mapping in church
Sun	26	6th Sunday of Easter		8.30am Rise & Shine Service in the Pastoral Centre 8.30am Holy Communion in church 10am Sung Communion and Holy Baptism <i>with Sunday School</i>
Mon	27	x	x	
Tues	28	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee (Pastoral Centre) 7pm PCC
Wed	29	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	30	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers 7.30pm Sung Eucharist for Ascension Day
Fri	31	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
JUNE				
Sat	1	x	x	10am-11.30am Church open
Sun	2	7th Sunday After Easter		8.30am Holy Communion <i>with Sunday School</i> 10am Sung Communion <i>with Sunday School</i>

Saturday Morning 'Places of Welcome'

The Saturday morning team does a great job of keeping the church open and also doing little jobs to prepare for Sundays as well as cleaning the brasses. We delight in our visitors and especially when they are returning to Northfield from a distance and bring memories to share. We recently welcomed Norlene Jayne Whiting (now Twist) who now runs a B&B in Coussac-Bonneval, about 45 miles from Limoges Airport, France. For more details e-mail libellule.bret@gmail.com

Wedding Blessing

You may have heard that the older 'daughter of the Rectory' was married in New Zealand just after Christmas. British family face-timed in at some unearthly hour of the morning! Bishop David will be blessing Emily and John's marriage at 3pm on Sunday 5th May. Members of the congregation are most welcome and are invited to drinks and cake in the Rectory Garden after the service.

St Laurence SPOTS

(Society for the Preservation of Traditional Skills!)

presents a monthly 'Stitch and Knit' session from 10am – 3pm in the Pastoral Centre on the 3rd Monday of the month commencing on Monday 20th May. This has grown out of an idea for a 'Knit and Natter' group combined with the Mothers' Union considering establishing a sewing group.

The plan is that the emphasis will be on sewing in the morning, with sewing machines available and on knitting and crochet in the afternoon. Materials will be available to make items for church and charity but you are welcome to bring your own and work on your own projects. A light lunch will be available too. You can drop in at any point and stay for as long as you would like. There will be no formal charge but donations are invited. If you have any knitting needles you could donate please bring them to church.

Church Restoration and Re-ordering

“We keep talking about this but nothing seems to happen!” It does seem to be a frustratingly slow process but things are happening:

- We have received the bulk of the report of our five year inspection and on the whole the state of the church is good for a building of such an age. There are some urgent repairs needed on the tower roof (though a temporary fix is holding) and we are awaiting a thorough inspection of the beams which will happen on 1st May 2019. Pray hard that nothing ‘nasty’ is found.
- Repairs to the church roof have been made and a repair to a significant gutter leak is in hand.
- The faculty application (church equivalent of planning permission) for the internal porch which is a 15 page on-line form is now in progress. Hopefully, it will go out to tender soon and be in this year!
- Our annual accounts, and especially the headings have been thoroughly reviewed by both our External Examiner and the Finance Team at the Diocese. We are becoming much clearer about our restricted funds and every-day income. This will enable us improve our budgeting and planning for the future. Grant giving bodies need to be impressed by all of this in order to support us!
- We have caught up with a backlog in our Gift Aid claims; a huge thank you needs to go to Elaine Clements for painstakingly working through this. Please, please do Gift Aid your church collection and other donations if you possibly can – it adds c£9,000 per year to our income – but equally do ensure that you are paying sufficient tax to do this. If you aren’t paying sufficient tax you **will** receive a bill from the Inland Revenue so if in doubt check things with Elaine.
- We have been experimenting with the position of the font and an altar at the chancel step. We are now reviewing our plan to move the font to the south aisle and have a better idea of what may be needed in the way of a portable altar at the chancel step.
- We are engaging with the Civic Society in planning a Heritage Festival ‘Northfield Revealed’ in 2020 which they are willing to lead.

KYCKYN -

Canon Fred Rattley will be helping us to move ahead with this process in May. We are planning another 'all together' day similar to the one we held last June when there was such a buzz in church. This is on Sunday 19th May and the format will be:

- 8.30am** Shortened Holy Communion *with Sunday School in the Pastoral Centre linked to KYCKYN process*
- 9.00am** Coffee
- 9.15am** KYCKYN is introduced and workshops begin
(We will be working in groups and there will be a group for children aged c 6+ but there will not be separate provision for younger children)
- 10.30am** Workshop concludes and more coffee
- c 10.45am** Shortened Holy Communion – concluding c 11.30am

From this Prayer 'Walking' will be introduced which we do in our own time, either individual or perhaps in a small group. 'Walking' could include cycling or driving and parking up in an area of the parish you don't know and simply observing.

Then on Saturday 25th May (10-noon) Fred will be back with us to help a group do a parish mapping exercise and feedback will be given on Sunday 2nd June.

The aim is to help us to understand our setting as a parish church and to make us more aware of our community links and strengthen them. It is vital that we can demonstrate this as we apply for grants to help restore the church.

Birmingham Passion Play

Saltmine Theatre Company and a diverse team of community actors (including our very own Janice Wones) presents 'The Birmingham Passion Play.' This unique contemporary retelling of the extraordinary Easter story will be performed live, processing from Birmingham Bullring (near Waterstones) at 12.30, moving along New Street to Victoria Square, and finishing at St Philip's Cathedral c2pm from Tuesday 16th April – Thursday 18th April.