



Farewell and Hello

We are sad to be saying farewell to Revd Caz Hague, who for 6 years has ministered at Northfield Methodist Church. She is moving within the circuit, to be based at Shirley and Dorridge, partly because there needs to be a reduction in Methodist ministers in the area. The church will be served by the Revd Barbara Calvert and the Revd Ping Ting who are both already ministering in the circuit.

Within the CofE Deanery we are delighted that on 15th August, the Revd Sheri Gidney will be installed as Vicar of Lickey (currently curate in Barnt Green and Cofton Hackett) and the following Thursday, 22nd August, Fr Paul Cho will be licensed as priest-in-charge at St Anne's, West Heath. He will be ministering on a part-time, house-for-duty basis. We rejoice at these appointments which mean that there is vicar for every church in the Deanery. Long may this last!



Have you spotted this plaque at Northfield Railway Station?

Congratulations to St Laurence Scout Group.

It is great to have such a strong Scout group as part of the St Laurence family. For those who have been part of the Scout and Guide Movement in the past maybe pause a moment, recall some memories and give thanks for how the movement has shaped your life.

Bear Grylls who is the **Chief Scout** s has been open about his faith, telling the Radio Times in 2015: "I try to start every day by kneeling down and saying, 'Lord Jesus, I ain't got it all right, and I'm nervous about today. 'I will give it my all, but will you help me? It's never more complicated than that. I probably don't go to church enough, but my faith is a quiet, strong backbone in my life, and the glue to our family."

Family Services

From September the monthly family service will be moving to the FIRST Sunday of the month – it has been held in recent years on the second Sunday. Worship Committee has looked carefully at the dates ahead and, having consulted with the Scouts and Sunday School leaders, feel that there is a better matching themes on those Sundays.

Special Services coming up

We will be celebrating our patronal festival, **St Laurence Sunday**, on Sunday 11th August and there will be refreshments in the RECTORY Garden after the 10am service. All welcome.

The 1st September will be **Book Bag Blessing Sunday**, and anyone starting or returning to school or college or even a new job, is welcome to bring their bag to church for blessing and receive a ‘blessing tag.’

Harvest Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 6th October. We will be inviting donations for Christian Aid and local food-banks/homelessness projects in due course.

Northfield Food Bank

We collect for this in church and so far this year we have donated 40 bags of food and now have the reputation of being a very regular supplier for which they are very grateful. The demand is especially great over the summer holidays so if you are able to bring a few extra groceries to church that would be great. It is open Monday – Friday, 2-3pm and we have referral forms in church and in the office.

There are now some referral forms on the notice board at the back of church which ‘Church Open’ volunteers may find useful.

St Laurence SPOTS (Society for the Preservation of Traditional Skills!)

continues on the 3rd Monday of the month; drop-in between 10am – 3pm. So far sewing, knitting and crochet have been in abundance but other crafts welcome – especially if you’ve a box of ‘something’ you’ve been meaning to do for years – maybe an airfix kit or.....

If you’ve never used a sewing machine now’s the chance to have a go under supervision and Canon Janet is hoping to demonstrate turning a sock heel on 19th August. We are inviting a donation of £1 and another £1 if you have soup.

Church Calendar August - September 2019

July/Aug 2019		MP	EP	MP: Morning Prayer EP: Evening Prayer These are quiet said services which last 25 – 30mins. Church is opened just a few minutes before each service.
Mon	29	8am	5pm	10.44 Gridiron stroll & lunch Mad O'Rourkes Pie Factory 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in Church
Tue	30	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre. 7pm Fabric Committee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	31	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	1	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	2	8am	5pm	3.30pm Eco-church meeting at the Rectory 7.45 pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	3	x	x	10 – 11.30am Church Open with tea & coffee 10.15-12.15pm Bellringing School in church 1pm Wedding of Neil Sewell and Gemma Darby 3pm Blessing of Marriage of Claire and David Bishop
Sun	4	7th Sunday after Trinity		8.30am Holy Communion <i>with Sunday School in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Holy Communion <i>with Sunday School in church</i>
Mon	5	8am	5pm	8.30am Gridiron visit to Peterborough NO Community Choir
Tues	6	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	7	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries) 7.45pm Exploring Faith <i>in Church</i>
Thur	8	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	9	8am	5pm	7pm Mothers' Union - Mary Sumner Day Social <i>Pastoral Centre</i> 7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	10	x	x	10-11.30am Church open with tea & coffee 10.15-12.15pm Bellringing School in church
Sun	11	Patronal Festival		8.30am Family Communion 10am Family Communion followed by St Laurence Day reception: Rectory Garden
Mon	12	8am	5pm	6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in Church
Tues	13	8am	5pm	9.15 – 12.15pm Vale of Evesham Bellringers visit (peal attempt) 10am Gridiron Coffee Pastoral Centre
Wed	14	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries) 6-9pm Bellringers' Course for trainee teachers of ringing in Church
Thur	15	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	16	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	17	x	x	10-11.30am Church open with tea & coffee 10.15-12.15pm Bellringing School in church 2pm Wedding of Anthony Kavanagh and Louise Murphy 4.30pm Afternoon Worship and Reflection

AUGUST continued				
Sun	18	9th Sunday after Trinity		8.30am Holy Communion <i>with Sunday School in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Holy Communion <i>with Sunday School in church</i>
Mon	19	8am	5pm	10am-3pm SPOTS <i>in the Pastoral Centre</i> Drop in to knit, sew etc 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in Church 8pm Church Choir Rehearsal in Church
Tues	20	8am	5pm	9.30am Holy Dusters 10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre 2.15pm Service at Chatham Place 7.30pm Sunday School leaders meeting <i>at the Rectory</i>
Wed	21	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries) 6-9pm Bellringers' Course for trainee teachers of ringing in church 7.45pm Exploring Faith <i>NOT in Church(!) – Pastoral C or Rectory</i>
Thur	22	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers 7.30pm Licensing of Father Paul at St Anne's West Heath
Fri	23	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	24	x	x	10-11.30am Church open with tea & coffee 3pm Wedding of Ben Thomas and Sekina Lewis
Sun	25	10th Sunday after Trinity		8.30am Rise & Shine Service: Pastoral Centre 8.30am Holy Communion: <i>Sunday Sch starts in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Communion & Holy Baptism: <i>Sunday Sch in Church</i>
Mon	26	x	x	
Tues	27	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	28	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	29	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	30	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	31	X	X	10-11.30am Church open with tea & coffee 10-11.30am Pastoral Centre Garden Working Party
SEPTEMBER				
Sun	1	11th Sunday after Trinity		8.30am Family Communion <i>with Book Bag Blessing</i> 10am Family Communion <i>with Book Bag Blessing</i> 12noon Holy Baptism
Mon	2	8am	5pm	2pm Mothers' Union in the Pastoral Centre 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in Church
Tues	3	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	4	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries) 7.45pm Exploring Faith <i>in Church</i>
Thur	5	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	6	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	7	x	x	10-11.30am Church open with tea & coffee
Sun	8	12th Sunday after Trinity		8.30am Holy Communion; <i>Sunday School in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Communion; <i>Sunday School in Church</i>
Mon	9	8am	5pm	9.30-11am Stay and Play (Parent/carer & baby/toddlers) 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in Church

SEPTEMBER continued				
Tues	10	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	11	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	12	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	13	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	14	x	x	9am-12noon Car Boot sale: Pastoral Centre 10-11.30am Church open with tea & coffee
Sun	15	13th Sunday after Trinity		8.30am Holy Communion; <i>Sunday School in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Communion; <i>Sunday School in Church</i> 6pm Taize Service
Mon	16	8am	5pm	9.30-11am Stay and Play (Parent/carer & baby/toddlers) 10am-3pm SPOTS <i>in the Pastoral Centre</i> Drop in to knit, sew etc 12noon Informal Lunch at Northfield Baptist Church 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in Church 7pm PCC meeting: Pastoral Centre
Tues	17	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre 2.15pm Service at Chatham Place
Wed	18	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries) 7.30pm Churches Together Meeting at St Brigid's
Thur	19	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	20	8am	5pm	Heritage Open Day 10-1pm Church open with tea & coffee and tour starting at 11am 7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	21	x	x	Heritage Open Day 10-2pm Church open with tea & coffee and tours starting at 11am and 1pm 4.30pm Churchyard Service
Sun	22	14th Sunday after Trinity		8.30am Rise & Shine Service: Pastoral Centre 8.30am Holy Communion: <i>Sunday Sch starts in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Communion & Holy Baptism: <i>Sunday Sch in Church n</i>
Mon	23	8am	5pm	9.30-11am Stay and Play (Parent/carer & baby/toddlers) 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in Church 8pm Church Choir Rehearsal in Church
Tues	24	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	25	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	26	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers 7pm Social and Fundraising Committee: Pastoral Centre
Fri	27	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	28	x	x	10am-1pm MacMillan Coffee Morning in the Pastoral Centre 10-11.30am Church open with tea & coffee 10.15-12.15pm Bellringing School in church
Sun	29	15th Sunday after Trinity		8.30am Holy Communion; <i>Sunday School in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Communion; <i>Sunday School in Church</i>
Mon	30	8am	5pm	9.30-11am Stay and Play (Parent/carer & baby/toddlers) 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in Church

Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood

Canon Fred Rattley met with the PCC in their July meeting and he will be coming to a service to bring the process to conclusion soon.

The Prayer Walking helped us to uncover some organisations in the parish that we didn't know about us so we will be updating our prayer calendar to reflect this. We pondered how different areas of the parish feel and whether they geographically relate to their parish church. Has the increase in built-up area made the church less visible (The cathedral was once the high-point of the city but is now dwarfed by high-rise buildings)? A question raised by someone pondering on her way home led her to look at the local ward boundaries which have changed recently - what difference does being in West Heath or Allens Cross ward make to how you relate to Northfield?

We are also aware that church no longer has the monopoly of 'what to do on a Sunday' but competes with sports, shopping and other forms of entertainment. Fr Paul, in his farewell sermon, warned that church is not and should not be entertainment (though that doesn't mean it can't be fun at times) but just what is our USP (unique selling point) in this increasingly frantic world?

We ponder and pray and even do the occasional prayer walk.

Look-Out Groups update

In July we said farewell to David and Jean Matthews who have worshipped with us for some years. David has served on the PCC and Jean has been a valuable member of the Flower Guild. They are moving to Devon but have family in the area so we hope to see them occasionally. However, David's departure, combined with that of Charitas Cho means that we have a Look-Out group without co-ordinators. Members of that group will not be neglected (!) but will be transferred to another group very soon.

Look-Out groups were introduced earlier in the year with the aim of 'light touch' pastoral care for regular members of the congregation i.e. the co-ordinators keeping an eye of the members of their group and noticing if any hasn't been in church for a while and checking that they are OK. The emphasis is on 'Looking OUT' rather than 'Looking After.' The co-ordinators met recently and to review their roles and be confident of the boundaries. If you aren't a member of a group and would like to be please speak with one of the ministers.

The proposed Interior Porch

We now have the faculty (permission) to go ahead with the porch. The architect has re-visited to do the exact measurements so it should be going out to tender very soon.

Wednesday 10am Service

If you aren't able to get to church on a Sunday, why not try the Wednesday morning service? Some people have been put-off in the past by the difficulty of finding their way around the Book of Common Prayer but we now have an easy to follow Pink Booklet similar to the ones we use on Sunday. The service lasts about 40 minutes and includes a short sermon.

Do I recognise that voice?

Some of you may know, our congregant Mark Reynolds is a voice actor. He is currently playing multiple roles, including a cameo as Jon Pertwee, in a new sci-fi comedy audio drama 'The Man From Venus' which is available now on Audible, Amazon and iTunes at a special introductory price. Currently around £6 depending upon which platform you buy it from. Also, if people join Audible they it could be their first download which is FREE! It is a tale of a pair of star-crossed Doctor Who super-fans whose obsession with Tom Baker starts a series of life changing events. The cast also includes Sophie Aldred who played the companion of the Doctor in the late 1980's on TV.

Organ Recitals at Birmingham Cathedral

Monday 5th August 1.10pm Samuel Bristow (Birmingham Cathedral) including music by Elgar, Sumsion and Williams

Monday 12 August 1.10pm Ashley Wagner (Birmingham Cathedral) including music by Alain, Gowers and Scheidemann

Monday 19th August 1.10pm Nicholas Morris (St George's Hanover Square) including music by Byrd, Parry and Purcell. Nicholas has played at St Laurence a few times. The recitals last about 45minutes.

The Royal Orthopaedic Trust (Woodlands Hospital)

is holding a Summer Market on Friday 9th August 11am- 3pm. This is free event, open to the local community and all money raised will go towards the hospital charity. To find out more visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2323897471204364/>
or <https://rohcharity.org/fundraise-for-us/currentevents/>

Dates for your diary ...

- Christmas **Craft** Fayre – 2nd November 10am (this is a new initiative)
- Car Boot Sale 9th November – 9am
- Our traditional Christmas Fayre 23rd November – 11am
- Deanery Confirmation Service – Friday 1st November
- All Souls' Service – Sunday 3rd November 4pm
- Carol Service – Sunday 16th December 4pm

Eco-Church and Fairtrade Church

We have now registered as an Eco-Church and a small group is working our way through the questionnaire to see how we can qualify for a bronze award. Being a **Fairtrade church** helps us to 'win eco-church points' so please continue to support our fair-trade status... if you donate or buy coffee or tea for church please ensure it bears this sign (often in blue, green and black.)



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The Core **FAIRTRADE** Mark ...

is a registered certification label for products sourced from producers in developing countries.

The Mark is used only on products certified in accordance with **Fairtrade** Standards.

It is quite complex and the package simply saying 'Fairly Traded' such as Sainsbury's Red Label tea isn't sufficient. It is very sad that Sainsbury's has decreased its commitment to be fully Fair Trade. The Co-op is still very committed to 'core' Fair Trade.

Contact Details

Parish Office – 0121 475 1518

Rectory – 0121 477 3111

Parish Office – stlaurence@btconnect.com

Rector – janet.rectory@gmail.com

Website: www.stlaurencenorthfield.org

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries

Wednesdays 5.45-6.30pm

in the Pastoral Centre

173 Church Road, Northfield, B31 2LX

Twitter: @stlaurenceb31

Rector: @janetchapman5

Facebook

www.facebook.com/StLaurenceChurchNorthfield

Just Giving

www.justgiving.com/stlaurence-northfield

TripAdvisor

<http://bit.ly/StLaurenceTripAdvisor>

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