

Hello everyone,

We've had some good news in a few quarters this week.....

The Grantham Yorke Trust has squeezed our application for a grant for the **St Laurence Safe Spaces Project** (after-school club for older children which Fr David is leading on) into their December meeting. Please pray that it will be successful. If you would like to help with this project do contact him.

Some music students from the University of Birmingham are offering to record some Advent and Christmas music for us so we can put together a **Carol Service** for our YouTube channel. I'm meeting with them this morning.

Following a discussion at the PCC we are offering a **'St Laurence Church Christmas Postal Service.'** As the opportunities to give cards to one another at church will be very limited simply drop your cards for church members through the letter box at Pastoral Centre (do not enter) by Monday 14th December and we will put them in the packs which we are aiming to deliver later that week. Please write the name and (if you have it) the address of the recipient on the front with your name and phone number on the back in case of queries.

Following the Churches Together in Northfield meeting I'm delighted to report that the alternative 'Community Christmas' i.e. delivering 'Christmas Goody Bags' on **Christmas Day** to those who would normally come is looking viable. We've gathered 11 volunteers so far here at St Laurence and 60 invitations to receive packs have gone out. Not too late to offer to help – contact Jennie King, jennieking47@gmail.com 07765 258834.

The first session of the **'Exploring Faith'** course went well with one couple reporting back that they'd continued the discussion between themselves afterwards. The great thing about Zoom sessions is that you don't need a baby-sitter so both parents can join in. This week it will be 'all about Jesus.' Please pray for Revd Theresa and Rowena as they lead this course and for all the participants.

Barry Gardner has done a wonderful **flower arrangement** in church. It can be seen during this week's Rise and Shine service on YouTube.

The 11th **100-Club** prize draw for 2020 went ahead on Tuesday 17 Nov at the coffee morning meeting via Zoom. Jeff Carr has notified and congratulated the winners; first prize Liz O'Keefe £20 number 22; second prize Stuart Andrew £15 number 51; third prize Graeme Lanfear £10 number 30. Winners may have to wait until we come out of lock-down to receive their prize money. More about the 100 - Club can be seen by clicking the link :-<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/k9axjzorzx7fra/AABw9fLjufjP-GuXdW0a3-QAa?dl=0>

We offer our **condolences** to Lorraine Wells and her daughters Philippa and Hannah and their families, following the death of Lorraine's mother, Joyce, this week. Also, the funeral service of Dorothy Giles is <https://youtu.be/f7JWiRrVgOQ>

My attention was drawn to a lovely virtual exhibition on **loss and grief** this week. Do have a look and pass the link on to others: <https://lostforwords.royallondon.com/>

In the community section below are details of a variety of **job opportunities** to help roll out the vaccine programme. Please pass them on to others. Also 2021 is census year and there will be temporary jobs around this.

It's lovely to learn that quite a few people are listening to our sermons (sometimes again) on our easy to you use **'phone a St Laurence sermon line'** **0121 270 4690**. We change the sermons on Sunday and Wednesdays usually around lunchtime. It's open 24 hours a day so if you can't sleep why not listen to a familiar voice? Don't worry, you won't disturb their sleep!

We've some very imaginative photos of 'high places' for this Sunday's montages. Spot the bird boxes which have gone up in the churchyard this week. A further step on our 'Eco Church' journey. Next Sunday is Advent Sunday and there are several references to mountains in the Old Testament reading so

'Mountains' it is! So send in a pdf or photo - ideally landscape - to peterm435@gmail.com with the topic in the subject line by 4pm on Thursday.

(The following week we've got reference to John the Baptist and his eating of locusts. Those who have joined in the post-service zoom chat will know that there is one (ordained!) member of the church who, whenever mention is made of someone's pet, assesses whether there will be enough meat on it to make a good casserole – however, he has now completed the new safeguarding training so we think it will be safe to invite photos of pets for Sunday 6th December. Do start getting them to pose....)

As we won't know until Thursday 3rd December whether churches will be able to re-open, we will keep to **Zoom-only for the 9.30am service on Sunday 6th December.**

Meanwhile, thanks to our hardy stewards, church is open for Private Prayer 10-11.30am every Saturday.

*Blessings
CanJan*

For your Prayers

Those who are ill

Pat Turner, she's had some surgery this past week and we pray that her arm will be much less painful
Vicki Reeves, in a lot of pain.

Those who have died

Muriel Whitmore (Claire's Granny) Funeral was Tues 17th November in London. Claire managed to attend and meet up with family (at a safe distance!)

Joyce Smith (mother of Lorraine Wells) Funeral in church on Thursday 3rd December

May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.

For this period of lockdown, the Church of England has issued a call to prayer to the nation and details of this and some special prayers are available via <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation#na>. The resources include a prayer for this week:

Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark and difficult days, we turn our hearts to you.

In ages past, you have delivered our nation from disaster. Do it again, we pray.

Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders; give strength beyond human strength to the NHS and all our frontline workers; give comfort beyond human comfort to the elderly and all who grieve.

Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark and difficult days, turn your face towards us, have mercy upon us, and heal our land, we pray. Amen.

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.

Community News

Coronavirus Testing We now have a local Covid-19 walk-in testing centre in Longbridge opposite Bournville College as well as one at Stirchley and drive-thru near the airport - so don't hesitate to get a test if you have symptoms or are not sure. You do need to make an appointment via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or 119 (lines open from 7am – 11pm)

The **Community Hotline** continues...

0333 772 1931 (10am – 2pm Monday – Saturday)

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

Northfield Food Service came into being over half-term to supply meals to families instead of free school dinners. There was more than enough food so it was offered to other people in need in the community. Overall more than 3500 meals were delivered by over 150 volunteer drivers. Amazing!

A new weekly hot meal service is now operational **every Thursday** and the meals are delivered. They are available to adults too, especially those who have health needs, are frail or self-isolating. You can make referrals (including self-referrals) for hot meals via phone 07385 920694 (it was missing a digit last week) or

northfieldfoodservice@gmail.com

If you notice any fly tipping, graffiti or litter in your area you can request it to be cleared up on <https://www.fixmystreet.com/>

Anxiety, stress and other mental-health needs.....

Mind is offering an increasing amount of help via the telephone 0121 262 3555 (24/7)

They also offer 'Time Online' – new webchat via <https://birminghammind.org/> as well as mindfulness groups online, recovery sessions, walking groups including a men's group.

There is also.... Samaritans: [Call: 116123](tel:116123) Email: jo@samaritans.org or online: <https://www.samaritans.org/>

Covid vaccine work opportunities with University Hospital Trust (QE and others)

The UK Government and its medical and scientific advisors have been clear that the only safe and sustainable way out of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on lives, livelihoods and lifestyles is through a vaccination programme. We are preparing hard to ensure we are ready across Birmingham and Solihull to offer the vaccine as soon as it becomes available. In readiness, we are therefore seeking people with the appropriate experience to join us, with the common life-saving purpose of recovering our community from this pandemic.

We will need, to name but a few:

- Drivers
- Security
- Administrators
- First-aiders
- Coordinators
- Organisers
- Care workers
- Marshalls
- Logistical movers and handlers.

We need to fill these roles, **and fast**, so please apply asap. Staff from UHB are on hand to talk through this opportunity: we can arrange a telephone or video call to discuss with you for which you would need to do nothing more than drop an email to covidvaccineworkforce@uhb.nhs.uk expressing your interest and a contact telephone number, and also tell us how you heard about this opportunity (which is through St Laurence Church passing on information given at Northfield Stakeholders' Meeting)

We will be providing full training and induction so commitment is the main essential criteria, and from there we will work with you to identify where your skills and experience can best strengthen our programme of work. We can then discuss with you the pay and conditions. All roles have been risk assessed as low risk roles so you can be assured that you will be enabled to work safely. Work would commence from December 2020.

Services and meetings for this week

One of the ministers says Morning Prayer alone in church Tuesday-Saturday

Services and Meetings this week		Links and Meeting IDs
Sunday	8.30am Rise and Shine	on YouTube from 8.30am There are linked activity packs available to be taken from the church porch door
	9.30am Holy Communion	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84533030134 Meeting ID: 845 3303 0134

