

Seventh Sunday of Easter

21st May 2023



Hello Everyone,

We've had a lovely Ascension Day service in church followed by a buffet lunch in The Great Stone which raised £43 for **Christian Aid**. St Laurence has always supported this charity with great generosity.

There will be envelopes/buckets available in church on Sunday but we also have our own e-giving page with a target of £700 to raise. We're up to £160 at the moment. Click on the below to donate

https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week-2023-2?utm_medium=sharedbuttons&utm_campaign=CAM-004478

This year the focus is on Malawi and as we learnt in church last Sunday Jen has had to choose which of her children she can afford to send to school but the "Pigeon Pea" project with Christian Aid is helping to change that.

We're also having a **Christian Aid Plant stall** on Sunday 11th June. Please do sow a few extra seeds (my beans are germinating!) and start taking cuttings ready for the sale. At our Rogation Service at Masefield Community Garden last week we negotiated having some of their plants to sell and then they receive back any of our spares from the sale.

At the Ascension Day service we gave thanks for the life of **Stuart Andrew** who died peacefully on Wednesday afternoon in St Mary's Hospice with his wife, Chris, by his side. I had seen him the previous day and prayed with him. Stuart's legacy to St Laurence Church, Junior School and community is enormous. We give thanks to God for giving him His gift of life at this time and in this place. May he Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Sunday 28th May is Pentecost – do wear Red to mark the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in fire and wind.

Tom and Rebecca Hayes were **confirmed** last Sunday at a wonderful service St Francis Church, Bournville. Anne Stock and Jamie Wyatt will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday (11am 28th May) during the service at the Cathedral. Please pray for everyone. The Cathedral service will be live-streamed and available for the rest of the day on their web-site

We wish David Morgan and Helen Welch every happiness on their **Wedding Day** tomorrow (Saturday)

Our **Annual Meeting** is this coming SUNDAY (21st May) during the 9.30am service.

Copies of the Annual Reports are available in church and also on the web-site.

<https://bit.ly/StLaurenceAnnualReport2022>

The list of people on the **CHURCH electoral roll** is now on display in church.

At the meeting we need to elect 2 church wardens – thankfully Roy and Sandra are willing to stand again 4 members of Deanery Synod (who also serve on the PCC) – Robert Mayne and Elaine Clements have been nominated

Probably 7 members of the PCC as Elaine being on Synod will create a vacancy on PCC.

So far we have nominated: Peter Mitchell, Gloria Ikan, Janice Wones, Gerardine Merrick, Ruth Clarke, Debbie Keeves

Please consider prayerfully about whether you can serve in this way.

PCC meets every 4-6 weeks and Deanery Synod meets 4 times a year.

It's a **Wild Church** Sunday – meet 4pm at the church Porch

Handbell ringers – please note that the start time has been moved forward to 1.45pm. New members very welcome. They are a friendly bunch and the practice lasts about an hour.

Monday 19th June – Janice will be leading a short service at **Chatham Place**. **It will meet at the new time of 10am for a 10.15am start.**

Churches Together in Northfield held its Annual Meeting on Tuesday and appointed Revd Theresa as its new Chairperson.

We hope the work on the **church ceiling** will start towards the end of May. It will be costing us c£20,000. We also have 'public notices' up in respect of permission for the additional heater which was installed at the back of church. It was not included in the original application so we are seeking a retrospective faculty.

The latest **Deanery Newsletter** is available in the porch or <https://bit.ly/KNMSApr23>

Prema Louis says:

- Thank you so much for all the greetings cards. She now has plenty for the time being.

From Kate Watkins of Church Central:

- The **Northfield Prayer group** gathering will be on Weds 24th May. The plan is to meet at our house (25 Bodenham Road) at 7.30pm and then go out in 2s/3s prayer walking in the local area, with a focus on the parish of St Bartholomews, before meeting back at ours. We are hoping the weather will be kind and we can make the most of the lighter evenings!

Also, St Chad's Sanctuary (behind St Chad's Cathedral) is in urgent need of clothes for refugee men, including clothing in small sizes. If you can help with good quality second-hand clothes including coats and new underwear and socks. Normally open **10:00 and 15:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays but best to check in advance**. 0121 233 3127 / <http://www.stchadssanctuary.com/>

Eco Tip If you have a combi boiler turn down the flow temperature of your boiler to 60-65°C for improved heating efficiency – this is the most efficient setting for most combi boilers.

Finally, I'm having a few R & R days this week. I'll be working Monday but off Tuesday – Thursday afternoon.

*Blessings,
Canon Janet*

For your prayers:

Barbara Finch: *now back at Ash Grove*

Pete Coyne: *Pete's health continues to be stable and his mother is now out of hospital*

Those who have died:

James (Jim) Blake: *funeral in church on Friday 26th May at 1.15pm. Jim lived opposite the entrance to the Pastoral Centre and he and his wife Val donated last year's flag.*

Stuart Andrew: funeral to be arranged.

SERVICES AND MEETINGS COMING UP

This section has been replaced by the calendar which is available in church (on yellow paper) and can be viewed on the web-site <https://www.stlaurencenorthfield.org/> Click on 'calendar' on the front page.

Please continue to book for the Sunday School Service using

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/170206735929> bookings close at 2pm the previous day.

Zoom links	
Sunday Service	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84533030134 Meeting ID: 845 3303 0134
Evening Prayer and Bible Study	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89992167638 Meeting ID 89992167638
Conference Call For Wednesday Holy Communion and Compline	In church and by Conference Call 0117 463 6922 Code 1139# In church

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)

Podcasts of the Sunday and Wednesday sermons are now available as **Podcasts**. There is a player for the sermon podcasts at the foot of the 'Worship' page on the Church web site so you can listen to them

CONTACT DETAILS

PARISH OFFICE	
Lorraine Freeman (Parish Administrator) <i>The Office is open weekdays (except Tues & Wed this week) 9am – 12noon</i>	enquiries@saintlaurence.info 0121 475 1518
RECTOR	
Canon Janet Chapman <i>Off Tuesday – Thursday this week</i>	janet.rectory@gmail.com 0121 477 3111
READER	
Janice Wones <i>Day off: Friday</i>	janice.wones@talktalk.net 0121 459 7417

Church Website: www.stlaurencenorthfield.org

Twitter: @stlaurenceb31

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