

Easter Sunday 9th April 2023



Hello Everyone,

What beautiful weather for **Good Friday!** We had over 40 people at the Hot Cross Bun Service and a similar number attended all or part of The Three Hours at the Cross. Thank you to all involved in the Dramatic Passion Reading and to Janice for organising it. We've just walked the Stations of the Cross which was very moving – though we were slightly distracted afterwards by a cat trying to get into one of our bird boxes!

Tomorrow is Holy Saturday (not to be confused with Easter Saturday which is the Saturday AFTER Easter) and we'll be setting up church for Easter from 10am.

And on **Easter Sunday** **9.30am** Holy Communion (all-age) to include licensing of our Eucharistic Assistants

11.30am Said HC

(No Sunday School Service but we will have an Easter Egg Hunt at the end of the 9.30am service or Wild Church on Easter Sunday)

From Easter Sunday we will administer the wine of Holy Communion from the Common Cup. There is no pressure to receive the wine; if you do not wish to simply return to your seat after receiving the bread. The CofE is clear that Christ is fully present in both bread and wine so everyone will receive the fullness of Christ whether in bread and wine or bread alone.

Holy Dusters will be back in action on Tuesday (11th April) from 9.30am dusting the church (and searching for any stray Easter Eggs?)

If you are interested in attending a live streaming of the **Coronation Service** in church, please sign the list in the church porch or Pastoral Centre or let me know. We are looking for a minimum of 20 people to commit to this. It is on the morning of Saturday 6th May.

Also, souvenir booklets of prayers for the Coronation of the King are now available in church. The prayers start on Easter Sunday! Donations of £1.10 appreciated

On Pentecost Sunday (11am 28th May) the service at the Cathedral includes **Confirmation**. If you are interested in being confirmed please let me know asap so we can start the preparation sessions. You will also need to be available for the rehearsal at the Cathedral on Sunday 14th May at 5.15pm. The sessions will be open to anyone who wants to find out more about the Christian faith.

We had a good open meeting on Wednesday evening to talk about the arrangements for the **Vacancy (also known as Interregnum)** following my retirement and have started to identify what we will be able to offer and what may cease. I think quite a few people were surprised at all that goes on behind the scenes! There will be a further meeting on **Wednesday 12th April at 7pm** in the Pastoral Centre. If you are one of 'the baptised people of God' and especially if you are on the Electoral Roll please both pray for and participate in all the opportunities on offer going forward.

We are looking for a snappy name for our “Oversight Area of Churches.” The churches involved are: St Anne, West Heath; St Bartholomew, Allens Cross; St David, Shenley Green; St Laurence, Northfield; St John the Baptist, Longbridge.

Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday 21st May during the 9.30am service. If you are NOT already on the electoral roll and would like to join, please complete a form and return to Ruth Clarke via the Parish Office or the church wardens. You need to do this before Monday 30th April as the roll has to be displayed for 14 days prior to the meeting.

Social and Fundraising

- The **Social and Fundraising** committee next meets on Thursday 13th April at 7pm in the Pastoral Centre. If you have any ideas please do come along or let Rowena know about them.
- Don't miss our Organ Recital with Ashley Wagner from Birmingham Cathedral on Saturday 22nd April at 4pm. Music to include Widor's Toccata and Jesu, joy of man's desiring by Bach. It will last about 40 mins and admission is free. Donations welcome.
- We're having a **Christian Aid Plant stall** on Sunday 11th June (we had planned to have it in May but it wasn't working out!) Please do sow a few extra seeds and start taking cuttings ready for the sale.

Janice Wones says Thank you to all the people who knitted hearts for the NHS, particularly the lovely lady who knitted six(!) pairs of hearts. They will all be appreciated. If every you fancy doing some more, please give in to the urge and let me have them to pass on to my contact at West Heath Hospital.

New in the Pastoral Centre A Creative Textile class has started on Fridays 10.30am-12.30pm. The class covers textile techniques, exploring hand and machine embroidery, surface decoration, being creative with colour and fabric and much more. Join us in a relaxed friendly and creative group. To join the class and for more information about the projects and the fees contact:

Annette Lucas, Email: anettlucas4@gmail.com Mobile: 07757277527

Around the Deanery

We've a new Deanery Newsletter out this week and it is available here <https://bit.ly/KNMSMarch2023> and there will be a paper copy in the Church Porch soon!

Way of Discipleship: Bible Confidence and Knowing theStory

From 8 May, Monday or Thursday evenings, 7:00 - 9:15pm on zoom

This Diocesan course comprises six sessions, and aims to build confidence with the Bible in three ways:

Knowing the whole story of the Bible, Dealing with tricky questions about the Bible, Exploring practical ways to read, study and meditate on the Bible.

- Session One: What is the Bible and How to read it
- Session Two: Creation and Calling
- Session Three: Covenant and Worship
- Session Four: Freedom and Longing

- Session Five: Jesus and the Gospels
- Session Six: The Church and Future Hope

The dates are weeks beginning May 8th, 15th, 22nd, June 19th, 26th, July 3rd

Use this form to book on:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/Cofebirmingham/CopyOfWayOfDiscipleshipBookingForm202223>

Eco Tip World Earth Day is Saturday the 22nd of April - Weoley Castle Square 11am-2pm

in Weoley Castle ruins 11.00 a.m. and 4 p.m to promote world earth day. Come along and see what various groups in the area are doing to help protect our locality.

Finally, **Revd Theresa** says “ Please pass on my grateful thanks to everyone for their very kind words and incredibly generous gifts. I feel carried on my way on a wave of love.”

*She will be licensed at Priest-in-charge of the Parish of Allens Cross (St Barts) by Bishop Anne on Sunday 23rd April at 10am in Holloway Hall, Holloway, Birmingham B31 1TT Please note there will **NOT** be a 9.30am service at St Laurence but there will be short, said Holy Communion service at 4pm. Please continue to pray for Theresa and her family at this time of change.*

Blessings,
Canon Janet

For your prayers:

Stuart Andrew: *receiving chemo treatment for throat cancer*
Pete Coyne: *much better and just needing check-ups every six months.*

Those who have died:

Richard Barber: *funeral will be at Redditch Crem on Friday 28th April funeral*
Angela Hayes: *Angela had been making good progress but sadly died suddenly last week.*
Graham Smith (former Lay Reader): *funeral at St Laurence on Tuesday 2nd May at 10.30am*
Wendy Elizabeth Fox-Kirk: *graveside funeral 3rd May*

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84533030134>

Sunday Service	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)

Peter Chapman is now making Sunday and Wednesday sermons available as **Podcasts** and there is now a player for the sermon podcasts at the foot of the 'Worship' page on the Church web site which allows the sermons to be played directly from that page.

CONTACT DETAILS

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

ALSO Northfield Community Partnership (NCP) Hub **0121 411 2157** email info@northfieldcommunity.org

or just drop in at the NCP Hub, 693 Bristol Road South, Northfield, B31 2JT

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.

Sadly, some people have been **abused by someone from a church**. “Safe Spaces” is a free, independent support service providing a confidential personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused by someone from a church or as a result of their relationship with the Church of England, the Catholic Church in England and Wales, or the Church in Wales. Although funded by the churches it is run by the independent charity, Victim Support. If you have been affected, however long ago, they can provide you with support. You do not have need to have told the police or the church authorities. Your information will not be shared without your consent unless you or someone else is in danger. Telephone 0300 303 1056 for more information.

St Laurence Church Northfield is Registered Charity 1132975