

Church Notices for Second Sunday after Epiphany

16th January 2022



Hello Everyone,

Sadly, the Covid rates are currently 'sky-high' locally so please read the Covid section carefully. We all have different views on how we should handle this which can be tricky at times. The tower bell ringers have decided to suspend Friday practices for the moment but will continue to ring on Sundays. In discussions with Sandra, we've decided to make coffee available this Sunday but serve it in the Concert Hall. The tables will be set up as small group seating. Please do not move them together to form a large group.

The following remain closed: church on Saturday Mornings, Stay and Play and Larry's.

However, there will be a Bible Study at 4pm on Thursdays via Zoom throughout January. We'll be looking at the readings for the coming Sunday for about 45 minutes

AND 6 couples attend Wedding Preparation last Saturday (held in exam lay-out in the Concert Hall!) It should have been 7 but one couple did their LFT just before coming and it was positive.

This Sunday we are delighted to welcome Charlie Mark Stevenson-Rose (and his family and friends) for **Holy Baptism** at 12 noon.

This coming week we will be meeting with our DAC adviser about where to position the speakers for the upgraded sound system.

Many thanks to Roy Dutton and the **Holy Dusters** (sounds like a pop-group!) who worked energetically last Tuesday to clean the church getting to some corners which haven't seen a duster for quite a while. Next session is provisionally 8th February.

Rowena Nicholls writes "Members of our branch will be joining in the **Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer** on Sunday between 8am and 12noon. The Wave of Prayer is an international prayer chain 24/7 365 days a year. Our Diocese is linked with Sychelles in the Indian Ocean, Bukedi in Uganda, Enugu in Nigeria, Marathwada in North India and we also pray for our links in Malawi. The intercessions on Sunday will be part of the Wave of Prayer - please do remember and pray for all those living in these areas."

Peter Chapman is now making Sunday and Wednesday sermons available as **Podcasts**: via:

Spotify at <https://open.spotify.com/show/16wZUENutAJSTu5a4nPDde>

Apple at <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/sermons-from-st-laurence-church-northfield/id1603832487>

and on other Podcast players the generic address is <https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/1915174.rss>

ALSO 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.

PCC members (especially) if you didn't hear last Sunday's sermon please listen to it before the next PCC meeting (Monday 24th January) either via podcast or YouTube (or I could e-mail you the written version.) It looks at different patterns of baptism in the New Testament so relevant to the exploration about the links between Holy Communion and Confirmation.

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.

The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is traditionally celebrated between 18-25 January– the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul.

To mark this **Pray24Brum** returns for the 7th year.

The 24 hours of prayer takes place 8:00am - 9:00pm on Friday 21 January and 8:00am - 8:00pm on Saturday 22 January 2022. This is a hybrid event and many people will choose to come to The Church at Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX to pray in person, whilst others may feel that they would like to participate on-line. In the event of a lockdown, the event will continue exclusively in an on-line format. The beauty of this 24 hours of praying together, is that each group leads prayer in their own style or tradition, which then makes up a rich tapestry of prayer for The City.

NORTHFIELD CHURCHES will be leading the 8-9pm hour this coming Friday (21st January) via Zoom. The link will be circulated in next week's notices.

Globally, daily reflections and other materials for the week have been prepared by the churches of the Middle East, the history of which was, and still is, characterised by conflict and strife, tainted with blood and darkened by injustice and oppression. The Christians of the Middle East offer these resources conscious that the world shares many of the travails and much of the difficulties that it experiences, and yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness. For more information, visit the Churches Together in England site [HERE](https://bit.ly/WeekPrayer) or for a simplified version of the daily meditations <https://bit.ly/WeekPrayer>

COP26 may be over..... but it will continue to be vital for churches to build on the progress made over the Climate Sunday campaign. The ecumenical group behind 'Climate Sunday' is calling on churches to continue to deepen their understanding of creation care and climate justice, to continue to take action in their buildings and community for the environment, and to raise their voices to put pressure on the UK government to scale up and follow through on climate commitments made in Glasgow.

Join us at a **Webinar – Thursday 20 January 2022, 7-8.30pm** to hear about where you can go next in the pursuit of creation care and climate justice. We'll be focusing on three main questions:

- How can churches continue to incorporate the environment and climate in their teaching and worship?
- Why is it helpful for churches to be part of a greening scheme as they make commitments for the climate?
- What needs to happen to keep 1.5 degrees alive?

We'll have panellists from the Climate Sunday steering group as well as guests from the greening schemes to tell you about their campaigns and actions. The panel will be chaired by Andy Atkins from A Rocha UK.

Please [register](#) to attend.

Eco Tip: Many of us have a good clear-out in January...but what to do with all that 'stuff' we no longer want? How do we avoid adding it to the 10 million household items that are sent to landfill every year?

Freecycle can be a great way of offering pre-loved items to the local community for free:

<https://www.freecycle.org> and charity shops are sometimes happy to take things you may not expect - for example fabric items that are no longer fit for purpose (such as clothes, curtains, tea towels) may be recycled as rags (please do ring the shop and check before dropping them off). Any items you're not sure what to do with, just look them up on <https://www.recyclenow.com> - you might be surprised just how much can be reused or recycled!

From this Friday, 14th of January, Bishop David will be offering fortnightly filmed reflections and conversation on questions arising out of topical issues facing us all. This week the topic is 'Wellbeing.' They are available [CofEB Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and CofEB [YouTube](#)

I will be travelling north to visit family and take a funeral of a very dear family friend this week. This means I will not be available Monday - Wednesday.

Finally, I'm delighted to report that I have received an 'honourable mention' in the Church Times Caption Competition. I don't think I received any last year (though I didn't enter often.) I've yet to win the chocolate!

With my best wishes and prayers,

Canon Janet

For your Prayers

Those who are ill

Peter Valentine: still in hospital

Pat Billingham whose back surgery has been postponed until mid-Feb

Christine Dwyer (Lorraine's sister) very poorly with Covid. She has been sent home from hospital (with no support) and advised bed rest for 8 weeks.

Pete Coyne it looks like the cancer has been restricted to his kidney which will need to be removed asap.

Alex Curio: grandfather of one of our Sunday School children.

If you know of any church members or parishioners who are not able to get out and would like to receive Holy Communion at home please let one of the ministry team know. This week Dorothy Green has received Holy Communion at home.

Those who have died

Lily Kehoe: Funeral at Redditch Crem on 17th January.

Elizabeth Swift: Funeral in church on Monday 24th January.

Joyce Luscombe: (mother of Ruth Clarke)

Community News

Northfield Community Partnership is now open again. For any advice or support call:

0121 411 2157 Monday - Friday 9am-5pm

or email info@northfieldcommunity.org

Most support will be offered virtually or by phone in order to comply with Covid safety measures.

Unfortunately the Umbrella Sexual Health Clinic is closed until further notice.

Donations to the food bank continue to be very gratefully received. If you or someone you know would like to be referred to the foodbank, or need help tackling the issues causing financial hardship, do get in touch and the team will be happy to help.

The countdown to the Commonwealth Games has started! Ahead of the opening ceremony, the **Queen's Baton Relay** is making an epic journey across all 72 nations and territories of the Commonwealth - it's currently in India heading for Papua New Guinea! If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else to be a Batonbearer as it travels through Birmingham on 27th and 28th July, head over to the Birmingham2022 website and say how your nominee is making a difference in their community and why they deserve to take on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: <https://www.birmingham2022.com/>

Men's Shed Repair Café is a recently started project at Allens Cross Community Garden, 24 Tinkers Farm Road, B31 1RH. It's open on Thursdays, 1.30-4.30pm, for all ages and genders to learn share skills, learn to repair and form new friendships. For more information call 07527 904420 or visit the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AllensCrossRepairCafe/>

Would you or someone you know benefit from an **occupational therapy assessment**? Northfield Community Partnership is hosting face to face assessments, starting from 26th January 9am-3pm at St Nicholas Place, 81 The Green, Kings Norton. For information and booking, call 0121 675 6906

Do you remember a company called W. W. Turner, who specialised in upholstery for cinema seats? They were originally based in Kings Heath, but moved to Station Road, Northfield, in the 1930's, and closed in the mid-1970's. If you'd like your memories to be included in a project looking at cinema history in Birmingham, please contact Dave Harte, email info@flatpackfestival.org.uk or tel 0121 771 1509. More information on the project at: <https://flatpackfestival.org.uk/projects/wonderland>.

Covid

Birmingham's Public Health Team warns that although there are some media reports of case rates plateauing, they continue to climb in many parts of the country - including Birmingham, which has seen a 49.7% increase in cases compared with the previous week. **Frankley Great Park, Longbridge & West Heath, Northfield and Bartley Green are all in the top 7 of hardest hit areas, with around 2000 cases per 100,000 population in the past week.** Increases have been seen in all ethnic groups and age groups, particularly in people over 60.

These increases are expected to continue over the next few weeks, so we are all urged to think very carefully about what face-to-face meetings and events we choose to attend, and limit these as we feel appropriate. Keep air flowing, wear masks and sanitise/wash hands regularly.

We are all still encouraged to do regular lateral flow tests, at least twice a week, and within 24 hours before attending events, visiting others, etc (including coming to church). The Public Health Team (and, thanks to Canon Janet, Gary Sambrook MP for Northfield) are aware that getting tests can be difficult, but they say do keep trying as stocks are being replenished regularly. The best way to obtain tests is:

1. Obtain a code at <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/collect-lateral-flow-kits> and take this to one of the pharmacies listed on that website (there are over 100 in Birmingham)
2. Order online for a pack to be delivered to your home <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>
3. Visit a pop-up collection site – there are quite a few around Northfield including the Clock Pharmacy, Lloyds Pharmacy in Sainsburys and Superdrug in the Shopping Centre – search by postcode here: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/> Availability of tests is best early morning and early afternoon. There is also currently a pop up site at New Street Station (Mon-Fri 8.15am-6.30pm; Sat 8.15am-5.30pm; Sun 9am-5pm).

As of 11th January, if you have a positive lateral flow test, even if you don't have symptoms, you must self-isolate immediately. (If you take another lateral flow test which is negative, it's the positive one that counts!) You do not need a confirmatory PCR.

However, contrary to previous advice, you *do* need to take a PCR if you wish to claim an NHS financial payment when self-isolating.

More details about when you must self-isolate and how to look after yourself when you are self-isolating are provided here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>

If you're having trouble getting to a vaccination centre, use a JabCab!

Birmingham City Council has partnered with TOA Taxis to provide a **FREE taxi service** to and from your nearest NHS vaccination walk-in site.

1. Call TOA Taxis Birmingham on 0121 427 8888
2. Give the reference **BirminghamJabCab**
3. Give the 4-digit Pin Number **3995**

To find your nearest walk-in site, see <https://www.birminghamandsolihullcovidvaccine.nhs.uk/>

Not all sites are offering vaccines for young people aged under 16, so do check the details on the website carefully. You can also pre-book your appointment at the above link, or ring 119.

Let's all do our bit to keep each other safe

To book for services use EVENTBRITE LINKS or, if this isn't possible phone

Revd Theresa on 07557472096. Please leave a message if no answer.

Please remember that if you are coming to a service in church or pastoral centre we ask you to :

1. Pre-book by the deadline (and cancel if you subsequently cannot attend)
2. Demonstrate your care for others by wearing a face covering (unless exempt)
3. Social Distance – please be sensitive to those around you.
4. Avoid unnecessary conversation before the service – though we can chat outside afterwards
5. Be prepared to sit where directed by the church wardens
6. Bring a small bottle of sanitiser for use before receiving Holy Communion
7. If attending the Sunday School Service bring a 'kit bag' of pencils & crayons, scissors and a Glue-stick
8. NOT attend if you have any symptoms of Covid or you have been told to self-isolate

SERVICES AND MEETINGS COMING UP

Saturdays

Church will not be open on Saturday mornings for the next few weeks.

4pm Wedding Preparation for 2022 couples on 22nd Jan and 5th Feb

In the Pastoral Centre Concert Hall (at a Social Distance!)

Sundays 8.30am Sunday School Service

In the Pastoral Centre – needs to be pre-booked

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/170206735929>

bookings for each Sunday will close at 2pm on the Saturday before.

9.30am Holy Communion

No need to book- just come along.

Also by zoom and zoom-phone

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84533030134> Meeting ID: 845 3303 0134

<p>Mondays 9.30-11am Stay and Play Suspended for the moment</p> <p>5pm Evening Prayer by zoom</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89992167638 Meeting ID 89992167638</p>
<p>Tuesdays 10am Gridiron 'Coffee'</p> <p>Continuing to meet at 10.30am at The Black Horse</p> <p>5pm Evening Prayer by zoom</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89992167638 Meeting ID 89992167638</p>
<p>Wednesdays 10am Holy Communion</p> <p>IN CHURCH and by Conference Call only</p> <p>01902 693302 Code 1139 (no Zoom)</p> <p>8.30pm Compline</p> <p>by Conference Call only</p> <p>01902 693302 Code 1139</p>
<p>Thursdays 3.30 – 5.15pm Larry's Suspended for the moment</p> <p>4pm Bible Study by Zoom</p> <p>5pm Evening Prayer by zoom</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89992167638 Meeting ID 89992167638 (for both Bible Study & EP)</p>

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)

CONTACT DETAILS

PARISH OFFICE	
Lorraine Freeman (Parish Administrator) <i>Lorraine is working from home as much as possible</i>	enquiries@saintlaurence.info (note this has recently changed)  0121 475 1518
RECTOR	
Canon Janet Chapman <i>Not available Monday – Wednesday this week</i>	janet.rectory@gmail.com  0121 477 3111
ASSISTANT CURATE	
Revd Theresa Morton	theresa.curate@gmail.com

Day off: Friday	 07557472096
READER	
Janice Wones	janice.wones@talktalk.net
Day off: Friday	 0121 459 7417

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.

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