

**Third Sunday of Epiphany  
22nd January 2023**



Hello Everyone,

We've now learnt that Revd Theresa's **licensing as Priest-in-Charge of St Bartholomew's, Allens Cross** will be on the morning of Sunday 23rd April at Holloway Hall. She has to have a break between leaving us and her licensing to allow time for moving house and other matters so her last Sunday with us will be Sunday 2nd April. After the service there will be coffee and cakes in the Pastoral Centre to which you are all invited. This Sunday she is taking the service her "sending church" of St Chad, Rubery. Please pray for Theresa and her family at this time of change.

The **SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING Committee** had a good meeting on Thursday and a list of events for the year will be available soon.

If you are having a post Christmas clear-out you will be pleased to know that we've got an **Indoor Car Boot** sale on Saturday 28th January. There are still 3 tables left if you would like to sell things. Contact the Parish Office [enquiries@saintlaurence.info](mailto:enquiries@saintlaurence.info) 0121 475 1518. If you can help either with setting up on Friday lunchtime or on the day, please contact Rowena 07724 170448.

Thank you to the **Holy Dusters** for cleaning the church and helping remove the Christmas Tree on Tuesday.

**Wild Church** will be this Sunday at 4pm and then on 5th & 19th February and 5th & 19th March.

**Jeff Carr writes: -**

FINAL CALL - Do keep subscriptions for 2023 **100 Club** coming in. For full information on how to pay click the link below, (or contact Jeff Carr in church, mobile: 07837 183866, email: [jeff.carr@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jeff.carr@blueyonder.co.uk)) :-  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/6pkqlcwmwh2q1ak/2023%20Subscriptions.odt?dl=0>

General updates about the 100 Club during 2022 can be seen by clicking the following link :-  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vv5cms6o9jq0zfn/AAAZWnPRvxVaY1jJo2r2iZB6a?dl=0>

**Stay and Play is back!** It re-opened on Monday and proved very popular. It runs from 9.30am – 11am. Accompanied babies and toddlers are very welcome. There is a small charge.

**Tuck-In Tuesdays!** You may have heard of Warm Spaces. We are delighted to announce Vineyard Church will be offering a Warm Space on Tuesdays from 3.30 – 6pm in the Pastoral Centre. It will include a simple hot meal at 4.45pm. If you would like to volunteer please contact Rick Hill: [swimrick1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:swimrick1@yahoo.co.uk) 07729883822

The YMCA is running an **ALPHA Course** (Christian Basics) on Mondays at 1pm aiming to finish by 2pm at the latest. For more information or to register e-mail: [chaplain@ymcaheartofengland.org.uk](mailto:chaplain@ymcaheartofengland.org.uk)

No sooner Christmas and then we are talking about Lent! Ash Wednesday is 22nd February. Marianna is running a **Lent Group** on Tuesdays at 7.30 -8.30pm in the Pastoral Centre (upstairs hall.) It will begin on Tuesday 28th February and the last session will be on Tuesday 28th March. It will be based on the book "Eavesdropping - learning to pray from those who talked to Jesus" by Henry Martin Publisher DLT. You do NOT need a copy of the book but it is easily available on-line with good prices for 2nd hand copies. This is the same book as last year but we covered only 10% of the material and it proved to be very good. Numbers are limited so please register with Marianna well in advance as this

group is open to members of Churches Together in Northfield. e-mail [marina.melville@btinternet.com](mailto:marina.melville@btinternet.com) or tel 07967011387

This week the House of Bishops met to discuss the next stages in the **Living in Love and Faith discernment process**. The Bishops are recommending to General Synod that it enables “Prayers of Love and Faith” for use at services of thanksgiving and blessing for same-sex couples to publicly mark a significant stage of their relationship such as a civil marriage or civil partnership in church. This will not change the church’s doctrine of Holy Matrimony nor would it enable same-sex couples to be married in church.

The draft prayers can be found here: [Prayers of Love and Faith](#).

The full statement from the House of Bishops can be found here: [Living in Love and Faith: A response from the Bishops of the Church of England about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage](#) – sets out the bishops’ proposals and recommends areas for further work.

RefuJuice is lovely apple juice made to support “Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcomes Refugees”. The next date for a RefuJuice delivery is: Wednesday 1st February between 6-8.30pm (Min order) 3 bottles @ £9 Case of 12 bottles @ £35.

If you would like a delivery please let Joy Bourne know the following by e-mail : [refujuice.brwr@gmail.com](mailto:refujuice.brwr@gmail.com)

1. Name and address
2. Telephone no (in case of problems )
3. Number of bottles
4. Payment method (online/ cash / cheque)

We now have **Food Bank** deposit points in both the Pastoral Centre Foyer and the trolley in church. After Christmas is often when there is huge need. Toiletries are very useful too.

**The week of prayer for Christian Unity is THIS WEEK 18-25<sup>th</sup> January.** Within it is “Pray24Brum” - the annual ecumenical 24 Hours of Prayer on Friday 20 January to Saturday 21 January at St Chad’s Cathedral. The full programme of services will be advertised closer to the time on the Birmingham Churches Together website and social media channels. However, Northfield is hosting the 9-10pm hour on the Friday via zoom **(That’s tonight!)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86885949779>

Meeting ID: 868 8594 9779

Passcode: 469078

Also within the week (on Saturday), Arthur and Nicky Magahy will be inducted as the **ministers of Northfield Baptist Church**. We very much welcome them to Northfield and pray for them and the church as a new chapter of ministry begins.

Find out more about the changes coming up at St John’s Church, Longbridge at an open meeting on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1:30pm** at St John the Baptist Longbridge, with the Area Dean and members of the Gas Street Church team.

The request for reports for the Annual Report 2022 have gone out. Please send your reports to Richard Mycroft [richard.mycroft@cantab.net](mailto:richard.mycroft@cantab.net) by the end of January.

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**Eco Tip:** Northfield Community Partnership (Future Proof Project) is offering a FREE Warm Home Check to all over 50's. Tel Ralph 07595 828401 or e-mail [info@futureproofproject.co.uk](mailto:info@futureproofproject.co.uk) It includes fitting draught excluders, replacing light bulbs for LED/Eco bulbs, installing radiator reflector foil, bleeding radiators and checking boiler settings. They will also hang thermal curtains (but you need to provide the curtains.)

Please note that all volunteers, especially those who are on any sort of rota, need to be updated about **safeguarding at church**. There are courses which can be done on-line at home but the Diocese has recently released some resources so we can hold workshops locally. We are planning to hold two: -  
 Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February after coffee (c11.15am) – c 1.30pm including a light lunch  
 Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 10am – 12noon – including refreshments.

Please sign up in the porch.

These cover how you can keep yourself safe as well as keeping others safe so are very helpful.

Finally, we had a visit from our architect this week to begin the process of how we take forward the repairs to the church ceiling which were identified last year. We have already done the first part of this process which was to repair the roof.

*Blessings,  
 Canon Janet*

**For your prayers:**

**Those who are ill**

*Pete Coyne: still stable*

*Koby Thomas (age 10): great nephew of Rita and Brian Gardner. Great news! - Koby has returned to school and is even playing some football. Hopefully, he will soon be clear of leukaemia. Thank you so much for all your prayers.*

*Richard Barber*

*Angela Hayes (Mother of Tim Hayes)*

**Those who have died**

Brenda Knee: Funeral was 16<sup>th</sup> January at Lodge Hill

Barbara Helen Gregory: mother of Leanne and grandmother of Jude

Doreen Jean Francis: funeral and burial of ashes have been held this week: Doreen was the 'Nan' of Rebecca Hayes and greatnan of little William who was baptised last year.

<b>SERVICES AND MEETINGS COMING UP</b>	
<p><b>Saturdays</b></p> <p>Church Open 10am – 11.30am <i>with Bell Ringing</i>  <i>School on 21<sup>st</sup> January</i></p> <p>9am Indoor Car Boot (28 Jan)</p> <p>4pm Marriage Preparation (28 Jan &amp; 11 Feb)</p>	<p>Church</p> <p>Pastoral Centre</p> <p>Pastoral Centre</p>
<p><b>Sundays</b> 8.30am <b>Sunday School Service</b></p>	<p>In the Pastoral Centre – <b>please pre-book</b> so we know numbers</p> <p><a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/170206735929">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/170206735929</a></p>

	bookings close at 2pm the previous day.
9.30am Holy Communion	In church by zoom and zoom-phone <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84533030134">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84533030134</a> Meeting ID: 845 3303 0134
4pm Wild Church (22 <sup>nd</sup> January)	Churchyard
<b>Mondays</b> 9.30am Stay and Play 5pm Evening Prayer by zoom	Pastoral Centre <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89992167638">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89992167638</a> Meeting ID 89992167638
<b>Tuesdays</b> 5pm Evening Prayer by zoom	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89992167638">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89992167638</a> Meeting ID 89992167638
<b>Wednesdays</b> 10am Holy Communion  5.15 - 6pm Bible Study on coming Sunday's readings by zoom  8.30pm Compline	<b>In church and by Conference Call</b> <b>0117 463 6922</b> Code 1139#  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89992167638">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89992167638</a> Meeting ID 89992167638  Use above phone number
<b>Thursdays</b> 2-3pm Handbells  3.15pm Larry's (after school club 11+)	Church  Pastoral Centre
<b>Fridays</b> 7.30 – 9pm Bell Ringing Practice	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**: 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.

## CONTACT DETAILS

<b>PARISH OFFICE</b>	
Lorraine Freeman (Parish Administrator) <i>The Office is open weekdays except Wed 9am – 12noon</i>	<a href="mailto:enquiries@saintlaurence.info">enquiries@saintlaurence.info</a> 0121 475 1518
<b>RECTOR</b>	
Canon Janet Chapman <i>Day Off: Monday</i>	<a href="mailto:janet.rectory@gmail.com">janet.rectory@gmail.com</a> 0121 477 3111
<b>ASSISTANT CURATE</b>	
Revd Theresa Morton <i>Day off: Friday. Theresa is also on retreat this week from Tuesday - Thursday</i>	<a href="mailto:theresa.curate@gmail.com">theresa.curate@gmail.com</a> 07557472096
<b>READER</b>	
Janice Wones <i>Day off: Friday</i>	<a href="mailto:janice.wones@talktalk.net">janice.wones@talktalk.net</a> 0121 459 7417

**ALSO** Northfield Community Partnership (NCP) Hub **0121 411 2157** email [info@northfieldcommunity.org](mailto:info@northfieldcommunity.org) or just drop in at the NCP Hub, 693 Bristol Road South, Northfield, B31 2JT

Church Website: [www.stlaurencenorthfield.org](http://www.stlaurencenorthfield.org)

**Twitter:** @stlaurenceb31

Rector: @janetchapman5

**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/StLaurenceChurchNorthfield](http://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.

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