



Fair Trade Fortnight is..... 25 February – 10 March 2019

For two weeks each year, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to celebrate the people who grow our food, people who live in some of the poorest countries in the world and who are often exploited and badly paid. This year the focus is on the people, in particular the women, who grow the cocoa in the chocolate we love so much.

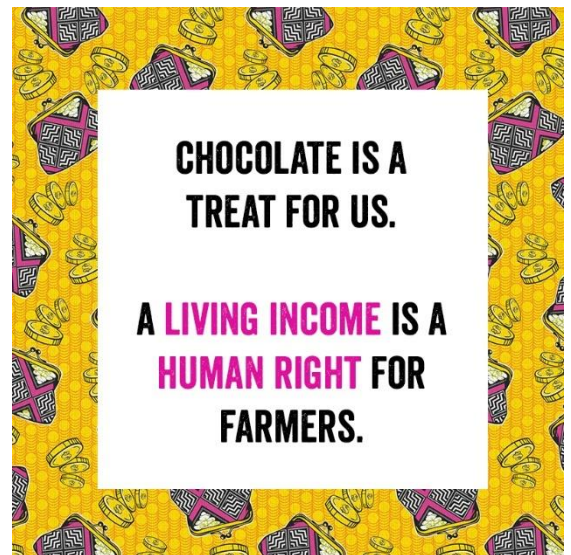
£1.86 is the amount a cocoa farmer in West Africa needs to earn each day in order to achieve a living income. Currently, a typical cocoa farmer in Cote d'Ivoire lives on around 74p a day. Almost all cocoa farmers in West Africa live in poverty.

For the women the situation is even worse. They may plant and harvest on the farm, look after children, carry water, collect wood, cook and clean for the family, and transport the cocoa beans to market but often with fewer rights than men.

This is why the Fairtrade Foundation is campaigning for a living income to become a reality for cocoa farmers in West Africa. If we can work together with governments, chocolate companies and retailers to make the commitments and policies necessary, then we can make it happen.

Don't feed exploitation: choose Fairtrade chocolate, coffee, tea, sugar..... what else can you find in your local shop? And if they haven't got it do ask for it!

You can order a Fairtrade Easter Egg for £3.99 by signing up in the porch. We will need an order of 18 and thereafter multiples of 6 to get them at this price – sign up soon!



Ecumenical Lent Groups

Each year we join with other Christians in Northfield to share ideas in fellowship and pursue a course of study. This year we are using a course on prayer which will be workshop style so include praying together in various ways as well as discussion and fellowship.

The course will be launched on Tuesday 5th March (7.30-9pm) at St. Laurence. The groups will then commence the following week and run for 5 weeks at the following times (if sufficient people sign-up and you need to do this by **Sunday 24th February** – in the porch)

Group	Day	Start date/ time	Leader	Place
A	Wednesday	March 13/ 10.15 -12.00	Janice Wones	St. Laurence Pastoral centre
B	Tuesday	March 12/ 7.30 pm	Marianna Melville	St. Laurence Pastoral centre
C	Thursday	March 14/ 1.15 pm	Annette Sampson	14 Dinsmore Avenue Northfield
D	Wednesday	March 13/ 7.30 pm	Jenny Shardlow	St.David's Church
E	Thursday	March 14/ 2.30 pm	Mark Bennett	St.David's Church

Ecumenical Lent Talks

This year Colin Capell of Northfield Methodist Church will be giving a series of talks on Bible translators: they will cover St. Jerome, Bishop Ulfilas, St.Cyril, Martin Luther, King James 1st/6th and Ludovik Zamenhof. They will be held 2-3pm on Wednesdays at Northfield Methodist Church on Wednesdays, commencing on 13th March.

For further info please contact Colin Capell email colinca@cec21.plus.com

Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood.

We had been hoping to move on to the next part of the programme in late February but due to the recent deaths this has been postponed until after Easter.



Calendar mid Feb - early April 2019

		MP	EP	MP: Morning Prayer EP: Evening Prayer These quiet said services last 25 – 30mins. Church is opened just a few minutes before each service.
Mon	18	8am	5pm	Half Term NO Stay & Play Playgroup 12 noon Informal Lunch at Northfield Baptist Church 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir: Pastoral Centre 8pm Lent Group Leaders' Briefing : Rectory
Tues	19	8am	5pm	9.30am Holy Dusters 10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre Sorry, no Faith Fellowship Group this week - restarts after Easter
Wed	20	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (for baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	21	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	22	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	23	x	x	9am-12noon Car Boot Sale in Pastoral Centre 10am – 11.30 Church Open with refreshments 10.30am Funeral of Fr Henry Burgess, curate 1950-54, Emmanuel Wylde Green
Sun	Feb 24	2nd Sunday before Lent		8.30am 'Rise & Shine' service: Pastoral Centre 8.30am Holy Communion <i>no Sunday School</i> 10am Sung Holy Communion & Baptism of Freddie Day <i>with Sunday School</i> 4pm Memorial Service for Andy Carr
Mon	25	8am	5pm	9.30-11.00 Stay and Play Playgroup: Pastoral Centre 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir: Pastoral Centre 7pm PCC with presentation from Civic Society of possible Heritage Festival c2020 as the first item: Pastoral Centre All welcome
Tues	26	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	27	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (for baptism & wedding enquiries) 7.30pm Deanery Synod at Kings Norton
Thur	28	8am	5pm	11.02am train Gridiron Stroll and lunch in Alvechurch 3pm Handbell Ringers
MARCH				
Fri	1	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	2	x	x	10am – 11.30 Church Open with refreshments Birmingham School of Bellringing Practice 10.15am – 12.15pm
Sun	Mar 3	Sunday before Lent		8.30am Holy Communion <i>Sunday School starts in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Holy Communion <i>with Sunday School</i> 12noon Baptism of Rory Wilcox 12.30pm Sunday Lunch at the Old Rose & Crown (Lickey) 7.30-9pm Wedding Preparation: Pastoral Centre
Mon	4	8am	5pm	9.30-11.00am Stay and Play Playgroup: Pastoral Centre 2pm Mothers' Union: Pastoral Centre

				6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir : Pastoral Centre 8pm Church Choir Rehearsal at the Rectory
Tues	5	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre 7.30pm Lent Group launch at St Laurence
Wed	6	Ash 8am	Wed 5pm	9.15am St Laurence CofE Junior School Ash Wednesday service 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP) with ashing <i>note change of time</i> 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (for baptism & wedding enquiries) 7.30pm Sung Holy Communion with ashing
Thur	7	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	8	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	9	x	x	10am – 11.30 Church Open with refreshments Birmingham School of Bellringing Practice 10.15am – 12.15pm 9.30 -5.30 Sunday School Leaders' attend 'Growing with God' conference
Sun	Mar 10	1st Sunday of Lent		8.30am Family Communion 10am Sung Family Communion 12noon Baptism of James Clarke and Maisie Williams 4- 5.30pm Wedding Preparation: Pastoral Centre
Mon	11	8am	x	9.30-11.00am Stay and Play Playgroup: Pastoral Centre 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir: Pastoral Centre
Tues	12	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	13	8am	5pm	9.45am Holy Communion (BCP) <i>note change of time due to Lent group</i> 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (for baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	14	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	15	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	16	x	x	10am – 11.30 Church Open with refreshments
Sun	Mar 17	2nd Sunday of Lent		8.30am Holy Communion <i>Sunday School starts in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Communion <i>with Sunday School</i>
Mon	18	8am	5pm	9.30-11.00am Stay and Play Playgroup: Pastoral Centre 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir <i>in the Pastoral Centre</i>
Tue	19	8am	5pm	9.30am Holy Dusters 10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	20	8am	5pm	9.45am Holy Communion (BCP) <i>note change of time</i> 11.30am Pottery Workshop in Church 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (for baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	21	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	22	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	23	x	x	10-11.30 am Church Open with refreshments Birmingham School of Bellringing Practice 10.15am – 12.15pm
Sun	Mar 24	3rd Sunday of Lent		8.30am 'Rise & Shine' service in Pastoral Centre 8.30am Holy Communion <i>no Sunday School</i> 10am Sung Communion <i>with Sunday School (no baptisms)</i> 8pm Beer and Hymns at The Great Stone <i>dedicated to Andy Carr</i>
Mon	25	8am	5pm	9.15am St Laurence CofE School Year 4 eucharist in church 9.30-11.00am Stay and Play Playgroup: Pastoral Centre 11am Holy Communion <i>Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary followed by Informal lunch at Northfield Baptist Church</i> 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir <i>in the Pastoral Centre</i>
Tue	26	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre

Wed	27	8am	5pm	9.45am Holy Communion (BCP) <i>note change of time</i> 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (for baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	28	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers
Fri	29	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	30	x	x	10am – 11.30 Church Open with refreshments Birmingham School of Bellringing Practice 10.15am – 12.15pm 7.30pm Jazz Night £10 tickets from Church Office
Sun	31	Mothering Sunday		8.30am Holy Communion <i>Sunday School starts in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Communion <i>with Sunday School</i>
April				
Mon	1	8am	5pm	9.30-11.00am Stay and Play Playgroup: Pastoral Centre 2pm Mothers' Union: Pastoral Centre Easter Preparations 6pm-7pm St Laurence Community Choir <i>in church</i> 7pm PCC Meeting: Pastoral Centre
Tue	2	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	3	8am	5pm	9.45am Holy Communion (BCP) <i>note change of time</i> 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (for baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	4	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers 7.30pm KYCKYN planning at the Rectory
Fri	5	x	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	6		x	9am-12noon Car Boot Sale in Pastoral Centre 10am – 11.30 Church Open with refreshments 4-5pm Beetle Drive in Pastoral Centre £2 adult £1 child £5 family
Sun	Apr 7	5th Sunday of Lent		8.30am Holy Communion <i>Sunday School starts in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Communion <i>with Sunday School</i> 11.30am Annual Parochial Church Meeting in Church

Holy Week and Easter

Apr 14th	Palm Sunday	8.30am Family Communion 10am Sung Family Communion
15th	Holy Monday	Meditation & Compline by candlelight
16th	Holy Tuesday	8.30pm Meditation & Compline by candlelight
17th	Holy Wednesday	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 8.30pm Meditation & Compline by candlelight
18th	Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Holy Communion with Washing of Feet followed by vigil till 10pm
19th	Good Friday	8.30am Hot Cross Bun Service in Pastoral Centre 10am Walk of Witness Meet at St Laurence Pastoral Centre 12noon -3pm Three Hours at the Cross. <i>The middle hour will include musical meditations</i> 7.30pm Stations of the Cross <i>hopefully outside</i>
20th	Holy Saturday	7.30pm The Paschal Ceremonies.
21st	Easter Sunday	8.30am Holy Communion <i>Sunday School starts in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Communion <i>with Sunday School</i>

Malawi Lent Appeal 2019

The Church of England Birmingham is linked with the four Anglican dioceses in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world. For the last 14 years, a container lorry has taken items donated by people in Birmingham from here to Malawi.

The PCC would like to encourage everyone, as part of their following of Lent, to donate basic first aid items e.g. plasters, bandages, tubes of antiseptic (not liquid antiseptic) etc for the appeal. Items can be left on the St Laurence Altar. The collection runs from 6th March – Easter Sunday.

We are looking for a couple of volunteers to help pack the collection and also take to the loading point which is Rye Farm, Wishaw, Sutton Coldfield West Mids. B76 9QA on **18th May**. Prior to that (and by 24th April) we need to book our space on the container and pay £6 per square foot. Donations towards this and the purchase of First Aid materials are also welcome. There will be a 'pot' on the altar for these donations (which will be emptied regularly.)

Christian Aid Week



First of all advance warning (!) that Christian Aid Week is 12-18th May this year. We will be inviting you to join in the house-to-house collection. Last year we raised c£1000. Nationally the week raised £8.5million – that's a lot of money, so it really is worth the effort!

Christian Aid's Big Shift Campaign

Climate change is an issue of justice, with the effects already being felt by our brothers and sisters around the world, particularly in the poorest communities.

- The big banks, including some on our high street, lend their money to energy projects around the world. These banks have two options: they can either finance clean, renewable energy projects and help build a more prosperous, safer world, or they can finance energy projects

based on burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, that lock communities into a dirty and dangerous future for decades to come.

- HSBC, one of the biggest and most influential banks in the world, has said it will still fund new coal projects in three countries that are among the most vulnerable to climate change – Bangladesh, Vietnam and Indonesia – despite having repeatedly stated its commitment to tackling climate change.

Christian Aid invites us to suggest to HSBC that they think again by joining their 'Big Shift' campaign which involves signing a letter/petition and a group of people delivering it to HSBC on Northfield High Street.

Look out for the poster and think whether you would be willing to join the group presenting it.....

A new Archdeacon of Birmingham

This will be the Revd Canon Jenny Tomlinson, currently Mission and Ministry Adviser for the Colchester Episcopal Area, and she will take up the post from May 2019.

Jenny says, "I am excited by the vision and boldness of the diocesan strategy, and the framework it offers for us to work together in God's mission and ministry. My initial priority will be to get to know lay and ordained colleagues and to explore a new area of the country. I'm also pleased to be near the NEC so that I can pop into Gardener's World Live this summer!"

Prior to ordination Jenny worked in NHS management in Surrey. She was among the first women to be ordained priest in 1994. Jenny has held various parish posts in the Diocese of Chelmsford as well as being the Mission and Ministry Adviser and a member of General Synod since 2009. She is married to David, who is also ordained. They have two adult daughters.

Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell says, *"The Diocese of Birmingham is getting someone of great faithfulness, ability, and generosity of spirit. Jenny has served us with tremendous wisdom, grace and perseverance. We will miss her hugely, but I am delighted that her gifts and experience will be used for the building of the kingdom in the Diocese of Birmingham."*

A father's prayer on the murder of his Son

This amazing prayer was written by the late Right Reverend Hassan Barnaba Dehqani-Tafti, the exiled Anglican Bishop of Iran, to be read at his own son's funeral, which he was unable to attend.. In 1980, his only son, Bahram, had been murdered by regime thugs in Iran in the turbulent days following the 1976 Islamic Revolution. Canon Janet quoted it at a recent Wednesday morning communion service and a request was made for a copy.

O God, we remember not only Bahram but his murderers.

Not because they killed him in the prime of his youth and made our hearts bleed and our tears flow;

Not because with this savage act they have brought further disgrace on the name of our country among the civilized nations of the world;

But because through their crime we now follow more closely thy footsteps in the way of sacrifice.

The terrible fire of this calamity burns up all selfishness and possessiveness in us. Its flame reveals the depth of depravity, meanness and suspicion, the dimension of hatred and the measure of sinfulness in human nature;

It makes obvious as never before our need to trust in thy love as shown in the cross of Jesus and his resurrection,

Love that makes us free from all hatred towards our persecutors;

Love which brings patience, forbearance, courage, loyalty, humility, generosity and greatness of heart;

Love which more than ever deepens our trust in God's final victory and his eternal designs for the Church and for the world;

Love which teaches us how to prepare ourselves to face our own day of death.

O God, Bahram's blood has multiplied the fruit of the Spirit in the soil of our souls: so when his murderers stand before Thee on the Day of Judgment, remember the fruit of the Spirit by which they have enriched our lives, and forgive. Amen

Contact Details

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Twitter: @stlaurenceb31 Rector:

@janetchapman5

Facebook

www.facebook.com/StLaurenceChurchNorthfield

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries

Please come to Parish Surgery Wednesdays

5.45 – 6.30pm in the Pastoral Centre

173 Church Road, Northfield, B31 2LX