

# St Laurence Northfield

## January – mid February 2019

Registered Charity 1132975



### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** 18 - 25 January

Within Northfield we will be marking this with a church swap – you are invited to attend a different church on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January. More details of the all the church services to follow. There will also be an ecumenical time of fellowship at The Black Horse from 5pm that evening. This was introduced last year and greatly appreciated by those who attended.

#Pray24Brum is now into its 5<sup>th</sup> year and is being hosted by Carrs Lane Church, opposite Moor Street Station. It runs from 7.30am-9.30pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and from 9am – 7pm on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January. The full programme is in the porch – do drop in and experience a variety of prayer and worship.

If you like Taize worship the 7pm Friday hour of #Pray24Brum is Taize and there is also a Taize service at 6.30pm on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> at St Francis, Bourneville. Northfield Churches are leading the 2pm hour on the Saturday.

### **Look-Out Groups**

Last autumn Fr John came to talk to the PCC about groups he had set up within a church whereby regular members were allocated to a group with a co-ordinator and they looked-out for one another and noticed if someone had been missing from church for sometime and followed this up with a phone-call or e-mail. The PCC recognised that there is a lot of good informal care within St Laurence's but occasionally someone does stop coming and we fail to notice it so we decided that we would like to take Fr John's idea forward and set up 'Look-Out Groups.' These are being launched on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January and the co-ordinators will soon be in touch, probably by phone, to introduce themselves. Please let them know if you are breaking your normal pattern of worship e.g. a long holiday or if you are unwell and would like prayer or Holy Communion at home. They

will then pass these requests onto the clergy and Home Communion team. If you don't want to be involved please let your co-ordinator or the Rector know. If you have been omitted from the groups (we've tried really hard to monitor regular attendance over the last few months but it is inevitable that we will have missed someone) please don't sulk(!) but let us know and we will slot you in asap.

## **Hot Topics**

As Easter is late this year (21<sup>st</sup> April) and ecumenical Lent groups won't be starting until March there is time for 3 sessions (29<sup>th</sup> Jan, 12<sup>th</sup> Feb, 26<sup>th</sup> Feb) of the Tuesday Bible study & Fellowship group. Canon Janet will be looking at how we use the Bible and other sources of authority to shape our views on issues such as Marriage and Divorce, War and Peace, Human Sexuality, Law & Order, Prisons and Human Rights.

## **Getting your affairs in order!**

Have you made a will or a funeral plan? Do you know what a 'power of attorney is' and how to set one up? Have you been meaning to sort this out .....? The Will-Writing Partnership is coming to the Pastoral Centre on 2.30-3.30pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January to talk about these things in an 'easy to understand' way. We hope to involve a local funeral director at a session in February.

## **Do you miss Evensong?**

Many churches can no longer provide evensong on a regular basis. If you are missing it then check out Birmingham Cathedral. In term time it is sung on Fridays at 5.45pm and Sundays at 3.30pm (with short versions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.) On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January many local RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) choirs will be coming together in the cathedral to sing evensong accompanied by the orchestra of Camp Hill Schools. It is a wonderful occasion and we are hoping some of our choir will be singing. Why not come too – it starts at 3.30pm and lasts about an hour.

## **Malawi – Birmingham Church Partnership**

*We supported this with our Christmas Tree Bauble appeal*

Last October Paul Bracher (Malawi Partnership Officer) visited all 4 Malawian Dioceses with which we are linked. He reports that 3 of the 4 the classroom blocks we helped to fund in 2016 are now in use and the results of those leaving the schools really encouraging.

Last year much of the money raised in Birmingham was for famine relief and also helped buy fertiliser and seed. Paul also visited some remote health clinics and found seriously leaking roofs. As one person commented: `children arrive with malaria and leave with pneumonia!` It has therefore been decided to fund replacement roofs for 3 clinics.

This coming year much of the giving from Birmingham Churches will be targeted towards the support of particular priests and parishes in the poorest parts of Malawi. The names and photographs of these priests and parishes (and their inspirational stories) will appear on the Diocesan website so we in Birmingham can be helped to identify with them and pray for them.

In addition to hearing some of their stories of faith, we undoubtedly need to learn from Malawi, even more urgently, how we must look after our planet. One thing we shall be considering in the next year is how we can encourage and enable Malawi to make better use of solar power.

However, climate change in Malawi teaches us that we must do this in tandem with considering our own energy use too.

**So this month's Eco-tip is** when making a cup of tea, only boil the amount of water that you need. Don't waste electricity (and money) heating water you won't use! However, if there is some left over it makes a good weed killer especially on those weeds which pop up in the cracks!-

Also, why not take part in the RSPB bird watch this year? It is on from Saturday 26 – Monday 28 January and takes just an hour. Register through their web-site.

# Calendar January – mid February 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	7 Jan	8am	5pm	Mothers Union New Year Lunch 12noon Black Horse 6pm St Laurence Community Choir: Church 8pm Church Choir Practice: Rectory
Tues	8	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee & Games: Pastoral Centre
Wed	9	8am HC	5pm	8am St Laurence Church Schools Holy Communion 10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (for baptism & wedding enquiries) 7.30pm Christmas Fayre debrief & Crumble at Rectory
Thur	10	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers: church
Fri	11	8am	5pm	11am Memorial Service for Sheila Scriven 7pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	12	x	x	10am-11.30am Places of Welcome: Church open Birmingham School of Bellringing Practice 10.15am – 12.15pm 7-8.30pm 'Piphy Pudding Party in the Pastoral Centre
<b>Sun</b>	<b>13</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany Baptism of Christ		8.30am Family Communion in church 10am Family Communion in church
Mon	14	x	x	9.30-11.00 Stay and Play Playgroup: Pastoral Centre 6pm St Laurence Community Choir: Church 7pm Worship Committee Meeting
Tues	15	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee & Games: Pastoral Centre 11.30am Gridiron Planning Meeting 7.30pm Churches Together in Northfield at Methodist Church
Wed	16	8am	5pm	8am Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer within MP 10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (for baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	17	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers: church
<b>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs 18-25 January</b>				
Fri	18	8am	5pm	Pray24Brum 7.30am – 9.30pm Carrs Lane Church 7pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	19	x	x	9am – 7pm #Pray24Brum at Carrs Lane Church 10am-11.30am Places of Welcome: Church open 11am – 12noon Bell Peal
<b>Sun</b>	<b>20</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany		8.30am Holy Communion in church <i>Sunday School starts in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Holy Communion <i>with Sunday School in church</i> <i>Church Swap Sunday to mark Week of Prayer of Christian Unity</i> 5pm Ecumenical Fellowship at The Black Horse
Mon	21	8am	5pm	9.30-11.00 Stay and Play Playgroup: Pastoral Centre 12noon Informal Lunch at Northfield Baptist Church 6pm St Laurence Community Choir: Church
Tues	22	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee & Games: Pastoral Centre 7pm Fabric Committee: Pastoral Centre

Wed	23	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 2.30pm 'Getting our affairs in order' : Pastoral Centre 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (for baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	24	8am	5pm	12noon Deanery Chapter at St Chad's, Rubery 3pm Handbell Ringers: church 7pm PCC meeting: Pastoral Centre
Fri	25	8am	5pm	7pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	26	x	x	9am-12noon Car Boot Sale 10am-11.30am Places of Welcome: Church open Birmingham School of Bellringing Practice 10.15am – 12.15pm
<b>Sun</b>	<b>27</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany		8.30am Rise and Shine Service: Pastoral Centre 8.30am Holy Communion in church 10am Sung Communion <i>with Sunday School in church</i> (no baptisms) 3.30pm RSCM Evensong at Birmingham Cathedral
Mon	28	8am	5pm	9.30-11.00 Stay and Play Playgroup: Pastoral Centre 6pm St Laurence Community Choir: Church
Tue	29	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre 7.30pm 'Hot Topics' Study Group: Pastoral Centre
Wed	30	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 2.30pm 'Getting our affairs in order' : Pastoral Centre 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (for baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	31	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers: church 7pm Social and Fundraising Meeting
<b>FEBRUARY 2019</b>				
Fri	1	8am	5pm	7pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	2	x	x	10am-11.30am Places of Welcome: Church open
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent		8.30am Holy Communion in church <i>Sunday School starts in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Holy Communion <i>with Sunday School in church</i>
Mon	4	8am	5pm	9.30-11.00 Stay and Play Playgroup: Pastoral Centre 2pm Mothers' Union <i>Praying with St Brigid: Pastoral Centre</i> 6pm St Laurence Community Choir: Church 8pm Church choir practice: Rectory
Tue	5	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	6	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 2.30pm 'Getting our affairs in order' : Pastoral Centre 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (for baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	7	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers: church
Fri	8	8am	5pm	7pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	9	x	x	10am-11.30am Places of Welcome: Church open Birmingham School of Bellringing Practice 10.15am – 12.15pm 3.30pm Wedding Blessing
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent		8.30am Family Communion 10am Family Communion
Mon	11	8am	5pm	9.30-11.00 Stay and Play Playgroup: Pastoral Centre 6pm St Laurence Community Choir: Church
Tue	12	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre 7.30pm 'Hot Topics' Study Group: Pastoral Centre

Wed	13	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (for baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	14	8am	5pm	3pm Handbell Ringers: church
Fri	15	8am	5pm	7pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	16	x	x	10am-11.30am Places of Welcome: Church open 3.30pm Afternoon Prayer & Reflection: a short, 'dementia friendly' service Birmingham School of Bellringing Practice 10.15am – 12.15pm 7pm Bingo Night in the Pastoral Centre
<b>Sun</b>	<b>17</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent		8.30am Holy Communion in church <i>Sunday School starts in Pastoral Centre</i> 10am Sung Holy Communion <i>with Sunday School in church</i>

## Afternoon Prayer and Reflection on Saturdays

This will be a short act of worship is for everyone but is especially suitable for those suffering from dementia and their carers. It will be held on the third Saturday of alternate months, **with the next one on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February in church.** It will last about twenty minutes. The one we held in December was a very simple but moving act of worship as we prayed for all those affected by demenia. There are posters and invitations available from Fr David.

## People and Places

This is a new framework for church leadership, ministry and mission for the Church of England, Birmingham. The traditional CofE model is that every parish has a church led by a paid (stipendiary) minister but this model is no longer sustainable, fair or a good fit for our diverse city region. Over the last 18months CofE Birmingham has been listening, talking, praying and working across the Diocese to discern the right way forward. The aims are to

- Grow a vibrant church
- Help Christians to become more confident in their faith and mission
- Be sustainable (St Laurence has been receiving a subsidy of about £20k per year for some years)
- Make sure our resources are shared more fairly.

Developing lay leaders and disciples is a key element of the P&P framework. If you feel God may be calling you to explore a lay ministry please speak to one of your church leaders.

## Passion Play 2019

Saltmine Theatre Company (a highly regarded Christian Theatre Company) is heading up Birmingham Passion Play 2019 on 16th, 17th and 18th April 2019. This unique contemporary retelling of the extraordinary Easter story will process from Grand Central to St Philip's Cathedral. There will be opportunity to volunteer for the community cast, choir, musicians and stewards. Saltmine has started recruiting - [www.saltminetrust.org.uk](http://www.saltminetrust.org.uk) and click on 'Passion Play'

## The Twelve Days of Christmas

an alternative version from Canon Janet's sermon on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1 <sup>st</sup> day	On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me... <b>a ba – by adored on bended knee</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2 <sup>nd</sup> day	<b>2 faithful martyrs</b> (see Acts 7 .54-57) The stoning of Stephen the first Christian Martyr. The cloaks of those stoning were left at the feet of Saul who changed from persecuting the church to becoming its greatest evangelist and was eventually martyred.
27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3 <sup>rd</sup> day	<b>3 Key apostles</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> December is the feast day of John the Evangelist. John along with Peter and James accompanied Jesus up the mountain of Transfiguration. They were also invited to draw close to him in the Garden of Gethsemane
28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	4 <sup>th</sup> day	<b>4 Holy Gospels</b> but only 1 tells of the slaughter of the Holy Innocents (Matt 2. 13-18) which is remembered on 28 <sup>th</sup> December.
29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	5 <sup>th</sup> day	<b>5 Barley Loaves</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> December is the Feast of Thomas Beckett, Archbishop, Martyr 1170. He was from a wealthy background, but as Archbishop lived a life of austerity. Barley loaves are the bread of the poor and 5 were presented for the Feeding of the Five thousand (John 6.1-14)
30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	6 <sup>th</sup> day	<b>6 clothes for wearing</b> The epistle for the Sunday after Christmas was Col 3.12-14 and invites us to put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience and, above all, love. Which would you like to wear more?
31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	7 <sup>th</sup> day	<b>7 graceful giftings</b> The commemoration of John Wycliffe - a reformer who translated the bible into English thus enabling the education of lay people and further lay ministry. We all need the gifts of grace listed in



		Romans 12 .1-18: prophesy, serving, teaching, encouraging, generosity, leadership, showing mercy. Which one(s) do you need to acknowledge?
1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	8 <sup>th</sup> day	<b>8 names for Jesus</b> On the eighth day Jesus was named and circumcised in accordance with the Jewish Tradition. The reading we heard at Christmas from Isaiah 9.6 gives 8 words of description of the one to come: Wonderful Counsellor                      Mighty God, Everlasting Father                              Prince of Peace.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	9 <sup>th</sup> day	<b>9 fruits of the spirit</b> The 2 <sup>nd</sup> of January is a commemoration day of a whole host of people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops and Teachers of the faith died 379, 389 – defenders of the faith and especially acknowledging that Jesus was fully God and fully human.</li> <li>• Seraphim: Monk of Sarov, nr Moscow, a spiritual Guide died 1833</li> <li>• Vedana-yagam Samuel Azariah: YMCA Evangelist from the age of 19, encouraged the education of local Indian clergy and was a keen ecumenist and a Bishop in South India, died 1945</li> </ul> All bore a good crop of the fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians, 5.22 : love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	10 <sup>th</sup> day	<b>10 Waiting Bridesmaids</b> Matt 25.1-13 Make sure you are a wise one!
4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11 <sup>th</sup> day	<b>11 disciples preaching</b> after Pentecost taking the Good News far and wide
5	12 <sup>th</sup> day	<b>12 gates of pearl</b> See Revelation 21 where verse 21 reminds us that ‘God will dwell with us; we will be his peoples, and he will wipe every tear from their eyes.’ And so we are back where we started: the Incarnation, God become man... On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me a baby adored on bended knee.

### Contact Details

Parish Office – [stlaurence@btconnect.com](mailto:stlaurence@btconnect.com)

0121 475 1518

Rector – [janet.rectory@gmail.com](mailto:janet.rectory@gmail.com)

Rectory – 0121 477 3111

Associate Priest - [david.pycock@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:david.pycock@blueyonder.co.uk)

07821 151484

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

### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/StLaurenceChurchNorthfield](http://www.facebook.com/StLaurenceChurchNorthfield)

### Just Giving

[www.justgiving.com/stlaurence-northfield](http://www.justgiving.com/stlaurence-northfield)