



The Church Restoration and Re-ordering

I know that this has been spoken about for many years and not a lot seems to have happened.... yet! I hope you have looked at the plans for the interior porch. This is now on the road to receiving formal permission and we are hoping/praying that it will be completed this year. The funding is in place, though the more we can raise the more we have for lighting and other projects down the line.

Meanwhile, the ways to get grant funding keeps changing and we now need to demonstrate how the church serves the local community. I spoke about this on our Annual Meeting Sunday.

The 'Know your church, know your neighbourhood' (KYCKYN) process is designed to help us think about our church/ourselves in relation to the wider community we seek to serve, and make prayerful and informed decisions about our mission in Northfield and what the church building should look like to enable this.

It helps us to reflect on how St Laurence is seen by others, to listen to the wider community, celebrate its strengths and have a deeper understanding of its needs. We can then make prayerful and intentional decisions about how to respond.

The process usually takes about 6 months and along the way there are tasks for small groups to undertake and report back on.

We are undertaking KYCKYN under the facilitation of Fred Rattley who works for CofE Birmingham and has vast experience of working with churches and communities and enabling them to develop an Action Plan.

Churches which have walked this road include All Saints, Kings Heath where it led to the opening up of the square in front of the church, and the Church of the Ascension, Stirchley which discovered that it looks wonderful at night when the church lights are on, but in the day and close up it looks rather foreboding. They are now working to improve this.

The PCC has discussed this and a small group has met with Fred to plan further. We would like as many people as possible to be involved or at least informed about the process so we are launching it on a Sunday morning: **17th June 2018.**

So come and join in on Sunday 17 June in church! Please do not stay away because it is 'something a bit different.' We need to hear as many voices as

Contact Details

Parish Office – 0121 475 1518

e-mail – stlaurence@btconnect.com

Baptism & Wedding enquiries

Wed 5.45 – 6.30pm in Pastoral Centre

Website: www.stlaurencenorthfield.org

possible, and enable everyone to pray about this, if we are going to form an Action Plan which is realistic and enable us to really serve our parish.

We will begin with a focus on the community of Northfield so we need to listen to those who have lived here many years and those who are newcomers and those in-between.

The programme for the morning of **Sunday 17th June** looks like this

8.30am Shortened Holy Communion *with Sunday School in the Pastoral Centre linked to KYCKYN process*

9.00am Coffee

9.15am KYCKYN is introduced and workshops begin

(We will be working in groups and there will be a group for children aged c 6+ but there will not be separate provision for younger children)

10.30am Workshop concludes and more coffee

c 10.45am Shortened Holy Communion

c 11.20am Service concludes

So:

- if you normally attend the 8.30am service we are asking you to stay on until c10.30am
- if you attend the 10am service we are asking you to arrive by 9.15am to join in the workshop and worship a little later but with a similar finish time

Overall, it means about an extra hour at a time when we are normally in church and everyone gets to learn about KYCKYN and join in the fun!

Canon Janet

Psalm 127.1 Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.

Lord, we thank you for past generations who have built and preserved St Laurence Church. Grant us unity in your vision of how it should be renewed to continue to witness to your saving love and grant us, too, the patient courage to take it forward.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Psalm 90.17 May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper our handiwork; O prosper the work of our hands.