THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND BIRMINGHAM

St Laurence Northfield
June 2023

Registered Charity 1132975

St Laurence Northfield

Farewell to the Rector

After almost 7 years here, Sunday 18th June sees our Rector lead her final Sunday services in St Laurence Church. Following the 9.30am service there will be 'coffee and cakes' in the Pastoral Centre. She will still be working in the parish until the end of June to do her best to leave us equipped for the months ahead.

The preceding evening there will be a 'Church Family Party' from 6 – 8pm with a bring and share supper. We'll be playing some of the games we've enjoyed at Epiphany Parties in the past and there may even be a few games of Beetle. Rumour has it that Canon Janet is STILL using up the beetle grids her father made in 1977!

But what will happen when we don't have a Rector?

For those not familiar with the strange ways of the CofE, it is normal to have a period of at least 9 months and more often 1-2 years between Rectors. This used to be called an "Interregnum" but now the preferred term is "Vacancy." During this time the Church Wardens are legally in charge and have a lot more work to do so if you can help in any way please do. We particularly need more sides-people to help welcome and tidy-up on Sunday mornings, and people to be a server at the Sunday Eucharist which involves helping to set up, clear away and pass the bread and wine etc to the priest during the service.

We have nearly all the Sunday Services up until Christmas covered by priests in the local area – you will have to get used to more male priests again! Wednesday Services are also covered for the next few months too. Also, with a full time Area Dean we will be able to look to the Revd Phelim O'Hare for advice and support.

What about Pastoral Care?

Some years ago we introduced "Look Out Groups" and divided the congregation into small groups with leaders to look-out for one another in an informal way. Fr John and Sue Richards have kindly offered to re-launch these groups and keep an eye on them over the summer – hear more on Pentecost Sunday (28th May) – and remember to wear Red that day too.

What about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals?

Fr John has already offered to take baptisms and we have at least one lay person interested in helping with the preparation. For weddings the team at St Chad's, Rubery will be involved and give them a welcome opportunity to officiate at weddings in a historic church. For funerals our Reader Janice has developed this ministry in recent years. We will also draw on other retired and local clergy – including Revd Theresa especially for such services for those living in St Bart's Parish until they have a new church.

Church Fabric

Our restoration of St Laurence Church continues with repair work to the ceiling due to commence towards the end of May and lasting about a month. We are hoping that the church will remain open for services through the work which is being undertaken by local company 'Cambro' who have done many repairs for us over the years. A few areas of the ceiling will need to be replastered and considerable areas will be boarded (as happened last year in some areas) so as to keep the historic plaster safe.

We also have public notices on display regarding an additional heater (already in place – oops!) and the new liturgical furniture – altar, portable font (we are keeping the old font in place), paschal candle stand and lectern. These are being made by Joe Warbrick who lives in Kings Heath and made the altar for the new church in Dorridge. The furniture is being funded by the Harlow Trust and a generous donation from Barbara Finch, partly in memory of her parents. We hope the furniture will be with us later this year.

New Website for St Laurence Church

Peter Mitchell (who put together all those montages in lock-down) has been developing a new web-site for St Laurence Church in recent months and it should be replacing the current one very soon. He has also kindly agreed to keep it up to date as much as he can.
Do remember to look at the web-site to check on details of events – for instance this news-letter will be on it.

Revd Claire Whitmore

Remember Claire who was an Ordinand with us during lockdown and managed 'Zoom Control' until we got the hang of it? She also led a very moving reflection on Good Friday 2021 and from her experience of living in a very diverse part of London helped us think through a few issues relating to racial justice.

Claire will be ordained priest on Saturday 1st July at All Saints, Kingston-upon-Thames and will celebrate Holy Communion for the first time on Sunday 2nd July at the church where she is serving her curacy which is Holy Trinity, Roehampton. Canon Janet and Peter are delighted that they will be able to attend both services and Janet has been invited to be one of the priests to lay hands on Claire, along with the Bishop.

Churches Together in Northfield

Canon Janet has chaired CTiN for the last five years though, as she herself admits, over the last two years it has been very much keeping it ticking over as there has been a dearth of ministers in the local churches which has added to the load on the lay people. Revd Theresa was appointed as the new chairperson at the recent AGM but again recognising that it needs a real team effort to get events and activities off the ground or for one church to take a strong lead.

At the meeting we discussed whether some churches could be "Friends of CTiN", especially those whose constitution does not permit them to join an official group and this looks to have potential. The good news is that there are a lot of Christians in Northfield who want to work together and pray together. Some attend "Church Central South" which meets in King Edward VI High School for Girls and over the last year have organised an Alternative Halloween Event in the Shopping Centre, the Good Friday Walk of Witness as well as regular Prayer meetings/walks. Some of the more traditional churches, including ourselves, have been delighted to join in with there initiatives.

God is very much at work in our community. Prasie Be!

Bishop Anne Congratulates two remarkable clergy

The **Revd Canon Eve Pitts** has recently been awarded a lifetime Achievement award at the 2023 Pride of Birmingham Awards. Eve has devoted her life to helping others and to fighting racism. The CofE Birmingham has been blessed consistently and generously by her long term ministry, all of which has been served in Birmingham, latterly as Vicar of the Parish Church of Holy Trinity, Birchfield, and prior to that serving in the parishes of Bartley Green, Kings Norton, and Highters Heath. It is with great joy I congratulate Eve on her lifetime achievement award and look forward to following her progress as she visits every former slave port in Britain to pay respects to the dead and enrich her campaign for the recognition of 1st August as "Ancestors' Day" to commemorate the coming into force of the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833.

The **Revd Canon Smitha Prasadam**, currently Chaplain of St Albans, Copenhagen, has been announced the next Suffragan Bishop of Huddersfield. Smitha trained at Queens, served her curacy in Blackheath, and was latterly Vicar of St Pauls, Hamstead. I receive the announcement of her new role with much excitement and along with all who knew Smitha in her time with CofE Birmingham, offer prayers and congratulations as she embarks on this next season of her ministry.

In response to her appointment Revd Smitha said,
"My ministry in parish, advocacy and advisory roles over 20 years is joy, justice and dreaming God's dream anew. I hope to be instrumental in connecting people to God, so they can discover a sense of something wondrous, joyous and beautiful, to develop and deepen a relationship with God that is lifegiving and meaningful in today's challenging world."

Regular Church Services and Church Activities		
Sun	8.30am	Sunday School Service in Pastoral Centre **EXCEPT** when Family Service at 9.30am. See below for more details
	9.30am	Holy Communion in Church
	12noon	Baptisms by arrangement usually 1st Sunday in the month
	4pm	Wild Church in churchyard 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month
Mon	9.30	Stay and Play in Pastoral Centre *(Term time only)*
	10am	Service at Chatham Place *(3rd Monday of the month)*
	2pm	Mothers' Union in Pastoral Centre (*1st Monday of month)*
	5pm	Evening Prayer by zoom
Tue	9.30am	Holy Dusters in church *(usually 2nd Tuesday of the month)*
Tue	5pm	Evening Prayer by zoom
Wed	10am	Holy Communion (BCP) in church and Conference Call
	8.30pm	Compline by Conference Call
Thurs	10.30am	'Focus' discussion group at Julie M's home. *(3rd Thursday of the month)*
	1.45pm	Handbell ringers in Church (Note New Time)
	3.15pm	Larry's (after-school club for Secondary School Pupils) in Pastoral Centre
Fri	7.30pm	Tower Bellringers in church
Sat	10am – 11.30	Church Open for prayer and visitors. Light refreshments

Regular Activities in the Pastoral Centre		
Mon	9.30 – 11am	Stay and Play in Pastoral Centre *(Term time only)*
	4.30 – 5.30pm	Mimi Brown Dance School mimibrowndance@hotmail.com
	6.45-7.45pm	Yoga 07860 280869 (Scott)
Tue	10.30-11.30am	Maxine's Senior Fitness 07738 565101
	3.30 – 6pm	Tuck – In Tuesdays *Run by Vineyard Church with support of St Laurence.* Just drop-in to find a warm welcome and a simple

		meal. 0121 6221230 or abih@birminghamvineyard.com
	5.30-9.00pm	Kick Boxing 0121 616 1169 temple-martialarts.co.uk
Wed	4.30 – 5.30	Mimi Brown Dance School Mimibrowndance@Hotmail.com
	5 – 6pm	Kumon Maths/English 0121 647 6757
Thurs	10-11am	Yoga 07860 280869 (Scott)
	8 – 9.30pm	Explorer Scouts Google 'Explorer Scouts B31'
Fri	10.30 – 11.30am	Maxine's Senior Fitness 07738 565101
Sat	10 – 1pm	Kumon Maths/English 0121 647 6757

206th St Laurence Scout Group also runs:

Beavers – Mondays & Thursday
Cubs – Tuesday & Wednesday
Scouts – Tuesday & Thursday

All at St Laurence Church Junior School except Monday's Beavers which is at Northfield Quaker Meeting House.

To find out more info@reavalleyscouts.org.uk | Phone: 074444 95044

Special Services & Events

Please put these in your diary NOW!

Sun	28	May		Feast of Pentecost Services at St Laurence as normal. Please pray for those being confirmed at Birmingham Cathedral at 11am.
Mon	29	May	Noon	Wedding
Mon	5	June	2pm	Mothers' Union with Canon Janet
Sun	11	June	9.30am	Family Communion with Church *followed by plant sale to support* **Christian Aid** also the Burial of Ashes of former congregant Joan Fisher after the service *No Sunday School Service at 8.30am*

Wed	14	June	7pm	Holy Communion & PCC Meeting in church
Sat	17	June	6-8pm	Rector's Farewell Party. Fun and Games evening for all the family – bring a plate of food to share. Tea/coffee/soft drinks provided. No charge – donations welcome.
Sun	18	June	9.30am	Sung Eucharist and Farewell to Rector
Thur	22	June	7pm	Social and Fundraising Committee in Past C
Sat	24	June	9am	Indoor Carboot sale
Sun	25	June	9.30am	Sung Eucharist led by Area Dean Revd Phelim
Tues	4	July	7pm	PCC Meeting with Archdeacon & Area Dean
Sat	15	July	7pm	Bingo Night with Fish and Chips
Sun	16	July	9.30am	Family Communion led by Fr John *No Sunday School Service at 8.30am*
Sat	29	July	4pm	Organ Recital by Marcus Huxley, former Director of Music at Birmingham Cathedral
Mon	29	May	Noon	Wedding

12 – 13 August Patronal Festival Weekend

Saturday 12th August 6-8pm Parish BBQ to celebrate St Laurence
Sunday 13th August 9.30am Holy Communion to celebrate St Laurence
Led by the Revd Hazel White

Sun	20	Aug	9.30am	Family Communion led by Revd Eliakim, Kings Norton *No Sunday School Service at 8.30am*

16 – 17 September Scarecrow Festival
in and around the church to include

Saturday 16th September at 4pm
Baroque ensemble Madera presents a delightful programme of 18th century flute, recorder and clarinet music. We so enjoyed their music last year.

Sunday 17th September 9.30am
Harvest Festival Communion Service and Parade Service led by the Revd Chris Chalmers from St Francis, Bournville *(No Sunday School at 8.30am)*
Donations of tins and packets for local food banks and cash to support our link Dioceses in Malawi, especially following the devastation caused by Hurricane Freddie, welcomed.

Sat	30	Sept	7-10pm	Jazz Night (with Roy Dutton and band)

Sat	7	Oct	9am	Indoor Carboot sale
Sun	15	Oct	9.30am	Family Communion led by Fr John *No Sunday School Service at 8.30am*
Sat	21	Oct	7pm	Quiz Night with Mark Reynolds
Sat	28	Oct	10-2pm	Craft Fayre
Sun	12	Nov	**10am**	Remembrance Sunday HC with Archdeacon Jenny
Sat	18	Nov	11-2pm	Christmas Fayre
2 – 3 December Advent Weekend in church *Thoughts are being gathered for something similar but different from last year's Nativity Festival but it will depend on volunteers!*				
Sun	3	Dec	9.30am	Christingle Communion *No Sunday School Service at 8.30am*
Sun	12	Dec	9.30am	Sung Eucharist with Bishop Anne
Sun	16	Dec	4pm	Carol Service (tbc)

PARISH OFFICE	
Lorraine Freeman (Parish Administrator) *The Office is open weekdays (except Wed) 9am – 12noon*	enquiries@saintlaurence.info 0121 475 1518
RECTOR	
Canon Janet Chapman *Day off: Monday (until 30th June)*	janet.rectory@gmail.com 0121 477 3111
READER	
Janice Wones *Day off: Friday*	janice.wones@talktalk.net 0121 459 7417

Church Website: www.stlaurencenorthfield.org

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.