THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND BIRMINGHAM

St Laurence Northfield

October – Mid November 2019

Is God calling you to be our next Church Warden?

Current warden Debbie Keeves writes:

This is my sixth year as Church Warden at St Laurence Church, so in April I will be standing down so that someone else can join the other Church Warden Roy. At times it has been busy trying to fit in church work around working full time and keeping my family and house going, but the rewards and satisfaction of being at the heart of the church and its day to day business have far out weighed the often busy times. Canon Janet and the PCC have been very supportive as was Father Charles, and Elaine, the previous Church Warden. Volunteering in the Church is very rewarding and, like running a home and family, the Church doesn't run itself and needs the goodwill of the congregation to help with the upkeep and house keeping. If anyone is thinking about putting themselves forward to be the next Warden and wants to discuss what it involves then please speak to me. Thanks to everyone for their love and prayers over the years, particularly to my very supportive family, and to Roy and Canon Janet for their support and help, and for their friendship and love which I'm sure will continue in years to come.

Note: church wardens are elected annually and whilst they can up to 6 years continuously, you don't have to commit to this length of office at the start.

Eco Corner

One of our 2019 goals is to obtain an Eco-church bronze award. We are well on our way to this. Here are a few things to note…

- Come to 'The Climate Changer' – a musical!
  which is being premiered at All Saints Church Kings Heath Musical on Sunday 6th October at 6.30-8pm A ride on 27 bus! Refreshments available (maybe bring your own mug?!) Retiring collection.
- The Church Times has recently started to use compostable wrapping for its postal deliveries. Hooray! If you receive any magazines by post why not suggest they follow this example.
- and this edition's tip ….. put a 'No junk mail' sticker on your letter box to reduce the number of letters you receive with plastic windows.

Church Interior Porch

Progress continues and the full plans have now been received from the architect and are in the process of being studied in detail.

KYCKYN (Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood)

Although the process with Canon Fred Ratley has now run its course we continue to develop our church-community partnerships and using the church to offer both worship and other complementary activities.

This includes another **Pottery Workshop** from 11.15am on Wednesday 4 December. The previous ones have been enjoyed by a range of people within church and the local community and have proved to be both creative and spiritually therapeutic.

Also each Thursday from October, **Evening Prayer** will take place in the YMCA rather than church and will be a slightly less formal service. You are very welcome to attend; simply sign in at YMCA reception and ask for the service which runs from 5-5.30pm

We are also looking at how we can work more with Churches Together in Northfield and this includes developing an ……

Advent Calendar Trail

through Northfield High Street and possibly the shopping Precinct.
Fr David is creating cardboard cut-out figures of characters in the Nativity Story which will be 'dressed' by local church and school children.
The Northfield Town Manager is gathering interest from shops in which to display them. They will be unveiled a day at a time with a short piece of text about their part in the Christmas Story. We hope to create a supporting trail sheet to be made available online.
To cover costs we are looking for sponsorship of £5 for each day by church members with any excess raised going to support Community Christmas/Northfield Food Bank. To cover costs we are looking for sponsorship of £5 each day by church members. If you would like to sponsor a day please complete a special envelope (available in October) and return to the church office by the end of October.

The trail will come to a climax on Saturday 21st December with the annual **CTiN Carol Sing** by the Christmas Tree on Tays Corner (near the new hospice shop) from 11am-1pm. There will be a gazebo to keep us dry! It is our turn to organise the Carol Sing this year. Our St Laurence Community Choir is offering to sing for part of the time. If you are an instrumentalist and could help accompany the singing please speak to Canon Janet or Janice.

October – Mid November 2019

Sep/Oct 2018		MP	EP	MP: Morning Prayer EP: Evening Prayer These are quiet said services which last 25 – 30mins. Church is opened just a few minutes before each service. On Thursdays an informal Evening Prayer is said at YMCA Bunbury Rd
Mon	30	8am	5pm	6-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in church
Tue	1	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	2	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries) 7.45pm Exploring Faith in Church
Thur	3	8am	5pm YMCA	3pm Handbell Ringers in church
Fri	4	8am	5pm	Gridiron Trip to the Pen Museum 7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	5	x	x	10 – 12 noon Church Open with tea & coffee 12.15pm Harvest Service & Litebite at Masefield Community Gardens 2.30-6pm Bell-ringing Competition 4pm Beetle Drive in the Pastoral Centre
Sun	6	**Harvest Festival** **16th Sunday after Trinity**		8.30am Family Communion 10am Family Communion 4pm Bell Peal in memory of Andy Carr
Mon	7	8am	5pm	9.30-11am Stay & Play: Pastoral Centre (Parent/carer & baby/toddlers) 2pm Mothers' Union Harvest around the world (Pastoral Centre) 6-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in church
Tues	8	8am	5pm	9.15am St Laurence CofE Juniors Harvest Collective Worship 10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre 7.15pm School Kit session at the Rectory
Wed	9	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 3.45-5pm Eco-church meeting at the Rectory 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	10	8am	5pm YMCA	9.15am St Laurence CofE Infants Harvest Collective Worship 3pm Handbell Ringers in church
Fri	11	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	12	x	x	9am Car Boot Sale in the Pastoral Centre 10-12noon Church open with tea & coffee
Sun	13	**17th Sunday after Trinity**		8.30am Holy Communion *with Sunday School in Pastoral Centre* 10am Sung Holy Communion *with Sunday School in church*
Mon	14	8am	5pm	7.30am Thermal Imaging of the church (to map heat loss!) 9.30-11am Stay & Play: Pastoral Centre (Parent/carer & baby/toddlers) 6-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in church
Tues	15	8am	5pm	9.30am Holy Dusters 10am Gridiron Coffee Pastoral Centre
Wed	16	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	17	8am	5pm YMCA	3pm Handbell Ringers in church
Fri	18	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice

Sat	19	x	x	10-noon Church open with tea & coffee 10.15am Birmingham School of Bellringing 4.30pm Afternoon Prayer & Reflection
Sun	20	**18th Sunday after Trinity**		8.30am Holy Communion *with Sunday School in Pastoral Centre* 10am Sung Holy Communion *with Sunday School in church* *both followed by Bake and Plant Sale in aid of transporting goods to Zimbabwe*
Mon	21	8am	5pm	9.30-11am Stay and Play (Parent/carer & baby/toddlers) 10am SPOTS in the Pastoral Centre 6-7pm Community Choir 8pm Choir Rehearsal in Church
Tues	22	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre 2.15pm Service at Chatham Place 7.15pm School Kit session at the Rectory
Wed	23	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.15am St Laurence CofE Juniors (Yrs 3&4) collective worship 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thu	24	8am	5pm YMCA	3pm Handbell Ringers in church
Fri	25	8am	5pm	7.30pm Bell Ringers AGM at the Rectory
Sat	26	x	x	10-noon Church open with tea & coffee 10.15am Birmingham School of Bellringing
Sun	27	**19th Sunday after Trinity**		8.30am Rise & Shine Service in Pastoral Centre 8.30am Holy Communion 10am Holy Communion & Baptism *with Sunday School in church*
Mon	28	8am	5pm	12 noon Informal Lunch at Northfield Baptist Church 6-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in church
Tue	29	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	30	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thu	31	8am	5pm YMCA	6.30 – 7.30pm Saintly Goings on for All Hallows: church & churchyard 3pm Handbell Ringers
November				
Fri	1	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	2	x	x	10am-2pm Christmas Craft Fayre (Pastoral Centre) 10am-11.30am Church Open with tea
Sun	3	**4th Sunday before Advent**		8.30am Family Communion 10am Family Communion 12noon Holy Baptism 4pm All Souls' Service
Mon	4	8am	5pm	9.30-11am Stay & Play: Pastoral Centre (Parent/carer & baby/toddlers) 2pm Mothers' Union Preparing for 16 Days of Activism (Pastoral Centre) 6-7pm St Laurence Community Choir in church
Tues	5	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	6	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45-6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	7	8am	5pm YMCA	3pm Handbell Ringers in church
Fri	8	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice

Sat	9	x	x	9am-12noon Car Boot sale (Pastoral Centre) 10 – 12 noon Church Open with tea & coffee 10.15am Birmingham School of Bellringing
Sun	10	**Remembrance Sunday**		8.30am Holy Communion; *Sunday School in Pastoral Centre* 10am Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance; *Sunday School in Church* 8pm Beer & Hymns for Remembrance: The Great Stone Pub
Mon	11	8am	5pm	9.30-11am Stay and Play (Parent/carer & baby/toddlers) 10.50 Short Act of Remembrance in church 6-7pm Community Choir
Tues	12	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre 7.15pm School Kit session at the Rectory
Wed	13	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	14	8am	5pm YMCA	3pm Handbell Ringers in church
Fri	15	8am	5pm	7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	16	x	x	10-12noon Church open with tea & coffee 9.30am Bell Peal
Sun	17	**2nd Sunday Before Advent**		8.30am Holy Communion; *Sunday School in Pastoral Centre* 10am Sung Communion; *Sunday School in Church*
Mon	18	8am	5pm	9.30-11am Stay and Play (Parent/carer & baby/toddlers) 6-7pm Community Choir
Tues	19	8am	5pm	10am Gridiron Coffee: Pastoral Centre
Wed	20	8am	5pm	10am Holy Communion (BCP) 5.45 – 6.30pm Parish Surgery (baptism & wedding enquiries)
Thur	21	8am	5pm YMCA	3pm Handbell Ringers in church
Fri	22	8am	5pm	1pm onwards Setting up for Christmas Fayre 7.45pm Bellringing Practice
Sat	23	x	x	10-12noon Church open with tea & coffee **11am -2pm Christmas Fayre**
Sun	24	**Sunday before Advent**		8.30am Rise & Shine Service in Pastoral Centre 8.30am Holy Communion with Holy Baptisms 10am Holy Communion & Holy Baptism *with Sunday School in church*

Contact Details

Parish Office – 0121 475 1518
Rectory – 0121 477 3111
Parish Office – stlaurence@btconnect.com

Rector: The Revd Canon Janet Chapman
janet.rectory@gmail.com
0121 477 3111

Associate Priest: Fr David Pycock
david.pycock@blueyonder.co.uk
07821 151484

Reader: Janice Wones
Website: www.stlaurencenorthfield.org

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries

Wednesdays 5.45-6.30pm
in the Pastoral Centre
173 Church Road, Northfield, B31 2LX

Twitter: @stlaurenceb31
Rector: @janetchapman5

Facebook
www.facebook.com/StLaurenceChurchNorthfield

Just Giving
www.justgiving.com/stlaurence-northfield

TripAdvisor
http://bit.ly/StLaurenceTripAdvisor

St Laurence Church is Registered Charity 1132975

All Hallows 31st October

Fed up of 'Trick and Treat'? Wanting to get back to the real meaning of Halloween? This year the church will be open from 6.30-7.30pm with Hot Chocolate available and the opportunity to do something 'Saintly' in the churchyard! Bring a torch and wear something warm with strong shoes or wellies. If you want to dress up then do so as your favourite saint. Children must be accompanied. *Free but donations welcome.*

Remembrance-tide

Our 'All Souls' service 'Remembering our loved ones' is 4pm on Sunday 3rd November and will last about an hour followed by light refreshments. During the service we will read out the names of those who have died in the last year. There will also be the opportunity for everyone to remember loved ones however long ago they have died. It is a gentle reflective service. It is popular so try not to arrive last minute!

Remembrance Day is Monday 11th November: there will be a short Act of Remembrance at 10.50 that day as well as at the end of the 10am service on the preceding day.

Beer and Hymns is back!

Janet, the landlord of the pub gladly welcomes our return on Sunday 10th November at 8pm in The Great Stone: 45 mins of traditional hymn singing for Remembrance-tide.

The Real Advent Calendar

If you would like to order a Fair Trade Chocolate Advent Calendar which tells the Christmas Story please sign the list in the porch by the 21st October. They cost **£3.99** and it is best if you can pay by cheque. Please put the cheque in an envelope and drop through the office letter box.

Our Christmas Charities.

Following discussions in the Social & Fundraising Meetings we are opting to support the local YMCA by putting together Christmas Bags for those who live there. Once we have consulted with some residents we will let you know what to donate and when. This means 'shoe boxes' for Operation Christmas Child will not be available in church this year but the Baptist Church and some local schools are often pleased to receive them.

Our Christmas Tree appeal will support our link Dioceses in Malawi and 'Sophia House' which is local and supports former refugee women who have recently been granted 'permission to stay.'

Christmas through the Keyhole

is a highly acclaimed interactive journey which tells the Christmas story by travelling through (mainly) empty rooms. On the afternoon of 8th of December we will be transforming the church and during the following week we will be offering around 15 (!) performances to local schools and nurseries. Adults – here is your chance to dress up as Mary, Joseph, a shepherd or a King for a morning or afternoon and help share the Gospel with local school children. We will also need people to help with craft activities, refreshments and stewarding. (So press on with your Christmas Shopping NOW!)

The Canonisation of Cardinal John Henry Newman

This occurs on 13th October 2019 and to celebrate there will be Ecumenical Vespers on Sunday 20th October, 4 p.m. at St Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral, St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham. B4 6EU.

Archbishop Bernard Longley welcomes all to this celebration of sung Evening Prayer to join in prayer with Anglican Bishops and other Christian Leaders together with civic representatives and members of other faith communities to mark this historic occasion. The choirs of St Chad's and St Philip's Anglican Cathedrals Birmingham will participate in the liturgy.

The Big Issue: *giving a 'hand-up' rather than a 'handout' to those who are homeless*

Did you know that there is a Big Issue seller positioned outside Aldi on the High Street in Northfield? Buying the Big Issue on a weekly basis not only supports an 'entrepreneur' – half of the cover price goes to the seller – but also provides a good if challenging read. Why not give it a go?

Sanctuary Lights

Did you know that you can sponsor our Sanctuary Lights by the aumbry to the right of the High Altar, in the Mary Chapel and above the St Laurence Altar (suggested gift £3 per candle – or £10 for the 3!!) to remember loved ones or to celebrate a birthday or anniversary.
In recent months Canon Janet has really enjoyed seeing the candles lit as she comes into church at least twice most days and holding those they represent in her prayers. If you would like to do this, there is a sign-up list in the Remembrance Corner.

Accounts

Our 2018 accounts have now been audited and are on display in the porch. The headline figures on page 8 are:

a) on the Unrestricted Funds (day to day accounts) we are down £5,832 mainly due to the loss of income when CASBA moved out.
b) the above decrease was not as much as we feared thanks to an excellent year on fundraising (but this is rather hidden in the accounts)
c) overall we are up by £6,194 thanks to investments and restricted funds increasing.

Also

- we are now up to date with our Gift Aid claims thanks to our Treasurer's painstaking work. For 2018 we received back from the tax office £13,203.57 so filling in all those forms and envelopes really makes a huge difference to our finances. In order to Gift Aid you MUST be paying sufficient tax to cover the refund we claim (25% of what you give for basic tax-payers. If you pay tax at higher rates you can receive a personal refund too!) If you aren't sure whether you can Gift Aid or not please speak confidentially to Elaine Clements.
- this year our contribution to the Common Fund has increased considerably -remember we were getting a £20k subsidy from the Diocese? This is achievable especially as more people join our planned giving schemes, gift aid and use our electronic forms of giving.
- also, we have renewed the Lease with the accountants in the Barn in a way that saved considerable legal fees and should do in the future.

Thank you for taking your financial discipleship so seriously and remember that if your financial situation changes you can both increase or decrease your giving immediately.

Faith-Art Exhibition Open Day

Westhill Lodge, Bristol Road South, Selly Oak, *B29 6WE* (almost opposite Fircroft) is home to the Westhill Foundation which holds faith-inspired original art collections which are available, free of charge, to venues across the UK. Join us for a chance to consider how these resources might enrich your work with your members and your community. They are holding an Exhibition Open Day with visiting speakers: Revd Peter Privett and the Revd Debbie Collins on

Thursday 14th November 2019 10am – 3pm

Please RSVP by the 14th October 2019 for catering purposes.

to Cheryl Homer n c.s.homer@btconnect.com *0121 472 8000*