

Welcome to our worship especially if you are a mother or a visitor. *Hymns are not sung at 8.30 service*

Opening Hymn (tune 450)

Father in heaven, thank you for mothers,
loving and caring all the day long;
thank you for parents, working to feed us,
mothers and fathers loving and strong.

Thank you for Mary 'blest among women'
she whom you chose to mother your son;
pattern of goodness, trust and obedience,
help us to love you, as she had done.

Guardian of truth, the church is our Mother;
telling of Jesus, agent of grace,
filled with his Spirit, making us siblings,
joining his people, in every place.

Parents and children, praise God together;
praise for our homes and all that He gives;
may we serve others, as serving Jesus,
make every home, the place where he lives.

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The Collect (prayer for the day)

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Bible Readings *Exodus 2.1-10*

¹A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Hymn 451

Gospel *Luke 2.33-35*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³³The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Sermon Father John Richards

The Intercessions are led by

8.30am Rowena Nicholls

10am Sue Richards

Offertory Hymn 428 (2nd tune)

Hymns during the administration
of Holy Communion **184 (1st tune), 350**

Post-Communion Prayer

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn 631

This little light of mine

NOTICES

Fr David Pycock, having completed his curacy, will be staying on at St Laurence as Associate Priest. He will be licensed by +Anne 7.30pm on TUESDAY. Do come!

The Lent- Easter calendar is now available (green). Also available are **Easter cards** with details of services. Please help deliver them around the parish – sign up on the 'list of streets' at the back of church.

Our Annual Meeting is on Sunday 29 April after the 10am service. We are starting to put reports together. Please send them to Anne Pycock

(anne.pycock@blueyonder.co.uk) by Sunday 25 March. They should refer to the year 2017 but OK to include the first 3 months of this year too.

In order to vote at the Annual Meeting you need to be on the church electoral roll (membership roll – nothing to do with local government elections!). Forms are available at the back of church and should be returned to a church warden,

Exploring Faith We will be starting group sessions to learn more about the Christian Faith and the church. No question off limits! It could lead into Adult Baptism and/or Confirmation. Have a word with one of the clergy or Janice if interested.

Ecumenical Lectures with Father Cecil Rogerson on Praying with the Saints are on Mondays, 7.30pm St Brigid's & Thursday, 11am, at Northfield Methodist Church. Highly recommended.

Eco- Lent! Keep putting your beans in the jar. Canon Janet has ordered some 'hippos' so let her know if you would like one.

Candlelit Compline NOT this Wednesday but continues 8.30pm Wed 21st March in church.

Palm Crosses will be made on Monday 19 March from 9am in the Pastoral Centre. No experience needed. Please come and help with this even if you're only able to help for a short time. Barbara Finch

Saturday Church Open Mornings have begun. 10-12noon. Refreshments will be available. This is an opportunity to explore your local historic church or simply to enjoy a quiet moment of reflection.

Gridiron visit to St Nicholas place Kings Norton Green - Thurs 15 March. A 1 ½ hour guided tour of the former Saracens Head and Old Grammar School, the largest collection of Mediaeval buildings in Birmingham. ~Coffee shop open from 9am, tour starts 10.30. £4 per head payable to Stuart on the day. Sign up sheet and full details in the porch. Please read carefully as there are access issues. Stuart and Chris 628 0425 js.andrew@live.co.uk

Quiz Night Saturday 17 March. Doors open 6.30pm - Quiz 7pm. Tickets £2.50 bring your own snacks and drinks. Teams of 6. Tickets still available from Mark Reynolds in church or Lorraine Parish Office.

Holy Dusters Church cleaning will be on Tues 20th March at 9.30am. All welcome to help.

Spring Sunday Lunch Come and celebrate Easter and Spring at the Olde Rose & Crown on Sunday 15 April – 1pm - £20 for 3 course lunch. Maximum 35 places. See details in the porch. Please sign up and pass your menu choice and money to Rowena as soon as possible.

Gridiron trip to the **Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway** Thursday 17 May. All day hop on/off steam train and/or diesel rail car and including new line to Broadway £15.60 (payable in advance). Option to stay on the railway, or visit Broadway, Hailes Abbey, Winchcombe. Refreshments stop en route. Meet at the Pastoral Centre at 8.45am for transport to Toddington station. Sign up sheet and full details in the porch. Steve Wright 475 4005

Easter Garden - It is getting more difficult for me to climb around to set up the Easter Garden. Would you like to help me this year, with a view to your taking over and doing it as you would like next year? I will be setting it up on the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Speak to me if you would like to help and would be available on that day. *Janice Wones*

February 100 Club Winners 1st Gerald Pimm
2nd Helen Phillips, 3rd Beryl Symes Congratulations!

Dorothea needs men, ladies & children's shoes, handbags & purses for Zimbabwe - bring to church.

A Petition!

Traffic regularly travels the wrong way along Rectory Road. Several near misses this last week. **Please sign the petition by the welcome desk**

Thank You!

From Fr. Robert for all the thoughtful "Get Well" cards which were gratefully received. Blessing to all. **Holy Dusters** for doing a grand job with Church cleaning.

For your support to the Northfield Food Bank. We have taken 17 bags there so far!

Do you use the cash back site Quidco.com? If so, you can now donate your cash back to charity through For Good Causes (<https://www.forgoodcauses.org/how-it-works/>) and the Charities Trust. It is hoped to expand the scheme to other cash back and loyalty point schemes

Weekly events:

'Stay and Play' (Parent/carer & baby/toddler group) Mondays 9.30-11am.

Gridiron Coffee Morning Tuesdays 10 – 11.30am.

For your prayers

Those who are ill including: Richard Barber (Steph and all the family)

Those who have died Philip Thomas Such, Emily Bisseker, Patricia Alcock, David William Jones

Prayer requests may be left in the book by the 'Mary Altar.' They are included in Morning and Evening Prayer several times a week.

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries

Please come to the Parish Surgery on 1st & 3rd Wed of month
6-7pm
in the Pastoral Centre
173 Church Road, Northfield, B31 2LX

Contact Details

Parish Office – 0121 475 1518
Rectory – 0121 477 3111
Parish Office – stlaurence@btconnect.com
Rector – janet.rectory@gmail.com

Website: www.stlaurencenorthfield.org

Twitter: @stlaurenceb31
Rector: @janetchapman5

Facebook www.facebook.com/StLaurenceChurchNorthfield

Just Giving

www.justgiving.com/stlaurence-northfield

TripAdvisor

<http://bit.ly/StLaurenceTripAdvisor>