

Welcome to our worship today

Opening Hymn 626 *Take up thy cross the Saviour said*
(hymns at 10am only)

The Collect (prayer for the day)

God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

First Reading *Deuteronomy 30.15-20*

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Second Reading *Philemon 1-21*

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. ⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love – and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother – especially to me

but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Hymn 938 *Oh Lord hear my prayer* (3 times)

repeated when the Sunday School goes out after the Gospel. We offer groups for younger and older children.

Gospel *Luke 14.25-33*

²⁵Large crowds were travelling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.'

Sermon Fr. David Pycock (Associate Priest)

The Intercessions are led by

8.30am Rowena Nicholls 10am Mark Reynolds

Offertory Hymn 101 *Christ's is the world in which we move*

Hymns during communion 195, 88

Post Communion Prayer(

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Recessional Hymn 188 *Forth in thy name, O Lord I go*

NOTICES

After the 10am service the choir will be having a short run-through of a hymn we will be singing on 15 September.

Please complete a 'Why I come to St Laurence' form by TODAY!

Annual Fire Practice to take place on a Sunday morning fairly soon. The assembly point is the Clarke Monument which is the tall monument in the churchyard. If you have difficulty walking you should wait in your seat and assistance will be available.

Thank you

- to all who have helped deliver our Autumn Events postcard. We are getting through the pile nicely but if you can help deliver some that would be great as we'd like to get them all out by 12 September
- To the volunteers of the Pastoral Centre Garden Working party – the 9 of us made a big difference!

If you haven't heard '**Three Vicars talking: Death**' Radio 4, available BBC Sounds, it is well worth a listen. Funny and profound. Come and listen to it and discuss it 7.30-9pm Tuesday 10th September at the Rectory.

The Exploring Faith group next session is Wednesday 18 September from 7.45 – 9pm in Church (with a catch-up on Session 3 from 7-8pm on Tuesday 17 Sept) in church. We are planning to **re-run the course** on Thursday afternoons from 1.30-2.45pm starting on 19 Sept for 6 weeks. Let Canon Janet or Janice know if interested

Gridiron Walk Thursday 12 September
Meet at 9.30 Pastoral Centre. 4 1/2 mile circular walk. Starts at St Michael and All Angels church, Cofton Hackett. Country walk, mainly on footpaths, taking in Bittell Reservoirs, Stopping at The Tea Shop, Barnt Green and returning via Pinfield Wood and Kendal End. One can take a shorter walk [4 miles] by 'bypassing' Barnt Green, keeping to the main Rednal - Alvechurch Road. Miles. Tel. 476 4768.

Remember organist Kurt? He's returning to give a fantastic recital at 4-4.50pm Saturday 14 September.

Carboot Sat 14 September Just a few tables left so book quick. If you have any unwanted items you would like to donate to the parish stall, please leave at the Parish Office.

SPOTS next meeting from 10am -3pm (drop-in) on Monday 16 September. All welcome. You can stay for a soup lunch or pop out to join the **Informal Lunch** which is 12noon Monday 16 Sept at Northfield Baptist Church. Please sign up in porch.

PCC Meeting Monday 16 September 7pm in the Pastoral Centre. Minutes should be out this week – please read carefully!

Holy Dusters We will be cleaning our beautiful church On Tuesday 17 Sept at 9.30am. Come and join us for an enjoyable hour.

Churches Together Meeting Wednesday 18 September 7.30pm at St. Brigid's

Heritage Open Days We are opening the church on Friday, 20th September 10am – 12noon and on Saturday 21st September from 10am – 2pm. There will be guided tours at 11am on the Friday and at 11am and 1pm on the Saturday. We need some volunteers to welcome people, make refreshments and general stewarding. We also need cakes for the refreshments – so if you can bake or buy some – that would be wonderful! If you can help, please sign up on the list in the porch. Thank you. Rowena

Churchyard Service Saturday 21 September at 4.30pm

Macmillan Coffee Morning Saturday 28 September 10am-1pm Including Raffle (some great prizes)/Book Sale/Sweets, obviously lots of cake and savouries. We would be grateful for any Cake/savoury donations - to either be given on the day or from Thursday 26. See Lorraine in the office for more details. Thank you, Emma

Harvest Festival Sunday 6th October. Tins and packets to support local food banks welcome. We will also be collecting £1's for Christian Aid's work and we hope to hold a light breakfast between the two services!

Sidespeople, Welcomers, Eucharistic Assistants, Sunday School Teachers, Coffee Makers - please pick up a rota for the next few months from the Welcome Desk as there has been quite a change in some of the familiar patterns.

Some of the bellringers are training to be bellringing teachers and would like to practice their skills on those who would like to **give bellringing a go!** Now's your chance - speak to one of the ringers or Canon Janet.

Father John's sermon for Trinity 10 can be heard again at <http://bit.ly/Trinity10FatherJohn>

Weekly events

- '**Stay and Play**' Restarts Monday 9 September
- **St. Laurence Community Choir in Church** Mondays 6pm-7pm
- **Gridiron Coffee Morning Pastoral Centre** Tuesdays 10 – 11.30am. Coffee, Board Games & chat.
- **Church Open on Saturdays** 10-12noon. Refreshments available: a chance to explore our historic church or simply to enjoy a quiet moment of reflection.



Mobile phone payments

If you would like to donate to St Laurence using your smartphone, please scan* this QR code which will take you to a dedicated donations page. Gift Aiding your donation is possible if you are a UK taxpayer. * the iPhone camera acts as a QR code scanner. If you have

an Android phone you may have to download an App. Ask Peter Chapman for more information.

Just Giving www.justgiving.com/stlaurence-northfield

For your prayers

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

Those who have died:

Roger Cannon.

Hillary Cope: Funeral in church 11am Thursday 12th September followed by burial in the churchyard.

Alan Phillips, husband of Myra who attends the 8.30am service, died suddenly on Tuesday morning. Funeral at Lodge Hill Crematorium Chapel 12.15pm Friday 20th September. All welcome.

Please note that the office will be closed this coming week for staff holidays.