

St. Faith and St. Laurence Harborne



CREATIONTIDE
SEPTEMBER 1st-OCTOBER 4th
2025



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
BIRMINGHAM

USEFUL NUMBERS (See also back cover)

Priest- in-Charge: REVD. DAVID PARKER **Mobile:** 07532 338961
Email: davidparker124@btinternet.com
PCC Vice-Chair CAROLINE MOSLEY **Email:** caromosley1@gmail.com
Mobile: 07887552123

Task Group Chairs

Church Estate Task Group DAVID ARKELL **429 2772**
Mission: PAULINE SITFORD **Email:** pauline.walkersend@gmail.com **427 7005**
Socials: DAVID GLANVILL **Email:** davidglanvill@yahoo.co.uk **682 8360**
Communications: CAROLINE MOSLEY **Email:** caromosley1@gmail.com
Mobile: 07887552123

Eco Church : CORINNE TREACY–Parish Environment Contact **Mobile:** 07752640151

Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator: SALLY GRIFFITHS **Mobile:** 07940 758396

E-mail: sallyegriff@gmail.com

Vulnerable Adults Contact: Sue Glanvill **Mobile:** 07934 933629

E-mail sue_granvill@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Identity Verifier: CORINNE TREACY **Mobile:** 07752640151

Our Safeguarding policies pack is available in the Hall, in the church and on our website.

Safeguarding posters and Promoting a Safer Church with our Parish Policy Statement posters are on display in the Hall and Church together with some leaflets. If you have any concerns about the safety of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, please speak to a member of the Safeguarding Team or to Revd. David Parker. Concerns may have then to be passed to the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser in confidence. In an emergency contact police, Social Care Services, or for a child, the NSPCC helpline 0800 800 5000

ACTIVITIES

Women's Fellowship: HELEN HAYWARD **422 5724**

Stay and Play: Thursdays 9.30am- 11am

HILARY SHAYLOR **454 0451**

Lesson Readers Secretaries:

(10am) BRENDA STOTT **681 9339**

(6.30pm) DIANA LEADBEATER **427 1930**

Planned Giving: CORINNE TREACY (TEMPORARY) **Mobile:** 07752640151

Flower Rota: ANITA TIPPIN **454 7586**

Transport DAVID GLANVILL **Email:** davidglanvill@yahoo.co.uk **682 8360**

Co-ordinator: (Please contact David if you need, or can offer lifts to church)

Uniformed Organisations

Scout Association Ring 0345 300 1818 and ask for 293rd Birmingham Scout Group

GSL Leader: TOM McARDLE

Beavers: Monday, 6pm EMMA CAWSEY

Cub Scouts: Wednesday, 6pm MATT CAWSEY

Scouts: Tuesday, 7.15pm Leader: KEVIN PAYNE

Guides: Wednesday, 7.30pm **Guider:** AMANDA JONES **01384 636928**

Brownies: Wednesday, 6pm-7.30pm **Brown Owl:** JANET JONES **429 8167**

Rainbow Unit: Wednesday, 4.45pm-5.45pm **Leader:** JANET JONES **429 8167**

Aspects of life at St Faith and St Laurence

Morning Prayer – is normally said Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8.30 am in the Lady Chapel. We use Common Worship Daily Prayer, all are welcome to come and join in.

Task Groups – The church has a number of task groups enabling areas of church life. These are listed on the inside cover of the magazine with the contact details of the chairs. If you would like to be a part of a groups please contact the relevant chair. All are welcome to join.

Stay and Play meets on Thursday between 9.30 and 11am in the Hall to give a chance for people with young children to meet and the children to play. All are welcome. Cost £2 per family.

Planned Giving In order to continue, the church relies on the financial support of the congregation and parishioners. It costs over £1500 per week to operate. We encourage people to give regularly through some form of Planned Giving, and to Gift Aid their giving if they pay income tax, so the parish can reclaim tax on the donations at no extra cost to the donor. Each person must decide how much they can afford to give.

The recommended method of planned giving is by direct debit through the Parish Giving Scheme as this reduces bureaucracy and improves our cash flow but still leave the giver in control of their contributions. Some people prefer to pay by Standing Order or using weekly or monthly envelopes. Details of all these methods are available from Loleta Atkinson or Corinne Treacy.

Choir and Music Our church has an excellent musical tradition. Mark Lawrence, is our Director of Music. Please speak to Mark if you would like to support the music in any way, particularly if you are able and interested to sing with others whilst we find new ways to keep our tradition going.

We support **Recycling**. We have a special collection on the first Sunday of every month when we collect ALUMINIUM cans and foil which can be sold and the money raised is donated to our Mission Partners in Chile (through USPG) Relevant collection boxes will be located in the narthex. Please bag your foil etc. and leave it in the relevant box. We **CAN'T ACCEPT** yoghurt pot tops, shiny sweet wrappers, plastic bottle caps or chocolate wrappers. Local supermarkets have battery recycling facilities in this area.

Home Communion There are several people who are unable to get to church, either permanently or temporarily, and to whom David or Sally take communion in their homes. If you would like to receive communion at home, or know someone who might, please speak to David or Sally.

'easyfundraising'

Next time you shop online, think of St Faith and St Laurence and raise free donations with 3,000+ retailers:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stfaithandstlaurence>

Women's Fellowship meets on the first Tuesdays of the month from March to December. Meetings are held in the Committee Room at 2pm. We have talks on a variety of subjects.

Prayer Ministry Team

Prayer ministry is offered during the 10am Communion on the 1st Sunday of each month. People can receive prayer for themselves or for any situation that is important to them. It takes place in the Lady Chapel during the distribution of communion.

Foodbank

We collect food for the Quinton Foodbank. There is a box in church and food can be placed there at any time. The list of things that are needed is in church and in the hall. Food is distributed from St Boniface Church on Wednesdays. Vouchers are required to receive food.



Call in for Coffee time together over a cuppa on a Wednesday morning from 10.30 -12.00. if needed we can arrange for someone to collect you and then take you home. If you are passing, do call in, or bring a friend, all are welcome.





Because this magazine is published quarterly, and Sally and I take it in turns to write the opening letter, it is 6 months since my last letter. A lot seems to have happened in that time: in the world and the parish, but also in my life.

Six months ago my wife, Rosemary, was still in hospital having just had her hip replaced; today she is fully fit and last Monday the two of us spent a very hot bank holiday walking 9 miles over the Malvern Hills – this was actually a bit further than planned, as the pub we had expected to stop at for lunch turned out to be closed! Last time I wrote about how moving I had found it baptising my first grandchild – he is now 15 months old and for the foreseeable future Rosemary and I will be looking after him every Monday. As well as finding our children's old toys (stored for decades in the hope that one day a grandchild would appreciate them), we have needed to child-proof our house, fitting catches to the kitchen cupboards – apart from the one housing the saucepans, which of course he loves to use as percussion instruments.

We have also learnt that our second grandchild is due in October, though as our son and his partner live in Dundee we clearly won't see very much of the new arrival (and as they are not churchgoers I don't think I will be asked to do another baptism). Rosemary and I spent a week with them in June. I'm not sure it was exactly a holiday, as my son enlisted my help in refitting their kitchen – which meant laying a new floor and fixing new plasterboard on the walls before we could start on assembling the cabinets and cutting out the worktops. By the end of the week I was exhausted, but it was good to spend time working alongside my son, as well as being satisfying to have completed the task successfully.

Elsewhere in this magazine there are reports on recent events and developments in the parish. I won't duplicate them here, but I do wish to say that, just as I enjoyed working alongside my son in June, so I find it deeply rewarding to work alongside all of you in the various activities which make up our parish life.

Parish update

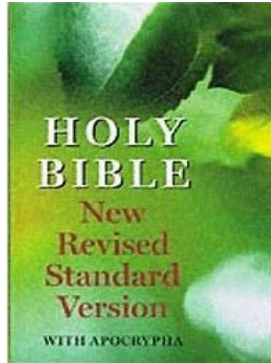
This is a quick summary of some of the developments in the parish since the last magazine was published at the beginning of June. Work on the church gutters started on 16th June and should have been successfully completed by the time you read this – as I write, we are expecting the final scaffolding to be removed in the next 2 days. The restored gutters look fresh and clean [one church member asked why we hadn't painted them black like before – I don't know what this says about the previous poor state of the gutters, as they were always nominally white!] Most importantly, the gutters should now work reliably for the next 30 years or so. The final cost will be very close to the budgeted cost of £77k. Thanks to the generosity of many people we have so far raised over £56k for this project, which is an incredible achievement. If anyone would like to help make up the shortfall, the link for online giving is still on the church website, or cheques (payable to St Faith and St Laurence PCC) can be sent to me.

As previously reported, the PCC have agreed to allow the Korean Jesus Vision Church to use our buildings on Sunday afternoons for their worship. They will start on 19th October, initially for a 6 month trial period but with the hope that this will become a permanent arrangement. God works through a variety of organisations and styles of worship, and I think it's good that we will be supporting another denomination in this way, though our own worship will remain unchanged - in practice, unless you are around the church between 1pm and 5pm on a Sunday I suspect you won't notice any difference.

As agreed last year, we are in the process of adopting a new software package for our church accounts, which will make it easier to keep track of funds given for specific purposes and hopefully result in much clearer summaries at the end of the year. As I delve into the intricacies of this new system I am reminded of how enormously indebted we are to Loleta for all her work on our accounts. But of course there are many others who in different ways help keep our parish running – to all of you, thank you!

David

READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER



September 7th 12th after Trinity

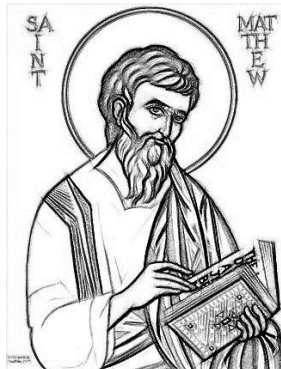
10am Holy Communion Jeremiah 18:1-11, Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-33
6.30pm Evensong Isaiah 43:14-44:5, John 5:30-end

September 14th 13th after Trinity

8am Holy Communion Exodus 32:7-14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10
10am Service of the Word Special Order of service Readings to be confirmed

September 21st St Matthew the Apostle

10am Holy Communion Proverbs 3:13-18, 2 Corinthians 4:1-6, Matthew 9:9-13
6.30pm Evensong Ecclesiastes 5:4-12, Matthew 19:16-end



September 28th 15th after Trinity

8am Holy Communion Amos 6:1a & 4-7, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-end
10am Baptism Readings to be confirmed
6.30pm Holy Communion Readings As at 8am

Environmental & Sustainability Calendar for your diary September, October and November 2025

September

* September 1st to October 4th 2025 – **'The Season of Creation' / Creationtide** - Connect with nature and dedicate this time to God as the Creator and Sustainer of all life. The theme this year is "Peace with Creation"

* Sept 1st to 5th – **'Zero Waste Week'** – A week for you to try to go 'Zero Waste'

* September 1st to 30th – **'Organic September'** - A month long campaign designed to encourage more people to try organic food.

* September 1st to 30th – **'Second Hand September'** – A campaign started by 'Oxfam 2A campaign'. It promotes donating, reusing, reweaving and restyling your clothes.

* September 22nd to 28th – **'Recycle Week'** – A week to clean up wherever you prefer.

* Sept 22nd to Oct 5th – **'Fairtrade Fortnight'** – Two weeks for all to remember the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks.

October

* October 1st – **'World Vegetarian Day'** – A good time to explore meat-free meals.

* October 1st to 31st – **'Unblocktober'** – A UK campaign to raise awareness about improving the health of drains, sewers, watercourses, and seas.

* October 14th – **'International E-Waste Day'** – A day to raise awareness of the problems of electronic/ electrical waste and encourage householders to recycle their electrical waste.

November

* November 1st to 30th – **'World Vegan Month'** – to encourage the vegan curious to adopt veganism.

* November 10th to 21st – **COP 30** in Brazil (Belem) - The 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference, or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, more commonly known as COP30, is the upcoming 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference.

* November 29th – **'Buy Nothing Day'** – A day to encourage everyone to think about the consumerism.



To Celebrate the Church of England Birmingham Eco Diocese Silver Award, we were invited by Bishop Michael at St Martin in the Bullring on Sunday July 20th 2025 at 4 pm for a service evening prayer and the presentation of the award by A Rocha UK. I, as SF&SL Parish Environmental Contact went and I was accompanied by Alex Robertson. It was a very uplifting occasion and it was great to see our churches in the Deanery and beyond well represented. **Corinne Treacy**

St Faith and St Laurence, Harborne - Wild Garden



SF&SL Wild Garden situated in between the church and the hall buildings, was originally started in 2019 on a piece of abandoned land called the uncovered yard. Its purpose was to try to build a wildness vegetation to attract bees, pollinator insects and other little creatures.

The Wild Garden has flourished through the years. However, the gutter project with the scaffolding caused some damaged to it. But I'm sure it will come back to its former glory in no time. **Corinne Treacy**

SOCIALS TASK GROUP UPDATE

Since my last report in January, and as we celebrate / complain about this, the fourth 'heatwave' of the summer I can report that we have held a series of events during the intervening six months.

We celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE day on the 17th May with 'A COFFEE and CAKE' MORNING . The Hall was decorated with bunting and flags and WWW2 music played throughout. A certain vicar (guess who?) helped to serve the refreshments, dressed in shorts, frilly apron and a union flag bowler hat. **WHAT YOU MISSED IF YOU WEREN'T THERE!!!!** The cakes (all homemade) were despatched effortlessly and the Tombola sold out .

June 7th saw us embark on a new event, with an evening concert. This was held in church and featured three acts. The Notes (A ladies Ukulele Band) , The "Teatime Trio" and concluded with The Rock Choir. All those there enjoyed themselves and were able to mingle with the performers during the interval, making it a pleasant informal evening.

The Coach Trip to the Glass Museum, planned for the 21st June was cancelled due to lack of interest. We will rethink it for 2026.

Our final event of the summer was the Family Barbecue and Fun Day combined with a Messy Church, on the 12th July. This turned out to be very popular with those families who participated, enjoying the beautiful weather, the activities laid on in Messy Church, the bouncy castle, the barbeque, the tombola and of course an Ice cream van (essential given the weather). I must thank all those people who gave up their time and worked tirelessly despite the heat to make it all happen.

As we move towards autumn we look forward to the remaining two events for this year, these being;

Harvest Supper on the 18th October.

Autumn Fayre on the 8th November.

Details of both these events will be publicised shortly and we look forward to seeing you at either or both of them.

Thank all those of you who have supported us, in whatever way throughout the year.

David Glanvill

AUTUMN FAYRE

We are planning to hold a Christmas Stall at the Autumn Fayre on the 8th November. If you have any "Christmassy" items which are in good condition but no longer needed anymore, we would be happy to have them.

Please contact Helen Hayward or Angela Cook for more details.

St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist

One morning a clerk in the tax office was surprised to receive this letter in the morning post.

"Dear Sir, Last year I cheated on my tax and I can't sleep for thinking about it. I am therefore enclosing two thousand pounds in used notes.

The clerk was rather pleased to read this, until he reached the next line which read. "If I find that I still can't sleep, I'll send you the rest of the money I owe you."

On The 21st of this month, the church commemorates the feast of St Matthew, the most famous of tax collectors who gave up everything to become a follower of Jesus.

St Matthew's Day Reflection

Who me?

You want **me** to follow you?

You must have got it wrong.

I can see you're a good person,

- not like some hypocrites.

You need someone better than me.

Who me?

Don't you know who I am?

I'm a traitor.

I work for the enemy occupiers.

I handle their dirty money.

You need someone better than me.

Who me?

You know I steal from our people.

I call it commission but I cheat.

I make people poorer by extortion.

I'm a despised tax-collector.

You need someone better than me.

Who me?

I'm a sinner - the lowest of the low.

You can't want me to be your disciple.

What me? Really?

You are calling me?

You need someone just like me?

The picture below is part of Caravaggio's painting of the calling of St Matthew. It says it all - the unexpectedness of the call, the sense of unworthiness, of the reaching of a pivotal moment, the dawning realization as the light shines on Matthew.



Nancy Wallace

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE
SOUP AND PUDDINGS
With 'THE TEA-TIME TRIO'
on Saturday, 20th September at 4pm
at St Faith and St Laurence Church Hall**

**£10 bring your own drinks
Proceeds to**



Tickets are available from Helen Hayward 0794013394

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE
COFFEE MORNING
on Saturday, 25th October 10.30-12noon
at St Faith and St Laurence Church Hall
Coffee/Tea and Toasted Teacake £3.50**



**with various Stalls and Tombola
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HARBORNE B17 8RD**

At the junction of Balden and Croftdown Road

Registered Charity Number 1134152

SERVICES

SUNDAY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 2nd, 4th and 5th SUNDAYS

10am FAMILY COMMUNION 1st, 3rd and 5th SUNDAYS

SERVICE OF THE WORD 2nd and 4th SUNDAYS

4pm ZOOM EVENING WORSHIP 2nd SUNDAY

6.30pm EVENSONG and SERMON

1st, 3rd and 5th SUNDAYS

6.30pm HOLY COMMUNION 4th SUNDAY

MORNING PRAYER: MONDAYS, TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS-IN LADY CHAPEL

WEDNESDAYS:11am HOLY COMMUNION-IN LADY CHAPEL

CHURCH CONTACT

Mobile: Email: ssfaithlaurence@gmail.com

MINISTRY TEAM

Priest- in-Charge: REVD. DAVID PARKER

Mobile: 07532 338961

Email:davidparker124@btinternet.com

Licensed Reader: SALLY GRIFFITHS Ed.D., M.Ed.

Mobile: 07940 758396

E-mail: sallyegriff@gmail.com

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH:

Churchwardens: CAROLINE MOSLEY Email: caromosley1@gmail.com

Mobile: 07887552123

P.C.C. Secretary: DAVID GLANVILL Email: davidglanvill@yahoo.co.uk 682 8360

HELEN SETCHELL

Email: ssfaithlaurence@gmail.com

P.C.C. Treasurer: LOLETA ATKINSON

471 1248

Electoral Roll: DEE COYNE Email: deeb15@hotmail.co.uk

Director of Music: MARK LAWRENCE

Mobile: 07752 900456

Bell Ringers Leader: CORINNE TREACY

Mobile: 07752640151

Church Hall Bookings: Please contact Judith Bennett 07983400846

Email: Judith.e.bennett48@gmail.com

Church Hall may be contacted in an emergency on: 428 2406

Editor: Peter Stokes Mobile: 07980346350

E-mail: peterstokes@talk21.com

Advertising Manager: Corinne Treacy Mobile: 07752640151

Email: corinnetreacy@gmail.com

PARISH WEBSITE:- www.saintfaithandsaintlaurence.co.uk