



The monthly information sheet from the church to you – brought to you from your Priest in Charge!

Looking back at March & April 2010

Our web site address is: www.st-lawrence-gnosall.com

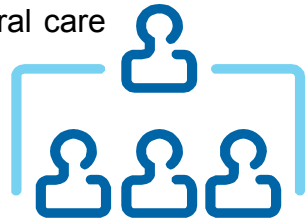


Ministry to older people

We are pleased to report that now, alongside our very successful service at the Impstones for older people; we have now launched a monthly service at Gingercroft, residential home. The service is very much based along the lines of Impstones, though a bit shorter!

Caring Links

All the caring links people have been appointed to offer pastoral care amongst the entire congregation – those who live in the village and those who live outside. A display will be going up soon (thanks Jim!) revealing all of the Caring Links people and the areas in which they serve. All members should have had a letter from their Caring Links person already, but it will be good to see the whole picture!



Mystery Worshipper Report

The Worship Ministry Team – at the end of last year – invited a mystery worshipper to come and check out our welcome and worship. The Diocese of Lichfield run a scheme whereby churches who are feeling brave can invite such a person (they don't know who it is!) to come and worship and then receive a report back! We all say we are friendly but the proof is in the person visiting! The full report is pinned up on the notice board at the back of church, so please do have a look at it. Though there are points we are taking from it – which chiefly concern signage – the report is VERY GOOD. The Pastoral Ministry Team who provide the 'meet and greet' people for the 10:30am service made the person feel very welcomed; the person found the worship easy to understand and uplifting and where struck by the beauty of the church and the care shown towards it. Exterior and Entrance – we scored 20/30; Initial welcome – 23/30; Worship space – 29/30 and after the service 30/30! It is good to hear from someone who visits us for the first time about such a good welcome they received and the good worship that they were part of. At times we can all become too critical for our own good!



Easter Experience

The Easter Experience running during the week of the 22nd of March – made up of characters taking you back to that first Easter and interactive prayer stations – was (like the Nativity Experience) a huge success. 239 young people came to visit the Easter Experience – the school, preschool and nurseries – along with 50 adults as well. A huge thank you to those from the church, who put the stations together, wrote the scripts and acted the parts. Thank you very much!

Highs and lows of Holy Week

The parish has always tried to run quieter services Monday to Wednesday of Holy Week during Cathy's time and the present, but numbers have never during all these years been outstanding. Due to the enlarged benefice taking shape then next year the quieter services on Monday and Wednesday will be dropped. We launched for the first time a Holy Week service at Moreton for the Jack and Jill's playgroup there which proved to be a lovely occasion – for the first time the children and adults came inside St. Mary's church! In Gnosall, for the first time as well, we undertook a Seder meal on Tuesday evening which both in terms of numbers and experience, proved to be a very successful occasion. Thanks especially to Jo Scofield who organised and led it. We had a very poor turn out for Maundy Thursday evening and, notwithstanding the service in the morning, this is something in urgent need to be looked at next year. Worship was good all the way through Good Friday and Easter Sunday – both services and the workshops for the young people in the Grosvenor Centre. Thanks to all who helped in Holy Week in whatever way.



Play and Praise:

Meeting on a Thursday for pre-school children and their parents/ carers. It has been really good and encouraging now to see a solid twenty adults and children coming each week.

Age Concern Service:

With the changes that have taken place recently (we realise that not all of them for the better!) it is important to state that our church service remains consistent and is now once every two months for this year – mainly a Songs of Praise with the older people enjoying singing some of their favourite hymns.

Friends' concert:

We pass on our thanks to all those involved in the last Friends concert in the church on the 27th of March – much appreciated by all who went.

St. Paul's Study Day:

Around forty people were at the Chapel to hear Bishop Gordon speak so well on the theology of St. Paul and another twenty representing all three fellowships stayed on to try and ground what they had heard in the life of our churches today. This was a superb day and thanks to the organising committee especially. In prayer we will now seek to take this day further in a form of a letter to all the churches.