ST LAURENCE, FOLESHILL
COVENTRY

PARISH PROFILE
BISHOP’S INTRODUCTION

I am always humbled when I see the faithful ministry of priests in UPA parishes, who quietly and without fuss get on with the job of extending God’s kingdom in these tougher areas. I am sure that the good work these priests do ‘in secret’ will be rewarded in heaven!

St Laurence Foleshill is such a parish. It has been well-served by its previous incumbent for 25 years, who is about to retire, though the parish wishes to stress that ‘we wish to affirm to candidates that we are not expecting styles of ministry to be replicated.’

We are looking for another priest who feels called to what, for many, may look like an unrewarding ministry – until actually engaging in it and finding it extremely rewarding and fulfilling, despite the hard work.

The parish of St Laurence has very good connections with the local Church of England school, and loads of potential for mission and ministry as a parish. Their Sunday congregation is numerically quite small, and has potential for growth. Their Messy Church appears to be thriving.

Our Diocese has a clear Mission Purpose - to worship God, make new disciples and transform communities. We aim to achieve this by improving the health of churches in 8 Essential Quality areas which you can read about in the Parish Profile. We would welcome applications from candidates who would like to join with us in this vision, worked out on the ground in the streets of St Laurence, Foleshill.

With my prayers,

+ Christopher
DEANERY SUMMARY

St Laurence is part of Coventry North Deanery. Deaneries in this Diocese are key strategic structures for mission. Coventry North Deanery includes city centre, UPA, suburban and rural parishes, most of which include areas of deprivation and also a wide diversity ethnically.

There are many younger people in their 20-30s and reaching these with the gospel is a target area for both the Deanery and the Diocese. Almost all church traditions are within the Deanery, from evangelical-charismatic to traditionalist-catholic, and including a Pioneer church in the city centre (Urban Hope), and the Cathedral.

We are committed to fulfilling the threefold Diocesan Mission Purpose of Worshipping God, Making New Disciples and Transforming Communities via the 8 Essential Qualities of healthy churches, and we want to work together to both support each other and see God’s Kingdom come in Coventry North. The Deanery is seeking to grow churches and to become more missionally sustainable.

We are expectant that God will do great things among us and there is a growing sense in the deanery that building good relationships and sharing best practice will be significant for our growth as a whole. St Laurence’s may be small but there are great opportunities. We are looking for a vicar who can bring the very best out of the people of this church and enable real growth.

We look forward to welcoming the new incumbent and seeing what God has next for St Paul’s and Foleshill.

Rev’d Alison Evans
Area Dean
BACKGROUND TO POST

The parish of St Laurence, Foleshill, in the north of Coventry is an Urban Priority Area, with a small but diverse congregation in age and ethnicity. Our vicar is retiring in August 2017 after 25 years of faithful ministry, along with his wife who was a Reader and also contributed significantly to the ministry of the parish, especially with youth and schools work. St Laurence Church is the foundation parish of St Laurence Church of England Primary School (an academy within the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust) which is situated next to the Church.

When a vicar leaves after 25 years there are clearly patterns of ministry which we have enjoyed and become used to, but we wish to affirm to candidates that we are not expecting styles of ministry to be replicated. We wish to encourage the next post-holder to be free to develop their own relationship, leadership and ministry with us.

ROLE SPECIFICATION

The role of this post is to lead the churches in fulfilling the Diocesan Mission Purpose of:

- Worshipping God
- Making New Disciples
- Transforming Communities.

This will be achieved by developing 8 essential qualities in the life of the church:

- Empowering
- Gift-oriented
- Passionate
- Inspiring
- Holistic
- Need-oriented
- Loving
- Functional

Leadership
Ministry
Spirituality
Worship
Small Groups
Outreach
Relationships
Structures
PERSON SPECIFICATION

We would welcome applications from evangelical candidates who:

- Are empowering leaders, and can develop leadership and other gifts in people who lack confidence initially. This will include the development of small group life and leaders.
- Are able to help us engage both in social action and evangelism more effectively. It would be advantageous if candidates also had experience in effective youth evangelism, discipleship and working with schools.
- Leading by example, have a passion for Jesus and God’s word and are able to make the word come alive in ways relevant to our modern day lives, and help us become more prayerful.
- Can help improve the quality of our contemporary based worship experiences. It would be advantageous if candidates could play music and/or could train musicians, but not essential.
- Can organise well (as we do not have many people who can do this at the moment!).

ST LAURENCE FOLSEHILL AND THE DIOCESAN MISSION PURPOSE AND 8 ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF HEALTHY CHURCHES

The Mission Purpose of the Diocese of Coventry is:

- Worshipping God
- Making New Disciples
- Transforming Communities.

St Laurence Foleshill is fully committed to fulfilling these three aspects.

We believe that we will achieve this Mission Purpose by developing 8 Essential Qualities in the life of the church (see further www.dioceseofcoventry.org/healthychurches).

In the most recent Healthy Churches Survey of November 2016 we have seen improvements across all areas of the 8 essential qualities since our first survey, which has been very encouraging for us! These improvements have come from being prepared to and empowered to develop strategies, based on the foundation of friendships and trust that has been growing and blossoming, but also extending out to the schools in the parish and our Messy Church.
Empowering Leadership

In a parish like St Laurence empowering leaders is difficult for a number of reasons:

- We are in a UPA and people do not have lots of confidence or training in leadership.
- We are a small congregation, so there are not many people to train and volunteer.
- The two factors above combined could make a vicar think, ‘It is easier to do it myself’.

We had a Ministry Leadership Team about 12 years ago but this began to lose its way, and is now defunct, with some members of the group having moved on.

However we have recently provided opportunities for members of our congregation to lead or participate in services, and we have also developed several small teams which take roles within our church life, eg welcoming teams, small group leaders for ‘Bible Buddies’, ‘CONNECT’, ‘Messy Church’, ‘Wilderness (Quiet) days’, and occasionally Non-Eucharistic services, all of which are led by congregation members.

We would hope a new vicar will encourage this growth in leadership development and support us in enhancing and building on individual gifts that have begun to develop.

Gift-Oriented Ministry

The results from our recent NCD survey have indicated that not everyone knows their gifts, and so as part of our church improvement plan we are aiming to help people find their gifts and become confident in using them, using our small groups (one of our strengths) to help facilitate this. We want to empower people to discover and use their gifts for their own sense of fulfillment, rather than for rota filling! We have also found that using small groups and teams encourages others to be committed as they don’t wish to let their small group or team members down.

We currently have 5 Service Teams, and are identifying and training lay leaders for them:
- Hospitality and Welcome
- Music and Worship
- Social Media
- Mercy Ministries
- Youth Work

As we are a small church, there is some crossover of people within these.

The size of the church combined with a lack of confidence in people means recognising and using gifts does not come easy to us. The new vicar will need to be encouraging and patient as they help us in this area.
**Passionate Spirituality**

We were delighted to see that this quality had improved significantly from our first survey! We are getting more spiritually passionate! But we are not complacent!

Our Sunday service is not where the majority of people associated with St Laurence engage with God. The Sunday service tends to attract a range of ages, from young families/individuals who come on a semi-regular basis to a committed number of elderly people who attend weekly, (20-30 adults plus some children), whereas Messy Church attracts about 100 people. New people and families therefore seem to engage better with Messy Church.

We are varied in the way we express our worship and there are regular opportunities for people to be hands on through a labyrinth format of activities to enable everyone to express or relate in their own personal way no matter where they may be in their faith journey. However, we have struggled for many years to get progress on participation in prayer or prayer activities other than those specifically attached to worship services.

A regular evening prayer session is held in the church hall once a week, but it is only a small core of the congregation who attend. Responses from the NCD survey suggest that people are praying privately but not corporately. This again may be due to a lack of confidence.

We have occasionally run quiet days, and a small group has gone to another venue to have either personal quiet time or been led by a host at the venue, but these have generally attracted the same older generation.

As a means to grow participation and to try to meet the needs of where our fringe people are, a WhatsApp group for ladies only was set up, aimed at bringing together women across all areas of our church family and small groups, and is called “Faith Connection”. It enables those who are part of the group to request prayer, offer prayer responses, share words of encouragement or support and has been helpful to bring a bond or sense of community to individuals who may see one another infrequently. It is not seen as a replacement for praying together but as a step towards increasing confidence so that in time people might not only pray for but pray with others.

The success of the women’s WhatsApp group led to a Men’s version being started and these have since been combined into one group having introduced a weekly bible verse to read and reflect on and exchange thoughts or word of encouragement on the verse.

We have also introduced our own version of an in-house quiet day. This was inspired, in-part, by the Archbishop’s call to prayer in the “Thy Kingdom Come” prayer event last year. Our challenge to join together with a 24/7 day of prayer didn’t quite get to a full 24 hours but it did offer an insight for some newer people and has led to some further “Wilderness Prayer” days which are now part of our church programme.
People in our church are very good at being hands on! However, when it comes to allowing a deeper relationship with God through praying and reading the Bible, there are many members of our church who struggle to open up themselves to allow them to be more vulnerable to letting God into their daily lives away from or in church.

Helping others to understand and read the Bible and input daily prayer into their lives is one of our action points from the NCD survey. This is a key requirement for our church to be able to move on and grow.

**Inspiring Worship**

We have shown promising growth in Inspiring Worship in the last 18 months. We are now above average in this area, though we are aware we still need to work at keeping people engaged, and also how to retain visitors. We estimate that we get around 25 adults and 15 children attending regularly, however, this can go up or down depending on the week and type of service.

The mainstay of our regular Sunday service attendees are from the older generation. Those who are on the fringe, or younger people with children, access our other worship opportunities (e.g., Messy Church) and only seem to dip in and out of our more traditional Sunday service.

Although we do attract new members to our church every year, and retain some of them, they usually have some connections, and are not really ‘un-churched’.

We offer a range of different ways to worship from the traditional Sunday service to our monthly messy church. Our traditional Sunday service is held at 10.30am every week.
Until recently there was an 8.30 short service, mostly attended by the older community, however this no longer runs due to reduced attendance. We also offer a quiet service once a month, when it is our regular Connect meeting day (see Holistic Small Groups). This is a short communion based service for half an hour.

Worship at the 10.30am Sunday service differs in styles and approaches ranging from a non-Eucharistic family service with short bible readings, prayers, music and activities catering to all ages, to an all-age communion. The all-age communion has a Sunday school for half an hour, while the adults have some quality time reading the bible and listening to the teaching of the vicar or sometimes a guest speaker. Guest speakers have ranged from people within the leadership team to people from other churches or organisations.

The teaching often has different approaches which work well for the congregation. Reading the bible is on a rota basis for church members, the vicar preaching, or, splitting the passages up, reading them and reflecting on them one by one, quiet time, pictures on the screen with music in the background, activities and writing our own prayers.

Prayers are also on a rota - a member of the church is given the bible reading prior to the service and is asked to write and read out their prayer before communion.

The family service can take shape in the form of a labyrinth. This involves numerous ‘stations’ around the church for people to do something more hands on, crafty, or just reflect and is usually centred around things like prayer, bible passages, Easter and Christmas.

The style of worship music changed in the early 90s going from a traditional church choir to a worship band. This works extremely well for our church. The band has consisted of 3 members – keyboard, male guitarist/singer and a female singer - who have played everything from contemporary songs, traditional hymns, to child oriented songs. Our congregation often comment that this is really helpful to them and that they appreciate this part of weekly worship very much.

However, the band is about to be disbanded leaving only the female vocalist, as, after playing worship together for over 15 years, they are taking the opportunity of the vicar’s retirement to step down from this ministry themselves. This means that there is the opportunity for a new vicar to build upon a contemporary foundation, but with the disadvantage of having no musicians to do so! It would be advantageous if they had some musical gifts (but not essential)! We are however used to using CDs when no musicians have been present.

From time to time we also hear from members of the church in the form of personal testimonies. These are usually well received as they are an honest account of an individual’s journey to or in faith.
Another key aspect of our worship is Messy Church, where we reach out to the community once a month, offering activities to find out about Jesus, prayers, songs and ending with sharing a meal together. *This is hugely popular* especially as we have links with St Laurence Church of England School and have done for many years. The event usually gets around 100 people (children and adults combined). We have encouragingly seen many young people cross over to Sunday worship from this event. There is a leadership team that run it - it’s hard work, but it’s very worth it!

Throughout the year we hold a number of special services:

- Christmas and Easter Labyrinths. We invite different primary schools from around the parish to come in and learn about the bible and Jesus. We have evidence from schools that attend that they would like to continue to work with us as they find it beneficial to the children, some of which have never had the opportunity to learn about God or even step inside a church before.

- Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday and Passover, Lent services. For Palm Sunday, we start our service in the church yard, waving palm branches praising Hosanna to the Lord, and for Easter we often have Baptisms for both adults and children. We hold the Passover meal the evening before Good Friday, all bringing food along to share, as well as holding a special service.

- Mother’s Day, Father’s Day (BBQ/Breakfast). For Mother’s day we usually invite the school along to celebrate with their mums. We have a special family service and end with giving flowers to the mothers who have attended. For Father’s Day we tend to do something in the church hall, it’s usually a short service after a cooked breakfast or followed with a BBQ outside in the church hall garden. This is quite popular and everyone tends to lend a hand.
• Christingle is a tradition that has been upheld in our church for decades and supports the Children’s Society. It’s one of our busiest services hosting in the region of 100 people. It’s a tradition that is loved by young and old but preparing for this service is not for the faint hearted! We sing Christmas carols, hear prayers and dramatic readings from the school, the children write these themselves and are based around stories shown to them from the Children’s Society. We then collect money on behalf of the Children’s Society and offer the Christingle orange to everyone. The oranges are then lit and we sing a worship song in the darkness, only lit by candlelight.

• The nativity service is a creative telling of the Nativity story, involving all ages. Dressing up and take part in reading/singing and acting. It’s a fun way to learn about the story of Jesus.

• We hold our annual Community carol service in December. Usually this involves the school choir but sadly last year they were unable to attend. We invite the whole community along to share carols together.

• Our Christmas Eve midnight communion is a quiet time of reflection. We hold a full communion service as we would on a Sunday, only on a quiet scale mainly lit by candle light. This is a tradition for many within our church and we even have some regulars who do not normally attend our church all year round.

Whilst we have greater attendance around our special services e.g. Christmas or Easter, we find that people don’t tend to come regularly after this.

Two aspects relating to worship appeared to be weaker: “Our worship service attracts un-churched visitors” and “I feel the sermon in the worship service speaks to my personal situation”.
Holistic Small Groups

This is our strongest area as a church. We have continued to grow this area and look to build on this. We have been running a 3 part training programme since February 2017 to support each group leader and provide them with the skills and qualities needed, primarily looking at listening skills.

The Small groups are a significant part of the life of the church, helping us to grow friendships through our love of God and support each other along our journey through prayer, bible study, answering questions and generally being there for each other.

Examples of our small groups are:

- **Connect.** Meeting monthly on a Sunday afternoon 4.00-5.30 in the Church Hall. Adults meet in the main hall for a short presentation on a different aspect of the Christian life. This is followed by small group discussion where friendships can be made and we can help each other understand how to live out the things we are studying together. Meanwhile children meet for their own programme ‘Friends and Heroes’ in the small room. We finish with a meal together in the main hall.

- **Bible Buddies.** Bible Buddies is usually made up of about 4 to 5 people, who meet once or twice a month to read and discuss the bible. These groups are same gender and are often put together with personalities and the ‘logistics’ in mind, i.e. those who do not work during the day may find it easier to meet.

- **Emotionally Healthy Spirituality.** Most of the leaders in the church have gone through this course. In the past we have ran the Alpha course which has been effective, however, nothing like EHS. We now offer this to new members of the church looking to deepen their relationship with God. We are now in our 3\textsuperscript{rd} round of this.

- **WhatsApp for Faith Connection** (see under Passionate Spiritually).

- **Socialising groups** – usually small groups of 2 or more people sharing meals, going for dinner or exercising etc.

- **Lent courses** – last year we completed 5 acts with another church in our parish.

Whilst we understand that this area of small groups is a strength for us as a church, there is opportunity for someone to come along with a fresh perspective, and who can help us to maintain loving, Christ-like relationships, offer supportive encouragement and training to help us continue to grow and trust each other. Training and support is necessary for our group leaders, and one of our outstanding actions from the NCD survey action plan.
Need-Oriented Outreach

St Laurence’s is a small church within a large deprived parish in the north of Coventry. Our social action involvement has tended to be seen through supporting Messy Church, the local school, and a bi-weekly youth group, though we are somewhat nervous about the future of all of these as the previous vicar and wife took a large part in organising all of them.

Our other local actives include:

- Providing foundation governors for our local Church of England school.
- Support our local Food bank collecting food (all year round but is not a huge focus at the moment) and we collect money for them around harvest time.
- Peace House – cooking for the refugees
- Brandon House local care home - visits once every three months

Financially, we support the Children’s Society, Coventry City Mission, and CORD.

We have links with several projects and groups outside of the UK. For the last few years we have supported Tearfund with their water project in Uganda. We have raised funds for the Toilet Twining project, helping to build toilets in Chad and Pakistan. We have had a long relationship/connection with Prabarkar in India as part of Project Lighthouse, and up until recently we also had connections with an orphanage in Kenya providing support to them either financially, donating useful items of clothing or educational equipment, or through teaching aids.

The survey however shows that there is a gap in the church in terms of equipping people to actively engage in evangelism and helping people to come to Christian faith. People clearly feel encouraged to speak about their faith in a safe environment like connect or church, but are not yet at the stage where they feel comfortable talking about Jesus and their faith within their homes and their workplaces. One of our action points is to encourage, support and teach people how to read and use the bible in their daily lives, and learn how to praise God continuously, not just in church.

We recognise that, with a small church, and wanting to grow, there is much work to be done in the area of evangelism and helping people meet Jesus.

There is also much work to be done in discipling the young people in our youth group, who tend to drop away as they get older.
Loving Relationships

Being a small church helps build good relationships. For our size, we have good diversity in age and ethnicity. We have fun together!

In the survey we came out as below average though on some points, especially when relying on friends in church. After discussion and reflection in small groups we acknowledged that most people in our church felt that they could rely on each other for spiritual or emotional support, but practical help was less likely to be asked for.

We have recently reorganised our Connect and Bible Buddies groups with the aim to allow new friendships and relationships to grow. The WhatsApp group Faith Connection has proved invaluable in encouraging friendships through the act of prayer.

We believe that these groups are the reason that the survey showed us to be generous with our praise and acknowledgment of each other and why the sharing of feelings and thoughts on spiritual matters are easy between members of the congregation.

We are continuing to encourage and train leaders to improve approachability and relationships within their small groups.
We are not a church that suffers from gossip (we don’t think!) or has members who show bad will towards others. We are a loving church who respect each and every individual. When a member doesn’t attend it goes noticed and is often followed up to make sure they are ok. This is one of the advantages of being a small church. We recognise that this will be more difficult when we grow more people.

**Functional Structures**

We rely on volunteers to join different teams in order to carry out different activities throughout the year. Having been blessed to have both the vicar and his wife dedicating themselves full time, we are in effect losing the equivalent of two full-time staff, who planned and ran all of the services and activities within the church. We are going to feel this loss.

We hold 4 PCC meetings a year plus the Annual meeting. We have 11 elected PCC members who span across a wide age group (30 to 60+), 2 church wardens and a finance manager. Our PCC meetings are well planned and are always a good atmosphere where everyone is listened to, however, despite minutes being available for anyone who wishes to read them, the NCD survey suggests that we could do a better job with transparency and making information readily available.

In our last PCC meeting in January we identified all of our small group leaders and agreed to have a social media team. We also agreed to train small group leaders as it had been highlighted that not all of the leaders in the church feel that they are fully trained for the roles they volunteer to do. As part of the NCD action plan this was number one to address - therefore a course for training leaders started in February 17 led by the vicar and his wife.

In 2015 we made the decision to use the Pathway tool with the aim of giving people a place to belong, and a Pathway to help them follow Jesus in every aspect of life. We use this tool to help new and existing Christians understand what it means to be a follower of Christ and encourage your spiritual growth by reading the bible, joining a team, praying etc. There are key five aspects to this:

- Go deeper in your walk with God
- Spiritual friendships.
- Acts of service
- Find your calling
- Sharing the love of Jesus with others

*Jesus made us be our true selves, our child-of-God selves...*
There is a rota which tells people when they are doing prayers, readings, welcome and clear up, refreshments or Sunday club. This is produced by the welcome team every 8-10 weeks.

The messy church leaders always meet each month to plan the next session as the level of work involved is significant, so there has to be a robust plan in place.

We need a leader at this stage who is organised! They also need to be able to develop people, drawing on the strengths of individual volunteers to get the best out of them, keep them motivated and equipped for the job.

**THE PARISH**

**Location**

St Laurence Parish is just under 3 miles north of Coventry city centre.

Coventry City has a rich history dating back to the 10th Century, is the 9th largest city in England, 11th in the United Kingdom and comprises of two cathedrals! For more information on the history of Coventry City, follow the link.

http://www.historiccoventry.co.uk/main/main.php

With a population of just under 310,000 Coventry has a moderately sized city centre and offers a wide selection of shops, restaurants, and entertainment and recreation facilities. There are a large number of schools, both state and fee-paying.

Our church stands on Old Church Road, which is situated in one of the less affluent areas of Coventry.

Our city has ready access to the motorway network and the A45, A46, M6, M42 and M1 are all within easy reach. Coventry railway station offers excellent direct services to London (60 mins), Birmingham (20 mins), the South Coast, the North of England, and Scotland. Birmingham International Airport is only 20 minutes away. Also nearby are Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, Rugby, Leamington Spa and Leicestershire.
**Population.**

St Laurence’s is situated in a diverse area with a great mix of ages and cultures. There is a wonderful sense of community, especially in times of need. There has recently been a large new housing development built nearby, with the closest houses being separated from the church by a large green space popular with dog walkers and playing children.

There are a number of large shopping arenas nearby with a good mixture of shops and restaurants along with the Ricoh Arena holding regular sporting and entertainment events. There is a canal close by providing a picturesque walking route.

In the last census the population of the parish of St Laurence, Foleshill was recorded as 13,689 but this is now certainly higher.

**Buildings**

St Laurence’s is a Grade II listed building from the late Middle Ages although an earlier church building existed on the site before. There were various additions to the building over the years with significant repairs undertaken after bomb damage in 1940. The interior of the building is fascinating and the fittings “contribute to significant archaeological and historical significance” according to britishlistedbuildings.co.uk. A circular 12\textsuperscript{th} century font survives as do a collection of 17\textsuperscript{th} century bells and a stunning collection of stain glass windows. There is also a large pipe organ which is used for wedding and funeral services.
The church is set in a large and attractive churchyard which was closed in 1907 but holds a number of interesting memorials and tomb chests. There is a pathway leading to St Laurence Church of England Primary School running through the churchyard which is used as a convenient route for the children attending services in church.

The first church building here was probably a modest estate chapel provided by Lady Godiva, which was replaced by a sandstone chapel in c.1150. The tower (50ft in height) was built in the 15th century and the north aisle was added in 1530. In 1782 the old Norman chancel was demolished and replaced with the present structure.

In 1815 the Revd. Nunn’s powerful preaching attracted such crowds that the church was enlarged to seat 900! A south aisle was added and instead of stone arcades, slender, cast-iron columns were used, a successful architectural ploy 30 years ahead of its time. Galleries on either side provided the extra seating. A side chapel was added in 1927.

By 1888 the church was in need of radical repair. Look up in the chancel and see how the oak pews were used to provide a new ceiling. The galleries must have been removed at this time. The ancient roof beams in the nave – the oldest woodwork left in the church – have a Tudor rose boss in the centre. The church is a Grade IIa listed building.

The font is possibly Saxon and may be a relic of the chapel founded by Lady Godiva. A double band of chevrons with a cross are carved round the outside and it stands on a fragment of one of the nave pillars, removed in 1816. The pulpit was carved in 1923 by members of the congregation from a local oak tree. A carving on the lectern, also oak, depicts Jesus’ parable about the Sower and the seed. An Armada chest from the 16th century has an intricate locking device in its lid – 11 bolts are worked simultaneously by one key.

The main altar has 5 panels painted by a former Vicar’s daughter in 1870. They show Saints Wulstan, Thomas, Laurence, Paul and Oswald. There is also a small Jacobean table which was probably the original altar. There are several stained glass windows dating from different periods. A particularly beautiful Art Nouveau window is an unusual addition and children enjoy spotting the birds and animals in a modern window of St Francis.
The Church Hall and Vicarage are adjacent buildings located on Old Church Road. There is a driveway between leading to the Church, grounds and car park. It can be difficult to see the Church, especially in Summer, as it is surrounded by a beautiful tree filled churchyard.

The Church Hall is large and well utilized. A preschool has used the hall daily for the past 19 years (term time only) and are very keen to be able to stay. They have, over the years, contributed to the upkeep of the hall, helping to fund new fencing and an artificial lawn for the enclosed gardens, and a stage amongst other projects.

The hall is regularly hired out for children’s parties and the occasional training or fundraising project. Slimming World hold a weekly session as do the local Brownies and Guides. Messy Church and the Youth Group are also held in the Church Hall.

The toilets in the Hall and Church are twinned with toilets in Chad and Pakistan thanks to fundraising in 2016.

Although the hall has a busy schedule it has been a little neglected. A new kitchen was fitted 9 years ago, the hall is regularly cleaned and basic maintenance is taken care of but some TLC wouldn’t go amiss.

The Church tower and roof have had significant repairs in the last few years but the clock and bells need maintenance.

The Church also has a property on a Gayer Street that is rented out and provides a steady income.

**Vicarage**

The Vicarage is a spacious four-bedroom family home, a detached property set in a large wrap around garden complete with a garage and off street parking. Downstairs there is an office, wc, lounge, kitchen with a separate utility room and a dining room.
Services

Our current service pattern is:

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<tr>
<th>1st Sunday</th>
<th>2nd Sunday</th>
<th>3rd Sunday</th>
<th>4th Sunday</th>
<th>5th Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>10.30 Family Communion</td>
<td>10.30 Quiet service (30 mins)</td>
<td>10.30 Family Communion</td>
<td>10.30 Family Communion</td>
<td>10.30 Family service (no communion)</td>
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<td>(Sunday club)</td>
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<td>(Sunday club)</td>
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<td>4pm Connect group</td>
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As outlined under Inspiring Worship, we have one service on a Sunday, which is held at 10.30am every week. Worship at the 10.30am Sunday service differs in styles and approaches ranging from a family service with short bible readings, prayers, music and activities catering to all ages, to an all age communion. The all age communion is a chance for the children to go off to Sunday school for half an hour while the adults have some quality time reading the bible and listening to the teaching of the vicar or sometimes a guest speaker.

We also offer a quiet service one a month when it is our regular Connect meeting day, this service is a chance for some quiet reflection, and there is no worship music.

Over the last three years, we have held:

<table>
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<th>Weddings</th>
<th>Baptisms</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>22 Church 4 Crematorium</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3 (adult/teen/baby)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>20 Church 4 Crematorium</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9 (mixed adult/child)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Links


St Laurence Church provides two Foundation Governors for the Church of England Primary School. The vicar holds an ex-officio Foundation Governor position. This has been valued by the school.
St Laurence’s church and school have close links which enables the children to attend weekly church services, one year group per week. The current vicar also runs a weekly prayer session for the school staff and an afterschool Bible Club for the pupils.

Topical labyrinths are set up at Easter and Christmas and children from other local schools are invited to explore Bible stories. This is often the only time some of the children visit a church.

**Ecumenical Links**

There has been regular contact between St Laurence Church and other local churches. Our neighbours at St. Chad’s, Wood End our Methodist friends from Alderman’s Green Road, North Point Church (Assembly of God) have gathered for many years and on Good Friday joining together for our walk of witness through our local area. We have commenced this journey at St Laurence each year starting with a brief service and have walked to one of our neighbour’s churches to complete our walk praying en-route for our community.

We have also recently been part of “Healing on the Streets” in Riley Square (the local shopping area) – several church members attended training and took part alongside other local churches.

There have been other joint events in previous years so there may be opportunities to resume these in the future.

**Administration**

There are no paid administration staff. It would help if the new vicar had organisational skills!

We don’t produce a Parish Magazine. All our contact with the community is through contact via the St Laurence Church of England school newsletters, use of our church notice board and via Social Media. There is a social media team who look after the Facebook and Church Web Site.
Finance and Stewardship

The table below summarises our financial situation in [year of last available accounts]. Full sets of accounts for the last three years are available on request.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Income</td>
<td>33,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned Giving</td>
<td>10,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift-Aid</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising (eg fêtes)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Expenditure</td>
<td>2,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Share Contribution</td>
<td>18,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Reserves</td>
<td>11,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Reserves</td>
<td>14,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any special considerations, future expenditure etc?</td>
<td>Historic building likely to require attention.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parishes are expected to fund the costs of their own ordained ministry, with any additional contributions being used to help fund other parishes and mission initiatives. This in effect means paying the full cost of all clergy. Currently the contribution for a vicar with all ancillary costs is approximately £56,500 per annum so we recognise that there is a large surplus/shortfall between current contributions (£18,766) and the full costs (£56,500).

St Laurence Church, Foleshill, is grateful to those churches elsewhere in the Deanery and Diocese who help to support our ministry. It is our every intention to continue to contribute more ourselves, as we have been doing in the last 7 years towards these costs as the congregation grows and we have through our PCC and confidence of Gods’ provision agreed to increase our Parish Share.

Clergy expenses are met in full.

A copy of our accounts for the last 3 years is available on request.
FURTHER DETAILS

For further information about the post please contact the Archdeacon Missioner, Ven Morris Rodham on 07506731892 (Morris.Rodham@CovCofE.org) or the Area Dean, Rev’d Alison Evans on 02476 591994, (aevans@talktalk.net).
Informal conversations very welcome.

An application form can be downloaded from the Diocesan Website:
http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/vacancies/current_vacancies

Closing date: Noon, Friday 23rd June
Familiarisation day: Thursday 20th July
Formal interviews: Friday 21st July

An enhanced DBS disclosure is required for this post.