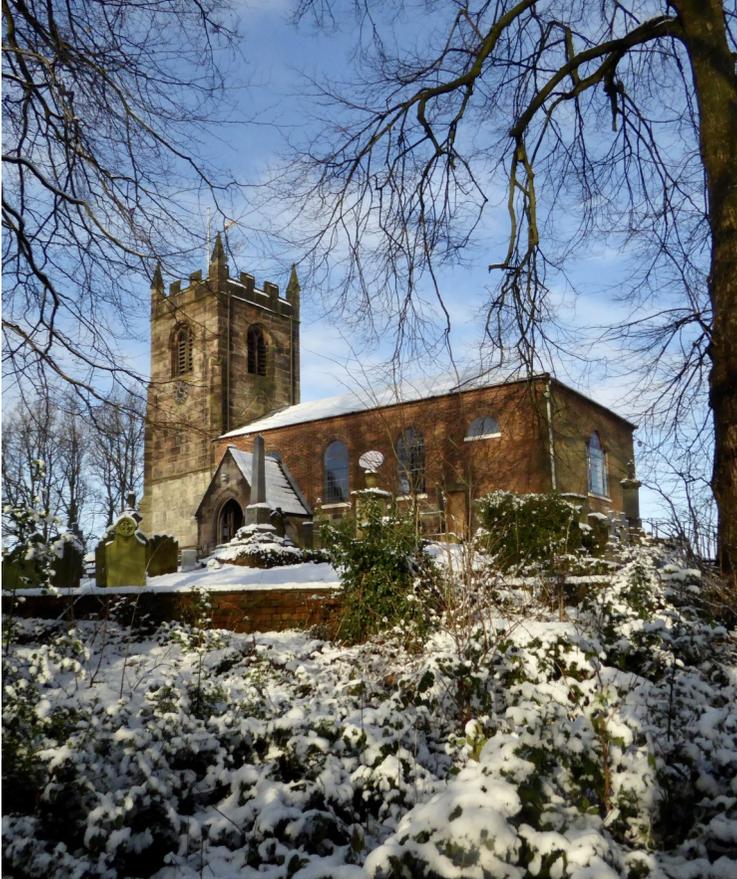


Lawton Light!

Church Lawton Parish Magazine

February 2021

50p



God is my rock in whom I take refuge

Psalm 18.2

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LAWTON LIGHT! Who's Who at All Saints'?

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Lawton Light!	Jane Baker	Tel:01270 876363
Musical Director	Margaret Cruxton	Tel:01270 876366

**** Members of our team are very pleased to visit you in your home, to listen to you, talk with you, and pray with you. Nothing is too trivial, and nothing is beyond the reach of God's love and grace.**

All you have to do is pick up the telephone and call.

We will be delighted to hear from you, and respond to your need.

Rector Writes – February 2021

So quickly we move from Christmas and New Year and on into Lent, which begins this month on Ash Wednesday, 17th February.

Of course Lent has a number of themes running through it – from avoiding temptation and repenting for our wrongdoing, to self denial and giving things up that are bad for us.

This season may sound quite dour and miserable – almost designed to make us feel guilty and down beat.

That reminds me of some of the TV adverts around Christmas, where they told shoppers that this time around, in the midst of the pandemic, all guilt is cancelled – you can go wild and indulge yourself fully! After all we've been through over the past year, who can blame you for wanting to splash out.

So maybe this year, with lockdowns and restrictions all around us, perhaps we should not get too hung up about giving things up – after all we've all been giving up a lot in

different ways. Maybe this year we need to reflect on Lent in a different way.

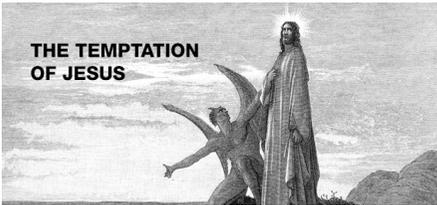
I like to reflect on Lent as a journey – bringing to mind the ancient pilgrimages that Christians were encouraged to go on. It wasn't just the chance to get away from things, or the opportunity for adventure – or even the chance to arrive at a special place, like Jerusalem, Rome or Santiago de Compostela. The point of the pilgrimage is the journey.

As we go on this journey we become more aware of the Christ who comes along by our side. In this journey we take time to listen to him, to walk in step with him, and to reflect on our priorities in life.

Our Lenten journey takes us with Jesus all the way to its end at the Cross – the true place where all guilt is cancelled and we find freedom and peace.



But the journey of Lent begins with Jesus and his temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4.1-11), when 'He was led by the Spirit... to be tempted by the devil.' Temptation is a test of obedience, whether we do things our way or God's way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most vulnerable moments, especially during this pandemic.



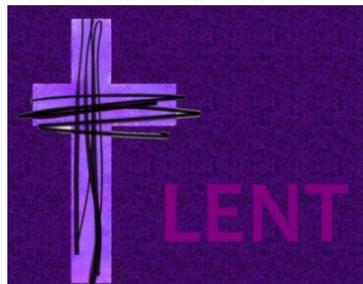
The **first temptation** was to turn stones into bread: Jesus' ministry was not about meeting His own needs, but being nourished by God's word. 'We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'. Like Jesus, we are called to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

The **second temptation** was to put God to the test: Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this is not God's way!

'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' Jesus chose the hard road to travel in his ministry, but it was the right way.

The **third temptation** was to worship Satan: Finally, the devil took Jesus to a mountain to offer Him worldly power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was marked by suffering and honouring God. 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only'. This is a call for us to think of our priorities in life and where we put our time, effort and money – the things we worship.

Jesus stands with us in our temptations as we travel together the journey of Lent. As we claim the promises of Scripture, we will find strength in the power of the Spirit as we persevere and the victory of the Cross at the end.



Steve

Lent Course 2021

Lent is not so much about giving things up, as much as a journey. It is a Pilgrimage with Jesus and others alongside us.

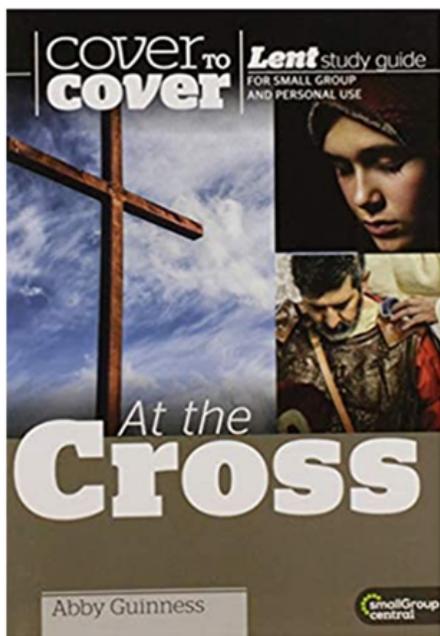
Meeting people on Pilgrimage and taking time to get to know them, is a real blessing.

This year we are going to meet some familiar characters, and take time to know them better.

'At the Cross' is a series of Bible studies for Lent looking at the story from the perspective of different characters involved in the events of the first Easter, including monologues from each of the characters.

We can join in the course by buying the book, and follow the course at home. Please give Steve a call to order a book at £5.

We will also be posting a study session video on our Facebook page and YouTube channel every Wednesday morning at 9.30am for us to follow together, and a Zoom fellowship meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm to give us a chance to chat about what we've been reading (we'll put details on the Facebook page nearer the time). I hope you will be able to join us on the journey. We start on Ash Wednesday 17th February.





9.00am
Sunday 14th February

Messy Lent
Choosing God's Voice

Messy Church Zoom Meet Up

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78696003951?
pwd=QWRKMURSL0tLUDRWVmFzaEdJaVZjdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78696003951?pwd=QWRKMURSL0tLUDRWVmFzaEdJaVZjdz09)

Meeting ID: 786 9600 3951
Passcode: xmS4DU

**Messy Church collectable bags available from the
beginning of February**



If you would like a bag and want
to join us, call Jackie Moss on:
01782 771067

God in the Sciences Hope for 2021: Celebrating the now and future creation

I find that watching buds swelling on trees and plants during the winter months gives me a tremendous sense of hope. We may all need some extra hope for 2021, after the events of 2020. By the time you read this a number of us may have been fortunate enough to receive a COVID vaccine, but all of us will probably still be under various kinds of restrictions. After creation's winter shut-down, the sight of tiny flowers poking out of brown earth may be more important than ever.

Getting outdoors during daylight hours, enjoying green spaces and getting some fresh air and exercise are great ways to keep ourselves healthy at any time of year. A psychologist colleague wrote, ***“Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood and increased life satisfaction.”*** I expect it is this sense of awe that

makes it easier for many of us to connect with God outdoors.

Helping ourselves and others to thrive is a good start to 2021, but it is also vital to have hope for the future. The COVID-19 pandemic was caused by an animal virus jumping into the human population. Diseases like this are not ‘natural disasters’, but are almost certainly caused by environmental destruction and poor farming practices - either from greed or the desperation born of poverty. Part of the answer to the current crisis is for us to care for all of Creation, both human and everything else, with God's help.



Our ultimate hope is in God's promise that He will bring about a new heavens and new earth. We can look forward to the day when Creation will be fully redeemed

and liberated from evil. The Greek word used to describe the new creation is the same as that used to describe someone who becomes a Christian, whose humanity is restored and renewed. There will be continuity between the old and new earth as it is cleansed and purified, surpassing and perfecting what has gone before. There will also be some discontinuity, as there will be no more suffering or death.



So, one source of hope for 2021 is that we can enjoy both caring for and meeting God in Creation. But the parts of Creation that we find most beautiful, giving us a sense of awe and helping us to worship, are also a reminder that there is something much better to come.

By Ruth Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director, The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge

Truth Encounter

(Luke 4:1-14, John 17:17, James 4:7)

Led by the Spirit
And tempted by the devil
He wandered in the wilderness,
Hungry
And focussed on God,
And the truth and power of His Word.
Truth and power enough
To resist His enemy and ours.
To go on – armed with the Spirit –
To give His life,
To give us life.

A lesson in tactics then:
Know the truth,
Submit to God,
Resist the devil
And our wildernesses will blossom.
We will bear fruit,
Fruit to be known by
As His.

By Daphne Kitching

Meru's Musings

Brain tester

A mathematical Palindrome
THE 3X3 MAGIC SQUARE

Place the numbers 1 to 9 so that each row, column, and diagonal add up to the same number
(Use each number exactly once)
The answers will be in the following month's magazine.

Some Latin quotes

Deo optimo maximo = to God, the best, the greatest

Deo volente = God willing

Deo favente = with God's favour

Dei gratia = by the grace of God

Deus vult = God wills it

Dominus vobiscum = God be with you.

Dum spiro spero = while I breath, I hope.

Quotes and anecdotes

Dogs bark at everyone they do not know (Heraclitus)

Prejudice is what rule the vulgar crowd (Voltaire)

It is never too late to give up your prejudices (Thoreau)

No physician can cure the blind in mind (Jewish saying)

I Have a dream—Part of the speech made by Martin Luther King.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed.

'We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal'.

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of the former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and injustice.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.

I pray for the peoples of America to come together as one especially now 2021

Meru Ullah

Thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan collection fund last September

However you hosted in
Stoke-On-Trent,
A HUGE THANK YOU



Margaret, I raise a mug to you. Not only did you host a Coffee Morning – you really went the extra mile!

It may have been a bit of a challenge to make your get-together happen. It's wonderful that you and your guests raised a fab £455.80 for our work. Every single penny counts, and your efforts mean the world to our nurses, to people living with cancer and to their loved ones.

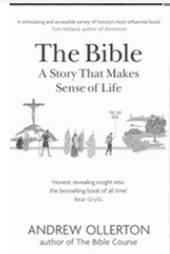
Finding ways to enjoy time with people has never mattered more, so thank you for proving that nothing stops a Macmillan Coffee Morning. By bringing your guests together, you've helped people living with cancer feel less alone. For that, I think you're truly brilliant.

Abby
Abby,
Head Coffee Lady

Review

The Bible: a story that makes sense of life
By Andrew Ollerton, Bible Society, £14.99

This book explores how the story of the Bible not only helps us understand our own lives but gives us a framework for making sense of life in general. We can see how the narratives in the Bible mirror the narrative arcs we go through:



‘We are not Israel enslaved in Egypt, but their quest for freedom mirrors our own. We are not with Jesus on the shores of Lake Galilee, but our need for a Messiah is just as real. In our modern age, perhaps we need this grand narrative and ancient wisdom more than ever?’

Helpful diagrams and maps are integrated throughout. Wherever you stand with the Bible, whether you are seeking to find out its meaning for your own life or just want to know more about its stories, this book may be an excellent starting point.

From the Church Registers

Funerals

We offer sympathy to the relatives of those who have died.

On	22nd December	Mary Foster	Age 86 years
On	20th January	Patricia Eardley	Age 75 years
On	20th January	Jan Maureen Ann Copeland	Age 72 years
On	22nd January	Irene Challinor	Age 87 years

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

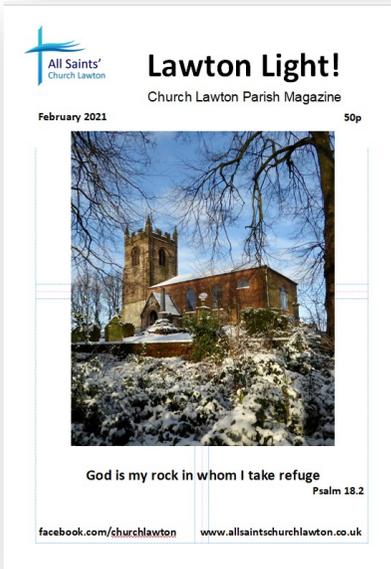
(23rd Psalm)

Church Collections for December 2020

Week Beginning	6th December	£1,193.17
Week Beginning	13th December	£924.00
Week Beginning	20th December	£589.46
Week Beginning	27th December	£310.00

Our thanks to everyone who has helped us by giving faithfully and generously towards our costs of mission, ministry and maintenance.

During this unprecedented challenging time we have been streaming our morning and evening services via Facebook and YouTube, you can also keep up to date via our website where you can find out about our worship, church life, giving and accessing our monthly parish magazine.



The cost of the magazine is:

12 copies £5.00

Postage £8.00

Total cost £13.00

Please make cheques payable to
Church Lawton PCC send them to:

The Editor

25 Dairylands Road,
Church Lawton,
Stoke-on-Trent
ST7 3EU

Alternatively you could pay into the
church bank account:

Account Name: Church Lawton PCC

Sort Code 16-26-19

Account number 10059880

Lawton Light Magazine

It has been a difficult year for us all in 2020, our church has kept open for much of the year and all 12 editions of the magazine were produced and distributed around the village.

In addition we moved a lot of our circulation on line with copies of the magazine sent to a growing email list. It is also available from our Facebook page and our website.

If you receive the magazine by Royal Mail do you still require this service?

If so we are more than happy to continue posting our magazine to you.

Please use your surname as the reference.

If you **no** longer require the magazine please let us know either by the address above or by Telephone 01270 876363 or email:

editor@allsaintschurchlawton.co.uk

If you receive your magazine through a distributor but they are unable to collect from you, please use the same information above to pay, the cost is **£5.00**

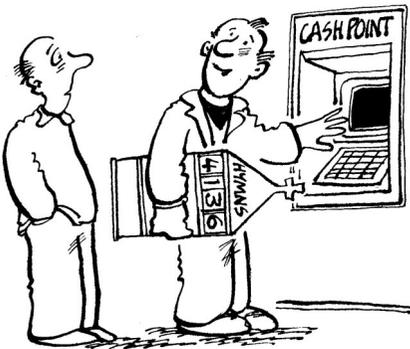
If you have paid your distributor thank you very much we appreciate your contribution to the magazine and church funds.

Laughlines etcetera...

Disperse them

A young clergyman, fresh out of training, thought it would help him better understand the harsh realities his future congregations faced if he first took a job as a policeman for several months. He passed the physical examination; then came the oral exam to test his ability to act quickly and wisely in an emergency. Among other questions he was asked, "What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?"

He thought for a moment and then said, "I would pass an offering plate." He got the job.



...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!

Fox

I called the RSPCA today to report I had just found a suitcase in the woods containing a fox and four cubs. "That's terrible," she said. "Are they moving?" "I'm not sure, to be honest," I replied, "But that would explain the suitcase."

Dressed

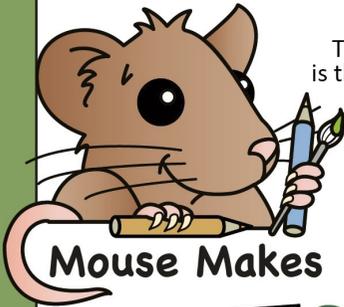
During my surgical residency I was called out of a sound sleep to the emergency room. Unshaven and with tousled hair, I showed up with an equally unrepresentable medical student. In A&E we encountered the on-call medical resident and his student, both neatly attired in clean white lab coats. The resident said to his student, "You can always tell the surgeons by their absolute disregard for appearance." Two evenings later, I was at a banquet when called to A&E for another emergency.

I was stitching away, wearing my dinner jacket, when I encountered that same medical resident. He looked at me, then said to his student, "Sure is sensitive to criticism, isn't he?"

Bishop

An exam for R.E. asked the following question: 'What does a Bishop do?'

Came one answer: 'Move diagonally across the board.'



Mouse Makes

★ ★ ★ ★
FIND THE CREATION PAIRS
 from Genesis 1 and 2

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| EARTH | MORNING |
| LIGHT | FRUIT |
| DAYS | SEA |
| TREES | NIGHT |
| LAND | FISH |
| EVENING | YEARS |
| ADAM | HEAVENS |
| DAY | DARK |
| BIRDS | WATER |
| SKY | EVE |



WHAT AM I?

The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next

E _ _ _ H

- What two things did God create first?
Genesis 1:1

_ _ S _ _

- What was the Earth without? *Genesis 1:2*
- What came before morning? *Gen 1:5*

_ _ _ _ G

- Who is the creator?
Genesis 1:1
- What was separated from light? *Gen 1:4*

_ _ _ _

- Which day did God finish work? *Gen 2:2*
- Who was created God's image? *Gen 1:27*

_ _ _ H _

- Who moved over the water? *Gen 1:2*

I _ _ _ S



By the **seventh** day God finished the work He had been doing. God *blessed* the seventh day and made it *holy*. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments the **fourth commandment** said to *remember* the seventh Sabbath day, to *keep it holy* and set apart for God.



DID YOU KNOW?

The first word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is **bereshith** which means "in the beginning". The Greeks translated this word as **GENESIS** which means *creation, origin and generation*



C R E A T U R E H G O D P
 D G A L R E F R U I T E L
 L O R I E S L B M O S E A
 A O T G E T Y D A R K P N
 N D H H E A V E N I G H T
 D A Y T R R S P I R I T W
 A S E E D S K Y B I R D O

Can you find these words in the word search?

- GOD • HEAVEN • SPIRIT
- FLY • DEEP • EARTH
- DARK • DAY • LIGHT
- NIGHT • STARS • SKY
- SEA • LAND • BIRD
- CREATURE • HUMAN
- TREE • PLANT • SEEDS
- FRUIT • GOOD • TWO



Recycling & Green Living Tips

16 Green Things in 16 Minutes

You might think that one person can't make a difference and that with all the environmental impact of the pandemic, that there is little point in any individual trying to change.

However, if we all do a little bit more, the small things we do to reduce our impact can make a huge difference.

Here are 16 little things you can do to help the environment and your world in less than 16 minutes.

1. Shop local for produce

Buying locally at farm shops or farmers' markets reduces your footprint and helps support the farmers in your community. Some supermarkets are better than others at identifying local produce. Local fruits and vegetables have more nutrients than produce from far away.

2. Click to give

The web is full of sites that allow you to contribute to charitable causes. If you cannot find what you need locally, try looking at what is available from those charities who are caring for our environment and wildlife.

3. Switch to eco-friendly cleaning supplies

Next time you're stocking up on cleaning supplies, trade your

standard brands for nontoxic and biodegradable products. Or make your own! Vinegar, bicarbonate of soda, and lemon juice are all great natural cleaning solvents.

4. Do a quick wardrobe cleanse

Try a declutter. Do you have clothes you haven't worn since 1984? If they're still in good shape, maybe someone else can get some use out of them. Drop them off at a charity shop when they are accepting donations. If they're really not wearable anymore, can you salvage the fabric? There are a lot of ways you can upcycle your old jeans, T-shirts, and even sheets.

5. Re-adjust your computer

Learn to adjust your computer's viewing settings for easy reading. This will reduce your need to print out emails or pages of interest. When you do print, use both sides to reduce paper waste. Also, change your power settings to optimise battery usage and activate sleep mode after a period of inactivity.

6. Fix that leak

A leaky tap or a running toilet may not seem like a big deal, but little leaks can waste loads of water. Make sure all your taps are leak-free and your toilet is always working properly.

7. Donate unwanted items

You can give away items (people usually collect) on sites such as

Freecycle or Freecycle or on Facebook Marketplace. This is particularly useful if charity shops are unable to accept donations or do not accept the item you no longer need.

8. Go unplugged

Vampire power is the energy your appliances use when they are plugged in but not running. Cut back on wasted energy by unplugging phone chargers, coffee pots, microwaves and toasters when they are not in use. Keep bigger electronics such as televisions and sound systems on an extension lead and flip it off when you're not using them.

9. Switch to cloth napkins

Not only do they add pretty accents to your table, but cloth napkins significantly reduce paper waste. If you have some old fabric you can even make your own cloth napkins.

10. Switch to hankies

If you can, switch from disposable tissues to handkerchiefs.

11 Start composting

Composting food scraps is a quick and easy way to reduce waste in your home. Once your pile or hot bin is set up, it's as simple as tossing your food scraps into a container and taking it outside every day or when it is full. Shredded paper and other biodegradable stuff can also be composted.

12. Do a weekly purge of the fridge

Take a weekly account of what's in your fridge. Throw perishables a few days from spoiling into a slow cooker for dinner or make stock to freeze. For food you know you won't use before it goes bad, freeze or give it away.

13. Check your tyre pressure

Having your tyres at the proper pressure increases your car's fuel mileage. It also increases the longevity of your tyres, which reduces rubber waste. Most petrol stations and garages have pressure gauges and air dispensers available.

14. Make the switch to paperless

Banish endless paper bills by paying bills online and opting to receive e-mail statements. You can sign up to remove junk mail via the Mailing Preference Service.

15. Make fruit juice concoctions

Seasonal fruit is often relatively cheap and can be easily turned into juice with a blender. You can also make cordials with water and sugar which can be frozen for future use.

16. Save your water

Set aside water that you used for washing veggies or boiling eggs or pasta. Allow it to cool and reuse it to water your houseplants.

Happy recycling

Carol Henshaw



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

Are you in need of some daily
hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone
line for you to ring to hear
comforting hymns, daily prayers
and reflections.

All Saints' Church Lawton is not open daily

The church is currently closed for private prayer.



Prayer Chain

We also have a prayer chain to pray for you whatever your need. If you would like us to pray for you or would like to know more about the prayer meeting or prayer chain please contact Ann Kennerley—you can speak to her in church on a Sunday evening, or call her on Tel: 01782 782427

Prayer for the Month

A prayer for the pandemic

Dear Father God,

You promise to hear us when we come to you in prayer, thank you! We so need Your listening ear at this time – and your help, Lord. Winter always brings challenges, but this winter is exceptional as the effects of the pandemic continue. When we are afraid, or lonely, or grieving, or in despair, help us to trust You and to know that You are with us in the middle of it all, sustaining us. You are not social-distancing, You are very, very close, full of love and compassion.

We pray for our National Health Service and ask for Your special strength and protection for all staff. Thank you for the skills You have given to scientists all over the world. Thank you for the hope which the vaccines bring. Most of all thank You for the hope which Jesus brings. This earthly life is a whisper in the light of eternity and Jesus is the key to that eternal life. Thank You, Father, for meeting all our needs in Jesus. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

concerning
spiritual
decision
bless
protection
give
wisdom coming
decisions
light
praise truth
discernment

Bible Readings for February Services

Date	Epistle	Gospel
7th February	1 Colossians 1.15-20	John 1 1-14
14th February	2 Corinthians 4.3-6	Mark 9.2-9
21st February	Genesis 9.8-17	Mark 1.9-15
28th February	Genesis 17.1-7,15,16	Mark 8.31-38



Reading & Prayer rota for February Services

Date	Reading	Prayers
7th February	Margaret Cruxton	Gill Marren
14th February	Yvonne Banks	Steve Clapham
21st February	Meru Ullah	Margaret Cruxton
28th February	Gill Marren	Yvonne Banks

Services & Speakers February 2021

Streamed services 10.45am & 7.00pm

	8.30am	10.45am
7 th	2 Before Lent	
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
	Steve Clapham	Margaret Cruxton
14 th	Sunday before lent	
		Praise & Prayer
		Bev Boulton
21 st	Lent 1	
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
	Steve Clapham	Gill Marren
28 th	Lent 2	
		Praise & Prayer
		Steve Clapham



If you wish to participate from home in the streamed Holy Communion Service, please prepare a piece of bread and sip of wine or juice ready for the *Giving the Communion* part of the service.



A time of reflection

We are continuing with live streaming from the rectory at 7pm on Sunday evenings, do join us for a service of Night prayer (Compline) a gentle service of quiet time and reflection to bring us a perfect end to the day.



All Saints'
Church Lawton

Life Goes On

Join us for Church Online

Every **Sunday** at **10.45am** and **7pm** we are live streaming our Sunday worship services into your homes through our church Facebook page.



Do you need support?

Are you ill or self-isolating?

Can we support you especially with essentials like food shopping or collecting medicine? If so, please contact us by calling the Rector on 01270 876604 or email - rector@allsaintschurchlawton.co.uk.

Our **website** and **Facebook page** contain details of how to join others online for prayer, worship and conversation.

www.allsaintschurchlawton.co.uk
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Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Please send any material for inclusion in the March edition of Lawton Light! by 10th February

To Jane Baker 25 Dairylands Road,
Church Lawton, ST7 3EU
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