

Lawton Light!

Church Lawton Parish Magazine

January 2024

50p



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come

2 Corinthians 5:17



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

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Messy Church	Jackie Moss	Tel:01782 771067
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.



**Please scan me to donate
to help maintain our
church**



January Letter

Dear friends,

Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar were the names of the Magi, the Kings or Wise Men according to tradition. On the 6th of January we remember their journey to see Jesus as we celebrate the feast of Epiphany. The word epiphany means a moment of sudden revelation, awakening or realisation. I wonder what the Magi's Epiphany might have to offer as we begin this New Year of 2024.

The bible tells us very little about the Magi; Matthew simply records After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked him "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him" (Matthew 2). They were directed to Bethlehem, and found Jesus with Mary. They worshipped him and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They then returned home, by a different route, bypassing Herod. The gifts offered to Jesus tell us a lot about the thinking of the Magi....

- The gold tells us they considered the baby they were seeking to be of royal birth.

- The incense tells us they considered him to be worthy of their worship.
- The myrrh tells us they foresaw his death would be significant.

The Magi were Seekers and Dreamers*. They looked for signs that there was more to life than they had experienced, a new revelation that would unlock for them what this world is all about and show them how to navigate their journey through it all. They were risk-takers – prepared to leave the comforts and security of home and family to go in search of this new understanding. There were no guarantees – of a safe journey, of what they would discover, or that what they left behind would be there when they returned. But they went anyway. They dreamed of a different future that would somehow meet their longings for a better world and a different way of living. The Magi left the home they came from, to find the home they dreamed of+. They followed the star, the prophecies, their hearts as they journeyed the road to Jerusalem and to Jesus.

Some suggest the Magi were Zoroastrian followers from Persia (Iran), in which case they journeyed over a thousand miles. However recently an intriguing document in

the Vatican archives suggests that these mystical Magi may have come much, much further. It tells of Magi following a star along the silk route to Israel from the land of Shina - the ancient name associated with China. If true, they journeyed at least five thousand miles. Pagan history records a star, given the Egyptian name Mesoi meaning the birth of a prince that was seen at the time of Jesus' birth.+

Personally, I would love to know what happened when the Magi got home and told their story. I'd love to know how their lives changed as a result of their meeting Jesus, of their experiencing such an epiphany.

As the New Year begins, I wonder what epiphanies are in store for us, and how we will respond. I have included my favourite New Year poem on page 6. Although many years since that Christmas broadcast, I believe the wisdom it contains is true today as then.

May I wish you, and those you love, a peaceful New Year filled with hope, God bless,

Heather

*Graham Kendrick has written a great chorus with this title.

- Amazing by Simon Ponsonby

A New Year a New Start

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' (Isaiah 9:6)

As we start the New Year, we are all too aware of the uncertainties which we face next year. Wars and climate change on the international stage, but also in terms of our own private lives - our finances, jobs, and economic prospects for 2024.

Wonderful Counsellor: He will give us the wisdom we need, when we have difficult decisions to make at work or home, or in dealing with future direction.

Prince of Peace: He has secured peace by His cross and resurrection, and so we can find in Him true acceptance, forgiveness and peace for our lives, relationships and future.

Therefore at the start of 2024, may 'our joy be increased', as it was intended for the people in Isaiah's day. Whatever the mess and mistakes we have made over the past year, God can deal with them. With Him, both our present and our future are secure.

Parish Pump



The following poem by Minnie Louise Haskins, was quoted by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas Day broadcast to the British Empire.

The Gate of the Year

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

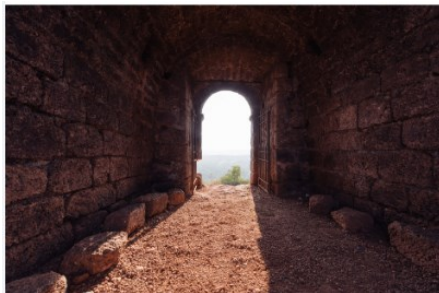
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

*So heart be still:
What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.
God knows. His will
Is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; In Him,
All time hath full provision.*

*Then rest: until
God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of Life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His
creatures
Our mind shall fill.*





**9.00am
14th January
"The Good
Samaritan"**



In Messy Church children and their parents/ carers have fun learning about the Christian faith together through different activities—crafts, cooking, games, songs...

**If you would like to know more about
Messy Church please contact
Jackie Moss on 01782 771067
Or come along on the day.**



Meru's Musings

New Year Teasers

-Two girls have the same parents and were born at the same hour on the same day of the same month, but they are not twins. How can this be possible?

-Joe is turning 17 this year, yet he turned 16 yesterday. How is this possible?

-In what year did Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall in the same year?

Latin refreshers.

Novus annus.....Happy new year

Omnia vincit amor.....

Love conquers all

Inter spem et metum.....

Between Love and fear

Opus magnum.....Great Work

Tempus fugit....Time flies

Carpe Diem....Seize the day

Ex libris....From the books of...

Tibi ipsi dis vere....

To thine own self be true

Bona fida....In good faith

Quid pro quo.....

Something for something

Cogito ergo sum.....

I think therefore I am

Persona non grata.....

An unwelcome person

Quo Vadis.....Where are you going

Dum spiro spero....

While I breath I hope

Evil:

It is easier to abandon evil traits today than tomorrow.

Both right and wrong are the work of our hands.

Evil is sweet in the beginning but bitter in the end.

Keep three things in mind and you will escape the toils of wickedness: Know whence you came, whither you are going, and before Whom you will have to give a strict account.

Excuses:

Oh Lord give me an excuse.

Gluttons find ample excuses for gorging.

Those who can't dance, say the musicians can't keep time.

Not to answer is one kind of answer.

There is no excuse for not helping someone when you can.

Experience:

Experience is the name people give for their mistakes.

No one can know where the shoe pinches except the one who walks in it.

The best preacher is the human heart, the best teacher is time, the best book is the world, the best friend is God.

Without experience there can be little wisdom.

Experts:

Those who can't sing can still be experts in singing.

Eyes:

One eye has more faith than two.

Truth is in the eyes, lies stay behind them.

The eye does not see as well as the heart.

The eyes are the spoons of truth.

The face will betray a secret.

Meru Ullah

What on earth are we here for?

I wonder if you have ever found yourself pondering the question “*What on earth are we here for?*”

I certainly have! Some years ago, I was intrigued to discover that this was the very title of the Lent Course we were about to follow in church. As we began, I anticipated some stimulating ideas and discussions, and I am glad to say I was not disappointed. As I reflect on the course, it was one of the best Lent Courses I have ever done, and one I still draw on today.

This is one of the main reasons I’ve chosen this course for us to share together this Lent, and I must say I’m really looking forward to it. There are various ways in which you can engage with the material, and I warmly invite you to do so in whatever way fits with your individual situation....

- Our sermons for the Sundays in Lent will follow the course chapters to consider five key subjects which will take us from Sunday February 18th through to Sunday March 17th.
- To enable us to discuss the subjects together, there will be weekly meetings on Wednesdays

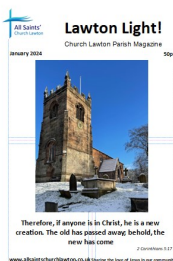
at the rectory, and you are invited to come **either** during the day at 10.30am – 12 noon or in the evening at 7.30 – 9pm to fit with your schedule. I will be leading these groups, which will include light refreshments.

- For those who enjoy reading, there’s a Lent *Book Purpose Driven* Life by Rick Warren, which is available in paperback or Kindle. If you prefer being read to, the same material is also available on audio. During Lent I know some Christians like to write down their thoughts, so there is also a journal available.
- For a more high-tech and paper free option there is a website with the material and also forty short video clips – one for each day – on YouTube.

I thought it would be good to begin this period together with a party! You are invited to a Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday 6.30pm at the rectory. I will then introduce the course and give an outline of the subjects we will be considering.

I really hope you will come along and join in, and I pray that as we journey together this Lent the Holy Spirit will guide and bless us.

Heather



Lawton Light Magazine

It has been a year of challenges and opportunities for us in 2023 as we hosted many events, built upon our church fellowship and finally culminating on the 2nd November when Rev Sister Heather Kemball was licensed as Curate-in-Charge.

Our church continued to open daily and 12 editions of the magazine were produced, printed and distributed around the parish and beyond. Our magazine is also available on our website and A Church Near You.

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.

The cost of the magazine is:

12 copies £5.00

Postage £9.00

Total cost £14.00

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

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.

Many thanks for all your support.

Jane Baker

Come as a team or an individual

*All donations to the
"Divine Relief" fund*



Curry & Quiz night


Friday 2nd February
at 7pm in church
Bring your own tipple

What's happening

QUIZ 7PM TO 8PM

CURY

QUIZ FINAL ROUNDS



www.allsaintschurchlawton.co.uk
Facebook All Saints Church, Church Lawton



From the Church Registers

Funerals

On 1st December James Frank Arthur Faulkner Age 82 years
On 5th January Carole Jane Hall Age 79 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 November 2023

Week Beginning	5th	£769.34
Week Beginning	12th	£965.00
Week Beginning	19th	£660.21
Week Beginning	26th	£221.66

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, 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.



Macmillan Thanks

Below is a thank you which I have received from Macmillan
Thanking us for our contribution to the Great Macmillan Coffee
morning. All Saints raised a magnificent £519.05.

*Thanks to you – and thousands of hosts across the country –
we're delighted to share the incredible news that Macmillan Coffee
Mornings like yours have raised **over £15 million**. That's enough
money to fund **241 Macmillan nurses for a year!***

*Donations are still coming in, so that total is climbing every day. But
we wanted to take this opportunity to give you an update and thank
you again for your part in raising such a life-changing amount of
money.*

Many thanks
The Macmillan team



January 6th— Epiphany We need volunteers!

On Saturday 6th January as a church let's meet at
10.00am to 12 noon and bring all the Christmas
trees and most of the decorations down and then
store away for another year.



Please come along and support this huge task and help us to clear
and clean the church following all the Christmas Services.

Tea and coffee makers are very welcome we might even find the last
of the mince pies!

So join us after a very successful Christmas and help us to get ready
for the next season in the church year.

Many thanks
Bev and Jane

Laugh lines etcetera...

The sermon

A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on. Finally, she leaned over to her mother and whispered, "Mummy, if we give him some money now, will he let us go?"



"The vicar really is taking all of January off to recuperate, then."

Bulletin Bloopers

The church notices that did not come out quite as they were meant to do!

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'

Any church member over 18 is welcome to join our new lay ministry programme. It requires minimal training and time: just six weekly classes of about 200 hours each Tuesday night.

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, and a sweet, all in a covered dish. Meat and drinks will be provided.

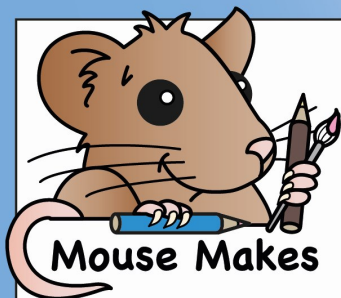
Remember the church jumble sale. We have a gents three-speed bicycle, and also two ladies for sale, in good running order.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

This afternoon there will be a meeting in the north and south ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

Come to our church lunch on Sunday at 12.30pm. Prayer and medication to follow.

I'm starting as an apprentice bell ringer. They're showing me the ropes



EPIPHANY is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus. They bowed down, worshipped him and left *three* special gifts.

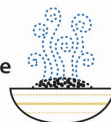


Where was Jesus born?

 Luke 2:1



What three gifts did the wise men give Jesus?



_____ and _____
 Luke 2:11



Who was the king?

 Luke 2:1

Where did the wise men come from?
 the _____

Luke 2:1

How were the wise men warned not to return to Herod?
 In a _____

Luke 2:12

What had the wise men seen?

a _____
 Luke 2:2



Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks, find them in the word search then look for the words opposite.

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

JESUS
 WISEMEN
 WORSHIP
 SHEPHERD
 KING • JEWS
 CHRIST • CHILD
 BORN • RULER
 ISRAEL • REJOICE
 JOY • HOUSE • MARY
 GIFTS • EPIPHANY

How many other words can you make from the letters in EPIPHANY?

Recycling & Green Living Tips

An eco-friendly kitchen

Make a New Year's Resolution to have an eco-friendlier kitchen. Recycling, reducing single-use plastics, saving energy and choosing organic food: these are just a few ways to create a more sustainable kitchen. From reducing kitchen plastics to saving energy to choosing green kitchen equipment, there are many ways to make your kitchen more eco-friendly. Here are just a few ideas.



Waste not

An estimated 10 million tonnes of food waste is thrown out across the UK every year – with individual households binning around £350 worth of food annually. This is bad news for the environment – especially as when food goes to landfill it creates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. It's easy to reduce this waste by planning meals carefully, only buying what you need, and getting creative with leftovers.

Bread is one of the most frequently thrown away food items – but such food waste can be easily avoided. Any bread that is about to go stale can be turned into breadcrumbs in a food

processor and then frozen for future use. Breadcrumbs can be used to make stuffing, nut roasts, burgers and fishcakes, or mixed with cheese to make a topping for savoury dishes.

Fresh fruit and vegetables also make up a large percentage of discarded food. Check the state of your fruit and veg regularly, to see which items are going past their best and need to be eaten first. Making soup or smoothies is a good way to use up vegetables and fruit. Most foods that do need to be discarded can be composted – either in a home compost bin, or through your council's waste collection service. You can compost fruit and vegetable peelings, eggshells, coffee grounds, and (if they are plastic-free) teabags.

You can swap your plastic washing-up brush for a bamboo one. Disposable wipes and cleaning cloths (which can take years to break down) can be replaced with cotton dishcloths for wiping surfaces and general cleaning. Cotton cloths are also useful for drying fruit and vegetables, instead of using up paper kitchen roll. Replace plastic straws with reusable metal or bamboo versions.

If you adopt a 'cook once, eat twice' approach to meal preparation, you can reduce your energy use further. Cooking larger amounts of food in one go saves energy, as reheating food in a microwave or on the hob is quicker

than cooking from scratch. Making enough for two meals can save time too, and often reduces food waste.

Other energy-saving ideas for the kitchen include keeping your freezer full – as half-empty freezers cost more to run than full ones – and using a lid on pans when cooking food. Also be sure not to overfill the kettle – only boil the amount of water that you actually need.

Buy local and seasonal produce

By choosing locally produced, seasonal food whenever you can, you'll be reducing your carbon footprint.

Food that's been imported from abroad uses more packaging, refrigeration and transportation than local, seasonal food. But buying from local markets, monthly farmers' markets or direct from farm shops or producers often means you can avoid single-use packaging altogether. Shopping in this way also supports the local economy – and you may well find that the food you buy is fresher and tastier too! Choosing organic food whenever possible also helps the environment.

Try meat-free Monday

Vegetarian and vegan meals are tasty, nutritious, and economical. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

(FAO) estimates that livestock production is responsible for 14.5 percent of global greenhouse emissions – and produces high amounts of methane, one of the most damaging greenhouse gases. So, avoiding meat on just one day each week can have a positive impact on the environment. Reducing the amount of meat you eat – especially red meat – can improve your health too.

Avoiding meat one day a week needn't be a sacrifice – vegetarian food is often delicious! Many meat-based dishes – such as lasagne, moussaka, pad Thai or korma – can be adapted to be vegetarian. Or try roasted vegetables with couscous, mushroom and pine nut risotto, or a hearty pie.

Reduce kitchen plastics

Plastic is everywhere – including in our kitchens.

But much of it can be avoided. According to UNESCO, one million plastic bottles are purchased every minute. A simple switch from single-use plastics – like water bottles or straws – to reusable items could make a huge difference.



Happy Recycling!

Carol Henshaw

Christmas 2023 remembered at All Saints'



Christmas Tree Festival and amazing hedge of Christmas Trees



Great music from the Air Cadets and Jazz in the Church Evenings



Wonderful Carols- by- Candlelight evenings

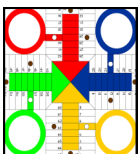
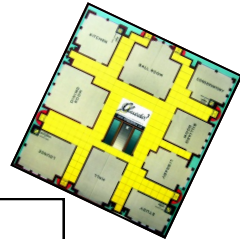
Diary Dates

Saturday 6th January 10am to 12.00 taking down the Christmas trees and decorations.

Friday 2nd February 7pm Curry and Quiz night

**Tuesday 13th February 6.30pm
Pancake party at the Rectory**

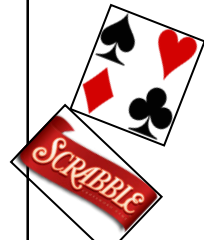
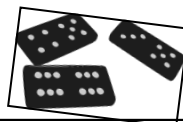
**Saturday 13th April at 7.30pm Audley
Male voice Choir more details to follow...**



Fancy a game of Logo,
Dominoes, Rummikub, Snakes
and Ladders,
Ludo, Scabble or other games.

Then come and join us on
No Games club in January

Enjoy a challenge or
teach others.



All Saints' Church Lawton is open daily

The church is open daily for private prayer 10am to 3pm.

Come in and spend a few quiet moments in the tranquil and peaceful setting. There is a prayer station at the front of church or simply choose a pew.



Morning Prayer at All Saints'

Rev Sister Heather Kemball warmly invites you to join her for Morning Prayer at 8.30am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday

A Prayer for January

New Year Prayer 2024

Lord,

We stand on the threshold of a new year. Some of us are excited, some of us are fearful. We don't know what 2024 will bring, but we know that there will be ups and downs, joy and sadness mixed in with the months.

As we step into this new year, help us to keep our eyes fixed on you; to know for certain that, whatever happens, you will be in it with us, not watching from the sidelines, but right in the middle of it with us. Help us to put our trust in what Jesus did on the cross, maybe for the first time, maybe as a New Year re-commitment, so that we will know that nothing can separate us from you. Let the storm rage, let the sun shine – we are safe! In the name of the risen, living Lord Jesus. Amen.

by Daphne Kitching

Bible Readings for January Services

Date	Epistle	Gospel
7th	Isaiah 60. 1 - 6	Matthew 2. 1 - 12
14th	Revelation 5.1-10	John 1.43-51
21st	Revelation 19.6-10	John 2.1-11
28th	Revelation 12.1-5a	Mark 1.21-28

Meru's Answers



New Year Teasers

Q. Two girls have the same parents and were born at the same hour on the same day of the same month, but they are not twins. How can this be possible?

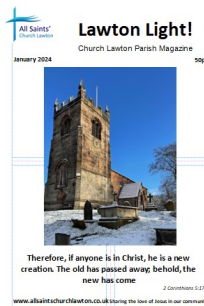
A. They were not born in the same year

Q. Joe is turning 17 this year, yet he turned 16 yesterday. How is this possible?

A. Joe's birthday is on December 31, the last day of the year. The current day was January 1st of the next year.

Q. In what year did Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall in the same year?

A. It happens every year.



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

To Jane Baker
25 Dairylands Road,
Church Lawton, ST7 3EU
Telephone 01270 876363 or
email:
editor@allsaintschurchlawton.
co.uk

Services & Speakers January 2024

	8.30am	10.45am	6.00pm
7th	Epiphany		
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Service of the Word
	Heather Kemball	Heather Kemball	Gill Marren
14th	Epiphany 2		
		Praise & Prayer	Holy Communion
		Margaret Cruxton	Margaret Cruxton
21st	Epiphany 3		
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
	Heather Kemball	Bev Boulton	Bev Boulton
28th	Epiphany 4		
		Praise & Prayer	Holy Communion
		Heather Kemball	Heather Kemball



January Rotas

Date	Time	Service	Readers	Prayers
7th January	8.30am	Holy Communion		
	10.45am	Holy Communion	Margaret Mellor Janet Parker	Ian Massey
	6.00pm	Service of the Word	Harold Dowler Margaret Cruxton	Heather Kemball
14th January	9.00am	Messy Church		
	10.45am	Praise & Prayer	Di Williams Linda Jones	Gill Marren
	6.00pm	Holy Communion CW	Bev Boulton Heather Kemball	Gill Marren
21st January	8.30am	Holy Communion		
	10.45am	Holy Communion	Paul Cruxton Jane Baker	Yvonne Banks
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Gill Marren Margaret Cruxton	Harold Dowler
28th January	10.45am	Praise & Prayer	Ruth Griffiths Yvonne Banks	Jane Baker
	6.00pm	Holy Communion BCP	Margaret Cruxton Bev Boulton	Jane Baker



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