



Lawton Light!

Church Lawton Parish Magazine

July 2020

50p



**Come to me, all you who are weary,
and I will give you rest.**

Mathew 11v28

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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's Letter...

The Frailty of Life

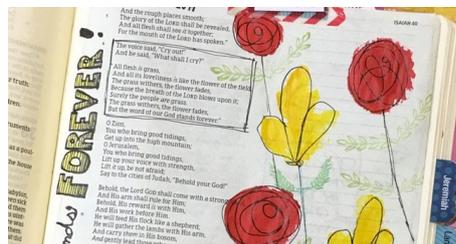
We know from history that at times of crisis and emergency, such as war or plague, that people turn to God. I suspect that is as true now as it's ever been.

According to one survey, during the lockdown, a quarter of adults in the UK have watched or listened to a religious service and one in 20 have started praying. Many churches I know who are recording services and prayers online report that they are getting many more viewers than they would have expected.

I'm sure that it's true – that when we are faced with such a threat to our lives we instinctively look for meaning and protection in our lives. This pandemic has come as a terrible shock to many. We have all been lulled into a false sense of security, thinking that our technological mastery over the natural world means we are immune to natural disasters.

While the majority of people who contract Covid-19 survive, it reminds us that we are much more frail and weak than we like to think. As the prophet Isaiah says:

'All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures for ever.' (Isaiah 40:6-8).

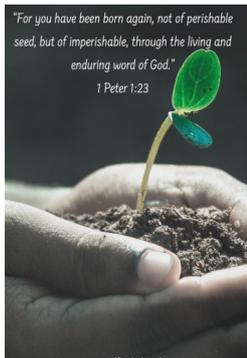


Isaiah's words really resonate at this time. In more normal times we can avoid facing up to our vulnerability, but this pandemic has forced us to recognise our weakness and fragility.

However, this shouldn't lead us to despair or fear; rather it is an opportunity to worship and praise for His constancy and care. I think our worship online has been a real help to many over the past few months, and I'd like to thank all those who have taken part and given so much encouragement, keeping us together in praise and worship, and giving us a message of faith and hope. I hope we can continue to share our worship online – if you get the opportunity to watch online, please do.

I've found that as we come back to the Bible and the message of our faith, our eyes are lifted from our current worries and back to God. Yes, we are frail human beings, but that is not the whole of the story...

In Peter's first letter he quotes this passage from Isaiah and says, 'For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God' (1 Peter 1:23).



Peter contrasts our own mortality with the eternal Word of God, which bring us new birth and life through the power of the Spirit. Jesus died for our sins

and rose again to make us right with God, so that through faith in Him we can know eternal life.

I hope that as we draw nearer to God as this pandemic continues, that we realise we don't need to be afraid of our human frailty. May we each discover that our God is a dependable foundation on which to build our lives, and our firm hope and confidence as we face eternity.

Steve

Name above all Names

Name above all Names, what's in a name?

Jesus, Messiah, He's coming again,
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End,
Apostle and High Priest, the sinners Friend.

Walking on water, calming the storm,
God incarnate calling us home
Creator, the I Am, nailed to a tree
Lion of Judah dying for me.

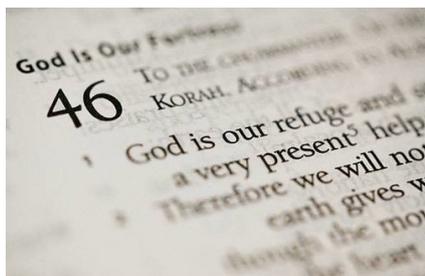
Risen, the Victor, conquering King
Coming with clouds redemption
to bring
To gather His bride for heaven
above
To reign with the Lamb whose
name is Love.

By Megan Carter



Psalm 46 – a psalm of comfort in anxious times

To say that we are living in uncertain times is an understatement! Psalm 46 speaks into our anxiety and fear, just as it did to Israel originally. At this time, we must focus on God, who alone can deliver us in such times.



He is our refuge: *'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.'* (1). In the midst of our difficulties, God promises Himself to be our refuge, strength and help. A *'refuge'* is a place of trust, where God promises to protect us. When the whole world is turned upside down, we can come to Him without fear.

He is our resource: *'There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place*

where the Most High dwells.' (4,5). Jerusalem was able to withstand enemy attack, because of the water that resourced it. For us, this is a picture of the presence of God's Spirit, who resources us when we are under pressure. This psalm promises that God's is with us in all our troubles on a daily basis: *'The Lord Almighty is with us...'* (7,11).

He is our ruler: *'He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.'* (10).

When we consider all that God has done in the past, we can see the way in which He has worked among us to provide, protect, and deliver us. We are called to *'cease fighting'* God and surrender our lives to God. Let's worship Him, as we let go fear and as we depend on Him in this current time of crisis.

'A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing' (Martin Luther).

Canon Paul Hardingham

The reasons for going to church

Strange times we are living through. The future consequences of coronavirus are going to be challenging, to say the least. How will our churches fare when our buildings are allowed to re-open?

One could say that the reasons for churchgoing can be put into three slots, 'Culture', 'Faith' and 'Community'. Many churchgoers would probably recognise in themselves elements of more than one.

Culture is for those who feel comfortable in church. They like the history, the language, the buildings, the liturgy and the music, which have probably been a part of their lives since they were children. All hold comforting memories.

Faith is a link with the meaning of life and its eternal promise, somewhere to seek guidance through worship and sacrament, and on which to lean in times of trouble. A belief in the words of Jesus that they are not on their own, even if sometimes it feels like it in this world.

Community is for those who like coming to church or being associated

with it as a flying buttress (a phrase of Winston Churchill, who described himself as someone who supports the church from the outside). They don't have to have a commitment to the faith of the Church but are sympathetic and don't mind being with those who do.

It is likely that the 'old normality' will not be the 'new normality' and this provokes a few thoughts:

- * How many people, now out of the habit of regular community worship, will wish to return to it?
- * How many people on the periphery of church life, will come back to it, at least in the short term?
- * How many of those who have had a regular commitment to the church, for example by serving at the altar or in its refectories, singing in choirs, doing flowers, ringing bells and polishing brasses will feel that this is a good time to make a break and do something different?

As church people, we must consider where we go from here. The Church, everywhere in the infected world, will need to know our answer to its call. To thrive, it needs us back.

Terry Warburton speculating on what the future holds for our churches.

Local is back!

Odd things have been happening to my world in these past weeks of lockdown.

It's got bigger. I've been speaking regularly via the web with friends in Australia and the United States. Worshippers from Canada and South Africa are taking part in our online church services. Other churches are telling the same stories, with increasing numbers of people logging on.

It's got smaller. Even with the relaxation of regulations, many people are still working from home, home-schooling and mostly exercising within walking or cycling distance from where they live.

It's got faster. Arrangements for a funeral in my family were speeded up, with registration and funeral planning carried out over the phone. A doctor's appointment by telephone significantly cut down waiting time.

It's got slower. Shopping takes longer with queues that people would have complained about before the lockdown. The shops have done a great job to keep the shelves stocked and maintain social distancing.

I've been thinking about what the long-term impact of the Covid-19 lockdown might be. One of the key outcomes is that local is back.

For decades, we've been hearing about globalization, and how the world is a much more connected place. It is, and the internet has kept many vital businesses running these past weeks.

But we've also come to value what's on our doorstep and in our local streets.

Neighbours have become more important. We're valuing local shops, pubs and restaurants, parks and open spaces. All the people working hard to keep local services going.

Christianity is now a major global religion, with billions of followers around the world. But it began local. It began with Jesus Christ, travelling by foot, preaching and healing around a small area of the middle east. From its local roots, the faith spread around the world.

Today, churches around the world are deeply rooted in their local communities and are seeking to follow Christ's example of love and caring.

Each of us is rooted into our family, into our key relationships and into where we live.

During this pandemic, each of these has grown in importance.

Peter Crumpler is a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE.

The staff of life

Many of us, during lockdown, have enjoyed making bread; working with yeast and dough is very therapeutic!

Our Daily Bread
Give us we pray
The bread we need today
Or, Lord, at least
Provide us with some yeast!

We'll feast our eyes
To see the yeast-dough rise
No fun we lack
When we then knock it back.

Once more it proves,
Then to the oven moves
And then we haste
That nice fresh bread to taste!

By Nigel Beeton



Gardening Against the Odds?

The Conservation Foundation has relaunched Gardening Against the Odds as a virtual network and is getting some excellent interest.

As a result, it may be making a radio series soon, featuring some of the projects it has discovered over the years which show how people combat 'odds' – mental, physical and environmental - by gardening, even when they have no garden.

These people plant seeds which they watch grow, eventually producing growth leading to flowers and fruit. Sometimes they work alone, sometimes there is an opportunity to share, producing a sense of community. Many people are discovering the benefits of gardening as a result of lockdown.

This is a very topical issue and so if you have discovered the benefits of gardening recently – or know someone who has – the Conservation Foundation would love to hear from you as soon as possible.

Please contact:

davidshreeve@conservationfoundation.co.uk

Facebook

@gardeningagainsttheodds website

<https://conservationfoundation.co.uk/projects/gardening-against-the-odds/>

God in the Sciences A Scientist Reflects: Suffering and the Image of God

As I write, volunteers are distributing food to people who have been deprived of their usual ways of earning an income during the lockdown in a Majority World country. I became involved in raising money for this initiative very recently, and saw videos from the first people to receive packages. There were expressions of happiness, hope, quiet sadness, resignation, desperation – most often a mixture of several of these feelings at the same time.

I believe that our cries for answers at times like this, and our deep longing for things to be better,

kinder, more just, less painful and chaotic, are a sign that we are made in the image of God. The Bible describes God creating men and women, instructing them to rule over the earth, and giving them the



freedom to choose what they will do. The world God made was described as “very good”, but human wrongdoing caused a rift between people and God, and also between us and the rest of creation.

From a scientist’s perspective, it seems that the potential for accidents, disease and death – for both animals and humans – may have been part of God’s very good creation, and there was a real threat of famine, albeit far rarer than in our current mismanaged version of creation? How would we have managed life in what Genesis describes as an un-subdued world if our relationship with God hadn’t broken down, and evil hadn’t been unleashed? Maybe painful experiences would have been experienced as challenges that brought us closer to each other and to God, rather than bringing us the experience of suffering (which I would define more particularly as involving distress, isolation and fear)? Of course, these are theoretical questions that no one can answer, but perhaps they are worth exploring.

God has already responded to suffering at a root level by taking it on Himself. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus broke the power of sin and death. We do not yet see

the final results of those decisive actions – the end of suffering for all those who trust Him – but we can already feel their impact. For example, many people have experienced the wonderful effect, either in their own lives or by receiving kindness from others, which is described by these words: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).



Some of the people who received food yesterday were, in the words of the community team leader, “really desperate”, but yet they still trust God to meet their needs. My hope is that the worldwide Church will, with God’s help, be part of the answer to their prayers – demonstrating our true status as people made in the image of God.

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

New Archbishop of York to be confirmed

Bishop Stephen Geoffrey Cottrell will be confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York this month.

The service, at 11am on Thursday 9th July, will be broadcast entirely via video conference due to the Coronavirus restrictions.

The service, which had been due to take place in York Minster, will be in two parts. A legal ceremony with readings, prayers and music, will be followed by a film marking the start of Bishop Stephen’s ministry as Archbishop of York.

Bishop Stephen Cottrell says: “I am looking forward to beginning my ministry as the 98th Archbishop of York. This isn’t quite how I imagined it would begin. It is certainly the first time an Archbishop’s election will have been confirmed via video conference. But we’re all having to re-imagine how we live our lives and how we inhabit the world.

Following in the footsteps of my many predecessors, I look forward to serving our nation and bringing the love and peace of Christ to our world, especially here in the north.”

The service will be available on the Church of England website. Arrangements for Bishop Stephen’s enthronement service will be announced later in the year.

From the Church Registers

Funerals

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

On	5th May	Gilbert Michael Orr	Age 75 Years
On	2nd June	Frank Anthony Longhurst	Age 84 years
On	4th June	Reginald William Lunt	Age 80 years
On	5th June	Brian Nicklin	Age 61 years
On	10th June	Phyllis May White	Age 95 years
On	10th June	Grace Ruby Jones (Bunty)	Age 89 years
On	22nd June	Alan Terrell	Age 92 years
On	24th June	Audrey Jean Roys	Age 95 years
On	25th June	Keith Rowley	Age 78 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)

Bible Readings for July Services

Date	Epistle	Gospel
5th July	Zechariah 9.9-12	Matthew 11.16-19,25-30
12th July	Isaiah 55.10-13	Matthew 13.1-9,18-23
19th July	Isaiah 44.6-8	Matthew 13.24-30,36-43
26th July	1 Kings 3.5-12	Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

Church Collections for May 2020

Week Beginning	3rd	£730.00
Week Beginning	10th	£660.00
Week Beginning	17th	£10.00
Week Beginning	24th	£390.00
Week Beginning	31st	£660.00

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

Reviews

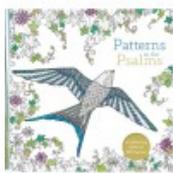


Q & A Bible Verse 5-Year Journal – blue edition

Edited by Carol Petley, SPCK, £10.49

This devotional journal enables you to reflect on your spiritual journey over a period of five years. Approachable and encouraging, it offers a brief Scripture reading and a question for each day, on topics such as praise, faith, prayer, worry, creation and forgiveness.

As you record your responses over the years, you'll discover how difficult things can be used by God in ways we cannot foresee. Most valuable of all, the journal helps you to find time to be with God for a few minutes each evening as you contemplate the events of the day.



Patterns in the Psalms – a colouring book

SPCK, £9.99

This summer, if you have time on your hands, why not colour your way through the beautiful imagery of the Psalms?

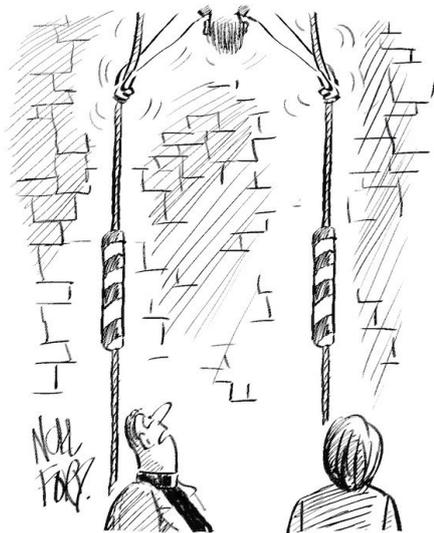
This book contains 30 illustrations with a corresponding verse, all designed to appeal to an adult market. The designs include animals, flowers, leaves, waves, stars and other patterns. Readers can enjoy the creativity and freedom of adding colour to these intricate designs, whilst scripture provides inspiration and reflection for each page.

Laughlines etcetera...

Pancakes

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, five, and Ryan, three. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the chance for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

Quick as a wink, Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"



Eric took social distancing while bell ringing very seriously.

Why did God make mothers?

Here are some of the answers seven-year-olds gave to the following questions...

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mum?

God knew she likes me a lot more than other kids' mums like me.

What kind of little girl was your mum?

I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.

What did your mum need to know about your dad before she married him?

His last name.

Why did your mum marry your dad?

She got too old to do anything else with him.

What's the difference between mums & dads?

Mum knows how to talk to teachers without scaring them.

What would it take to make your mum perfect?

On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.

I need to practice social-distancing - from my refrigerator.

Recycling & Green Living Tips

10 WAYS TO REDUCE WASTE IN THE KITCHEN

It is impossible to get rid of all waste but we can reduce the amount of waste we are generating to as little as possible. The kitchen is specially a difficult place to tackle because consuming food can create significant amounts of waste if we aren't careful. Of course, a large part of food waste happens during the production process and transportation, and we don't have power over it. But we can still do our part.

1 – Bring your own bags with you

When you go food shopping, take your own reusable bags with you. If you already own plastic bags that you've saved, this is a great opportunity to reuse them.

2 – Buy package-free food when you can

Some supermarket and shops have their own bulk sections where you can buy unpackaged food. Bring your own reusable containers or produce bags to put food in them. You can also buy package-free items in the fruit and vegetable section of most supermarkets. If you do, use your own bags or directly put them in your basket or trolley.

3 – Go to the farmers' market or farm shop

Going for fresh fruit & veg to the farmers' market or a farm shop is a great way to reduce your waste for several reasons. It is easier to get almost everything package-free. You will be able to directly put your fruits and vegetables into your bags. The food is also often local and seasonal, so won't have to travel huge distances to come to your plate. This reduces the amounts of CO₂ released into the atmosphere.

4 – Prefer alternatives to plastic

Many food items cannot be found package-free. Try to avoid those wrapped in plastic. Look for alternatives such as glass, cardboard, aluminium or steel. These materials are recyclable, so make sure you recycle the packaging afterwards.

5 – Buy in bulk

Try to buy the biggest version of the item that you know for sure that you are going to eat entirely. This way you'll cut down on packaging.

6 – Store your food in glass containers

Glass is an amazing material to store your food and to make it last longer since it is airtight. You can put anything in a glass jar or a glass container, like your leftovers or half-eaten fruits. The great thing about glass containers is that you can put

them in the dishwasher, and they are really sturdy. You can also have them for free by reusing glass jars which your food comes in. You'll just need to wash them, and they're good to be used again. Glass jars can be put in the freezer, so it is really convenient to store your food in different ways.

7 – Make your own food

If you have a garden, why not start your own vegetable garden? You can also plant some fruit trees and perennial herbs. Even a balcony is a great place to start a small vegetable garden. Growing your own food will help you be in control of the production process, which saves food from going to waste. You can make plant-based milk, homemade bread, cakes too.

8 – Low waste tea and coffee

If you are a tea drinker, a super easy zero waste tip is to buy loose leaf tea. PG Tips loose tea is packaged only in cardboard. You just need to buy a tea strainer, which are cheap. For coffee, don't use disposable filters or capsules. They are so wasteful since you need to throw them away after each use. Instead, consider switching to a French press. Look for reusable filters. They work the same way as disposable ones, but you can reuse them, which saves you a ton of money and avoids waste.

9 – Don't throw away food

Too many people still end up throwing food away. But there are ways to prevent it. First, it's important to regularly assess what food you own in your fridge and your pantry. Make sure nothing is about to go bad or expire. If a fruit or vegetable is turning bad, try eating it now or freeze it.

Check expiry dates on a regular basis to make sure you eat everything on time. Also, for most food, eating it several days after the expiry date is possible, just make sure there's no weird colour or smell. If you see something that you know you aren't going to eat, consider donating it to a food bank or to friends and family. Using up the food you have before buying the same again is also a great way to avoid over accumulating food, and reduce waste.

10 – Reuse and compost your food scraps

There are many ways to reuse your food scraps. When you're cooking vegetables, keep the parts that you cannot eat, you'll be able to make vegetable stock with them, pop them into the freezer until you need them. Once you are done with food scraps, whether you could reuse them or not, try composting them if you can.

Happy Recycling Carol Henshaw



Caring for the bereaved in Church Lawton

The Church of England in Church Lawton is launching a programme of additional support for people experiencing a family bereavement.

Bereaved families can still arrange Church of England funerals and in addition, families will be offered the opportunity to attend a memorial service at a time when we can freely meet again.

The Revd Steve Clapham, Vicar of All Saints' Church Lawton says: "If you or someone you know has been recently bereaved, the Church of England is here for you. Everyone is welcome to arrange a Church of England funeral, or to join us for a memorial service at a time when we can meet again. Perhaps more importantly, vicars are there if you just want someone to listen to your story and the memories of the loved one you've lost. Talk to us, we can help."

In normal times, Steve would discuss with a bereaved family exactly how they would like to say goodbye. He

would meet with them in person and discuss which music, Bible readings, and prayers they would like. Much of this has not been able to happen because of restrictions limiting the length of a funeral. Social distancing measures have also reduced the number of people able to attend, and family members have been unable to hug and console each other, adding to their grief.

The Acting Bishop of Chester, the Rt Revd Keith Sinclair says we are living through an incredibly difficult time but urges people to know that the Church is there for them, whatever they may have been through, wherever they are.

"We are living through a profound moment for our nation and the world, the effects of which will be felt for a long time to come.

"But the Church remains a constant Christian presence in every community and an anchor of hope for many. I would wish for everyone to know that the Church is here for you. Talk to us, we can help.

"Contact Steve if you would like to talk to us about arranging a funeral or attending a memorial service, the Church is here for you if you simply want someone to listen to your story."

Talk to us we can help

Church Prayer Meetings

Provisional dates complying with
Government guidelines

5th July cancelled

2nd August 9.45am to 10.15 am

6th September 9.45am to 10.15 am

4th October 9.45am to 10.15 am



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

Prayers for the Month

Prayer to our unchanging Father God

Gracious Father,

You created us. You know us through and through and still you love us. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, you accept us and call us your children when we put our trust in Him. In this world of change and uncertainty you are our still point. You know our names, you provide for us and have good plans for us. We are completely safe and secure in you. How wonderful that is! Thank you loving Father.

In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

Are you in need of some daily
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line for you to ring to hear
comforting hymns, daily prayers
and reflections.



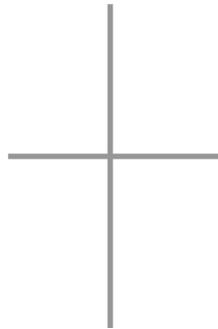
Faith in Later Life

CONNECTIONS

Services & Speakers Streaming From The Rectory, Church Lawton July 2020

	10.45am	7.00pm	<p>Whilst the church is currently closed for public worship, please lookout for updates as we respond to guidelines for reopening the church for services.</p> <p>Holy Communion at 10.45am If you wish to participate in the Communion Service, please prepare a piece of bread and sip of wine or juice ready for the <i>Giving the Communion</i> part of the service.</p>
Trinity 4			
5 th	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer	
	Margaret Cruxton	Steve Clapham	
Trinity 5			
12 ^h	Morning Worship	Evening Prayer	
	Steve Clapham	Steve Clapham	
Trinity 6			
19 th	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer	
	Bev Boulton	Steve Clapham	
Trinity 7			
26 th	Morning Worship	Evening Prayer	
	Steve Clapham	Steve Clapham	

Date	Reading	Prayers
5th July	Jane Baker	Steve Clapham
12th July	Yvonne Banks	Margaret Cruxton
19th July	Kate Bell	Jane Baker
26th July	James Patterson	Bev Boulton



All Saints' Church

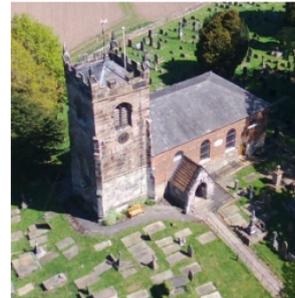
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www.allsaintschurchlawton.co.uk

[facebook/churchlawton](https://www.facebook.com/churchlawton)

*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
August edition of Lawton Light! by
10th July

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

Telephone 01270 876363 or
email: editor@allsaintschurchlawton.co.uk

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