

Lawton Light!

Church Lawton Parish Magazine

March 2024

50p



Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are my God my Saviour and my hope is in you all day long

Psalm 25:4-5

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

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Lawton Light!	Jane Baker	Tel:01270 876363
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** 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.



March Letter

In like a Lion, out like a Lamb As I write this article the signs of spring are all around. The snowdrops have pushed their way through the winter soil and gracefully adorn the pathway up to our church and in many other places of our church yard, the crocuses bring their welcome splash of colour with their purples and oranges, and the first of the daffodils trumpet the great news that the winter is passing and spring is coming. It will be a busy month for us at All Saints' Church, and I am reminded of that phrase that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.

As the month begins, we are well into this year's Lent Course **What on earth are we here for?** having looked at two of the five themes in February (Planned for God's pleasure and Formed for God's family). This month we explore the other three themes – Created to become like Christ, Shaped for God's serving and Made for God's mission. We will be exploring the themes both in our Sunday sermons and in our Lent Groups on Wednesdays (either 10.30am – 12noon or 7.30 – 9pm) at the rectory. For those who like short daily readings for Lent, the material we're using is Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren, available in paperback, Kindle, Audible and online.

Mid-March, on the 13th we have the honour of welcoming a number of dignitaries to our church for a service of Evening Prayer in celebration **of Serving our Community**, and hosted by the High Sheriff of Cheshire, Dr Dennis Dunn MBE JP DL.

We look forward to welcoming the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire Lady Alexis Redmond MBE, the Mayor of Cheshire East, Chair of our own Church Lawton Parish Council and the Mayor of Alsager. The sermon will be preached by our diocesan bishop, Bishop Mark Tanner and the service will close with the National Anthem played by the band of 2493 (Alsager) Squadron, Air Cadets. Please see p.13 for further details: you are warmly invited to attend.

We end this month with the glorious celebration of Christ's

resurrection on Easter Sunday. This always has been, and always will be the most important day for Christians because this is the day when Jesus triumphed over sin and death and hell through his resurrection.



Ours is an Easter faith centred on that amazing good news, and we are an Easter people seeking to live out our lives sharing the hope,

forgiveness and peace that Jesus brings. Or, to adapt the old adage, our focus this month will indeed be on the one who is both lion and lamb, battling against evil in all its forms like lion, and emerging victorious through his self-sacrifice like a lamb. I do hope you will be able to join us in our services and Easter celebrations,

Happy Easter!

God bless, Heather

Lent got off to a Flippin' Good Start at the Rectory!



We began our Lent Course for 2024 with a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party at the rectory. The new crepe maker (*our church*

really <u>does</u> have everything!) was put to good use on the evening, cooking around four litres of pancake mixture. I suppose technically we didn't actually flip the pancakes, but it didn't make any difference to their taste!



When everyone had eaten their fill of

Pancakes, Heather introduced the Lent Course material we're using this year **What**

on earth am I here for? based on Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren.





Come and join us!

Our church Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be at All Saints' Church on **Sunday 21st April** following the 10.45am service

As part of our preparation for this meeting we have to revise our Church Electoral Roll – our official membership list.

Anyone wishing their names to be included on our Electoral Roll and who, where necessary, has worshipped with us during the previous six months, is welcome to complete an application form for inclusion on the Electoral Roll by 31st March The forms are available in church from 10th March.

A copy of the **revised Electoral Roll** will be displayed at All Saints' Church on 7th April for the two weeks leading up to the APCM. The APCM is an important event in our church calendar. We review the year past, receive the accounts from our treasurer and elect our Churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Council.

The APCM is an opportunity for us to thank God for what he has done and for what he continues to do in us and through us, and to express our appreciation to those who have done the bulk of the hard work in running our church.

Our Ministry team with the Churchwardens, Treasurer and PCC members have worked very hard this year and we would value your attendance on 21st April as we present our reports to you and look towards to our future together.





9.00am 10th March Spring Festivals Mother's Day & Easter





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.



Looking for the Resurrection

An old couple are driving down the motorway when the wife gets a call from their daughter. 'Mum, there's a car driving the wrong way down the motorway!' The wife warns her husband that there is a lunatic on the motorway. Her husband, clutching the wheel in terror, replies: 'One lunatic? There are dozens of them, all headed straight for us!' What we see is determined by our perspective on life.

In the Nicene Creed we say: 'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to

come.' In the gospel accounts of the Resurrection, there is a lot of looking and seeing. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went early to the tomb. They saw the stone rolled aside and inside the tomb a young man dressed in white said to them: 'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him...He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him (Mark 16: 6,7).

Like the women we would probably have been left 'trembling and bewildered' by what we saw that morning. Had the body been taken? Was the young man an angel or deceiver? Was Jesus raised to life again, or was this an elaborate hoax?



Easter gives us a choice. We can approach life looking for disappointment, fear and despair. Or we can look for resurrection and find not just an empty tomb, but encounter the living Christ. He continues to meet us in our daily lives bringing new hope, forgiveness of sin, healing and wholeness and the assurance of His presence through the darkest of times. God invites us to see our lives differently and look for Christ's resurrection life at work in our lives and the people around us.

Paul Hardingham considering that first Easter morning...



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

As most of you know these first few weeks in 2024 haven't been the best for me, unfortunately I've had a reoccurring foot infection and so medical advice has been to OFF LOAD (latest medical jargon for not walking). This has frustrated me no end!

I have been overwhelmed by the offers of help during this time from friends and members of the church family, help to take the boys a walk, get shopping, providing me with a meal, making me a drink, taking me to the hospital or clinic, keeping me in prayers, all of which, when Hilary the podiatrist reminds me I'm unwell, her thermometer says so, gives me great strength knowing that I have so many wonderful people routing for me at this frustrating time. I have to say I really have been moved to tears at some conversations I've had with friends who've phoned and chatted.

So hopefully in the next few weeks as my test results come back. I will return to full health again, strengthened by the love shown to me by everyone. You don't appreciate fully what it is to have such brilliant friends until such times as I've found myself in recently and the support, love and friendship has been immensely valuable keeping me going. So when I hear the words 'You need antibiotics again, you're unwell,' I think how lucky I am to have the loving care each one of you have given me.

So I have to say a great big **THANK YOU** once again. I take nothing for granted but your love and caring has sustained me in these past few weeks.

Thank you.

Lots of my love and blessings to you all Bev xx

Meru's Musings

Teasers

1. In a certain family, each girl has just as many sisters as brothers, but each boy has twice as many sisters as brothers. How many children were there?

2. Four coaches leave the garage at the same time, on the same day. The first one returns to the garage every 16 hours, the second one every 12 hours, the third one every 8 hours and the fourth one every 4 hours. How long will be before they all meet at the garage again?

3.Albert and Ida's ages are the same with the digits reversed. The difference between their ages is twice the age of Ed. Ida is ten times Ed's age. How old is everyone?

Latin in the garden. Can you guess the plant?

Achillea ageratifolia Baptisia Australia Campanula Carpatica Delphinium Belladonna Filipendula Palmata Gypsophilia paniculate Helleborus Niger Kniphofia Lavendula angustifolia

Answers

Yarrow Blue wild indigo Larkspur Meadowsweet Baby's Breath Christmas Rose Tritoma/ Red hot poker Lavender

Ancient sayings of our elders Envy:

Envy turns into hate.

All types of hatred are curable except that which flows from envy. Envy is hatred without a cure.

Equality:

In the public baths all men are equal.

The masses aren't asses.

Before God the highest and lowest of men are equal.

Error:

The man that answers speedily errs speedily.

Men make mistakes not because they think they know when they do not know, but because they think others do not know.

Evidence:

No answer is a type of answer.

To assume is to fool oneself.

You don't have to see the lion if you see his lair.

Evil:

God is everywhere even in evil thoughts.

It is easier to abandon evil traits today than tomorrow.

Both right and wrong are the work of our hands.

Meru Ullah

Concert in aid of the 'Divine Relief' and Reordering fund



Audley Male Voice Choir Concert

Conductor Christopher Cromar Accompanist Anna Chiu

at All Saints' Church Church Lawton Saturday April 13th @7pm

Tickets £10

Ticket includes a glass of wine/soft drink and nibbles Contact Jane Baker 01270 876363

> Purchase on line (plus £1 booking fee) use the QR code or link below.



allsaintschurchlawton.co.uk/ event/audley-male-voicechoir-2/

All Saints' Church, Church Lane, Church Lawton ST7 3DD What 3 words ///porch. realm. obviously





Funerals

On 9th Feb Spencer Challinor Age 85 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 January 2024

Week Beginning	7th Jan	£744.76
Week Beginning	14th Jan	£880.20
Week Beginning	21st Jan	£635.25
Week Beginning	28th Jan	£199.92

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.



Evening Prayer Wednesday 13th March 2024 7pm All Saints' Church, Church Lawton in celebration of Serving our Community

Hosted by the High Sheriff of Cheshire Dr Dennis Dunn MBE JP DL

With Compliments from the Madhatters!

Bringing you a nostalgic musical experience. By far the oldest "boyband" on the block, they sing songs you will remember and tell stories to make you smile.

They don't' charge but will gratefully accept a donation towards expenses.



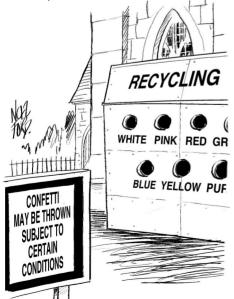
For more information email:- djparkinson55@ btinternet.com

Laugh lines etcetera...

Expensive boat

A vicar was planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was aghast when he found it would cost him £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. He protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. "That might be true," replied the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord himself walked."

"Well, at £50 an hour for a boat, I am not surprised!"



Moses and climate change

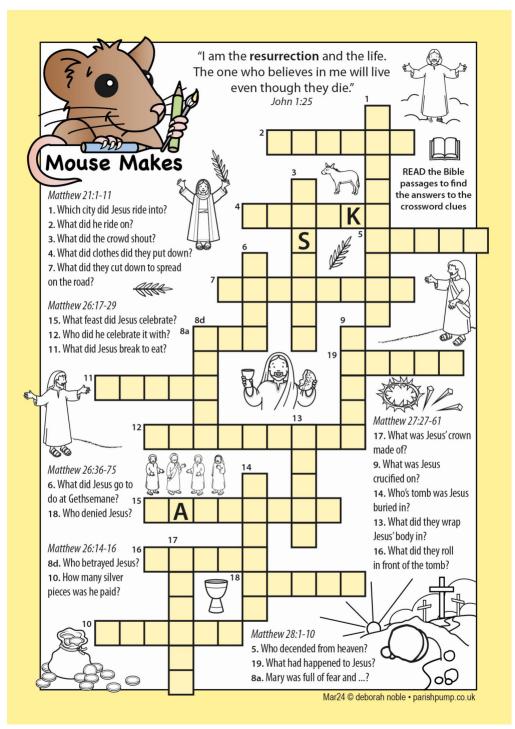
When Moses went up the mountain one day to meet with God, the Lord said he had both good news and bad news for him. Moses asked, "What's the good news?"

God replies, "Moses, I shall visit plagues upon the Egyptians. I shall cause their rivers to run red with blood. I shall cause frogs to infest their houses, and lice to infest their bodies. I shall cause flies to swarm upon them. Their cattle shall die: boils will infect both man and beast. I shall cause hail to destroy their crops: and locusts shall devour anything green that is left in their land. Darkness will cover their land for three days and nights. I shall then lead you through the wilderness as a pillar of cloud by day, and pillar of fire by night. I shall split the waters of the sea. I shall feed you with Manna that forms upon the ground until the children of Israel reach the Land flowing with milk and honey."

Moses replied, "That's GREAT, Lord! What could possibly be the bad news?"

"You, Moses, shall write the Environmental Impact Statement."

I'm trying to loose weight...but it keeps finding me again!



Recycling & Green Living Tips

Five to ditch and five to try: what fish should we be eating in 2024?

Warming seas and overfishing are taking their toll on our favourites, so play your part in nursing stocks back to health. The Observer published some figures about this at the end of 2023.

Last year we had record-breaking temperatures and marine heatwaves threatening our already depleted seas. Conservationists, supermarkets and musicians, including Icelandic singer Björk, have spoken out about dwindling wild fish populations. Oceana, a US-based NGO, reported that half of Britain's largest wild fish populations, including North Sea cod, are either overfished or in a critical state. The welfare of farmed fish, as well as the impact of the fish farming industry, has also taken a hit.

The naturalist and broadcaster Chris Packham called for a halt to the "catastrophic" expansion of the Scottish salmon farming industry when the Guardian revealed farmed salmon mortality was at record levels. Most salmon bought in UK supermarkets are farmed. In December 2023, an expert assessment of wild fish populations found nearly a quarter at risk of extinction, with wild Atlantic salmon increasingly threatened. So, what are the fish to ditch in 2024 and what should we eating?

1. Cod

One of the UK's favourites, cod is a cold water species, generally wildcaught. Populations have been struggling as sea temperatures rise. UK stocks are doing very badly and should be avoided. The good news is, North Sea populations are starting to increase due to fishing restrictions, but the stock is not yet sustainable. Sustainable swap Hake, certified by the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) blue tick, is now a sustainable choice, thanks to good management and environmental conditions, says the MCS guide. Hake is a sustainable alternative to overfished chip shop favourite cod.

2. Haddock

Also a chip shop favourite, haddock is generally a sustainable, wild-caught fish. But some stocks are running low and haddock often swim in the same waters as cod, leading to haddock fisheries catching both species. Avoid fish less than 30cm in length and buying fresh during the March and April breeding season.

Best choice Haddock from the North Sea, Scotland, Iceland or Norway, or MSC-certified.

Sustainable swap Plaice from the North Sea, where populations are thriving.

3. Salmon

Wild Atlantic salmon populations are 23% down globally and have vanished from many UK rivers. The species has been affected by widespread habitat loss, global heating and dams. Breeding with escaped farmed salmon also threatens many wild populations. Sea lice from salmon farms are also a problem. Wild Atlantic salmon is now classified as "near threatened", and should be avoided, according to the fish guide.

Best choice Pacific wild salmon (pink, red or keta) from Alaska. Organic or salmon certified by a green tick from the Aquaculture Stewardship Council.

Sustainable swap Farmed rainbow trout from UK ponds.

4. Tuna

This top predator can grow up to three metres in length. There are many different species and MCS recommends checking its Good Fish Guide to see which are more sustainable. Avoid Pacific and Southern bluefin tuna, Indian Ocean yellowfin and tuna caught by gillnets or drift nets.

Best choice Skipjack or albacore tuna caught by pole and line or trolls, artificial lures on barb-free lines with minimal bycatch.

Sustainable swap Sardines from south-west England.

5. Prawns

Sourced from all over the world, prawns can be sustainable, depending on species, where and how they are caught.

Best choice Wild cold-water prawns from the north-east Arctic. Farmed prawns labelled organic or with an MSC or ASC label, according to the fish guide. Creel-caught Scottish langoustines. Avoid Uncertified farmed king and tiger prawns from Vietnam, Indonesia or India.

Sustainable swap Mussels: UK, ropegrown mussels are among the most ocean-friendly seafood.



Help our bumble bees. A bumblebee can only

fly for about 40 minutes between feedings. But

we've lost 97% of our wildflower meadows. So each nectar-rich flower or tree that which you plant in a window box or in your garden or community green spaces could be the pit stop that saves a bee. Also avoid using weedkillers and insecticide in your garden.

Happy Recycling

Carol Henshaw

All Saints' Community Page





Work continues in and around the church and churchyard with sticks in place for the bonfire and spring flowers appearing. Only four sections now to clear the base of the railings. New downspout and gutter on the porch. As well as slabs laid nearby. Work on the new soak away around the back has begun too. The inside window sills have been repaired and painted.









Thank you to everyone helping to maintain our church and churchyard. Do join us 10-12 Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tea and coffee are available for all and for those who call at midday for a chat.



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

Easter Prayer 2024

Almighty, God,

You hold all things in Your hands. You make sense of everything! So often we only see where we are now, what we feel now, in this moment – but You know the end from the beginning. In all our troubles, our assurance is in Your sovereignty, in Your mighty act of salvation.

Thank you that, just as after winter comes spring and after night comes morning, so, most gloriously, after death on Good Friday, comes resurrection on Easter Day!

Christ is Risen – and we can know, by the indwelling of his Holy Spirit, that He is risen indeed!

We can know, in our real and every-day lives, where our help comes from.

Hallelujah! Thank you, living Lord,

In Jesus name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Bible Readings for March Services

Date	Epistle	Gospel
3rd	Philippians 2: 1 – 13	Matthew 7: 1 – 15
10th	Ephesians 2:1-10	Mark 10: 35-45
17th	Colossians 4:2-6	Mathew 28:16-20
24th	Philippians 2:5-11	John 12:12-16
28th	1 Corinthians 11: 17 – 26,	John 13 : 1 – 17
29th	Only one reading	Mark 15: 1-15
31st	1 Corinthians 15: 1 – 11	John 20: 1 – 18

Meru's Answers



1. In a certain family, each girl has just as many sisters as brothers, but each boy has twice as many sisters as brothers. How many children were there? Answer = Three boys and four girls.

2. Four coaches leave the garage at the same time, on the same day. The first one returns to the garage every 16 hours, the second one every 12 hours, the third one every 8 hours and the fourth one every 4 hours. How long will be before they all meet at the garage again?

Answer= In 48 hours

3. Albert and Ida's ages are the same with the digits reversed. The difference between their ages is twice the age of Ed. Ida is ten times Ed's age.

Ans= Ed is 4 and a half, Ida 45,



Please send any material for inclusion in the April edition of Lawton Light!

by March the 10th

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

Services & Speakers March 2024

	8.30am	10.45am	6.00pm		
3rd	Lent 3				
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Service of the Word		
	Bev Boulton	Heather Kemball	Heather Kemball		
10th	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday				
		Praise & Prayer	Holy Communion		
		Bev Boulton	Bev Boulton		
13th	High Sherriff Service 7pm				
		Evening Prayer			
		Bishop Mark			
17th	Lent 5				
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer		
	Heather Kemball	Margaret Cruxton	Margaret Cruxton		
24th	Palm Sunday				
		Praise & Prayer	Holy Communion		
		Bev Boulton	Bev Boulton		
28th	Maundy Thursday	y 7pm			
		Holy Communion			
		Heather Kemball			
29th	Good Friday	10am			
		Family Service			
		Margaret Cruxton			
31st	Easter Sunday				
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion		
	Heather Kemball	Heather Kemball	Heather Kemball		

March Rotas

Date	Time	Service	Readers	Prayers
	8.30am	Holy Communion		
	10.45am	Holy Communion	Margaret Mellor	Ian Massey
			Alan Kemball	
	6.00pm	Service of the Word	Harold Dowler	Margaret Cruxton
			Kieran Hutchinson	
10th March	9.00am	Messy Church		
	10.45am	Praise & Prayer	Di Williams	Gill Marren
			Linda Jones	
	6.00pm	Holy Communion CW		Gill Marren
			Heather Kemball	
17th March	8.30am	Holy Communion		
	10.45am	Holy Communion	Alex Masters	Yvonne Banks
			Jonny Masters	
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Gill Marren	Harold Dowler
			Bev Boulton	
24th March	10.45am	Praise & Prayer	Ruth Griffiths	
			Janet Parker	Jane Baker
	6.00pm	Holy Communion BCP	Kieran Hutchinson	Jane Baker
			Margaret Cruxton	
28th March Maundy Thursday	7pm	Holy Communion	Gill Marren	Jane Baker
			Bev Boulton	
29th March	10am	Family Service	Paul Cruxton	Heather Kemball
Good Friday				
31st March	8.30am	Holy Communion		
	10.45am	Holy Communion	Yvonne Banks	Bev Boulton
			Alan Kemball	
	6pm	Holy Communion	Margaret Cruxton	Bev Boulton



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