

St Lawrence CofE Church, Lechlade Parish Profile

<http://www.stlawrencelechlade.org.uk/>

Welcome

In the spring of 2010 all the groups and organisations forming the church community prepared jigsaw pieces representing the many facets of the church in Lechlade. As part of our Faith to Share mission, over 50 pieces were made and together they were mounted on a board to form the Body of Christ at St Lawrence Church.

This parish profile captures elements of that thought provoking activity. We hope that it provides you with a clear and favourable impression of the church and the wider community in Lechlade as well as an indication of how it might further evolve under the leadership of a new incumbent going out and about in the parish.

Diocese and Team

St Lawrence is in the Diocese of Gloucester; it is part of the Fairford Deanery Team Ministry which was formed in 2009, after some years of discussion and consultation. The Team comprises ten clergy (four stipendiary and six non-stipendiary) including the Team Rector. There are twenty one churches in the Benefice and each priest, although licensed to the Team as a whole, has particular responsibility for certain parishes, in this case Lechlade.



The expectation within the Team is that day to day ministry is delivered locally but that resources are shared across the Team so that we may do together what we cannot do alone. The following are some examples of activities that are Team-wide: youth work; children's work; discipleship groups; confirmation preparation; Team services. In addition there is a Team Newsletter and Church Trail booklets; we are working on a Team Yellow Pages of skills and talents and are hoping to set up a Team Choir.

There is no Team Council; instead the Mission and Ministry Group, comprising all the clergy and chosen lay representatives, co-ordinates the work and ministry of the Team. Chapter has also agreed some Team policies, e.g. remarriage of those divorced and in which churches couples may marry.

The Team works by consensus, not dictat, and the clergy are very supportive of one another. In addition to the obvious criterion of being a team player the successful candidate will be expected to take on some responsibility across the Team, based on individual gifts and skills.

The way in which the Team works is driven from the ground and is still evolving so a flexible approach to collaborative ministry is essential.

Ministry

Lechlade is a market town and the church, physically and spiritually at its heart, ministers to all. Liturgically, St Lawrence has mainly maintained a central churchmanship tradition. However, it has also been open to other traditions, most notably the evangelical, resulting in worship that can appeal to all.

Worshippers in Lechlade benefit from a collaborative ministry led by the incumbent, Assistant Curate, retired clergy, Lay Readers and members of the laity. Preaching is based on clear exposition and application of the Biblical text (see 'services'). There is, though, scope for further expansion in all areas and for engaging with more families.

Our Assistant Curate is in her third year of curacy and both before and during this vacancy is performing a much valued pastoral role.

The elderly are very much part of the church community and provision is made in, for example, Thursday communion, pastoral work and lunches organised by members of the church and wider community.

Other aspects of our ministry include celebrants at the Eucharist normally wearing vestments in common use and the Sacrament is reserved in the Blaise Chapel for the use of the sick and infirm. Home communion is provided for those confined to their homes usually by the incumbent and Assistant Curate but we are now involving members of the laity with the time and gifts for this important work.

All of the ministry and activity at St Lawrence is underpinned by a foundation of prayer, led by both ordained and lay people. Parish prayer meetings are held monthly supplemented with a weekly session on a Saturday during the interregnum. Many prayer triplets have been set up, prayer walks are conducted round the town and prayer is carried out in school before each academic year and regularly during term time.

Services

At present the pattern of services is:

On Sundays

8am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10am	Parish Communion (Common Worship)
6pm	Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)

On the second Sunday of the month

8am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10am	Together at Ten (Family Service for all ages)
6pm	Sung Eucharist (usually to the Merbecke setting)

Every Thursday

10am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
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Other times

8.30am Mon-Thurs	Morning Prayer (offered by the previous incumbent); Holy Communion on certain Saints' Days
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In addition, over the course of a year, the following other services have been provided:

- All Souls Service of Remembrance;
- healing service;
- celtic;
- outreach (harvest, songs of praise etc at the Trout public house including Easter Eucharist);
- Advent carol service;
- youth – monthly Deanery youth service;
- children's;
- ecumenical town services – Remembrance Sunday and Town Carol Service; and
- Lent groups' service.

Easter and Christmas see a range of other services such as Crib Service and Christingle plus worship offered each day during Holy Week. Around ten baptisms per annum within the 10.00 Sunday service, approximately six weddings take place each year plus 10-20 funerals per annum and Deanery confirmation services (three in four years).

In recent years, as can be seen from the range of services listed above, the congregation has not shied from experimenting with other services. We also seek to be inclusive and have level access to the church, a hearing loop and provide large print service sheets.

Ecumenical Activity

Ecumenism is part of Lechlade's tradition and Ministers' meetings are held regularly with Methodist, Baptist and Roman Catholic ministers to agree and plan activities and worship.

Examples are:

- a Methodist covenant which exists with the parish church. However, the Methodist church closed in July 2010 due to falling numbers. The PCC has made a formal *Declaration of Welcome and Commitment* to all Methodist members. The Methodist hall and church building is managed by a committee and is available for the use of the whole Lechlade community. Currently, St Lawrence is using it for the monthly youth services and for the occasional Ladies' Breakfast events. There is scope for making this facility into a genuinely community centre. There may be funds available that could be applied for to renovate the premises; and
- strong links with the small but lively Baptist church.

Examples of corroborative events/worship include:

- town carol service;
- study groups;
- Remembrance Service;
- Palm Sunday service;
- Good Friday witness;
- services at St Birinus sheltered accommodation; and
- participation in the Baptist led and organised Men's Breakfasts.

In addition, the RC congregation (centred on Fairford) uses the church for occasional services.

Music in Church

Choir

St Lawrence church choir is a friendly, enthusiastic mixed four-part choir currently composed of twelve young people from the ages of six to eighteen, and twelve adults (alto, tenor and bass) which sings regularly at Sunday morning Parish Communion and Choral Evensong services. The choir also sings at special services throughout the year including the candlelit Advent Carol Service, the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (Town Carol Service), Ecumenical Palm Sunday service, baptism and confirmation services and is available for weddings and memorial services. Choristers sing a broad repertoire of music spanning many centuries.



The choristers rehearse on Friday evenings from 6.45pm to 7.45pm, in preparation for the week's services. An additional training session is held at 6.15pm for under 18's before the main rehearsal, where vocal tuition and training in the RSCM Voice for Life Scheme is given. This scheme provides a framework for choral singers to develop their vocal skills and musical knowledge. There are several levels that provide training from beginners through to experienced singers. Medals, worn in church services and at external RSCM events, are awarded once the necessary skills have been achieved and examined, each ribbon colour denoting the standard reached. All choristers are encouraged and assisted to achieve their full musical potential. Funding for one or two young choristers' training is provided most years by the income from the Helen Arnold Memorial Fund and the Lechlade Education Charity.



As well as singing at services throughout the year, the choir gives concerts and enjoys attending RSCM courses, workshops and Diocesan Festivals. The choir has performed on BBC radio and in August 2010 sang at Llandaff Cathedral where members received very high praise for their substitution for the cathedral choir. We recommend viewing of the choir's website for more information: www.stlawrencechoir.org.uk/Choir/

Music Group

In addition to the choir, there is an active music group which leads the music for the Together at Ten services once a month.

Concerts

Other concerts have included the popular annual Christmas Choir Concert and numerous concerts/lunchtime 'Serenade and Sandwiches' recitals put on by the Restoration Appeal Committee.

Musicals

Recent musicals have included *Wildfire* (the story of St Stephen), *Jailbreak* (the story of Paul and Silas in Philippi), and *Angel Voices* (the final conflict as told in Revelation), all composed by Roger Jones. We

are currently at the very early stages of planning for 2012's production.

Clergy, Electoral Roll, Service Attendance and Parishioners

The benefice is part of the Team Ministry in Fairford Deanery and as a consequence the Team Vicar has functions within the Deanery too. At St Lawrence, support is provided by:

- Assistant Curate;
- two Church Wardens (with a scheme underway to appoint two Assistant Church Wardens);
- members of the PCC;
- retired clergy;
- Lay Readers – plus a Reader in training;
- Deanery Youth Worker;
- Extended Services Worker (Deanery);
- sacristan; and
- choir director.

The Electoral Roll stood at 174 at the April 2010 APCM. The age profile of parishioners has never been evaluated though an off the cuff assessment would indicate a spread across most age ranges but with few young adults attending regularly.

Attendance at services has remained steady or increased slightly over the last five years. For example, at the 10.00 service on Sundays, in 2005 numbers recorded (under 16/over 16) were typically 20/90 rising to 25/110 in 2010.

Very many parishioners willingly contribute time and skills to the life of the church; we could not achieve as much as we have without such a broad volunteer base. Tasks undertaken include:

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| • Mothers Union | • cleaners |
| • children and youth ministry | • churchyard maintenance |
| • bell ringers | • MCs/acolytes |
| • churchwatch | • Hospitality Group |
| • sidesmen | • flower arrangers |
| • finance | • Bible study leaders |
| • prayer groups | • music |
| • Christian Aid organisers | • <i>The Bridge</i> editorial team |

Due to such a high involvement by the congregation, the church presents a welcoming and friendly impression to newcomers and visitors as well as providing strong pastoral care across the community.

Children and Young People

During the last seven years or so, children's ministry has flourished and become a matter of significance in the parish though recently numbers have declined. A fresh re-think on children's ministry may be a way to rejuvenate this aspect of the church. This ministry can be seen in:

- @the Ark – consists of Sunday morning children's groups (Bubbles, Splash, Xtremes and the

Grid) for children aged 3-14 using Scripture Union material. Occasionally we run extra Saturday afternoon workshops for primary school children, for example at Easter (e.g. based on Experience Easter) and harvest (e.g. Experience Harvest). Numbers tend to be around twelve children; workshops have a attendance of around twenty. A rota is compiled for the dozen or so volunteers who lead these groups;

- youth services – we have been fortunate to have had the services of a Deanery Youth Worker for at least ten years. This post is paid for by parishes in the Deanery. Activities include Thirst, assemblies and lunchtime clubs at Farmors secondary school (in Fairford); visits to primary schools as Year 6 pupils prepare to move up; activity days/weekends away (e.g. at Viney Hill Christian Centre in the Forest of Dean), going to New Wine, confirmation preparation and prayer support (e.g. students going to university) and organising youth services;
- Extended Services Worker – this post is paid for by local schools and managed by Fairford Deanery. Lunchtime and After School Clubs are run in the C of E schools in the Deanery plus parenting courses and holiday clubs;
- Thirst – this is a midweek evening group led by the Deanery Youth Worker for teenagers and is held at the Gate on the Green, Quenington;
- Big Fish and the Cookie Jar – two lunchtime groups at Farmors School run by the Deanery Youth Worker;
- Anoint – a monthly Sunday evening youth group led by church members and attended by around 10-15 Year 6 and above young people; and
- Little Lights – informal, fortnightly service of babies, toddlers and pre-school children with their parents/carers led by the Mothers' Union. Services are well supported and attended by around twenty-plus children.

Education

To build upon the ministry and prayer at the heart of the church, provision has been made for further education to deepen people's understanding and practice of discipleship. Examples include:

- Bible Study – ladies, Lent Groups (ecumenical), house groups;
- reading groups;
- prayer groups – Julian Group, triplets, monthly parish prayer meeting, prayer walks, ad hoc;
- In Depth talks – Sharia Law, politics prior to the General Election, Creation;
- Foundations course based on Emmaus;
- Essence Course;
- baptism preparation;
- marriage preparation;
- parenting course;
- free library in church;
- training courses for leaders of children's ministry; and
- short training sessions for the PCC and for Sidesmen.

There is also scope for the introduction of other courses (e.g. Alpha) to respond to different needs. In addition, whilst we have good links with the school, there needs to be appropriate ways found to share with young parents the advantages of distinctive Christian values in the education and upbringing of children not only as part of a worshipping congregation but also in open and informal settings. In recent years there has been a willingness to allow and encourage others to follow through their own initiatives (some of those listed above) as long as these fitted into a coherent plan for the whole church.

Confirmation

Confirmation preparation is held in the Deanery for both young people and adults. There have been three Deanery confirmation services held at Lechlade in four years at which our younger members have been well represented. This is a measure of the success of children's and young people's ministry.

Mission/Outreach

On a more local dimension of mission, during 2010 the church launched a programme entitled Faith to Share to reach out individually and collectively to others. This year long programme included:

- Quiet Day to prepare congregation;
- Lost for Words Lent Course;
- Celebrate Church weekend;
- musical (*Angel Voices*);
- Beautiful You (ladies), Grill a Bishop (men) events;
- special Fathers Day all age Service and Evening Eucharist;
- follow up Essence Course; and
- Back to Church Sunday with more things planned.

There is a firm belief that we must take mission outside the church building and into the community. Initiatives to achieve this important objective include:

- St Birinus (sheltered housing) – regular service;
- Faith to Share mission weekend;
- community based worship - services at the Trout public house (harvest, Songs of Praise, Easter Eucharist);
- Ladies Breakfasts (ecumenical activity);
- Men Aloud Out (informal discussion meetings); and
- provision of sermons on our website.

Whilst maintaining and developing the present activities of St Lawrence, the church is open to creating fresh expressions of church life within the parish (e.g. at the Trout, among the young people and among men). Although this would have to be handled with great care, so as not to divide the church into autonomous groups, it should be noted that the Bishop of the Diocese has expressed himself much in favour of experimentation.

World Church

In 2005 the PCC established a small committee to work at developing and sustaining links with the church overseas. The tasks given to it were to enhance the church's understanding, awareness and practice of mission, to increase the church's knowledge of and contact with the world church., to review the external giving of the church and to oversee other mission or world church related responsibilities as the PCC may request. It was decided to relate closely to some of the major Church of England mission agencies, namely CMS, Crosslinks, SAMS (now joined with CMS) and the Diocese of Gloucester's link diocese (Dornakal) in South India. In most cases this is done by establishing a personal link with specific people or institutions on the continents of Africa, Asia and Latin America. These links are supported by the PCC giving a portion of the church's income to the mission of the church overseas.

We believe that it is very important to develop the world church initiative as part of God's mission in our church and we believe that it is important that the new incumbent becomes a member of the committee.

Schools

Close to the church, in Wharf Lane, is St Lawrence Church of England Primary School (Voluntary Aided) with a roll currently of around 210 drawn from a catchment area of Lechlade and surrounding villages. The Headteacher is a committed Christian. The partnership between the school and the incumbent has been vitally important in the spiritual growth of the school community. The church provides seven Foundation Governors in addition to the Team Vicar's ex-officio position; most Governors are active members of the church. The Team Vicar visited the school regularly to plan and lead worship, observe RE lessons, support the RE co-ordinator and pray with the Headteacher for the school and her personally. Open the Book (adults from the church running morning worship using biblical stories) is a further contribution to school life.

The school makes use of the church for various services and other activities, for example, *Experience Easter*, a resource written by the Diocese of Gloucester. Families are encouraged to participate in parish life but there is still plenty of scope for strengthening this aspect of the community. We use the school for occasional events such as children's workshops, harvest supper, a Passover meal and post-confirmation social events.

A recent two year project led by the church and the schools in the Deanery has enabled an Extended Services Worker to be employed working in all eight primary schools in the Deanery. This project will finish in March 2011 but it is an example of how we have worked closely together with the church taking the lead sometimes.

There is a need for the church and school to work together in supporting families within the community. Already links between the MU and the school mean that parenting groups are running including a group for parents with disabled children.

Farmor's School in Fairford is the main secondary school in the area and, through the Deanery Youth Worker; Christian activities are run for the pupils including Big Fish and the Cookie Jar.

For pre-school children, Little Learners has its own premises next to the primary school. A twice weekly toddler group meets in the Pavilion.

Communication

At St Lawrence church we endeavour to ensure that as many as possible are kept informed on what is happening through:

- weekly bulletin handed out at services;
- In Touch – a brief newsletter delivered to all houses three times per annum;
- Welcome Packs both to newcomers to church and to newcomers to Lechlade;
- *The Bridge* – a long running parish magazine full of local news, profiles, obituaries, gardening hints etc;
- *Ripples* – a new Lechlade and Fairford magazine;
- church website;
- Christmas cards to every house in parish with Christmas services;
- flyers for special events; and posters throughout the town.

Community

Lechlade is an historic market town that has recently celebrated the granting of a charter 800 years ago. The town has a population approaching 3,000 and it is located in SE Gloucestershire on the north bank

of the Thames at the highest navigable point on the river. Civic duties are discharged locally by Lechlade Town Council.

A variety of businesses can be found in Lechlade – a bank, supermarket, greengrocer, butcher, hair-dressers, newsagent, antique shops, florist, solicitor, Post Office, estate agents, a selection of pubs and restaurants and a famous Christmas Shop! There is also a well used library, Medical Centre, dental practice and vets surgery. Lechlade is twinned with La Chapelle des Fougeretz in France and regular events take place here and abroad. Over the last few decades there has been new building in the town; combined with the economic strength of Swindon (12 miles away) and the proximity of Cirencester (13 miles) Oxford (25 miles), Gloucester and Cheltenham (both 30 miles) plus passing trade on two busy 'A' roads, this has contributed to the buoyant though fluctuating fortunes of the town.

One of the hallmarks of the town is the wide range of community activities catering for just about any hobby or interest. These include amateur dramatics, local history, monthly cinema club, gardening, art, sports (cricket, football, tennis and badminton), Scouts and Guides, Lions, WI and Probus. Locally, we have use of the Lions minibus which is a much valued asset.

Tourism inevitably is a local feature since Lechlade is at a point where the Thames meets the Cotswolds. Our church was one of the leaders in the diocesan initiative *Open to All* (2009) to improve churches' welcome to visitors and maybe encourage them in their Christian faith. The PCC is currently reviewing the welcome St Lawrence offers. Part of this includes a faculty petition recently submitted (Oct 2010) to refurbish the west porch.

Facilities for the community in Lechlade include a well equipped Memorial Hall (built 1995), a Pavilion with meeting rooms, a playing field with a recently constructed (2010) children's playground and tennis courts and an all-weather pitch. The Methodist church hall is also available for hire. At the west end there is a cemetery managed by the Town Council.

There is much goodwill towards the church by inhabitants of Lechlade reflected in, for example, the support for the fabric appeal by the wider community.

The Team Vicar is also a member of *The Bridge* committee in order to maintain church links and is a trustee of the various Lechlade charities.

Buildings

St Lawrence church, situated in the Market Square within the Lechlade Conservation Area, was built in 1472-6 in the perpendicular style and is one of the famous 'wool' churches of the Cotswolds; it is Grade 1 listed. It is maintained to a high standard and this was recognised in the most recent (June 2010) Quinquennial Inspection which, fortunately, revealed no significant works requiring to be addressed. Work is in hand to greatly improve the main entrance to the church and make it more welcoming. Projects we would like to address include and improved sound system and refurbishment of the vestry.

In addition to the restoration appeal (see below) other significant work has included restoration of the organ (2004), extensive maintenance on the bells (2007), overhaul of the floodlights (2005), construction of a kitchen area at the west end (2008) and relocation of the font (2009). We have maintenance arrangements in place for a variety of facilities in the church and cottage.

The church seats ~210 in Victorian pews (which are moved to make better use of the space or supplemented with other chairs for special services taking the maximum seated capacity to just over 300), Together @ Ten and concerts etc. In the chancel there are choir stalls and the main communion table which is used for most services; a temporary communion table on occasions (e.g. family communion) is placed in front of the screen. The Blaise Chapel (south aisle) is used for the 08.00 service on Sundays and communion on Thursday morning as well as a second point for communion at the 10.00 service on Sundays.

The tower houses the church bells comprising a peal of 6, with a tenor bell of approx 13 cwt. The complete ring was overhauled and re-hung in 1965 and further running repairs were completed within the last 2 years. The bells are rung for morning service each Sunday and other services as requested. The bells are also available for weddings, by request. Bell ringers hold a practice night on Fridays, after choir rehearsal.

The church is heated by a gas boiler and the building is floodlit in the evenings sponsored by parishioners in recognition of anniversaries etc. In view of its position above the river, the illuminated spire is a welcoming sight to those returning to Lechlade after dark.

Around the church is a closed churchyard which is best known as being the location that inspired Shelley to write '*Stanzas in Lechlade Churchyard*' (1815). The area is well maintained by a team of volunteers well informed in arboriculture and gardening generally. There is a public right of way through the churchyard maintained by Gloucestershire Highways.

In 1998, thanks to one very large donation and several interest free loans the parish was able to buy Church Cottage adjacent to the church. This building houses the choir vestry and has two rooms for meetings and activities plus a kitchen, toilets, printer room and attic and a courtyard. One room has been decorated by children with a mural of Noah's Ark and is the base for our Sunday children's ministry branded as @the Ark. The cottage is available for community use and the Country Market is located there every Thursday, the Lechlade History Society rents part of the attic space and other events such as the Christmas 'lights-on' makes use of it. The cottage income does not cover its costs.

The Vicarage

In Sherborne Street the benefice has an extensive, listed Georgian vicarage located in the Lechlade conservation area. Among the features downstairs is a study/office, large reception room, dining room and kitchen/breakfast room. Upstairs has four bedrooms (plus a box room), a bathroom and upstairs toilet. There is an extensive walled garden with a terrace, lawn and vegetable garden and several mature fruit trees. To one side is a double garage and above is a large storage area. The vicarage is certainly a fine property, well placed for the church and town centre.

Finance

Consistent and full payment of our Parish Share (currently £52k p.a.) has been achieved over many years thanks to the generosity of parishioners and careful management of funds including extensive use of Gift Aid (18% of voluntary income is recovered tax). We pay the full cost expected for a stipendiary priest i.e. no subsidy is expected from other parishes.

A funding programme has usually been run every five years to seek standing order increases based on a five year budget calculation. This has been successful during the last 15/20 years but we are not alone in finding it harder in these times.

Restoration

Our parish owes a great debt to the supporters of the Restoration Appeal. Fundraising has been tackled by gifts (by Standing Order and Gift Aid including from non-church goers), seeking grants, arranging concerts, dinners at the local Indian restaurant and garden parties plus very generous bequests and donations. The visitors' book plus entries in authoritative texts on English churches are testimony to what has been achieved thank to the Appeal.

Our restoration appeal has raised over £575,000 since 1990. These funds have been used for a large number of projects such as restoration of all the windows. In September 2010 restoration work on the final two windows and on a section of parapet commenced; this work will be completed by the end of 2010. Advantage is taken of the scheme to recover VAT on work on historic buildings.

Where now?

The appointment of a new Team Vicar will mark a new era in the life of the church in Lechlade. Some thoughts on growing the church locally are given below:

Key requirements

1. There are many from our congregation who wish to maintain the present core Sunday and Thursday services using Common Worship, BCP and choir. However, we are also aware of the need to think about the variety of worship offered and to experiment for the sake of outsiders who may find our present styles of liturgy unfamiliar and strange.
2. Enhance outreach and mission to the wider community and the unchurched especially children, young people and young adults e.g. through school, youth services and 'alternative' worship etc.
3. Maintain and enhance pastoral care for all.
4. Promote Christian spirituality, faith and fellowship at home and in church
5. Support the school and develop outreach/mission in the school with enthusiasm.
6. Deepen personal prayer and Bible study.

Other needs

1. Maintain vibrancy and enthusiasm of children's work and family worship.
2. Enhance the personal spiritual growth of parishioners e.g. through study, healing and prayer ministry as well as the need to support Christians in their secular occupations, where many spend a very considerable chunk of their lives.
3. Maintain and develop the church's link with those outside the church in the town so the church is considered by the population at large to be at the core of the community.
4. Develop interest, understanding and prayer for the World Church.
5. Maintain financial stability.
6. Develop Deanery Team and ecumenical links.
7. Further engagement with the civic side of the town.

What we are looking for in our new Incumbent

1 Timothy, chapter 3, verses 2-4 provides a sound standard. With specific reference to the benefice of Lechlade, we seek:

Leadership

The benefice seeks a leader with vision and drive, who sees possibilities for the future of the church in Lechlade and in the Fairford Deanery, whilst valuing existing ministries. This leader should be able to delegate effectively, supporting from behind as well as leading from the front, to work collaboratively, to facilitate and enable whilst encouraging the development and use of the gifts and abilities of all.

Spiritual Life

The new incumbent should have a faith rooted in prayer and in the Bible, be spirit-inspired and have a personal passion for Jesus Christ. The incumbent will recognise their calling to personal holiness and godly service.

Effective Communicator

Effective communication is essential both to spread their faith and to manage putting that faith into effective action. They will support the existing team to encourage those within the church to communicate the

Christian message across the wider community. An able Bible-based preacher is highly desirable as this is a key means of revealing God's love for all.

Children, Young People, and Young Families

The incumbent will need the ability to engage with all age ranges – in particular – children, young people, and young families and should possess the necessary gifts to bring them to genuine and lasting faith and to the heart of our church family. The new incumbent will need to foster and develop links with schools and to work with the Deanery Youth Worker.

Ministry

We seek an incumbent with a commitment to Bible-based teaching of those within the church, and to spreading God's word to those outside the church and making disciples of all by active engagement with the wider community. They will need to guide and support those who provide pastoral care.

Personality

The benefice seeks a person who is approachable, engaging, and enthusiastic. With a multitude of opportunities, our new incumbent will need discernment, resilience and integrity.

Church Tradition

The benefice seeks someone who will joyously serve across the existing wide spectrum of worship styles and be comfortable leading and supporting other forms of worship which may also be required to continue to address contemporary needs. Conscious of the contemporary realities of society to which the church needs to respond, the benefice seeks someone who will draw on the best of Anglican traditions of worship, in the service of God's reign and to his glory.

Further information

We suggest the following websites as useful sources of information to supplement the contents of this Parish Profile:

St Lawrence Church - <http://www.stlawrencelechlade.org.uk/>

Choir - www.stlawrencechoir.org.uk/Choir/

Gloucester Diocese - <http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/>

St Lawrence School - <http://www.st-lawrence.ik.org/>

Farmor's School - <http://www.farmors.gloucs.sch.uk/>

Lechlade Town Council - <http://www.lechladeonthames.co.uk/>

Lechlade History Society - <http://www.lechladehistory.co.uk/>