

CONTACTS

For most queries regarding services, weddings, baptisms, requesting a pastoral visit, etc:

Vicar: Rev'd Christopher Bryan 252262
Assistant Curate: Jean Brown 01285 712503

'@ the Ark' – our popular equivalent to the Sunday School:
Tessa Cobb 253100

Little Lights (Monday morning toddler group)
Kathy Newton 252543

For study and fellowship groups, adult education, etc:
David Bainbridge 250347

Hire of rooms in the Church Cottage, suitable for small groups
Jean Madge 01793 766694

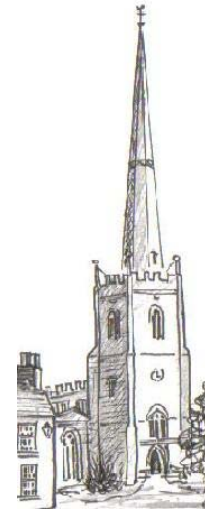
Choir	Rachel Bath	253893
Bell Ringing	Jenny Smith	250117
Mothers' Union	Kathy Newton	252543
Youth Group	Sandy Gear	252745

Check out our website:
www.stlawrencelechlade.org.uk

Are you the kind of person who has questions? Do you wonder what Christians really believe? Or why? This Autumn we will be repeating our tried and tested '**Foundations Course**'. It is designed to give a clear account of the basics of what Christians believe, and create discussion. Suitable for people of faith or none, we are inviting anyone who is curious to contact the Vicar on 252262.

in - touch

News from St Lawrence Church, Lechlade



How many times in the past few weeks have we heard the plaintive cry 'I didn't break any rule!?' As the revelations about MPs' expenses pile up: a duck pond here, a moat there, the defence seems to be that the rules allowed it. We may well question the wisdom of a system in which those who benefit from the guidelines also make them.

Going rather deeper, the whole scandal illustrates the difference between the letter of the law, and its spirit. The rules on expenses were designed to recognise the legitimate fact that MPs work both in a constituency and in Westminster, and need to be able to live in both places. If those places are some distance apart, claiming help with a home seems fair enough. Where the letter of the law has been used to buy luxuries, to pay for petty subsistence that would have been incurred anyway, or as an opportunity for property speculation, then the law's spirit has been broken.

The distinction between the spirit and the letter of the law was a common theme in Jesus' teaching. He criticised those who stuck rigidly to religious rules, but lacked love in their dealings with others. 'Do not murder' said the commandment. Jesus went deeper, and looked at the heart. He said that you have broken that commandment if you harbour violence or angry thoughts (Matthew 5:21-22).

Jesus knew that humans would find ways round rules. He knew that rules could only regulate, they could never create a truly just society. So Jesus steered his disciples away from legalism towards love. 'Love your neighbour as yourself' he said, and through the parable of the Good Samaritan taught us that our neighbour is anyone.

Imagine what the world could be like if we loved one another as Jesus showed us! If we loved one another there would be no more robbing the taxpayer, no more wastage of others' resources. We would be considerate, generous and caring. Jesus' vision of love amongst his disciples would create a much better world!

Rev'd Christopher Bryan

Summer 2009

EXTENDED SERVICES WORKER

SERVICES AT ST LAWRENCE

Forthcoming special services and events:

Saturday 6 June	4.30pm	Ordination of Rev'd Jean Brown at Gloucester Cathedral
Friday 12 June	12.00noon	Serenade and Sandwiches lunchtime recital
Sunday 14 June	10.00am	Together at Ten family service
Saturday 20 June	7.30pm	Cantores Choir at St Lawrence Church
Sunday 28 June	7.45pm	Youth Service
Friday 3 July	4.30pm	Evening Prayer with Archdeacon Hedley Ringrose. All welcome.
Sunday 12 July	10.00am	Together at Ten family service
Sunday 9 August	10.00am	St Lawrence Patronal Festival

Dates for the future in aid of St Lawrence Restoration Appeal	
Monday 9 November	The Grand Curry Night
Saturday 12 December	Lechlade Christmas Concert

Regular services:

On Sundays:

8.00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am	Parish Communion (Common Worship)
6.00pm	Choral Evensong

On the second Sunday of the month:

8.00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
10.00am	Together at Ten (Family Service for all ages)
6.00pm	Sung Eucharist

Every Thursday:

10.00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
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Other times:

8.30am, Mon, Wed - Fri	Morning Prayer
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I am Joanne Roberts, the Extended Services Worker, and I have been working with the schools in the Fairford area since January. According to the Government, all schools by 2010 have to offer extended services, which include support for parents, after school clubs, before school activities and events in the school holidays. I have been employed by the Fairford Cluster to liaise with the churches in the area and to help run and support these extended services using volunteers where possible. I have visited all the schools in our Deanery and have been working specifically with a few of the schools.



In Lechlade I have:

- helped to publicise and support a Parenting group run by Mother's Union Members in Lechlade and been on a parenting conference in Gloucester
- supported @theArk with their planning and recent Workshops.

In Fairford, I have:

- been involved in Messy Space each month in Fairford: parents and children working together making things and being creative
- run a half term workshop called Animal Mania, where we played games, sang songs, listened to stories, as well as doing crafts
- run an after-school session playing board games with a mixed age group on a Thursday
- run a Christian workshop 10-1:00 on Maundy Thursday focusing on Holy Week leading up to Easter, which included three workshops; on drama, singing and crafts. The majority of the children stayed for lunch with their parents.

In Kempsford, I have:

- assisted in setting up a Breakfast Club for a week's trial in March.

Future projects include:

- Fairford - 3 July 10.30 to 12.30 - Coffee Morning
 - Lechlade - 29 July 9.30 to 12.30 Animal Mania
 - Fairford - 18 to 20 August - Up, up, up and away
- LOOK OUT FOR MORE DETAILS!

Please pray for all these events and for all children's work in the Fairford Deanery, especially our links with the schools. If anyone would like to help with any of these events please contact Joanne Roberts at 07881 903045 or joannesw@hotmail.co.uk