

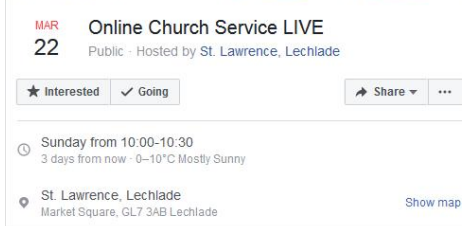
Virus Update

19th March 2020

Dear Friends,

In these uncertain times many are understandably anxious and concerned about the future- their personal health, their family's safety, if their job or small business is under threat. As a church family we will have to be inventive and imaginative in how we live as Christians and how we share our faith in Christ with others. We need to show that we are not people without hope; we are not people without a purpose and meaning in life. We hold fast to the promises of God, in the face of rapidly changing conditions and in the knowledge that many in our society are finding life very hard to cope with.

Online services LIVE



Church life continues, though in a very different way without our regular meeting together physically in services. We are experimenting with online technology and hope to broadcast on Facebook Live a short act of worship for Mothering Sunday, 22 March, at 10am. We will be using our church Facebook page, but *you do not need any new software or a Facebook account to view the live video.* The live video will (hopefully) start about 9:55am and you may need to refresh your browser to see the new video.

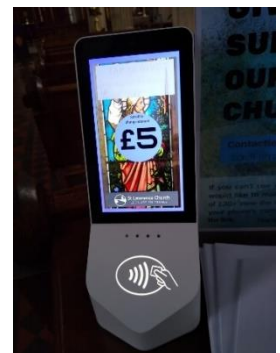
Please do give it a try and we will meet together virtually! Any feedback after the event is most welcome, as there will inevitably be a few glitches as we try this for the first time!

Follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stlawrencelechlade/videos/2865502923538660/>

Giving

We have recently produced two new leaflets dealing with our church finances (you can read them here: <https://www.stlawrencelechlade.org.uk/restoration-and-reordering/downloads/>). Already, even before the coronavirus outbreak, we were feeling the pinch and wanted to publicise the fact that we really do need to increase our income. This concern is even more acute, now that our cash collections during regular services have been stopped. Please do prayerfully consider increasing your planned giving, or start giving regularly and proportionately for the first time. If you are a member of the Parish Giving Scheme, please consider increasing the regular amount you give and ensure you have selected the option to automatically increase your giving in line with inflation, thus ensuring that in real terms your gift is not reducing each year. Our church building remains open and you are most welcome to give cash (in the wall safe or the barrel), OR through our contactless giving unit.



Keep in touch

It has never been more important that we keep in regular touch with each, sharing our concerns, prayer requests, practical needs, fears and joys. I know this already happens in a multitude of different ways, but we need to be especially aware of those who are self-isolating, and those who are vulnerable or isolated. A quick phone call, email, or even a traditional letter would be most welcome, even if physical contact is impossible. Some may need groceries, prescriptions collected, letters posted, or just some friendly contact



or a chat. Please do make use of the ChurchSuite computer programme and app, or use the information in the printed Parish Directory. You can phone the Parish Office (01367 358653) at any time, as messages are regularly checked.



If you would like someone to pray for you, or with you, in confidence, please use a new email address – prayer@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk This will only be seen by the Vicar and Denver Keegan, who co-ordinates our Prayer Triplets network at St. Lawrence Church. We would love to journey with you in prayer.

Finally... Let's continue to encourage and strengthen one another in these difficult days. I have been encouraged by these wonderful words from Psalm 130 and I hope they help you too:

Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD; Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

... I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

Every blessing to you in Jesus Christ's name,

Revd Andrew Cinnamond

Vicar – St. Lawrence, Lechlade