

Virus Update

24th March 2020

Dear Friends,

It seems that every day things are getting more and more unreal. Despite the lovely sunny weather, our nation is facing up to more and more restrictions on leaving the house and any social gatherings. Pressure is beginning to build on an already stretched National Health Service and unheard-of economic measures have had to be taken by our government. It is a comfort to know that God is still in control and Christ is still on the throne, ruling and reigning. Yes, we are citizens of heaven (as our sermon series in 1 Peter has been reminding us), but we are also to be responsible citizens of this earthly kingdom that we find ourselves in. We are to be law-abiding citizens and encouraging others to follow the guidelines for the sake of everyone.



Online services

During this painful season of churches closed and most people confined to their homes, you are most welcome to join us for an online and live act of worship. It will either be from the church, or more likely from the vicarage. *You do not need any new software or have to join Facebook.* We hope to have an order of service available on the website and on Facebook each week so you can join in with us. Many have said how much they appreciated the service and there is a sense of fellowship and knowing that we are still part of the body of Christ in this part of the world.



Do join us 10am every Sunday at

www.facebook.com/stlawrencelechlade/videos

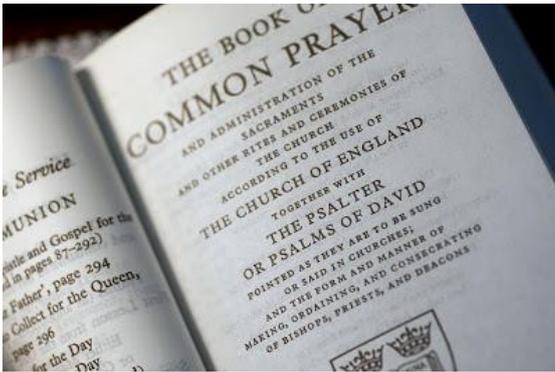
We would love it if people emailed or telephoned with their messages or prayers for themselves and others. We will write them on a tag and tie them to the cross as part of a service – a tangible reminder that God's people are to care for one another and to bring every request to our Father in Heaven.



Book of Common Prayer

I know that many of us love and appreciate the regular use of the Book of Common Prayer from 1662. It would be hard to record BCP services live each week, but I have recorded a service of Holy Communion in the side chapel in the church using the readings and collect for the 4th Sunday of Lent. Please do visit the video link above and click on the video called 'Book of Common Prayer (1662) – Holy Communion'.

(It is about 31 minutes long and I apologise, but for some odd reason it cuts off just before the final blessing! Your vicar is still learning the technical art of video editing.)



Local Helpline



At this moment the UK is in lock-down mode with people only to leave their houses when really necessary. We must therefore ensure that the isolated and vulnerable people in our community are getting the help they need, whether it is help with collecting prescriptions, getting groceries or transport for medical appointments. Sometimes what is needed is reassurance, a telephone call and simply that somebody knows and cares about you. If you can volunteer to help OR know someone who needs help, please phone this local helpline telephone number. You will be asked to leave a message and local volunteers will reply to you.

THE NUMBER IS: 01367 248213 – please share it widely around Lechlade!

Growing in a time of crisis

Let's use this time at home wisely. Grow and deepen your faith through prayer and the reading of God's Word. There are so many great resources to choose from. Some examples:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/>

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/melissa-kruger/my-favorite-bible-in-a-year-reading-plan-2/>



Do keep in touch by email (Andrew_cinnamond@hotmail.com) or telephone (01367 253651). Like us on Facebook or visit our website (www.stlawrencelechlade.org.uk) for further updates.

Every blessing to you in Jesus Christ's name,

Revd Andrew Cinnamond

Vicar – St. Lawrence, Lechlade