

Dear friends,

It has been good to hear from many of you during the week. I know it has been challenging being in isolation and distancing ourselves from others. I have heard many stories of local people using their imagination and ingenuity in helping others and building strong community links - encouraging others in the weekly (Thursday 8pm) clap for the NHS, selling seedlings over their garden wall, setting up street WhatsApp groups, buying a few extra items in the supermarket for the Foodbank, co-ordinating grocery shopping with vulnerable neighbours etc. etc. Perhaps this dreadful virus is forcing us to rethink what it means to live together and to be truly generous, rather than the default of selfishness. I am glad that the church in our towns and villages is central to that pondering about what life is really about. It was good to see the church floodlights in Lechlade going blue this week in gratitude to our health workers. It is good to see the church behind the Foodbank efforts.



St. Lawrence Church

Online services

It is also encouraging that many people are watching our online services, many more than would normally attend our physical worship services. The Gospel is Good News, whether you are there in person, or watching (or listening) online. You can watch any of our video recordings on the church Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/stlawrencelechlade/videos



Easter Day service from the Vicarage

NB. You do not need a Facebook account to watch. Users of Apple/iPad devices seem to have more trouble than most in watching. Please do persevere and you may want to try a different browser (eg. Firefox) rather than the default Safari.

Going back...

We all wonder when things will go back to 'normal', but this present crisis may leave permanent marks: Some will have lost loved ones, some will have to find a new job, some will change habits of exercise or commit to shopping more locally. As a church family we will also have learned new lessons: how to harness technology for the good (even though it is way out of our comfort zone); the importance of community in an often disconnected world; remembering that we are all involved in ministry - not just the vicar.



It would be good to continue sharing our services online and reaching out to others who would not normally attend our services for whatever reason.

In order to do this, we will need some people to volunteer to operate the camera and make sure the broadband is working as it should.

If you could help in this way, please do let me know. You do not need to be an IT whizz kid! If you can read this email, you can work it out...

Please do continue to keep in touch! Orders of service are changed weekly on our website. You can also continue your church giving by putting an envelope through the Vicarage letterbox.

Yours in Christ's name and for His Kingdom,

Revd Andrew Cinnamond

Vicar – St. Lawrence Lechlade, St Andrew's Eastleach, St Peter's Southrop