

Dear all,

I hope and pray that you are managing with all the changes brought about by the recent crisis. It is a time of upheaval and adjustment, and perhaps accompanied by some anxiety and uncertainty, too. Many things have been cancelled and postponed. Our APCM has now been postponed until the autumn and I have been speaking to anxious couples who were hoping to get married in our parishes this summer! We have to be flexible, patient and understanding with one another. We also have to obey the instructions from our leaders, and to pray for them, as we seek as a nation to slow down the spread of this virus.

We are an Easter people and therefore we have a hope that, as the hymn says, is 'steadfast and certain'. We will be celebrating Easter at home this year, so let's make the most of it - worshipping in new ways, reading new things, praying in deeper conviction and love as the disciples of Jesus Christ.

Video Series

It is important, even though we cannot attend services, that we still want to grow in our faith and feed ourselves with the word of God. We have started a new little video series called 'A New Vision' looking at some of the Psalms. I would love to hear your comments and perhaps suggestions of future Psalms to cover. You can make comments via the church Facebook page. The video for Psalm 27 was shot in the bell tower and you can enjoy the vicar being interrupted by the bells chiming for 12 midday!

LINK: www.facebook.com/stlawrencelechlade/videos



St. Lawrence, Lechlade: A NEW VISION - Psalm 27...
Listen in to this wonderful Psalm of confidence and assurance in God. You can also enjoy the bells interrupting me to chime for 12 midday!

Sunday Worship

Every Sunday at 10am we hope to have a live act of worship. This week for Palm Sunday it will be broadcast from the vicarage and there will be something for the children as well. We have palm crosses available from a box outside the vicarage - please do help yourself on your daily exercise walk/run, and maybe get one for a neighbour as well! You can wave them during our live Palm Sunday service! We hope to have some special online services for Holy Week, but there are lots of great resources out there on the internet to feed our hearts and minds.

Some resources for Easter at home:

NB. Tewkesbury Abbey have prepared helpful, traditional materials for Holy Week at home

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vPPVccE02IffsLoutCw42VwsQalAityr/view>

Virginia Theological Seminary

<https://buildfaith.org/holy-week-at-home-family-practices-for-the-triduum/>

St. Nicholas Centre

<https://www.stnicholascenter.org/how-to-celebrate/resources/church-year/holy-week>

Engage Worship, more contemporary ideas for worship over Easter

<https://www.engageworship.org/articles/easter-and-holy-week-streaming-and-home-worship>

Some ideas for families from Lichfield Diocese:

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/latest-coronavirus-information/holy-week-easter-resources/>

I know some of you have had technical problems viewing our live services. Please do persevere! Do get back to me if you still cannot get connected. Live services are also recorded for you to watch later.

You can find the latest Order of Service on our church website:

LINK: <https://www.stlawrencelechlade.org.uk/coronavirus-church/>



Foodbank

I am pleased to say that we now have new arrangements for donations to our local Food Bank. You can leave items in the box in Lynwood's café in the Market Place in Lechlade, 8am - 2pm. It will be emptied regularly and taken to the Food Bank warehouse for distribution. Items especially requested:

- long life fruit juice and milk
- sugar
- instant coffee
- tinned fruit/ veg/ tomatoes/ potatoes
- tinned meat/ puddings
- biscuits
- toiletries



Caring for one another

Thank you for all you are doing to share the love of God and to care for others in our local community. Thank you for the phone calls and emails of concern. Thank you for collecting prescriptions and getting groceries for the house-bound.

If you hear of local hardship, please remember that there are local charities out there (Clementson Fund for all three parishes and Lechlade Parochial Charities) with funds to help take the strain - do contact me and see if we can help.

Please do remember the local Lechlade helpline for those need help and for those who can offer help.

It is **01367 248213** – please do it pass round. It is backed by lots of local volunteer groups.

I am sorry to say that Molly Kent recently passed away on 29th March. There will be a private committal and a later thanksgiving service when the present restrictions have been lifted. Please pray for her daughter Linda and other members of the family at this difficult time.

We continue to pray for one another, bearing each other's burdens. There is a special confidential email address you can use for prayer requests. Myself and Denver Keegan promise to pray through all requests made this way – prayer@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk



Giving to the church

In these strange times it may seem odd to consider our giving to the church, but we are under real financial pressure at the moment. We no longer receive income from the collections at each service or the money that is put in the wall safe in the church or via the contactless giving terminal.

Most of us are confined to our homes at the moment and we may find we are actually not spending as much as normal on things like eating out, coffees, going to the gym or on petrol and transport costs. Why not consider giving some of those savings to the church?

-You may like to consider giving online directly into the parish bank account:

Sort code: 20-84-61, Account: 80600555

-You can also put cheques or cash securely into an envelope and post it through the door of the Vicarage in Sherborne Street and I will ensure that David Williams the PCC Treasurer gets it safely.

The regular giving of church members is essential to the life and ministry of the local church. Please do prayerfully consider your giving so that our regular ministry can continue to happen.



Every blessing in Christ's name,

Andrew Cinnamond

Vicar – St. Lawrence, Lechlade