

Dear all,

This present lock-down has been a reminder to us that church buildings are nice, but they are not essential in the Christian life. Millions of Christians around the world know nothing of having a permanent church building, as they are part of a network of house churches where the home is the place where worship and teaching and outreach happen. We are still exploring different ways of being Christian disciples in fellowship together!

It has been encouraging to hear many stories of how people have been joining in as participants (not viewers) of our online services and also of our midweek groups for prayer and Bible study. I am also aware of a multitude of acts of caring and practical concern for those around us. This letter is just to summarise some of the things going on!

Sunday services

Join us live from the Vicarage, 10am every Sunday, on our church FACEBOOK page- link below. You do not need a Facebook account! On this page there are also recordings of previous services and teaching videos on the Psalms.

LINKS

[Click here for live and recorded services](#)

[Click here for orders of service](#)



Midweek Groups:

Please join us online via ZOOM software- you may need to download some software to your computer. For security reasons we are not making public the login details- *please see previous email with links OR contact the vicar.*

1. Prayer Meeting- 10am every Wednesday

An opportunity to join with others online to pray for ourselves, our nation and the wider world.

2. Bible Study groups, looking at Philipians- 7:30pm every Thursday

We meet all together online to sing, pray and watch a video, then split into smaller online groups for discussion.



Helping Others:

1. **Foodbank** – please continue to give generously towards this vital ministry. Collection point is in Lynwood's Café.

2. **Helpline** – 01367 248213. A local helpline for those who need help *and* for those who can offer help.

3. **Helping the homeless** – please read this message from Cotswold District Council:

I work in the Housing and Homelessness Team at Cotswold District Council. We are currently placing all homeless people in Temporary Accommodation however, we have also been able to move some people into more permanent accommodation. The problem we are experiencing is that most of them have nothing and are going into unfurnished properties. Charity shops are closed along with most other shops and outlets so providing the bare basics for them is extremely difficult. Observing social distancing I am

asking for assistance from the wider community for basic items. I would be able to arrange pick up for large items and I can collect smaller items myself if they are left outside at a pre-arranged time. Items required: Single Bed, Mattress, Bedding, Cutlery, Crockery, Chair, Table, Sofa, Kettle and generally the most basic necessities.

I work Monday – Wednesday, however, I will be checking emails during this time Thursday / Friday. My email address is kim.bailey@cotswold.gov.uk and number is: 01285 623000 – if I am unavailable a message can be left for me to pick up.

Kind regards, Kim Bailey (Housing Assessment Officer)



Parish Giving

As previously mentioned, the parish is feeling the pinch financially due to collections not happening during services and many households facing financial uncertainty due to workers being put on furlough and a lot of the economy simply not operating. Please do consider your giving to the church during these difficult times. (For Southrop and Eastleach, please contact Charles Llewellyn or Roger Sutcliffe respectively). Some ways to give:

- envelope through the Vicarage door in Sherborne Street
- through the excellent Parish Giving Scheme (see David Williams our PCC Treasurer, contact via the Parish Office email)
- online transfer directly into the church bank account
- NEW online giving facility on the parish website: [click here](#)

Finally...

This crisis will end. There is hope. We can rest secure in the love of Jesus Christ, who gave up everything for us and overcame sin and death. Let's persevere and resolve to use our time wisely. Why not commit to grow as a disciple through regular Bible reading and prayer? These websites offer useful resources to help us on our spiritual journey:

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

<https://www.bethinking.org/>

<https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/all/>

<https://www.stlawrencelechlade.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Online-Christian-Resources.pdf>

Every blessing in Christ's name,

Andrew Cinnamond

Vicar – St. Lawrence Lechlade, St Andrew's Eastleach, St Peter's Southrop (01367 253651)