

Vicar's Letter – 28th January 2022

Dear friends,

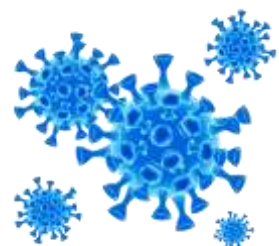
It is hard to believe that January is nearly over and already our focus as a church family moves from Epiphany towards Lent and Easter. With COVID restrictions relaxing across the UK it is difficult to know how exactly the local church should respond. We need to steer a steady and gracious path between enjoying new-found freedoms and at the same time respecting the wishes of those who are much more reticent and cautious about public worship and mixing freely with others. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) and vicar are constantly monitoring official guidance from the national Church of England and the Diocese of Gloucester. We want to give everyone confidence that we are meeting as safely as we can.



At the moment our present guidelines stay in place to minimise risk of infection and to ensure the safety of those who do wish to meet together in person. We will inform the church family and wider community as soon as possible when we change those guidelines.

Present guidelines in place:

- We encourage people to wear masks in church, including when they are singing.
- We will keep the south aisle (on the right as you enter the church building) for those who wish to maintain social distancing and not sing.
- No refreshments served as yet after the 10am service.
- No common cup at Holy Communion.
- Ventilated church (don't forget to wrap up warmly!)
- Use of hand sanitiser is recommended.





Lent 2022

Soon we will come into the season of Lent, a time of spiritual self-examination and a special focus of committing ourselves to God, turning away from things that hinder us and hold us back. Here are some Lenten highlights:

Shrove Tuesday (1 March) – Pancake Quiz in the church
(£5 per team, including glass of wine and pancakes. Max. 5 per team).



Ash Wednesday (2 March) – 7:30pm Holy Communion service with imposition of ashes.

Lent Groups (week beginning Mon 7 March, various groups) – using resources from LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity). Everyone is very welcome to join in our ecumenical groups. The Lent Groups this year will tie-in with our Bible teaching on Sundays – ‘Frontline Sundays’



Imagine what would happen if every Christian looked around at the people they spend their days with and asked God: how do you want me to be good news to the people here today?

- our Lent Groups will host a special evening service and reflection: 7:30pm, Mon 11th April (all welcome)

NEWS

Ram & Keshari Prasad

We had a wonderful time welcoming Ram and Keshari to St. Lawrence church on Sunday 23rd January and hearing about their ministry in Rochdale after so many years serving in Nepal. If you would like to support them financially as individuals, as opposed to our ongoing support for the Mission Commission of Nepal, please do speak to Richard Bell our churchwarden.

Support Ram & Keshari



‘Open Doors’ coffee morning

Sadly, because of covid, this event scheduled to be at Lechlade Baptist Church on Friday 28th January has been postponed to a later date. ‘Open Doors’ are a great organisation that seek to help the Persecuted Church around the world. For more details, including their annual World Watch materials, see their website: www.opendoorsuk.org



'Inspire' project

Our *'Inspire' re-ordering project* continues after a very successful period of consultation, when many people attended presentations, asked questions, and gave feedback. We are very pleased that an initial phase, the relaying of the cobbles on Shelley's Walk, has progressed well and works have been applied for. Please look out for further 'Inspire' newsletters giving details of the project.



St. Andrew's, Eastleach – 5pm, Sunday 30th January

Choral Evensong for Candlemas

Everyone is very welcome to this traditional service using the Book of Common Prayer to celebrate Candlemas, which is also known as the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. The service will be led by the choir of St. Lawrence Church, who will be on tour in our lovely sister church in Eastleach!



Yours in Christ's name,

Andrew Cinnamond

Vicar- St. Lawrence, Lechlade