



St Lawrence Church

LECHLADE-ON-THAMES

Parish Newsletter

8 September 2022

Church looking different

The church looked very different during our holiday club this year. This was due to the fact that we decorated the building to look like a jungle AND because our pews are enjoying a well-earned holiday. Temporary individual seating and round tables made for a much more flexible space. A huge 'thank you' to all those who volunteered to help out over the week.



Harvest

Hard to believe that harvest has come round so quickly, but it is *this Sunday, 11th September*. It is always good to be reminded of where our food comes from, who produces it, and to be thankful to God that we have enough to eat.



We are encouraged this year to give generously to Swindon Food Bank, who particularly ask this year for:

- *small bags of sugar*
- *coffee*
- *small tins of fruit and potatoes*

(No cereals or pasta are needed currently as good stocks are held)

Please do give generously at our harvest service.



'Seeds of Faith'

We are nearly there! After nearly 18 months of planning our parish mission week is just around the corner. As a church family we want to take seriously the words of Jesus in the so-called 'Great Commission' at the end of Matthew's Gospel:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



At the back of church is a green table with lots of information about 'Seeds of Faith', including the leaflet delivered around the parish and postcard invitations to all the different events and services. Think of coming along yourself to events and bringing a friend.

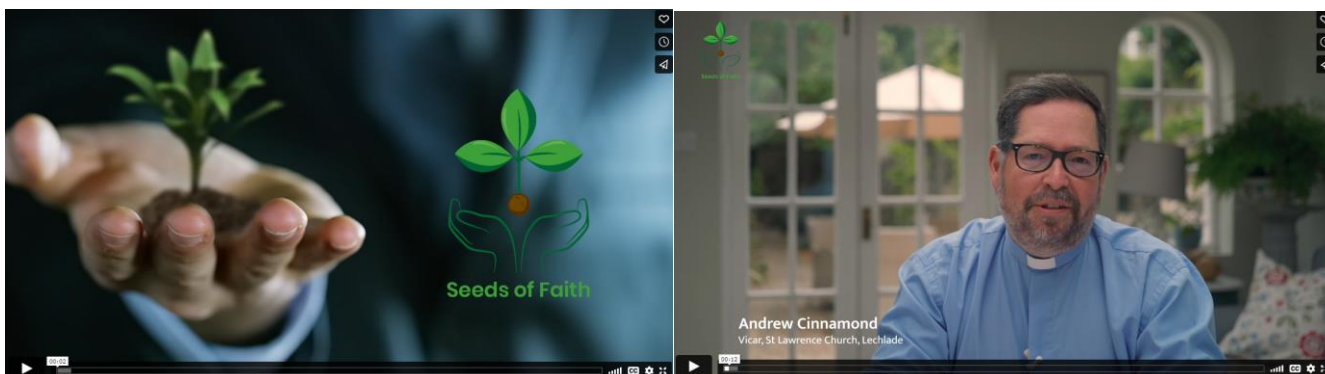
Please visit the table and take as many invitations as you like to give to friends, family and neighbours!



For all of us, it is quite a scary prospect to talk openly about our Christian faith and to invite people along to an event or service to find out more about the Gospel for themselves. We need God to help us - with being sensitive and finding the right opportunity and the right words.



A special video has been professionally produced, which features stories from seven local people telling how they came to faith in Christ. God often uses personal stories to let people really consider what life is all about. We hope this video will be shared widely on social media and with friends and neighbours. See our Facebook page or parish website.



In all of our mission efforts, we can do nothing without God moving in people's lives and allowing them to see the spiritual realities of life and eternity – only God can do that! We are having a special evening of prayer **in church** on Monday 12th September (details below) with Roger Simpson, encouraging us as a whole church family, whatever Sunday service you normally attend, to get behind this great opportunity for outreach in our local community.

Bring a pudding along, be encouraged, and pray that we will see God moving powerfully among us.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Puddings & prayer

*7:30pm, Mon 12th September
with Roger Simpson*



St. Lawrence Choir

Our Director of Music, Rachel Bath, shares some news about our choir:

RSCM Bath Residential Course: Two of our choristers, Annabelle and Tia have enjoyed attending the RSCM residential course in Bath this summer, thanks to the Helen Arnold Memorial fund and a grant from the Educational charity, for which we are extremely grateful. They had a fantastic week, culminating in singing services in Bath Abbey, and both came away with glowing reports.

Bishops Award exam success: Whilst at the Bath course, Tia was able to take her long overdue Bishops Award exam (lack of examiners, examination opportunities in our area and Covid made this impossible until now). I am delighted she passed this exam with a magnificent 'Highly Commended' result. She will be presented with her award in Church this Sunday.

Chorister Leavers Service: We will formally thank Tia and Annabelle for their time as choristers here at St Lawrence at their Leavers Service this Sunday 11th September at 5pm, where we will perform music chosen by the choristers themselves. They have given over 22 years of service between them, and supported the choir in all its activities, including Cathedral visits, Diocesan events, Restoration Appeal Christmas concerts and even narrating the Crib Service! We are extremely grateful for all they have done, and wish them well as they leave for University: Tia will be studying History at Southampton University and Annabelle Medicine at Magdalen College, Oxford. There will be a short presentation after this service. Please come along and join us.



And finally...

Let's be thankful to God that there is lots going on in St. Lawrence Church. I am always humbled at the way God has gifted so many people in our church family, who serve and minister in a whole host of different ways, some visible, some not. But we are not an exclusive club. We exist to worship and glorify God *and* to share that extraordinarily Good News with others. Archbishop William Temple once famously said, 'The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members'. We have some great opportunities coming up to share our Christian faith with others. It will be the best news that people will have heard, and don't we desperately need good news in our world today?

Yours, in Christ's name,



Andrew Cinnamond

Vicar