



# St Lawrence Church

LECHLADE-ON-THAMES



Lechlade St Lawrence PCC

Version 1

May 2023

## **Supporting document to the faculty submission in response to the DAC request dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

*The DAC requested that before the June meeting of the Committee, the PCC submits a concise statement explaining how different parts of the church would be used following the reordering, and how many different groups have committed to using them or are expected to use them.*

*This short paper is in response to this request. It expands on Table 4.2 of the Statement of Need.*

Our church is growing. Post-covid, the number of people worshipping in our four services has grown steadily, and we continue to attract new worshippers to our church family, whether the ladies in retirement who recently came to faith and were confirmed, or the young families who have begun to worship with us over the last two years. We see this as fulfilling the diocesan LIFE vision, especially where it calls us to ‘nurture everyday disciples’ and ‘excite young people to explore and grow in faith.’<sup>1</sup> To continue doing this, we need a building that supports our current activities and gives greater scope for new ones. Accordingly, this outline of activities includes those already taking place, and those to which we aspire, but which we cannot properly offer with our current buildings.

Again, with reference to the LIFE vision, we cannot ‘encourage new and courageous ways of worshipping...which connect with more people’ without a building that is fit for doing things in new ways.<sup>2</sup> A building without proper heating, toilets, accessibility, lighting, or audio-visual facilities cannot ‘connect with more people’ in the mid-twenty-first century or beyond.

We also seek to take a full part in the life of the South Cotswolds Team, and the Cirencester Deanery. Our facilities would benefit not only our parish, but both these wider groupings, as we are asked to work more closely and interconnectedly across Team and Deanery as part of the new Strategic Plans. We ask the Diocese to back us in doing what the Diocese asks of us.

The following tables show:

Current regular services and events    page 3

Frequent services and events            page 4

Future community and church events page 5

The layout drawings 1922-27A, 28 and 29 prepared by Chedburn Codd (on the faculty portal) show how the nave can be configured for worship, concerts, meetings, meals and other activities using seating and tables. These arrangements have been tested when the pews were temporarily removed and replaced by chairs for the 2022 Mission, shown in Annex 1.

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<sup>1</sup> Diocese of Gloucester, ‘Life Together’ vision, <https://gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/our-vision/#:~:text=five%20spotlight%20commitments-.With%20the%20spotlight%20now%20shining%20on%20these%20five%20LIFE%20vision,which%20connect%20with%20more%20people> accessed 23/05/23.

<sup>2</sup> ‘Life Together’ vision.

**Current regular services and events**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nave and chancel	Choir robing (gallery)			Little Lights (infants/ toddlers)			
	10am Worship		Julian group				
	5pm Evensong/ Holy Communion	Ladies' bible study (up to three groups)	Youth group	Mothers Union pm		Choir practice	Flower arranging
Blaise (south) chapel	8.00 am Holy Communion Pastoral meeting	Private prayer	Private prayer	Private prayer	10.00 am Holy Communion	Private prayer	
Meeting rooms	Sunday school groups	Ladies' bible study (up to three groups)	Julian Group  Youth group	9am informal prayer Little Lights (infants/ toddlers) PCC meetings			
Bell ringing chamber	Bell ringing prior to the 10am service Sunday school groups					Bell ringing practice	
Kitchen	Refreshments after services	Refreshments	Refreshments	Refreshments			
Vestry/ Office	Vestry	Office	Office			Office	

We should add seasonal events such as Advent services, Christmas services (church and school). Ash Wednesday and Lent Groups, Easter and Pentecost.

We do not have a church hall.

**Frequent services and events**

	Frequency	Area	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
Ladies' breakfast	Bi-monthly	N, K							
St Lawrence school services (c300)	monthly	N							
World mission meetings	quarterly	N, K							
Concerts	monthly	N, M, K							
Weddings		N							
Funerals		N, K							
Prayer groups		M							
Meals/ events in church	Monthly	N, M, K							
PCC and management meetings	Regular	M							
Children's holiday club	seasonal	N, K							
Community initiative 'warm spaces'		N, K							
Christmas tree lights festival	annual	N, K							
Remembrance Sunday	annual	N, M							
Mid-week prayer meetings – Mothers Union, Deanery	Ad-hoc	N, M, K							

N= Nave and Chancel, M = meeting rooms, K = kitchen

Church events		School events		Community		External			
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**Future community and church events**

	Frequency	Area	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
Working 4 wellbeing activities with elderly – lego, scrabble ...	winter	M, K							
Bereavement counselling	As required	M							
Increased frequency of concerts	As required	N< M K							
Small group training and pastoral	As required								
Breakfast club	monthly	M							
Homework club	quarterly	M							
Funeral wakes	reactive	M, N, K							
Summer teas	summer	N, M K							
Christian training events	As required	N, M, K							
Deanery events and conferences	As required	N, M, K							
Increased primary school use	As required								
Community use	As required	N, M							

Church events		School events		Community		External			
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The ‘Little lights’ (infant and toddler group) is very successful and could be expanded to more days with the space available.

We can offer space for community use either for large events or small groups where space is not available in the Memorial Hall. Lechlade is a very active community with many groups now functioning and growing as all recover from COVID.

There is increasing demand for social support to the community which we need to respond to.

Concerts and events involving the community provide income which is an essential cash flow for maintaining the church.