



St Lawrence Jewry

August 2020 Newsletter

St Lawrence Jewry is the church on Guildhall Yard, dedicated to bringing the light of Christ to the City of London.

Dear Friends,

As more offices and public places are starting to open, we must remember that we are still not near overcoming this pandemic. This unprecedented time is still continuing and might take some time to come to normality. Although the rate of daily death in the UK is going down, the reproduction “R” rate across the UK is now going up. We urge everyone to stay home and not to travel unless absolutely necessary to further help stop the spread of this virus and avoid having a second peak like what is happening now in other EU countries. Please be sensible and follow the government’s guidelines on doing social distancing when in public and of wearing mask. We also urge everyone to pray for all our brave frontline workers (the doctors, nurses, hospital staff, drivers, grocers, pharmacists, police officers, etc) who are constantly risking their lives every day just to be able to help us survive this pandemic. Please also remember in your prayers those affected by the pandemic, especially those who are bereaved. We pray for everyone to stay calm, well and safe and to find comfort that God will lead us through this.

“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”
(Romans 8:31 NIVUK)

David has recorded a summer message for all of us. You can watch it through our [Youtube](#) channel or on our [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) posts.

Opening Times for the church

Our church will remain open for personal prayers only from Tuesday to Friday 2-4pm. David will be on holiday the entire August so only Katrina and Arnel will alternately man the church office which will only be on a per appointment basis only between 11.30am and 4pm. Please contact [Katrina](#) or [Arnel](#) if you want to book an appointment with them.

Other churches are open at different times across the City, please check their notice boards/website for details.

St Vedast Courtyard is also available for prayer all day Monday to Friday.

To keep our church Covid-safe, we ask everyone visiting us to follow this procedure:

1. Access to the church is from the south door on Gresham Street for the time being, due to a problem with the pavement near the west door.
2. For contact tracing purposes, you are requested to leave your contact details on the provided sheet by the entrance. This will be kept securely for 28 days and then destroyed.
3. As you enter the church, please use the hand sanitiser provided near the entrance door.
4. Please use only the end of each pews if you want to sit or pray. Pews are all marked up to where you can sit. Please be aware of other people around you.
5. Please refrain from touching any of the church fabric.
6. There will be leaflets available for people to take with them. Once you touch a leaflet, please do take it out with you.
7. No bibles will be available to the public at the moment. Please bring your own if you can. If you need one, then please contact us by [email](#) and we’ll provide you one to keep as your own.

8. Our coffee and toilet facilities will remain close to the public.
9. Our two chapels, Royal Marine Chapel and Commonwealth Chapel, will also remain close to the public.
10. The church office is open by appointment basis between 11.30am to 4pm. Please email [Katrina](#) if you want to make an appointment.

Services / Events

The annual Summer Music Festival in August is also cancelled this year. This is to ensure the safety of all people involved in them, not only the performers, but also the volunteers and audiences. If no further restriction is set by end of August, then we will resume the weekly Holy Communion Services on Wednesday 2nd September. All other services and events booked with us in September onwards are still on reviews, pending further announcement from the UK government if 'big gathering events' will already be allowed. Some of these services might happen via Zoom conference. Please watch this space or in our website/social media accounts for further announcement.

Music in the church

Catherine will be on leave too in August. Her rehearsals on the organ between 2-3pm on Tuesday most weeks to keep it in good working order will resume in September. Our weekly lunchtime recitals are still suspended until further notice.

Fabric

The Covid-19 situation has meant that the timing of the big restoration project will also be delayed. The design team are still working (they are on home working as well). The tender process is now active, and there has been a lot of interest. This is indicative of the way Covid 19 has affected the construction industry. We are not yet clear what the exact implications will be, but it likely that the work will not start for 3 to 4 months beyond the projected date of January 2021. We will keep everyone posted as more clarity appears.

Livery work

David's Chaplaincy work continues with the City of London Corporation and the Livery companies. It looks rather different, but he is staying in touch with key people in all the organisations and seeking to offer support where it is requested. Please continue to pray that these links are useful and that where pastoral care is offered, he is able to deliver.

He also had done a couple of Zoom services for Livery companies in July. This trend might continue with our future services if restriction for 'big gathering events' is not lifted.

Social Media

We now use our social media accounts to get in touch with our congregation. Please add our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts to your social media accounts, if you have any, so that we can keep in touch. Please subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel too. Apologies for missing David's mini-sermon for the past couple of weeks due to staff health issues. He posted a [summer video message](#) instead. Of course, you can still reach us through email or by phone 02076009478 if you need pastoral care or just need someone to chat to. Social media is all new to us so please be patient with us as we learn how to use them better.

If you want to join a Morning Prayer at 9am, then you can do so through the [Diocese of London Facebook](#) page.

Where to find help during the Corona Virus lockdown

The UK government website has a specific link <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> to help answer most queries about the lockdown, from what you can do and can't do, to help/support available for employers and employees.

If you have queries about Church of England, they also have a specific webpage link on Covid-19 virus <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches#na>.

You can also find some answers to your spiritual needs in the Diocese of London website <https://www.london.anglican.org/>.

There are also opportunities to help your community during this period. If you're in London, you can check opportunities through the Mayor of London <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/volunteering/coronavirus-covid-19-volunteering>.

The Lord Mayor of London has launched the [London Community Response Fund](#) which offer support to London's civil society groups affected by Covid-19.

The bible is also the best way to find help as we experience different feelings during this time of uncertainties. To find out more, please click [here](#).

Staffing

Our two hard working staff will be working 2 different days in the church, to cover Tuesday- Friday church opening, and the rest at home. If you want to visit them, please make an appointment first as mentioned above.

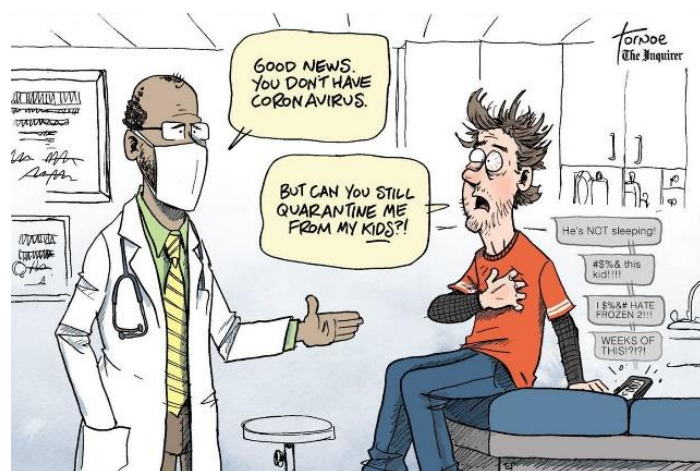
Fundraising

Raise donation for St Lawrence Jewry whenever you shop online. Turn your everyday online shopping into FREE donation via [easyfundraising.com](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stlawrencejewry/?invite=1ZIJMC&referral-campaign=c2s). It's easy and free. Just click this link to support us <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stlawrencejewry/?invite=1ZIJMC&referral-campaign=c2s>

Heavenly Humour



'I haven't seen you on Zoom lately.'



God bless you all.

David Parrott

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If you receive this newsletter but would not wish to stay on our list, please let us know straight away and we will remove you.

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