



St Lawrence Jewry July 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, there are still many countries whose death rate is increasing, like Brazil and India. Please remember in your prayers those who are affected by this virus especially those who are bereaved. 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 China and USA are experiencing now. Please be sensible and follow the government's guidelines on doing social distancing when in public. 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. We pray for everyone to stay calm, well and safe and to find comfort that God will lead us through this pandemic.

“Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.” Psalms 37:8 (NIVUK)

Opening Times for the church

The government has recently announced that places of worship can now open their doors to the public on 4th July, provided that physical socially distancing is in place. We are doing our best to follow the guidelines set by our UK government and the Church of England. But as what the Bishop of London said, “We will not be returning to normality overnight – this is the next step on a journey.”

We are also closing working with the Bank Churches (group of churches around/near Bank station, including St Lawrence Jewry) to make sure that there will be a church open in our area throughout the working hours day. Our church time slot is Monday to Friday at 2-5pm for personal prayers only starting on Monday 6th July.

Other churches are open at different times across the City, but here are the opening times for the bank churches, near St Lawrence Jewry:

St Mary Aldermary	8.00am to 10.30am Monday to Friday
St Stephen Walbrook	10.00am to 3pm Tuesday to Thursday
St Mary-Le-Bow	11am to 1.30pm 7 days a week
St Margaret Lothbury	11.00am to 3.00pm Tuesday to Thursday
St Vedast-Alias-Foster	11.30am to 2.00pm Monday to Friday
St Lawrence Jewry	2.00pm to 5.00pm Monday to Friday

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. As you enter the church, please use the hand sanitiser provided near the entrance door.

3. 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.
4. Please refrain from touching any of the church fabric.
5. There will be leaflets available for people to take with them. Once you touch a leaflet, please do take it out with you.
6. 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.
7. Our coffee and toilet facilities will remain close to the public.
8. Our two chapels, Royal Marine Chapel and Commonwealth Chapel, will also remain close to the public.
9. 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

Our weekly services remain cancelled until further notice. This is to ensure the safety of our staff, worshippers and visitors. All our lunchtime recitals, including the Summer Music Festival in August are still cancelled until further notice. This is to ensure the safety of all people involved in them, not only the performers, but also the volunteers and audiences. We will resume our weekly services as soon as it is safe to do so. All other services and events booked with us in July are also cancelled. Some of these events/services might be rescheduled on later dates this year.

Please watch this space or in our website/social media accounts for further announcement.

Music in the church

Although our lunchtime recital series is still suspended, our Director of Music, will be playing the organ between 2-3pm on Tuesday most weeks to keep it in good working order. This will be part of the gradual opening of our church. She is isolated in the organ loft, so if you want to stop by and listen please do so.

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) but the immediate problem is that the work was due to go out to tender and that couldn't happen while people could not do site visits. 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. The tender process is now re-stating. We will keep everyone posted as more clarity appears.

Livery work

My Chaplaincy work continues with the City of London Corporation and the Livery companies. It looks rather different, but I am 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, I am able to deliver.

I am doing a couple of Zoom services for Livery companies in the next month, so that should be interesting, to say the least!

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. We not only post my weekly mini-sermon there, but we started to post also a weekly organ music performance by our Music Director, Catherine Ennis. 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 also gradually come back to work. Each will be working 2 days in the church and the rest at home.

Fundraising

Enter the #easyfundraising Refer to Win competition and help us WIN a £500 donation! To enter, all you need to do is sign up to support us on easyfundraising. It's easy and completely free. This donation would make a huge difference to St Lawrence Jewry Church - London! Sign up now:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stlawrencejewry/?invite=1ZIJMC&referral-campaign=c2s>

Heavenly Humour



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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