



St Lawrence Jewry September 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,

“But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.” (Psalm 39:7 NIVUK)

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 countries. Please be sensible and follow the government’s guidelines on doing social distancing when in public and of wearing a 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.

GOOD NEWS!

We will resume the weekly Holy Communion Services in the Commonwealth Chapel on Wednesday 2nd September and Friday 4th September. The chapel’s chairs will be arranged to comply with the social distancing rules. Only bread will be distributed during this service. We know that a lot of people are not yet back working in the City, so the numbers may be low, but it seems to be a good sign of hope that we can celebrate Communion and pray for you all even if you are not here with us.

Opening Times for the church

Our church will still remain open for personal prayers only from Monday to Friday 2-4pm and during Holy Communion Service on Wednesdays 8:15-9:00am and on Fridays 1:00-2:00pm. The church office will remain on a per appointment basis only between 11.30am and 5pm. 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. Using of mask in the church is mandatory. We provide limited supply of masks if you didn’t bring one with you.

5. 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 and keep at least 2m apart.
6. Please refrain from touching any of the church fabric.
7. There will be leaflets available for people to take with them. Once you touch a leaflet, please do take it out with you.
8. 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.
9. Our coffee and toilet facilities will remain close to the public.
10. Our two chapels, Royal Marine Chapel and Commonwealth Chapel, will also remain close to the public, except during Holy Communion Services for the latter.
11. The church office is open by appointment basis between 11.30am to 5pm. Please email [Katrina](#) if you want to make an appointment.

Events

Other events and services are still under review, 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

Even though the government has already allowed for small concerts to continue, we made a decision to still suspend our weekly lunchtime recitals until further notice. This is to ensure the safety of our artists and audiences, who mostly commute to the City. Watch this space for any changes.

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. We plan to record David's sermon on the Friday's Holy Communion Service and post it in our social media accounts. 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](#).

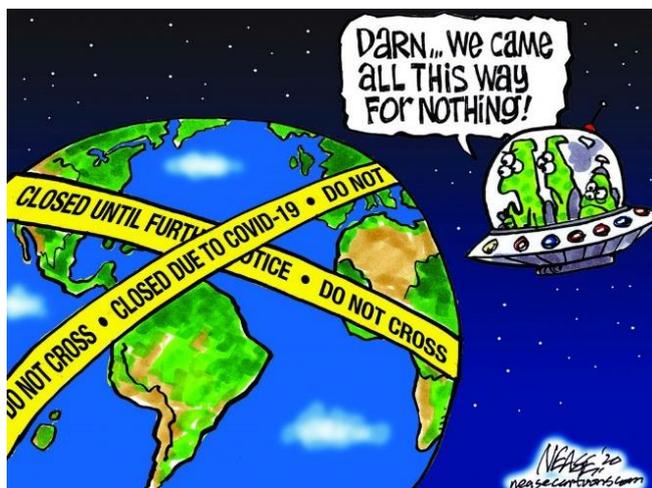
Staffing

Our two hard working staff will be working 3 days in the office and 2 days from home. If you want to visit them, please make an appointment first as mentioned above.

Fundraising for the church

The pandemic has changed a lot of things on how we do things. For instance, shopping. Due to lockdown and restrictions many people are now doing more shopping online. If you're one of these people, then why not help the church to raise fund by shopping through [Amazon Smile](#) or [Easyfundraising.com](#). A certain percentage of your total spent will be donated by Amazon or Easyfundraising to the church every time you shop with them. To start supporting us, just click [Amazon Smile](#) or [Easyfundraising.com](#).

Heavenly Humour





" YES, ANTI-VIRUS IS UP AND WORKING. "

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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