



St Lawrence Jewry **May 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,

We are all living in an unprecedented time. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the government has put the country in lockdown. Most are advised to stay home. Many public places, including our church, are still closed and we do not know when we can again open our doors to the public. In the UK alone, we have over 216,500 cases already and over 28,200 deaths. The way of life around the world has changed. The situation has affected not only humans, but also the animals and the environment. Wild animals and wild plants are now starting to appear even in urban areas. World economy is down but also air pollution. Some people use the time to learn new skills at home. Some use it to bond more with their family. Some are experiencing difficulties financially, socially, physically and/or mentally. And we ask everyone to remember these people in our prayers. 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. Clapping for them every Thursday evening is a good gesture but meaningful prayers will also be appreciated.

“We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.” Psalm 33:20 (NIVUK)

Services / Events

The government is asking us to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives. Our church will remain closed until further notice. Medical experts are now saying that social distancing might take up to 6 months to curb the infection of the Covid-19 virus. All our lunchtime recitals, including the Summer Music Festival in August are now 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 the lockdown is lifted by the government. All other services and events booked with us in May until June are also cancelled. Some of these events/services might be rescheduled on later dates this year. Please watch this space or in our website for further announcement.

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 can't happen while people cannot 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. We will keep everyone posted as more clarity appears. You may well know that Sue and I will have to move when the work starts as we can't live in a building site, and the Diocese is continuing to work on where we might be able to relocate to.

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.

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.

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 recently launched the [London Community Response Fund](#) through which to 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 have been placed on furlough until 30th June. This means that they will cease working but continue to be paid. Please direct all enquiries about the church to me for the time being.

Fundraising

We understand that incomes are being hit across society by the virus, and that not everybody is in a position to give to charity at this time. But we are pleased to announce that our pitch to Our City Fund towards our [SLJ Grand Piano Restoration Project](#) through Spacehive has been successful. They pledged £3,000 towards this project. The piano recital series is part of the church's music ministry of providing a venue for aspiring pianists to showcase their talents/skills to an appreciate audience. Many of these artists have now made names for themselves and are performing around the world. It attracts the largest number of attendances per week among the City Churches lunchtime concerts/recitals. It is a haven for

City workers to enjoy live classical music during their lunchtime. We are still short of £4,926 to make this project possible. Please visit our [Spacehive](#) page if you like to support us.

Heavenly Humour



God bless you all.

Arnel and Katrina are on furlough so please contact me. I am trying to keep up with everything, but be patient if my replies are a bit slower than usual.

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