

Lawton Light!

Church Lawton Parish Magazine

August 2020

50p



"I was glad when they said unto me, "let us go to the house of the Lord."" (Psalm 122 v1)

**All Saints' re-opens for public worship on the
9th August at 10.45am**

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LAWTON LIGHT! Who's Who at All Saints'?

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Lawton Light!	Jane Baker	Tel:01270 876363
Musical Director	Margaret Cruyton	Tel:01270 876366

**** Members of our team are very pleased to visit you in your home, to listen to you, talk with you, and pray with you. Nothing is too trivial, and nothing is beyond the reach of God's love and grace.**

All you have to do is pick up the telephone and call.

We will be delighted to hear from you, and respond to your need.

Rector's Letter...

Returning to Better...

Following the recent Government announcement that church buildings were able to reopen for public worship from 4th July, the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who leads the Church of England's Recovery Group, said that the months since lockdown began "have been an extraordinary time - the first period without public worship and the sacraments in England in more than 800 years."

She said also that there will have been "real joy" as people began "to come together again – if even at a physical distance – but I also know that many will be understandably cautious at this news.

"We will not be returning to normality overnight - this is the next step on a journey. We've been planning carefully, making detailed advice available for parishes to enable them to prepare to hold services when it is safe and practical to do so. It is important to say that the change in Government guidance is permissive, not prescriptive.

"I would particularly like to thank clergy and lay leaders for all they

have done during the time our buildings have been closed."

Bishop Sarah warned that there will still be restrictions, "and we must all still do everything we can to limit the spread of the virus... The online services and dial-in worship offerings we have become used to will continue.

"This has been an incredibly difficult time for the whole country, especially for those who have been ill, who have suffered financial hardship, the loss of livelihoods and indeed, for many, those they love. We know that is not over and the Church has a task ahead to bring consolation and hope.

"Churches and cathedrals have risen to the recent challenges, finding new ways of meeting for worship, of serving our neighbours, and of reaching new people with the love of God. The challenge before us now is to take the next steps carefully and safely, without forgetting all that we've discovered about God and ourselves on the way."

Our own PCC has decided to start public services in church on 9th August. We will be starting with just one Sunday service at 10.45am, and will see how it goes, taking it slowly and carefully.

We cannot have the live band or singing in church at the moment, but we will do our best to have some music from the band via video, and we will try to stream our Sunday services so you can still choose to watch online.

I think it will take some time for us to build up our congregation so that everyone feels safe to come out –

but we are making a start. So on 9th August I will be in church with my mask on for 'Divine Worship' as the prayer book calls it - and I will be cleaning the building afterwards – whether you will venture out, or watch online, or pray with our emails and texts – I hope you will be with me.



During the pandemic, a number of clergy have turned to poetry to record their thoughts and reflections.

Speaking in May as part of a short interview thinking about poetry and the pandemic, the Revd Alec Brown, Rural Dean of Great Budworth, said poetry is able to capture and communicate a sense of what people are experiencing because of its immediacy and accessibility.

Here he reflects on the current situation and the anticipation of better times to come in a sonnet titled, "Nearly there!"

Nearly there!

Slowly but surely, and carefully, we're getting there,
though I know that for some it's taking too long
while over the road at the Pub
they're worried the punters might break into song;
and for us with no singing or choir it won't be the same,
but once through the door you'll be glad you came,
after carefully cleansing your hands and following the directions and
signs
you're back in the place where you've spent so much time,
which for so many people means so very much
and where for almost a thousand years
prayer has been offered in good times and bad,
in happiness and sorrow, in laughter and tears;
and yes, it will be different
but God remains constant and will banish our fears.

Eternity in the human heart



‘He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.’ (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

The 60s hit ‘Turn! Turn! Turn!’ by the Byrds is based on verses in this chapter: ‘There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.’ The different seasons of life are not random, for God is in control and His timing is perfect: ‘He has made everything beautiful in its time.’

The verse goes on to say that God ‘has also set eternity in the human heart.’ This means that we all have an in-built sense that there’s more to life than what we can see, as we search for meaning in life. However, we can fill our lives with other things: career, pleasure, shopping and relationships. While good in themselves, these things can never

ultimately satisfy. It is only a relationship with God through Jesus that truly satisfies. How does this challenge us?

Firstly, we are to live for God in all that we do, knowing that it all counts for eternity. This includes helping others find a personal relationship with Jesus Christ for eternity.

Secondly, we accept that there is lots in the current ‘season’ where it’s difficult to know what God is doing: ‘no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.’ However, we do know that everything has consequences for eternity.

Finally, how can we be more aware of eternity every day? Spending time with God in worship and prayer will bring us the true pleasure that belongs to eternity.

**HE MAKES ALL THINGS
BEAUTIFUL
IN HIS TIME**

‘You made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.’ (St Augustine).

Canon Paul Hardingham



We've missed seeing you

To All Messy Church
You are invited to a virtual
Teddy Bears' Picnic Party
via Zoom on Sunday 9th
August at 12.30pm
The details of how to join
will be sent out to you
nearer the time



Come and join all your friends and mine at the virtual picnic party

No need to worry about the weather. We're going to have lots of fun!



Pandemic ‘transforms the Church into Netflix’

The Covid-19 pandemic has “propelled the Church into the contemporary world,” says a new report from CPAS, an Anglican evangelical mission agency working with UK and Irish churches.

‘Everyone Welcome Online’ looks at the lockdown’s impact on churches and concludes, “Last month we were the Odeon, today we are Netflix.

“In the 1950s, the Odeon was okay, but then along came consumer choice, individualism and crowded complex lifestyles. Then came TV film channels, and now Netflix, Prime and others, where you can watch whatever you want, whenever you want, wherever you are on whatever you’ve got.”

The authors, Bob Jackson and George Fisher, say “The Government has shut our ‘Odeons’ down, so in response we have stumbled into ‘Homespun Netflix’ and it’s looking promising.

“Most churches going online have discovered that far more people are accessing their services than ever came to the building. What seemed initially to be a devastating blow to churches may actually generate growth.”

Bishop of Sheffield Pete Wilcox described the 26-page report as “An astonishingly thorough and perceptive overview of online church.”

The authors, who devised the popular ‘Everybody Welcome’ course published by Church House Publishing, include feedback from churches experiencing increased numbers of people logging in for online services, both live and recorded.

One church reported “We’ve had a huge number of hits, many more than the number of people in church on a Sunday, connecting with people who would not come to a regular service.”

The report analyses who is responding and detects groups ranging from friends and family of church members, to the housebound with links to the church, people linked by christenings, weddings or funerals, people who have moved away, occasional churchgoers and people who have found the church through a denominational or diocesan link.

The authors encourage churches to make contact with people who are ‘dropping in’ to the services, suggesting “Contact as many people as you can to say hello and how nice

it was to see them connect with the church, and ask how they are and how the church can help them.”

People are finding it easier to access church online because they can join in the services without feeling concerned about ‘doing the wrong thing’ – like standing or sitting at the ‘wrong’ time – they don’t have to enter a strange building and meet new people and they can access the services at a time that suits them.

One church reported: “One previously non-churchgoer said that online she felt comfortable, fully part of the service and so more welcomed than if she had been in the building unsure of how to behave.”

The report’s authors are keen to hear from churches about their experiences during lockdown and ask people to contact them at allarewelcome2020@gmail.com The ‘Everyone Welcome Online’ report can be accessed free at: <https://www.cpas.org.uk/church-resources/understanding-christian-leadership/everyone-welcome-online/everybody-welcome-online/#.Xs-E7UBFxPY>

Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE.

The Lockdown Lifts

There’s life in the town!
No longer ‘locked down’!
The people stroll out in the
sun
The majestic trees
Sway in the light breeze
Like they wanted to join in the
fun!

Like light after dark!
We can walk in the park!
Buy our tea, and sit out on the
grass!
We can chat to our friends
As our loneliness ends
And we smile at the strangers
we pass!

Yes there are still queues
Which cease to amuse
But things are no longer so
black!
As they sing in that song –
You miss what is gone,
But it’s great when at last it
comes back!

By Nigel Beeton

Psalm 40 – desperation to security

'I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.' (Psalm 40:1).

'Dear God, I pray for patience, and I want it now!' Most of us can identify with this prayer, especially as we face an uncertain future. Psalm 40:1-3 describes how David waited patiently on God (lit: 'I waited, waited for the Lord.'). Do we also intensively wait on God?

David speaks of falling into a deep, dark well and sinking deep into the sludge: 'a slimy pit of mud and mire'. This expresses his desperate helplessness that threatened to take his life. We don't know what David was going through, but in our current situation we can easily identify with him.

David cried out to God, who answered his prayer: 'He lifted me out of the slimy pit, he set my feet on a rock'. There is a world of difference between quicksand and rock, as God lifts us from

desperation to security. Waiting on God is not inactivity, but it means engaging in service to God and others, as we discern His will and accept His wisdom and timing.

In response, David offers praise to God: 'He put a new song in my mouth. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.' His song is an expression of gratitude and trust in God, who can deliver us from every sort of pit and mire. People of praise never take their life for granted and they are credible witnesses to others, with a personal story of faith to tell.



'Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, who does not look to the proud.' Whatever our current circumstances, we can confidently turn to God alone for help, as our loving heavenly Father.

*Canon Paul Hardingham
on a much-loved Psalm.*

What has happened to church gardens and therapeutic gardening?

This year's Green Health Awards were just one of the many positive activities to be cancelled because of the current situation. Whilst churches have been closed their gardens have continued to grow, and many of these will have been used for therapeutic gardening.

But have these been growing wild or have enthusiasts found ways round the rules and regulations to tend and care for them? Have some special plants been given new homes where they have been encouraged to thrive in these unusual times before they can be returned to more holy ground? We would like to find stories of how therapeutic gardening may have been underway despite lockdown.

We have already discovered some - the group of gardeners from St Pancras Hospital who volunteer at St Paul's Woodland Garden in Camden have been missing their weekly visits during lockdown. The garden was the overall winner of the *Green Health Awards* organised in 2018 by Church Times, The Conservation Foundation and Guild of Health and St Raphael,

in association with the Church of England.

Meanwhile our friends up on the roof of Manchester Cathedral report they have been kept busy. "We are still in lockdown, but the Volition bees carry on as usual; no lockdown for them. Neither are they thinking about social distancing as they overcrowd their hives getting ready to swarm. Weekly inspections are going ahead in line with Defra guidelines on livestock. All hives at Manchester Cathedral are as they should be for the time of year."

The Bishop of Carlisle is a great supporter of using church space for therapeutic gardening projects, and as lead bishop for health chairs the church's Green Health initiative. As he says "Almost everyone agrees that the coronavirus pandemic has had a significant effect on people's mental health and wellbeing across the country. That's why it is more important than ever that we use the green spaces around church buildings for therapeutic gardening as part of our co-ordinated effort to tackle mental health issues."

If you have some good news from your garden do let David Shreeve know at david.shreeve@churchofengland.org.

From the Church Registers

Funerals

We offer sympathy to the relatives of those who have died.

On 29th July Sheelagh Mary Last Age 85 years

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

(23rd Psalm)

Bible Readings for August Services

Date	Epistle	Gospel
2nd August	Isaiah 55.1-5	Matthew 14.13-21
9th August	1 Kings 19.9-18	Matthew 14.22-33
16th August	Isaiah 56.1,6-8	Matthew 15.21-28
23rd August	Isaiah 51.1-6	Matthew 16.13-20
30th August	Jeremiah 15.15-21	Matthew 16.21-28

Church Collections for June 2020

Week Beginning	7th June	£600.00
Week Beginning	14th June	£670.00
Week Beginning	21st June	£140.00
Week Beginning	28th June	£904.35

Our thanks to everyone who has helped us by giving faithfully and generously towards our costs of mission, ministry and maintenance.

Reviews

Where is God in a Messed-Up World?

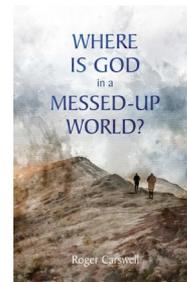
By Roger Carswell, 10Publishing, £6.99

This book asks (and answers) questions that people are asking about God, life and suffering. Questions such as: 'If God exists and really is a God of love, then why doesn't He stop the suffering and problems in our world?'

People often ask these questions in the wake of major tragedies. Glib answers don't help. Instead, Roger Carswell is realistic, admitting that there are things God reveals to us, and things He doesn't reveal.

But Carswell argues that the starting point is to find out who God is, and to figure out if He can be trusted – even if we don't have all the answers.

The author's own experience of suffering with depression, and the real-life stories that are included, make this a compassionate book. Carswell encourages us that our questioning need not be a barrier to entrusting ourselves to God. He says: "God has not only been faithful to me, He has been overwhelmingly kind, incredibly merciful, consistently good and unbelievably patient."



Laughlines etcetera...

What am I?

A teacher gave her young class a lesson on Zoom on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a short test, she included this question: "My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I am strong and attractive. I pick up lots of things. What am I?"

When the answers were sent in, the teacher was astonished to find that more than half her students had answered the question with the word: "Mother."



"Looks like no one was available to fill in for the vicar's annual holiday again."

Who's right for which job?

Does your company struggle with the problem of properly fitting people to jobs? Here is a handy way to decide....

Take the prospective employees you are trying to place and put them in a room with only a table and two chairs. Leave them alone for two hours, without any instruction. At the end of that time, go back and see what they are doing.

If they have taken the table apart in that time, put them in Engineering.

If they are counting the cracks in the floor, assign them to Finance.

If they are screaming and waving their arms, send them to Manufacturing.

If they are talking to the chairs, Personnel is a good place for them.

If they are sleeping, they are Management material.

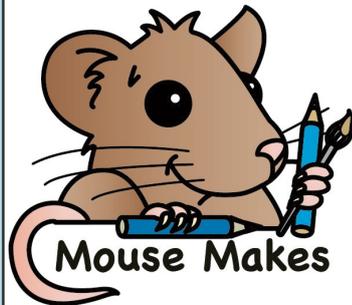
If they are writing up the experience, send them to Technical Publications.

If they don't even look up when you enter the room, assign them to Security.

If they try to tell you it's not as bad as it looks, send them to Marketing.

And if they've left early, put them in Sales.

Due to the quarantine, I'll be telling only inside jokes.



The **PSALMS** are hymns of **PRAYER** and **PRAISE** to God.
*"I will proclaim your greatness, my God and king; I will **thank you**: I will **praise you** for ever and ever."*
 Psalm 145:1-2

Glory to God



"How clearly the sky reveals God's glory! How plainly it shows what He has done."
 Psalm 19:1

Cut out and colour these cards to help you to **thank** and **praise** God.



God my guide

"Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

God's World

"The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord: the earth and all who live on it are His."
 Psalm 24:1



Praise the Lord!

"Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord."
 Psalm 150:6



Give thanks!

*"Your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will **praise** you. I will give You **thanks** as long as I live; I will raise my hands to you in prayer."*
 Psalm 63:3-4



Recycling & Green Living Tips

The 22 easiest ways to reduce your carbon footprint



First calculate your carbon footprint

Your carbon footprint is the amount of greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, fluorinated gases and others) that you produce as you live your life.

The Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project determined that in order to hold the global temperature rise to 2°C or less, everyone on earth will need to average an annual carbon footprint of 1.87 tons by 2050. The current average UK, per capita carbon footprint is 8.34 so we have a long way to go.

Calculate your carbon footprint at carbonfootprint.com. Here are some of the easiest ways you can start to shrink your carbon footprint.

1. Eat low on the food chain. This means eating mostly fruits, veg, grains, and beans. Livestock (meat and dairy) is responsible for 14.5% of manmade greenhouse gas emissions: from feed production and processing including the methane (25 times more potent than CO₂ at trapping heat in the atmosphere)

that beef and sheep belch out. Every day that you forgo meat and dairy, you can reduce your carbon footprint by 8 pounds.

2. Choose organic and local foods that are in season. Transporting food from far away; by truck, ship, rail or plane, uses fossil fuels for fuel and for cooling to keep foods in transit from spoiling.

3. Reduce your food waste by planning meals ahead of time, freezing the excess and reusing leftovers.

4. Compost your food waste if possible or if you can't, put it into your brown garden waste bin.

5. Don't buy fast fashion. Trendy, cheap items go out of style quickly and get dumped in landfills producing methane as they decompose. Most fast fashion comes from China and Bangladesh, so shipping requires the use of fossil fuels. Instead, buy quality clothing that will last.

6. Wash your clothing in cold or low temperature water. Doing two loads of laundry weekly in cold water instead of hot or warm water can save up to 500 pounds of carbon dioxide each year.

7. Buy less stuff! And buy used or recycled items whenever possible.

8. Bring your own reusable bag when you shop.

9. If you're in the market for a new computer, opt for a laptop instead of a desktop. Laptops require less energy to charge and operate than desktops.

10. If shopping for appliances, lighting, office equipment or electronics, look for AAA rated products and LED lighting which are certified to be more energy efficient

11. Support and buy from companies that are environmentally responsible and sustainable.

12. Do an energy audit of your home. This will show how you use or waste energy and help identify ways to be more energy efficient.

13. Change incandescent light bulbs (they waste 90% of their energy as heat) to light emitting diodes (LEDs). Though LEDs cost more, they use a quarter of the energy and last up to 25 times longer. They are also preferable to compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulbs, which emit 80 % of their energy as heat and contain mercury.

14. Switch lights off when you leave the room and unplug your electronic devices when they are not in use.

15. Turn your water heater down to 60 degrees. This can save about 550 pounds of CO2 a year.

16. Sign up to get your electricity from clean energy through or a renewable energy provider.

17. Drive less. An average car produces about five tons of CO2 each year (varying according to the type of car, its fuel efficiency and how it's driven). Walk, take public transport, carpool, rideshare or bike to your destination if possible. This reduces CO2 emissions and also lessens traffic congestion and pollution.

18. Avoid unnecessary braking and acceleration. Studies found that aggressive driving can result in 40% more fuel consumption than consistent, calm driving.

19. When doing errands, try to combine them to reduce your driving.

20. If you fly for work or pleasure, air travel is probably responsible for the largest part of your carbon footprint. Avoid flying if possible; on shorter trips, driving may emit fewer greenhouse gases.

21. Fly nonstop since landings and take-offs use more fuel and produce more emissions.

22. Get politically active! Finally—and perhaps most important since the most effective solutions to climate change require governmental action—vote! Let your MP know you want them to take action to phase out fossil fuels use and decarbonize the country as fast as possible.

Happy Recycling Carol Henshaw



Caring for the bereaved in Church Lawton

The Church of England in Church Lawton is launching a programme of additional support for people experiencing a family bereavement.

Bereaved families can still arrange Church of England funerals and in addition, families will be offered the opportunity to attend a memorial service at a time when we can freely meet again.

The Revd Steve Clapham, Vicar of All Saints' Church Lawton says: "If you or someone you know has been recently bereaved, the Church of England is here for you. Everyone is welcome to arrange a Church of England funeral, or to join us for a memorial service at a time when we can meet again. Perhaps more importantly, vicars are there if you just want someone to listen to your story and the memories of the loved one you've lost. Talk to us, we can help."

In normal times, Steve would discuss with a bereaved family exactly how they would like to say goodbye. He

would meet with them in person and discuss which music, Bible readings, and prayers they would like. Much of this has not been able to happen because of restrictions limiting the length of a funeral. Social distancing measures have also reduced the number of people able to attend, and family members have been unable to hug and console each other, adding to their grief.

The Rt Revd Keith Sinclair Bishop of Birkenhead says "we are living through an incredibly difficult time but urges people to know that the Church is there for them, whatever they may have been through, wherever they are.

"We are living through a profound moment for our nation and the world, the effects of which will be felt for a long time to come.

"But the Church remains a constant Christian presence in every community and an anchor of hope for many. I would wish for everyone to know that the Church is here for you. Talk to us, we can help."

Contact Steve if you would like to talk to us about arranging a funeral or attending a memorial service, the Church is here for you if you simply want someone to listen to your story."

Talk to us we can help

All Saints' Church Lawton is open daily

The church is open daily 10 am to 4pm for private prayer, following the government and church of England guidelines



Church Prayer Meetings

Provisional dates

6th September 9.45am to 10.15 am

4th October 9.45am to 10.15 am

1st November 9.45am to 10.15 am

Prayer Chain

We also have a prayer chain to pray for you whatever your need.

If you would like us to pray for you or would like to know more about the prayer meeting or prayer chain please contact Ann Kennerley—you can speak to her in church on a Sunday evening, or call her on Tel: 01782 782427

Prayers for the Month

Thanking God for the beauty of a late summer morning...

Morning Prayer

When morning in russet and saffron clad
Is mantling the hills in a dew-soft plaid
To the song of the moorland two-wings glad
Let my heart upraise;

When light creeps in through the chinks of the door
When the mist ascends from the mountain floor,
When the ocean shimmers like burnished ore,
Let me give thee praise.

O God of the morning, Christ of the hills,
O Spirit who all the firmament fills,
O Trinity blest who all goodness wills,
Keep us all our days.

From Prayers of the Western Highlanders





A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

Are you in need of some daily
hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone
line for you to ring to hear
comforting hymns, daily prayers
and reflections.



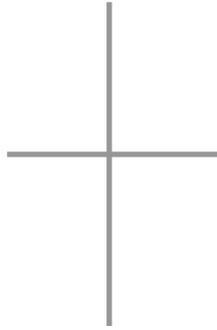
Faith in Later Life

CONNECTIONS

Services & Speakers Streaming From The Rectory, and Church August 2020

	10.45am	7.00pm	<p>All Saints' Church is opening for public worship from the 9th August 10.45am service only. We are following the Church of England guidelines for opening the church as well as continuing to stream all services.</p> <hr/> <p>Holy Communion at 10.45am If you wish to participate from home in the streamed Holy Communion Service, please prepare a piece of bread and sip of wine or juice ready for the <i>Giving the Communion</i></p>
Trinity 4			
2 nd	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer	
	Bev Boulton	Steve Clapham	
Trinity 5			
9 th	Praise & Prayer	Evening Prayer	
	Margaret Cruxton	Steve Clapham	
Trinity 6			
16 th	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer	
	Steve Clapham	Steve Clapham	
Trinity 7			
23 rd	Praise & Prayer	Evening Prayer	
	Bev Boulton	Steve Clapham	
Trinity 8			
30 th	Praise & Prayer	Evening Prayer	
	Margaret Cruxton	Steve Clapham	

Date	Reading	Prayers
2nd August	Gill Marren	Steve Clapham
9th August	Kate Bell	James Patterson
16th August	James Patterson	Jane Baker
23rd August	Yvonne Banks	Gill Marren
30th August	Bev Boulton	Yvonne Banks



All Saints' Church

Sharing the Love
of Jesus
in our community



Life Goes On

Join us for Church Online

Every **Sunday at 10.45am**
and **7pm** we are live
streaming our Sunday
worship services into your
homes through our church
Facebook page.



Do you need support?

Are you ill or self-isolating?

Can we support you especially with essentials like food shopping or collecting medicine? If so, please contact us by calling the Rector on 01270 876604 or email - rector@allsaintschurchlawton.co.uk.

Our **website** and **Facebook page** contain details of how to join others online for prayer, worship and conversation.

www.allsaintschurchlawton.co.uk

[facebook/churchlawton](https://www.facebook.com/churchlawton)

*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support
the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can
separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

Please send any material for inclusion in the
September edition of Lawton Light! by
10th August

To Jane Baker 25 Dairylands Road,
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