

Lawton Light!

Church Lawton Parish Magazine

January 2025 50p



...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

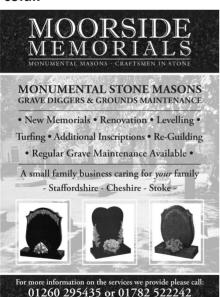
Isaiah 40:31

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^{**} 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.



Please scan me to donate to help maintain our church



January Letter

Dear friends,

May I begin by wishing you and those you love a very Happy New Year.

By the time you read this it will probably be several days into January, and we'll be in one of my favourite church seasons -Epiphany. This is the time when we focus our thoughts on the Magi, the mysterious travellers who journeyed from the East, following a star until it led them to the house where Jesus and his mother Mary were staying. They bowed down and worshipped him and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We can read all the details, including a tricky encounter with King Herod, in Matthew chapter 2.

Personally, I've always been intrigued by the Magi, because we know so little about who they were or where they came from, whether they set out and travelled together or what happened when they got back home afterwards - if indeed they did return. Tradition, poems and stories have filled in many of the gaps, but actually I think I prefer

them being rather a mystery.

What we do know about them is that they were searching for something beyond themselves. We know they were searching, because when they discovered the arrival of a new star in the sky, they decided to follow it.

Apparently history records a star, given the Egyptian name Mesoi meaning the birth of a prince, that was seen at the time of Jesus' birth. We can't be certain it was that particular star, or a comet, or some other celestial body, but it was enough for them to set out and leave behind everything they knew in order to discover what it all meant.

I admire their courage, their vision, and their desire to see if there was something more than they already knew and understood. I think that desire for something beyond us, something more than we have experienced and known, something somehow just beyond our reach is hardwired into all of us. It's hard to articulate exactly, but I would say it's the beginnings of faith.

According to the dictionary, Epiphany means a sudden

moment of great revelation or discovery. From the biblical account it seems pretty clear that having met Jesus and Mary, the Magi experienced an epiphany; they felt they had completed their search and found what they were looking for. Their response was to worship Jesus and to offer him the best they had.

As this New Year begins, I wonder what you are searching for, what you long for but is somehow out of reach. Perhaps it's something world-changing, like peace between all nations; perhaps it's something much more personal

like the strength to find a way forwards in an area of your life. Whatever it is, the message of Epiphany is that all our searching and longing are bound up in the one whose birth we have so recently celebrated. He is the one who called creation into being, and he is the way, the truth and the life.

As we begin this New Year, my prayer is that you will discover him afresh and know his love and guidance throughout the year, God bless,

Heather

2025

Rejoice in the Lord always.



Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is



admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.

Philippians 4:4-8



Epiphany

We left behind everything we knew And for what?

They said it would end in disaster, they could not understand this ache, this longing to go, to search, to seek.

The journey was longer and harder and more costly

than I had imagined.

Often I wished myself back at home, back as I was before the star appeared. But somehow the need to follow was greater.

Always the star lead us onward
Through pale dawns of piercing cold,
Through long days of dwindling food
Through moonlit nights of starry solitude.

Sometimes it felt we that we alone were searching

Whilst all others were occupied and focussed elsewhere.

Once, when the star had seemed to fade, we sought refuge and direction And nearly found calamity.

We were glad to resume our journey.

Our destination came suddenly It took us by surprise

It was so much less and so much more than I had dreamed Humility and majesty bound together Radiant with glory, but veiled in humanity.

We worshipped

We wept

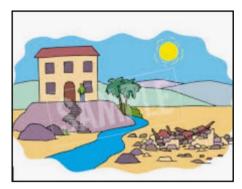
We drank in his goodness and grace Until joy overflowed and we wept again.

Finally we rested

With dreams so deep and pure they washed away All that had gone before and waking I knew myself reborn.



9.00am 12th January "The wise and foolish builders"





In Messy Church children and their parents/carers have fun learning about the Christian faith together through different activities—crafts, cooking, games, songs...

If you would like to know more about Messy Church please contact Jackie Moss on 01782 771067 Or come along on the day.



Meru's Musings Remembered...

It is with deep sadness that I have to inform you that Meru passed peacefully away on 16th December. He really enjoyed sourcing and submitting material for his page and was very keen that it continued as long as possible. I am happy to inform you that Meru throughout the spring, summer and early autumn sent me many emails with many attachments and so we can enjoy his musings and remember him for many years to come. Thank you Meru for all your contributions

Teasers

- -I will always come, but never arrive today. What am I?
- -I have a head and a tail, but no body. What am I?
- -What building has the most stories?
- -What tastes better than it smells?
- -Many have heard me, but nobody has seen me, and I will not speak back until spoken to.
- -What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and grey when you throw it away?

Latin Quotations

Via

Terra incognita An unknown land Usus est magister optimus

Practise makes perfect By way of Vice versa With the order or meaning reversed Vox populi vox dei The voice of the people is the voice of God.

The sayings of our Elders There are four types of men in this world.

The man who knows and knows that he knows; He is wise, so consult him The man who knows but doesn't know that he knows, help him not to forget what he knows.

The man who knows not and knows that he knows not, teach him.

Finally, there is the man who knows not but pretends that he knows, he is a fool so avoid him.

We are more troublesome to ourselves than anyone else is to us.

Manners:

Good manners will open any door. There is no truer index to intelligence than the way one acts at the table.

Mothers:

God could not be everywhere, so he created mothers.

Mothers have big aprons, to cover the faults of their children.

Nature:

Dew in the morning on the grass, is the residue from love making between heaven and earth during the night.

When it rains, God's washing the floor of heaven.

Meru Ullah

2025 Knitting Art Exhibition



Yes we've reached that time again and as the darker nights will soon be upon us it's get your knitting needles out time.

After a long hard think, we've settled on The Nativity Story as our theme for 2025

Again, using our tried and tested recipe of 4 inch knitted squares.



Our recipe is :using double knitting wool and size 4 mm needles

(old number 8) cast on 25 stitches, knit 45 rows then cast off, hopefully you will have a 4 inch knitted square —wonderful. As the darker nights creep upon us through the Autumn and Winter months, we would like as many people as possible to help with this project, so if you know anyone who can knit please ask them to help too.

All knitted squares can be left in church, given to a member of the congregation who will bring them into church, or give them to the person who delivers your Parish Magazine.

We are now looking for squares in various shades of Red, Yellow and White

Over the next few months, we will have updates on how the squares are coming along and what different colours we will be requiring to complete the project and of course more details about our exhibition date.

If you need further information at this time, please don't hesitate to ring Bev on 01270-874491

P.S Noah, Adam and Eve all hope this project is going to get as much support as they did.



How to make the most of your New Year resolutions

What are your New Year resolutions for 2025?

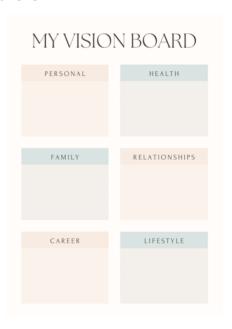
Sadly, one in four of us will give ours up by Epiphany, on 6th January.

Why so soon? According to behavioural scientists at University College London, we make our goals both too big and too vague. So, instead of resolving to 'lose a lot of weight', decide to 'lose three pounds in the next month'. With 'success' not far off, you will be motivated to keep going.

Another way to keep your New Year's Resolution is to involve a friend to aim for the same thing. As one scientist puts it: "the involvement of a partner has a sustained effect."

As for the time involved in reaching your New Year's Resolution, new habits are hard to build. Behavioural scientists say that on average, it takes 66 days to form and imbed a new healthy habit into your life. So be patient, keep going, and look for some success in mid-March.

Remember what one scientist says: "Your vision is your destination, and small, manageable goals are the motor that will get you there."



What's the Big Idea?

-an introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Acts

The Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke, a physician-friend and fellow-traveller of Paul. It complements his gospel, both being written for Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1), in around AD 63, during Paul's first Roman imprisonment.

While Luke's gospel records what Jesus *began* to do and teach, Acts tells us about what Jesus *continued* to do and teach through the disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit (1:1-3).

Luke's aim is:

To present a history. Christianity has a firm historical foundation. The life and teaching of Jesus Christ are recorded in the Gospels; Acts provides an account of the spread of the Church, as the result of the work of the risen Lord and the Holy Spirit through the apostles.

To give a defense. We read speeches to both Jews (eg 4:8–

12) and Gentiles (eg 25:8–11), showing us how the Early Church challenged pagan and Jewish thought, the Roman government and Hellenistic culture.

To provide a guide. We see basic gospel principles being applied to specific situations in the context of problems and persecution. These same principles are applicable for us today.

To depict the triumph of Christianity in the face of bitter persecution. The success of the Church carrying the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome and planting local churches demonstrates that it operates under the rule of the exalted Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' (1:8). Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the first Christians in their witness, so He will do the same for us today!

Canon Paul Hardingham



Lawton Light Magazine

It has been a year of challenges and opportunities for us in 2024 as we hosted

many events, built upon our church fellowship with new services.

Our church continued to open daily and 12 editions of the magazine were produced, printed and distributed around the parish and beyond. Our magazine is also available on our website and A Church Near You.

If you receive the magazine by Royal Mail do you still require this service?

If so we are more than happy to continue posting our magazine to you.

The cost of the magazine is: 12 copies £5.00 Postage £10.00 Total cost £15.00 Please make cheques payable to Church Lawton PCC send them to: The Editor 25 Dairylands Road, Church Lawton, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 3FU

Alternatively you could pay into the church bank account: Account Name: Church Lawton PCC Sort Code 16-26-19 Account number 10059880

Please use your surname as the reference.

If you no longer require the magazine please let us know either by the address above or by Telephone 01270 876363 or email: editor@allsaintschurchlawton.co. uk

If you receive your magazine through a distributor but they are unable to collect from you, please use the same information above to pay, the cost is £5.00.

If you have paid your distributor thank you very much we appreciate your contribution to the magazine and church funds.

Many thanks for all your support

Curry and Quiz Night

Friday 31st January 7pm

All are welcome you can come as a team or an individual







Quiz

7pm to 8pm

Curry Bring your own bottle Quiz

Final rounds

All Donations to the "Divine Relief "fund

All Saints' Church, Church Lane Church Lawton ST73DD Tel 07473 355646 www.allsaintschurchlawton.co.uk FB All Saints Church, Church Lawton



Laugh lines etcetera...

Good idea

A young theologian, fresh out of university, thought it would help him better understand the world if he served as a policeman before going on for ordination. At the police interview he was asked: "What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?"

He promptly responded, "I would pass around an offering plate." He got the job.



"It's worth getting to church an hour early to grab a pew by the electric socket."

Home Schooling

Back in the 'good old days', we didn't appreciate how much education was given at home...

Our mothers taught us TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE: "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

Our fathers taught us RELIGION: "You better pray that that will come out of the carpet."

Our mothers taught us LOGIC: "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shops with me."

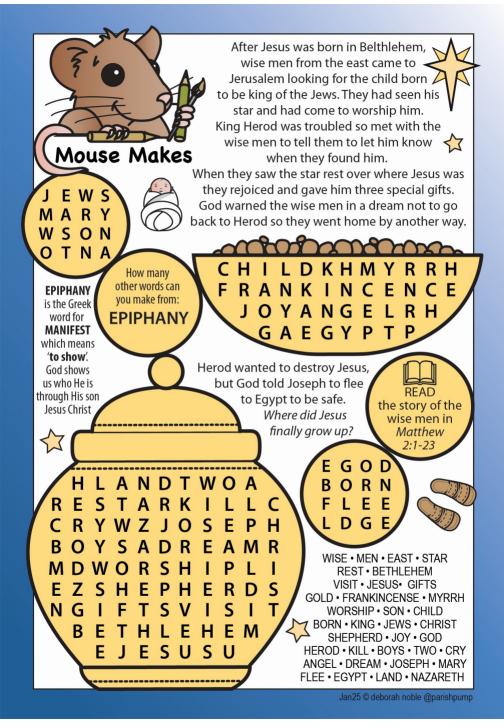
Our mothers taught us about CONTORTIONISM: "Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

Our fathers taught us about the science of OSMOSIS: "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

Our mothers taught us about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION: "Stop acting like your father!"

Our mothers taught us about ESP: "Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

And finally, our fathers taught us about JUSTICE: "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"



Recycling & Green Living Tips



New Year is a good time to make some resolutions

Try and make your kitchen ecofriendlier:

- Choose durable, plastic free equipment
- Avoid food waste: make your own compost to use in your garden
- Buy local, seasonal food which cuts down on food miles
- Keep re-usable cups, straws and bottles for when you are out and about
- Use eco-friendly washing-up liquid, dishwasher tablets and multisurface sprays. Many regular household cleaners contain chemicals that can harm the environment. Cleaning products get washed down the drain and can end up in rivers and streams.

Problems with wet wipes

Wet wipes usually end their useful life in the landfill. Though they can be convenient for you, wet wipes are quite problematic for the planet, no matter how they end up there. Wet wipes are single-use, moist, sanitary paper products used for personal hygiene or household

cleaning. These handy inventions are often used to clean up during nappy changes, to sanitise surfaces in the home or workplace, or even to use in place of toilet paper for extra cleanliness. And since COVID-19, the demand for single-use wipes has only increased.

Thrown Away

The synthetic fibres that make up wet wipes prevent them from being compostable or recyclable. So, if after a single use, we toss them out, they head to the landfill. There, they are out of sight for most, but should not be out of mind. Due to their synthetic fibres, the wipes do not break down and represent a hefty proportion of non-biodegradable waste in landfills.

Littered

Regrettably, our trash doesn't always make it to the rubbish bin. On-the-go wet wipe users often end up tossing their used wipes into the environment. A 2023 study found that wet wipe production will grow by six percent between 2021 and next year. We saw a significant uptick of this unfortunate practice during the coronavirus pandemic.

Wet wipes that find their way into the oceans can be fatal for marine animals, commonly settling in their stomachs and leading to starvation. These handy wipes are quickly becoming a leading environmental pollutant.

Flushed

Some wet wipes are advertised as "flushable," making them a convenient toilet paper replacement for those who wish to feel exceedingly squeaky clean. In fact, 22% of people surveyed in 2023 said they flush wet wipes despite the fact they cause 75% of drain blockages. The idea that wet wipes can be flushed down the toilet has been contested by wastewater officials everywhere. It turns out, these wipes do not disintegrate in the same way toilet paper does and can form congealed masses that block drains and block sewers costing town and city councils huge amounts of money to fix. The chemicals and materials contaminate waterways, oceans, and beaches.

In addition to negatively impacting the environment, wet wipes can be detrimental to human health. They contain a mixture of chemicals to enhance their cleaning abilities. These chemicals can be toxic and harmful to those who come in contact with them. Many wipe brands contain certain fragrances, preservatives, and cleaning agents that irritate the skin, causing painful rashes and inflammations. Because wet wipes are often used in direct contact with skin, this is a nasty combination.

Help Butterflies and Moths

Butterflies and moths declined in numbers over the last year. There are things you can do to help them. You don't need a big garden to make more room for nature. Whether you live in a flat with a balcony or a house with a patio, you can help make a difference.

- Flowers in pots on a windowsill, balcony or patio can help.
- Plant wild herbs where you can.
- In warmer months, leaves and buds of shrubs are eaten by many different caterpillars, including those of the Swallow-tailed and Magpie moths which eat Hawthorn and Privet. Flowering shrubs like Hawthorn, Privet and Holly also provide nectar for Painted Lady butterflies, Common Emerald moths and many others.
- In late autumn and in winter, butterflies and moths that hibernate (like the Brimstone) take shelter amongst the dense vegetation.
- Those species that survive the winter as eggs, caterpillars or chrysalises can be nestled against the twigs and stems in hedges.

Happy Recycling

Carol Henshaw

All Saints' Community Page at Christmas



Thank you for coming to our Services and events this Christmas





A huge thank you also to those that made it all happen too!



Morning Prayer time change at All Saints'

Rev Sister Heather Kemball warmly invites you to join her for Morning Prayer at 9.30am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6th January.



Midweek Communion at the Rectory

Every Wednesday morning at 11am, on the first Wednesday of each month it will be followed by an informal lunch.

First Wednesday of each month at 6.30pm followed by an informal supper.





Friday 31st January 7pm Curry and Quiz Night

More dates for other events to follow



All Saints' Church Lawton is open daily

The church is open daily for private prayer 10am to 3pm.

Come in and spend a few quiet moments in the tranquil and peaceful setting. There is a prayer station at the front of the church or simply choose a pew.

Morning Prayer at All Saints'

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Every Wednesday morning at 11am, on the first Wednesday of each month it will be followed by an informal lunch.

First Wednesday of each month at 6.30pm followed by an informal supper.

Prayer Diary

From January there will be available copies of a new monthly Prayer Diary with the names of all those on the electoral roll to enable us to pray regularly for one another.

Prayer for January 2025

Dear Lord,

We begin a New Year! We all have hopes, expectations, fears and uncertainties, as we move into 2025 – already a quarter of the way through this new century!

We can't know what will happen in the world, in our country, in our lives during this year, but we come before You, thankful that if we put our trust in Jesus and what He achieved on the cross, we need not be afraid; we are safe and secure.

He takes all our hopes and fears and gives us His Peace and His Spirit in return, to sustain and equip us this New Year and always. Thank you, gracious Father. Thank you, Lord of all the years. In Jesus' name,

Bible Readings for January Services

Date	Epistle	Gospel
5th	Isaiah 60: 1 - 6	Matthew 2: 1 - 12
12th	Isaiah 43: 1 - 7	Luke 3: 15 - 17, 21 22
19th	Isaiah 62: 1 - 5	John 2: 1 - 11
26th	Nehemiah 8: 1 - 3,5 - 6,8 - 10	Luke 4: 14 - 21

Teaser Answers

I will always come, but never arrive today. What am I? **Ans=-Tomorrow**

I have a head and a tail, but no body.

What am I? **Ans= A coin**What building has the most stories?

Ans= Library

What tastes better than it smells?

Ans= Your Tongue

Many have heard me, but nobody has seen me, and I will not speak back until spoken to. **Ans= Echo**What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and grey when you throw it away? **Ans= Coal**



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

To Jane Baker
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Telephone 01270 876363 or
email:
editor@allsaintschurchlawton.
co.uk

Services & Speakers January 2025

	8.30am	10.45am	6.00pm
5th			
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Taize Evening Prayer
	Heather Kemball	Heather Kemball	Heather Kemball
12th			
		Praise & Prayer	Holy Communion
		David Hermitt	David Hermitt
19th			
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
		Margaret Cruxton	Margaret Cruxton
26th			
		Praise & Prayer	Holy Communion
		Heather Kemball	Heather Kemball



January Rotas

Date	Time	Service	Readers	Prayers
5th January	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP		
	10.45am	Holy Communion CW	Pat Lancaster	Bev Boulton
			Margaret Mellor	
	6.00pm	Taize Evening Prayer	Harold Dowler Kieran Hutchinson	Bev Boulton
12th January	9.00am	Messy Church		
	10.45am	Praise & Prayer	Linda Jones	Margaret Cruxton
			Di Williams	
	6.00pm	Holy Communion CW	Chris Preston	Harold Dowler
			Kieran Hutchinson	
19th January	8.30am	Holy Communion CW		
	10.45am	Holy Communion CW	Ruth Griffiths	Alan Kemball
			Janet Parker	
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Chris Preston	Margaret Cruxton
			Harold Dowler	
26th January	10.45am	Praise & Prayer		
			Paul Cruxton	Jane Baker
	6.00pm	Holy Communion BCP	Margaret Cruxton	Jane Baker
			Kieran Hutchinson	
			Chris Preston	





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