

Lawton Light!

Church Lawton Parish Magazine

February 2026

50p



But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.

Each day has enough trouble of its own

Mathew 6:33 to 34

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Lawton Light!	Jane Baker	Tel:01270 876363
Musical Director	Margaret Cruxton	Tel:01270 876366
Parish Visitor	Bev Nixon	Via Mob: 07473 355646

**** 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



February Letter

Dear Friends,

As February begins we look forward to Spring and the new life it brings. This is true for our church season as well. This month sees the start of our spiritual journey towards Easter as we begin Lent with Ash Wednesday on the 18th. All of this means two important things – Pancakes and our Lent Course!

Following the success of the last two years, Alan and I would love to welcome you to the rectory for our Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday, 17th February at 6.30pm. We will provide pancakes with a range of toppings together with soft drinks, tea and coffee. Once we've enjoyed these sweet treats together, I'll be giving a brief introduction to our Lent Course.

This year we're using some material produced by Lectio365 entitled *Wisdom in the Desert: 40 days in the Wilds of Faith with the Desert Mothers and Fathers*. Journeying in the wilderness is an appropriate topic for Lent, as we recall Jesus spent forty days there before beginning his public ministry. During this time Jesus was able to focus on the mission that lay before him without interruption.

Whilst we may not be able to literally go to a desert place, my prayer is that we will use this Lent and this course to assist us in putting aside some of the distractions of our normal lives to focus on our calling and mission as Christians.

The desert fathers and mothers were a group of people who chose not to follow the crowd, but to live differently - to work and pray away from civilised society through the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. They sought silence, solitude and spirituality in a busy, noisy world by setting themselves apart (today we might use the term “dropping off-grid”) in search of a simpler and truer life. We'll be looking at some of these individuals as well as bible passages each week in Lent in both our sermon series and our mid-week sessions.

As in previous years, our weekly Wednesday Lent meetings will be held at the rectory, and you are invited to come either during the day at 10.30am – 12 noon or in the evening at 7.30 – 9pm. The dates are 25th February – 1st April inclusive, making six sessions in all. During this period the Midweek Communion on Wednesdays will be suspended, resuming after Easter on 15th April.



The Desert Mothers and Fathers

A Lectio 365 Series | Lent 2026

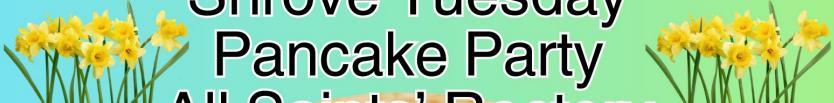


I do hope you'll come along and participate in both our Pancake Party and our Lent Course this year and join me in praying that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide us through the wildernesses and wastelands of this world onto the flourishing and fruitful pathways he has for his faithful people.

God bless, Heather

JOIN US FOR OUR

**Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Party
All Saints' Rectory
17th February 6:30 pm**



for pancakes & the start of our
2026 Lent Course

Meru's Musings Remembered...

Teasers

One brother says of his younger brother: "Two years ago, I was three times as old as my brother was. In three years time, I will be twice as old as my brother."

How old are they each now?

I add six to eleven, and get five. Why is this correct?

Old Granny Adams left half her money to her granddaughter and half that amount to her grandson. She left a sixth to her brother, and the remainder, £1,000, to the dogs' home. How much did she leave altogether?

Latin sayings

Mutum estb pictura poema

A picture is a silent poem.

Carpe diem, quam minimum credula postera.

Seize the day, trusting little in tomorrow.

Deo fidelis et patria

Faithful to God and country.

Deo Optimo Maximo

God the best the greatest

Sayings of old.

Death:

Death may be free- but it costs a life.

Better 10 times sick than once dead.

The road to a cemetery is paved with suffering.

No one knows who will see tomorrow.

In harbour, two ships sailed: one setting forth on a voyage, the other coming home to port. Everyone cheered the ship going out, but the ship sailing in was scarcely noticed. And a wise man said, 'Do not rejoice a ship that is setting out to sea, for you cannot know what storms it may endure. But rejoice rather over a ship that has safely reached port and brings home all its passengers in peace.'

And this is the way of the world: when a child is born, all rejoice: when a woman or man dies, all weep. We should do the opposite. No one can tell what trials and travails await a child: but when a mortal dies in peace, we should rejoice, for he has completed his long journey, and is leaving this world with the imperishable crown of a good name.

Man enters the world with closed hands, as if to say, 'The world is mine: he leaves with open hands, as if to say, 'I take nothing with me'.

Fear not death, for it is your destiny. If the rich could hire the poor to die for them, the poor would make a very good living.

Meru Ullah



**9.00am
8th February
Love Rules**



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:
Kirsty Hicks 07463918857**

Or come along on the day.



How to Handle Temptation

'I can resist everything but temptation' (Oscar Wilde). During Lent we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), when 'He was led by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil.' (1).

Temptation is a test of whether we do things our way or God's way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most vulnerable moments, especially when we are stressed.

The first temptation was to turn stones into bread: Jesus' ministry was not about putting His own needs first, but being nourished by God's word. 'We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God' (Deuteronomy 8:3). Like Jesus, we need to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

The second temptation was to put God to the test: Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this was not God's way! 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' (Deuteronomy 6:16). We too need to learn this lesson!

The third temptation was to worship Satan: The devil took Jesus up a mountain to offer Him worldly

power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was to be marked by suffering and honouring God.

'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only' (Deuteronomy 6:13). This is to be our experience of living for God.

Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, like Him, we will find strength in the Spirit's power and the victory of the Cross.

Consider these verses:

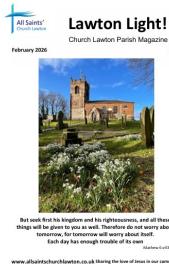
'Watch and pray, so that you enter not into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.' (Matthew 26:41)

'Since Jesus Himself has endured being tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.' (Hebrews 2:18)

'Blessed is the man that endures temptation, for when he is tested, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (James 1:12)

'If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest!' (Corrie Ten Boom).

Canon Paul Hardingham considering the temptations of Christ.



Lawton Light Magazine

It has been a year of challenges and opportunities for us in 2025 as we hosted many events including our major exhibition “Knitivity”.

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 £10.44

Total cost £15.44

Please make cheques payable to Church Lawton PCC send them to:

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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

Jane Baker



From the Registers

Funerals

On 15th December	Joseph William Bowers	Age 90 years
On 16th January	Barbara Cliffe	Age 86 years
On 16th January	Dorothy Alice Brown	Age 96 years
On 19th January	Francis Roberts	Age 92 years
On 22nd January	Anthony George Lawley	Age 80 years
On 30th January	Geoffrey Robert Mitchell	Age 83 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)

Church Collections for December 2025

Week Beginning	7th	£1,716.15
Week Beginning	14th	£1,596.72
Week Beginning	21st	£908.44
Week Beginning	28th	£349.16

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

During this unprecedented challenging time, you can also keep up to date via our website where you can find out about our worship, church life, giving and accessing our monthly parish magazine.

Church Symbols and Actions



My husband didn't grow up as a churchgoer - whereas, although I no longer attend church nearly as much as I should, I was a fully-fledged Sunday school pupil, so, the other day, he asked me what a Jesus fish was.

I explained that in biblical times, those who were followers of the then-persecuted faith would draw a fish in the sand with a stick during conversations with other people. If the other person was also a Christian, they would take the stick and dot the eye.

It took me straight back to when we were attending church before getting married and he came out one morning saying how nice it was to shake hands with people and say how pleased he was to meet them.



I was totally baffled... but then the penny dropped - it was the part of the service when we all turned to each other and said "peace be with you!"

Oh I just love him. Brilliant.

Mieka Smiles
submitted by Michael Davies

There is a lot of talk about 'mindfulness' these days, and how to find calm moments in our daily lives. Both the BBC and Classic FM even have radio stations devoted to 'mindful' and 'calm' music. But as Christians, we have an extra, divine resource to call on, here are some reminders for us.

Peaceful Mind

The Bible tells the story of Jesus and His stressed disciples in a boat in a storm. Like them, we also get hit by storms in life. And like them, we can know that Jesus is also with us. Why not take a moment to ponder these promises:

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken. (Psalm 55:22)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

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. (Philippians 4: 6-8)

-Introducing Dame Sarah Mullally – the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury



The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE officially became Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th January 2026, when she

was legally confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral.

Most people know that she had been Bishop of London for several years, and that she is the first woman to ever become Archbishop of Canterbury. But what else do you know about her?

She was born in Woking in 1962, and is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother.

She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She went on to South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London

She worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, which she has

described as “an opportunity to reflect the love of God”. She specialised as a cancer nurse and became a ward sister at Westminster Hospital, before being made Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government’s Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.

She had become a Christian at the age of 16. While working as the Chief Nursing Officer for England, she discerned a call to ordination and entered training ministry at the South East Institute for Theological Education.

She was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St Saviour’s Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004, which she has described at the time as “the biggest decision I have ever made”.

In 2012 she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as

Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England.

On 12th May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.

Bishop Sarah sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spirituals, having been introduced on 24th May 2018. Her maiden speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70th anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am."

She was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in March 2018 and became Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal in July 2019.

As Bishop of London, she led the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages of discernment and decision making which saw the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples.

She has served on the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues.

As a Lord Spiritual, she has drawn from both her pastoral experience and her background in nursing and healthcare and has played a key role in the ongoing debates on assisted dying.

This year, she chaired the Triennium Funding Working Group that developed the Church of England's three-year spending plan that led to significant investments in local churches and parish clergy.

Archbishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide.

The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace.

Archbishop Sarah has continued her interest in the health service having been a non-executive director at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust then at Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital.

She is Chair of Christian Aid.

She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading.

In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery

Laugh lines etcetera...

Post-Valentine

A man confided to his friend that he and his wife had had a serious argument the night before. "It finally ended," he said, "when she came crawling to me on her hands and knees."

"What did she say?" asked the friend, amazed. The husband replied, "She said, 'Come out from under that bed, you coward!'"

Church bulletin notices that did not come out quite right...

We congratulate our youth group for raising nearly £500 for drug abuse.

We apologise for the following typo in last Sunday's bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct it to read '12 noon.'

Any church member aged over 18 can join our lay ministry programme. It requires a minimal amount of training and time. The first course is six weekly classes of about 200 hours each Tuesday night.

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring either a friend or a vegetable in a covered dish.

Church Jumble Sale: All welcome. We can offer a gents three-speed bicycle, and two ladies for sale, in good running order."



...er... apart from this little hiccup... it was an excellent church pancake supper...

Recycling & Green Living Tips

9 Ways to Cut Down on Plastic

A November article in the New York Times covered the following problems with the small number of plastics that are recycled.

- Documents leaked from an influential industry group show how some of the world's largest petrochemical and plastics companies have been waging a campaign to push back against a "tide of anti-plastic sentiment."
- "Mass balance" accounting certifies that something was made with recycled plastic.
- Critics argue that it creates a system where consumers don't know if any recycled material was used in a product.
- Recycling options are limited for personal medical devices like inhalers and EpiPens, which are made from high-quality plastic. Some companies are trying to change that.
- As more consumers try to cut down on plastic waste, start-ups and big brands are hoping to usher in a new age of refillable household cleaners.
- Want to cut down on your plastic use?

Here are nine steps to get you started. It's all about reducing single-use plastics.

1. Carry a reusable bag.

Take a cloth bag to the grocery shop, farmers' market, pharmacy, supermarket and anywhere else you may be given a plastic bag.

2. Use plastic-free containers.

Glass or metal jars can be used to store grains, nuts, flour and other foods, as well as laundry detergent, dish soap and body creams. But don't automatically purge all of your plastic containers; that creates unnecessary waste. More refillery shops are opening to allow you to refill your own containers with food items.

3. Pack a travel kit.

Bamboo or light metal cutlery and a no plastic food tray, straw and water bottle will eliminate the need for most single-use plastics while on-the-go. More cafes are reducing prices for people who bring their own reusable cups.

4. Buy in bulk.

Another way to reduce food packaging is to hop the bulk aisle at a market and bring your own glass containers. Weigh the jar beforehand to avoid being overcharged.

5. Buy used items.

Some household plastic is unavoidable, especially in modern appliances. So until they make an all-metal vacuum cleaner. Buying secondhand avoids new plastic and also plastic packaging.

6. Recycle “good” plastics.

Clear plastic bottles, bottles for shampoos, yogurt containers, toys and reusable food containers have a higher probability of being recycled. Disposable cutlery, cling film and coffee cups and lids have very low probability.

7. Wear natural clothes.

Synthetic fibres from clothing “are an enormous plastic pollution problem,” said Mr. Sinha, because they are a key contributor to microplastic pollution. Choose clothing made of fabrics like cotton, wool, hemp and silk.

8. Make your own.

With so many toiletries packaged in plastic, Chantal Plamondon, a founder of Life Without Plastic, became a home chemist. “We make our own toothpaste out of baking soda, coconut oil and essential oils,” she said. “We make body creams out of coconut or macadamia oil.” I make lip salve from solid bees wax and coconut oil from a jar.

9. Do without.

If it’s plastic or nothing, you can always choose nothing.

Wrapping paper

The UK uses around 227,000 miles of wrapping paper each year – an estimated 83 square kilometres of this isn’t recycled. So choosing sustainable wrapping paper, and disposing of it responsibly by

recycling, is an important way to cut Christmas and birthday waste. Some of what you receive might be able to be used again.



Here are 19 ways you can be more climate friendly from The World Resource Centre

1. Go Car free
2. Fly less
3. Shift to renewable home energy
4. Switch to EV
5. Go Vegan
6. Walk, bike or public transport
7. Make energy efficient renovations
8. Use clean cooking equipment
9. Go Vegetarian
10. Shift driving habits e.g. Car pooling
11. Increase tele commuting
12. Shift to regional/seasonal diet
13. Move to energy efficient home
14. Decrease waste food
15. Eat less meat
16. Use less energy at home
17. Reduce package food and dining out
18. Use energy efficient appliances
19. Compost

Happy Recycling

Carol Henshaw

All Saints' Community Page

The Volunteers continued to work in the churchyard in January, apart from the snow week, where we and other church members cleared the Galley from many years of unused items!



Most of the Ivy has been removed from the trees in the Memorial Garden and Karen has removed lots of dead branches. Lots more light here now and the area will be ready soon for planting.

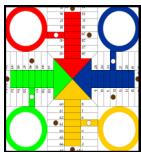
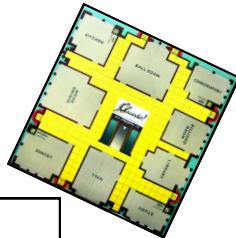


Jane and Diane had a look at the many newly planted beds last Autumn now showing lots of signs that Spring is on the way, lots of Daffodils coming through.

Michael and Paul have been busy straightening some headstones that have sunk and leaned in the very wet ground, the headstones are now standing tall again.
Thank you Everyone.

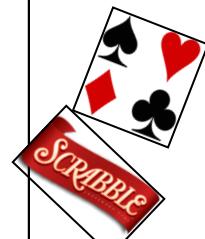


All Saints' Community Page



Fancy a game of Logo, Dominoes, Rummikub, Snakes and Ladders, Ludo, Scrabble or other games.

No Games club in February
Enjoy a challenge or teach others.



Diary Dates

**17th February Pancake Party
at the Rectory 6.30pm**



Lent Course at the Rectory

Wisdom in the Desert: 40 days in the Wilds of Faith with the Desert Mothers and Fathers.

Wednesday's 10.30am – 12 noon or in the evening at 7.30 – 9pm.

The dates are 25th February – 1st April inclusive, six sessions

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'

Rev Sister Heather Kemball warmly invites you to join her for Morning Prayer at 9.30am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday
No morning Prayer on February 9th, 11th and 13th

Midweek Communion at the Rectory

As in previous years, our weekly Wednesday Lent meetings will be held at the rectory, and you are invited to come either during the day at 10.30am – 12 noon or in the evening at 7.30 – 9pm. The dates are 25th February – 1st April inclusive, making six sessions in all. During this period the Midweek Communion on Wednesdays will be suspended, resuming after Easter on 15th April.

Prayer Diary

Prayer Diary with the names of all those on the electoral roll to enable us to pray regularly for one another, is available in church.

Prayer – of thanks for Candlemas and the Presentation at the Temple

Dear Lord,

The shortest month, the snowdrop month! February brings those beautiful, hopeful little flowers, also called Candlemas Bells. Thank You, Lord, for the beauty and the hope.

Thank You for the reminder of when Jesus was presented at the Temple as a baby. Thank You, for Simeon recognising in that vulnerable baby the promised Saviour of all the world.

Oh Lord, how this world needs to hear afresh that message of salvation. Open eyes to see You and to know You. Open ears to hear Your message of hope and reconciliation. Open hearts to receive Your love and to share it, for the sake of all the suffering people of the world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Bible Readings for February Services

Date	Epistle	Gospel
1st	Hebrews 2:14-end	Luke 2:22-40
8th	Genesis 1:1 – 2:3	Matthew 6:25 to end
15th	Colossians 4: 2 - 6	Matthew 17:1-9
22nd	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11

Teaser Answers

One brother says of his younger brother: "Two years ago, I was three times as old as my brother was. In three years time, I will be twice as old as my brother."

How old are they each now?

Answer: One way to solve this math riddle is to use even numbers: The older brother will be twice as old as his younger brother in three years' time. This immediately rules out the older brother currently being 8, 11 and 14, so he must be 17, and the younger brother 7. Two years ago, they were 15 and 5 respectively, and in three years, they will be 20 and 10.

Riddle: I add six to eleven, and get five. Why is this correct?

Answer: Tricksy, tricksy! You have to think more broadly. Here's a hint: Think about the numbers on a clock. When it is 11 a.m., adding six hours makes it 5 p.m.

Riddle: Old Granny Adams left half her money to her granddaughter and half that amount to her grandson. She left a sixth to her brother, and the remainder, £1,000, to the dogs' home. How much did she leave altogether?



Please send any material for inclusion in the March Lawton Light!

By 10th February

To Jane Baker

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

Teaser answer continued

Answer: This math riddle might have tripped you up! But the trick is not to focus on the hypothetical amounts, but on the fractions: Adding one half, one quarter and one-sixth tells us that the total is a fraction of twelfths ($2 + 4 + 6 = 12$). You can also think about it as $6/12, 3/12, 2/12$, which equals $11/12$. If the remainder is £1,000, that must be one-twelfth, so the total is £12,000.

Services & Speakers February 2026

	8.30am	10.45am	6.00pm
	Candlemas		
1st	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Service of the Word
	Heather Kemball	Heather Kemball	Heather Kemball
8th	2nd before Lent		
		Praise & Prayer	Holy Communion
		Margaret Cruxton	Margaret Cruxton
15th	Sunday Before Lent		
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
	Heather Kemball	Heather Kemball	Heather Kemball
22nd	First Sunday of Lent		
		Praise & Prayer	Holy Communion
		Bev Boulton	Bev Boulton



February 2026 Rotas

Date	Time	Service	Readers	Prayers
1st February	8.30am 10.45am 6.00pm	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion CW Service of the Word	Pat Lancaster Margaret Mellor Ken Newton Chris Hollins	Alan Kemball Harold Dowler
8th February	9.00am 10.45am 6.00pm	Messy Church Praise & Prayer Holy Communion CW	Linda Jones Janet Parker Chris Preston Kieran Hutchinson	Bev Nixon Bev Boulton
15th February	8.30am 10.45am 6.00pm	Holy Communion CW Holy Communion CW Evening Prayer	Di Williams Palul Cruxton Harold Dowler Chris Hollins	Jane Baker Jane Baker
22nd February	10.45am 6.00pm	Praise & Prayer Holy Communion BCP	Helen Mottram Ruth Griffiths Chris Preston Kieran Hutchinson	Heather Kemball Service Prayers



Lawton Memorial Hall



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