

LAWN COMMUNITY CHURCH



Monthly Update

Making Jesus Known in Lawn and beyond.....



www.lawncommunitychurch.org.uk

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday Services are held every week at 10.30am

At Lawn Community Centre, Guilford Avenue, Lawn, Swindon, SN3 1JL

Prayer gathering in Room 1 every Sunday before the service at 10.15am

December

3rd Sun 10.30am Communion Service – first Advent Sunday

7th Thurs 7.00pm Home Group – Venue to be announced

10th Sun 10.30am 2nd Advent Sunday followed by **Bring and Share Lunch**

Please note change for B & S lunch from 1st Sun in month for Dec only.

Please bring some lunch for you and some lunch to share! If bringing something home-made please include a note of the ingredients, in case of allergies.

14th Thurs 7.30pm Prayer Meeting

16th Sat 5.30pm **Community Carol Singing outside Lawn Community Centre**

Jointly presented by LCC and Lawn Community Association

LCC will be leading the local community in Carol singing, music by the Salvation Army band. Afterwards mince pies, mulled-wine and other refreshments served inside with special entertainment from our very own Dr. Stephen Brooke! 😊 Last year, despite the sub-zero temperatures, between 60-70 people joined us. Please will you invite your neighbours to join the singing?

17th Sun 10.30am Sunday Service – third Sunday in advent

21st Thurs 7.00pm Home Group at Crispian and Jenny's

24th Sun 10.30am Sunday Service – fourth Sunday in advent

8pm **Traditional Carol Service at The Sun Inn - by Coate Water round-about**

Do you normally spend Christmas Eve with relatives? Perhaps YOU would consider bringing them to The Sun Inn to join a festive evening.

25th Mon 10.30am **Christmas Day Service**

31st Sun 10.30am Sunday Service

----- Closing date for MU & CFN -----

MU & CFN being produced a week later than normal due to Christmas break.



Happy Christmas and best wishes
for a peaceful New



Memory Verse "For Trust in the LORD with all your heart
Proverbs 2:5 and lean not on your own understanding."

Notice board

Worship Group Can you play a musical instrument? Do you sing, however falteringly? If so, we may be looking to use your talents - please see Stephen Brooke.

Food-parcels The church continues to deliver a weekly, balanced, healthy food-parcel to households referred to us, by Lawn Primary School. We continue to deliver one-off, emergency food-parcels. This assistance is helping those households in getting themselves back on their feet. We still regularly require donations of food and drink. If you would like to make a financial donation, please use the envelopes at the back of the church and mark it 'food-parcels'. Please see how you can help the church to help others. Thank you.

Discipleship Group Join our church homegroup, on alternate Thursday evenings at Jenny and Crispian's home. Email: crispian.garth@ntlworld.com Starting at 7.00pm with refreshments and group session at 7.30pm. An opportunity for us to study, pray together and support each other.

Board games evening Do you enjoy board games? Would you be willing to lead others in playing them as community outreach towards those who enjoy them? We are considering a free **monthly**, organised, board games evening at the Community Centre, led by the church where anyone can attend and play; tea, coffee and other refreshments will be available, in a safe space. We hope to have our first evening in February. Thank you to those who have already agreed to bring a game and show others how to play it. If you can help, please see John and dig out your games at home!

Free cleaning Our new church member, Patricia Bakwinya, is a professional cleaner and is looking to bless others by cleaning their home, from top-to-bottom. Would you, or someone you know (maybe a senior citizen), like to be blessed by her free offer of help?

Prayer Triplets Would you be willing to 'journey' with two others, both prayerfully and in other ways, at Lawn Community Church? Some of you already meet and pray for one or two others at the church - we're now looking to enhance this spiritual practice and extend it throughout the congregation. We welcome your feedback.

Culinary gatherings We've had two tremendous men's breakfasts, which were enjoyed by all those present! Watch this space, for more. The ladies are welcome to do something similar, too...

THE LCC ROTA

Dec	Facilitator	Preach	Music	PA	Laptop	Set Up	Refreshments
3	John	John	Stephen	Crispian	Jenny	Jenny & Crispian	Jenny & Crispian
10	John	Chris Woodhouse	Susan	Matthew	Ruth	Keith T	Frank & Rachel
17	John	John	Susan	Keith T	Howard	Keith T & Howard	Keith T & Sue
24	Christine & Stephen	Stephen	Stephen	Keith T	Howard	Stephen & Christine	Stephen & Christine
25	John	John					
31	Frank	Frank	Stephen	Matthew	Ruth	Keith T & Howard	Keith T & Sue

2024

A New Year – What hopes have you for 2024?

January

4 th	Thurs	7.30pm	Home Group
7 th	Sun	10.30am	Communion Service
11 th	Thurs	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting
14 th	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service
18 th	Thurs	7.30pm	Home Group
21 st	Sun	10.30am	Sunday Service
25 th	Thurs	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting
28 th	Sun	7.30pm	Sunday Service

Christmas Project 2023



This year LCC has chosen Educacion Plus for our Christmas project. Instead of giving

Christmas cards each to other at LCC, we sign a communal card made by someone within the fellowship and give donations to the chosen organisation to support them. The communal Christmas card will be available from the first Sunday in advent you to sign. Please place your donations in an envelope marked Christmas project in the offering box.

Soaking in the Word

Isaiah 9:6-7 - NLT

For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.

The government will
rest on his shoulders.

And he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

His government and its
peace

will never end.

He will rule with fairness and
justice

from the throne

of his ancestor David

for all eternity.

The passionate commitment
of the LORD

of Heaven's Armies

will make this happen!

✠ BE INSPIRED WITH QUOTES ✠

“The very purpose of Christ’s coming into the world was that He might offer up His life as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas.” —*Billy Graham*

“You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father’s face and tell Him you have received His Christmas gift.” – *John R. Rice*

He is the reason for the season – *Stryper*

“Christmas is a togethery sort of holiday. That’s my favourite kind.” – *A. A. Milne*
(from *Winnie the Pooh*)

“The story of Christmas is the story of God’s relentless love for us.” – *Max Lucado*

Rock for the King in Germany



Back in Mid-October, a gathering took place in a small town in Germany.

15 Metal/Rock bands came together for a Loud & Proud Music Festival with one thing in common – to celebrate Jesus through awesome music.

Starting in the late 1980's Christian Metal/Rock music played an important place in my early Christian life and this has remained the case. You can imagine that attending this festival was a **dream** for me.

The festival had a mixture of older and newer bands. I was already very familiar with most of the bands from playing their music at home.

It was so good to see some older bands still rocking for Jesus (Whitecross, Petra and Les and Joyce Carlsen).

The newer bands were amazing live too – Theocracy, Disciple, Chaotic Resemblance, Behold the Beloved, Wolves at the Gate.

The festival had an electric atmosphere and I was able to mingle with band members, make new friends and celebrate JESUS.

On the Saturday afternoon the festival team led a Church service in the town and locals were invited to join. John Schlitt from Petra gave his powerful testimony of transition from a Drug addict to living for Christ!

It was an unbelievable time spent with my Christian Metal family and I hope to be back again there rocking again one day. *Frank*



Finances - Lawn Community Church

We are reliant upon God and the giving of our Members / Congregation, for the ongoing work of the church. Each month, the money received goes towards paying for our Minister-In-Training, Giving to Specific Causes – locally and abroad and our various admin expenses.

If you feel prompted to give regularly, please speak to our Treasurer Howard Patterson or to Jenny Garth for Gift Aid. Please use the Offering Box if you are unable to give regularly or prefer to give a cash offering.

Gift received in October 2023.

- Regular & one-off Gifts: £2,035.00
- Offering Box Gifts: £201.64
- WEBA Home Mission Gift £333.33

Total: £2,569.97

Payments / Expenses for the Month: £3,556.53

The deficit payment is being met from our reserves



Minister's Letter

I HAVE lots of memories of Christmases past.

I remember once going to visit a widow I knew, on Christmas night. I spent three hours with her and I was the only person she saw, all day. My card and present were the only card and present she received that Christmas.

When we were living in Chester when I was studying Theology, Fiona and I led our church to the local pub on the night before Christmas Eve, to lead the pub in a traditional Carol Service, inside the pub - every year for five years. Some years, people couldn't get in, so packed was it. To lead a pub full of boozers, in prayer at the end, and to hear many of them join in with "amen", was a wonderful experience.

In 2020, at the height of the pandemic, on Christmas night Fiona and I went to visit a semi-housebound member of our congregation who lived alone. In the cold, in inner-city Merseyside, we stood outside her front-door, two metres apart, chatting with her when, behind her, we could see smoke pouring out from her kitchen. I rushed in and immediately took the only action I could: I switched off and unplugged the microwave oven that she'd left unattended!

None of this compares with the first Christmas. At that point in history, God chose to come down from heaven and join humankind in the most vulnerable form of all: that of a newly-born baby. Jesus came to rescue, to comfort, to save us all. This Christmas, do spread this good news, far-and-wide...

God Bless, John Cheek

Lawn Community Church (LCC)

CURRENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Minister: John Cheek

Tel: 01793 420507 **Day off:** Monday

Deacons: Keith Tredget

Howard Patterson

Crispian Garth

Pastoral Mentor: Dr Stephen Brooke

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Minutes secretary, gift aid administrator, etc: Jenny Garth

Church news co-ordinator: Ruth French

BMS birthday scheme: Role vacant

Designated person for safeguarding: Keith Tredget

Deputy designated person for safeguarding: Rachel Hudd

LCC email: admin@lawncommunitychurch.org.uk

SAFE GUARDING *Although we are a small fellowship it is important that we continue to remember our responsibilities in safeguarding all children, young people and adults at risk, regardless of gender, ethnicity or ability. If you have any concerns, please contact:*

Keith Tredget: Mobile 07810 860568

Email safeguarding@lawncommunitychurch.org.uk