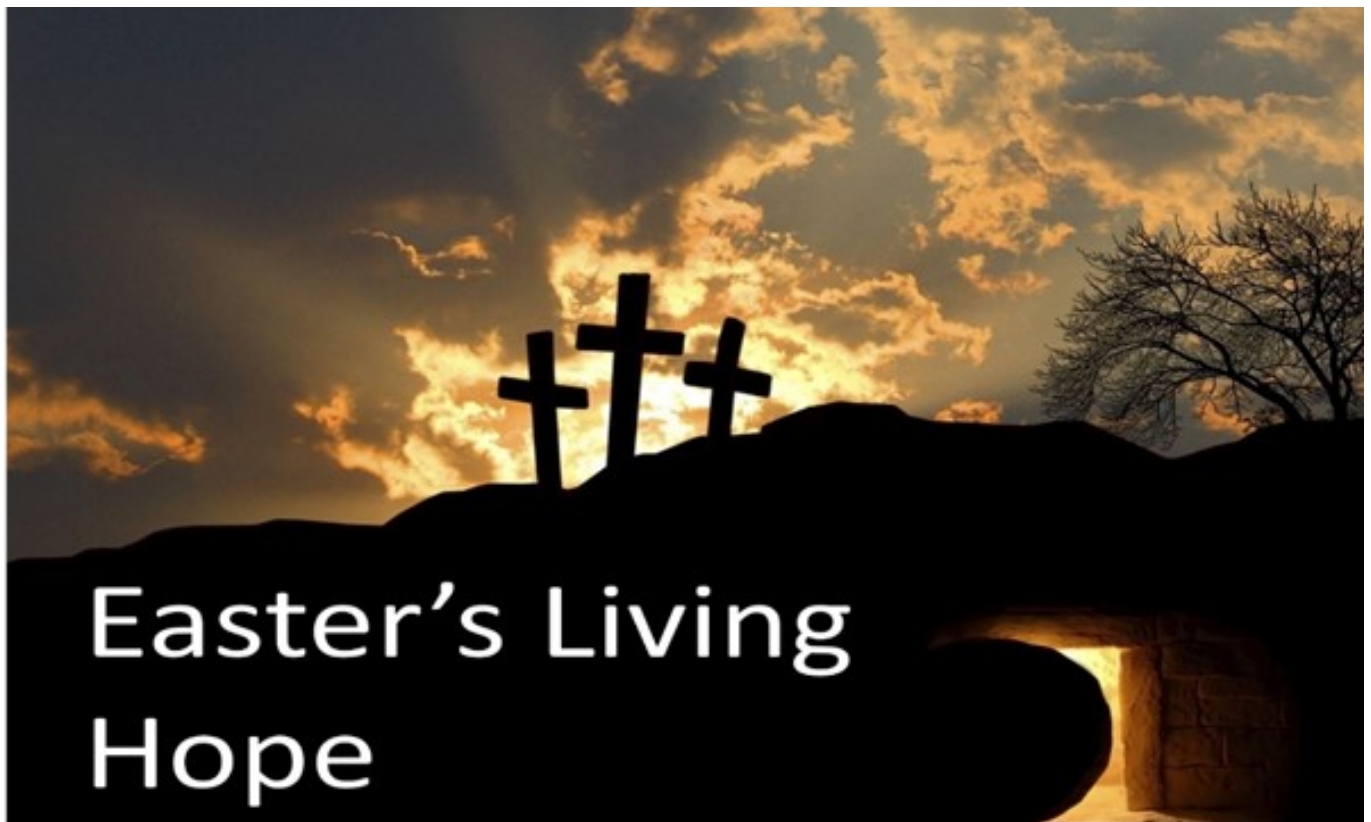




Easter 2021  
Number 265

# Easter's Living Hope



***God has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...(1 Peter 1v3)***

What a difference a year makes. Easter 2021 will be very different from Easter 2020!

One year ago, for the first time ever, Christians were unable to meet together in church to celebrate the most important dates in the Christian calendar, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The rapid spread of coronavirus in the UK necessitated the first national lockdown and we have been counting the cost in terms of both human life and a diminished economy ever since.

But now as Easter 2021 approaches, there is tangible hope of a return to a more normal life (although what exactly this 'new normal' will be is anyone's guess!) And it is the success and effectiveness of the vaccine rollout that has markedly changed the landscape resulting in a viable roadmap out of Covid 19 restrictions. A most welcome news indeed, a wonderful hope, a living hope you might say of being able to do once more, the simplest kind of activities that help us flourish as human beings.

And for Christians, this means we can meet in church for Easter worship once more, although singing will still have to wait a while longer! We can celebrate the fact that Easter speaks of another 'living hope' which far surpasses all other kinds of human hope. Not a vague 'I hope so,' with fingers crossed or wood touched! No, a sure and certain hope that reaches even beyond death for it finds its source in the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

For he is the real, historic, flesh and blood person who came into our world from his heavenly Father, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, did amazing miracles. But in spite of living a life of perfect obedience, he was brutally crucified that first Good Friday, voluntarily dying on a Roman cross to bear the sin and rebellion of humanity that alienates us from a holy and just God.

But then on the third day — Easter Sunday — he was raised from the dead never to die again! And that means he is alive today and through his Holy Spirit, is an ever-present Saviour who challenges us to order our lives around him and put our trust, our faith in his sacrificial death and resurrection as the one and only way back to God. To do so, is to receive in the words of St Peter; **'a new birth into a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ'**.

This new birth or new creation is nothing less than the gift of Jesus, recreating us anew and delivering us from the spiritual death of our rebellion against him. For St Peter goes on to say that Christ's resurrection from the dead has gained for us 'an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade, and which no one can take from us because it is kept in heaven for us'.

And it is the immensity of this living hope that prompts Christian author Simon Ponsonby to spell out in a recent writing [*Simon Ponsonby, Amazed by Jesus, Muddy Pearl, 2020*], a breath-taking and far-reaching vision of the Christian life which flows from the death and resurrection of Jesus for all who receive him as God's Son. We are assured because of Easter Sunday and the empty tomb which Jesus left behind.....

- That God is at the helm of history
- That Jesus can be taken at his word
- That Jesus is Lord over death and Lord of life
- That our sin is fully paid for because Jesus' substitutionary death was sufficient for all
- That eternity has been ushered in, has begun already for believers

- Those who hope in Jesus will one day rise with him and share in his eternity

So, with all this promise in mind, we can be joyful and hopeful even though we are not yet free of coronavirus' influence. Why not join with us in our Holy Week and Easter celebrations at St Luke's. Rejoice with us, that Easter Day is truly '**a day of living hope**'; the promise of death's sting defeated and of a new life in Christ?

***Every blessing for a hope-filled Easter!***  
***Dave Clarke***

<b>March/April 2021</b>			
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Compline	
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00a	Holy Communion	
	7.30pm	Compline	
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Compline	
Thu 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Communion	
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Good Friday</b>	12:30	Good Friday Easter Trail	
	2-3pm	Hour at the cross	
	7:30pm	Compline	
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> <b>Easter Sunday</b>	8.00am	Morning Communion	BCP Communion in the Chapel
	9.00am	Family Communion	John 20:1-18 <i>The Empty Tomb</i>
	11.00a	Family Communion	John 20:1-18 <i>The Empty Tomb</i>
	7.00pm	Evening Service	Colossians 1:1-8 <i>Introduction: True Christians and True Gospel</i>
Tue 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00a	Holy Communion	
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Easter 2	8.30am	<b>On Hold</b>	
	10.30a m	Morning Service	John 20:19-end <i>The First Appearance in the Upper Room (part</i>
	7.00pm	Evening Service	Colossians 1:9-14 <i>Be filled for this?</i>
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00a	Holy Communion	<b>No service</b>
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Easter 3	8.30am	<b>On Hold</b>	
	10.30a m	Family Communion	Luke 24:36-48 <i>The Appearance in the Upper Room (part 2)</i>
	7.00pm	Evening Service	Colossians 1:15-20 <i>Christ, supreme Lord and sufficient Saviour</i>
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00a	Holy Communion	
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Easter 4	8.30am	<b>On Hold</b>	
	10.30a m	Morning Service APCM	John 10:11-18 <i>Jesus, the Good Shepherd</i>
	7.00pm	Evening Communion	Colossians 1:21-23 <i>Stable and Steadfast</i>
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00a	Holy Communion	

May-21			
Sun 2nd Easter 5	8.30am	On Hold	
	10.30am	Morning Service	Mark 16:9-16 <i>Going out in Resurrection Power</i>
	7.00pm	Evening Worship	Colossians 1:24- 2:5 <i>Apostolic Ministry and Concerns</i>
Tue 4th	10.00am	Holy Communion	
Sun 9th Easter 6/ Rogation Day	8.30am	On Hold	
	10.30am	Family Communion	John 21:1-19 <i>Breakfast with Jesus</i>
	7.00pm	Evening Service	Colossians 2:6-15 <i>The way ahead and no return to slavery</i>
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Holy Communion	
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Easter 7/ Sunday after the Ascension	8.30am	On Hold	
	10.30am	Morning Service	Acts 1:15-17, 21-end; Luke 4:14-21 <i>Preparation for the future</i>
	7.00pm	Holy Communion	Colossians 2:16-23 <i>Shadows and Substance</i>
	10.00am	Holy Communion	
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Pentecost	8.30am	On Hold	
	10.30am	Family Communion (All age)	Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27 and 16:4b-15 <i>The coming of the Holy</i>
	7.00pm	Evening Service	Colossians 3:1-8 <i>Christian and Christ</i>
Tue 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Holy Communion	
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> Trinity Sunday	8.30am	On Hold	
	10.30am	Morning Service	<i>The Living Church</i>
	7.00pm	Evening Communion	Colossians 3:9-17 <i>Christian and the Local Church</i>

## Prayer during the week

### FOCUS

### Private Prayer

### Hour of Prayer

### Pre-Service Prayer

Tuesday evening 8pm via Zoom

Thursdays 12pm – 1pm

Fridays 10am Via Zoom

Sunday Mornings 8.30am via Zoom

*For log in details, contact office*

## Do join us on Zoom for coffee & chat after services

To get the Log in details,  
sign up to our weekly email  
At [office@stlukeswatford.org](mailto:office@stlukeswatford.org)



Jun-21			
Tue 1st	10.00am	No Service	
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 1	8.30am	On Hold	
	10.30am	Morning Service	<i>The Living Church</i>
	7.00pm	Evening Worship	Colossians 3:18-21 <i>The Christian at home</i>
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Holy Communion	
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 2	8.30am	On Hold	
	10.30am	Family Communion	<i>The Living Church</i>
	7.00pm	Evening Service	Colossians 3:22 – 4:1 <i>The Christian at work</i>
Tue 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Holy Communion	
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 3	8.30am	On Hold	
	10.30am	Morning Service - <b>Father's Day</b>	<i>The Living Church</i>
	7.00pm	Holy Communion	Colossians 4:2-6 <i>The Christian and the Outsider</i>
Tue 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Holy Communion	
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 4	8.30am	On Hold	
	10.30am	Family Communion	<i>The Living Church</i>
	7.00pm	Evening Service	Colossians 4:7-18 <i>Final Greetings and Instructions</i>
Tue 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Holy Communion	



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The APCM will be held in St Luke's Church and via Zoom on Sunday 25 April 2021 at 12.00 noon.

- For the election of parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council
- For the appointment of the Independent Examiner.
- For the consideration of reports on:
  - a) changes in the electoral roll since the previous APCM;
  - b) the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the parish generally;
  - c) The financial statements for the year ending 31st December 2020;
  - d) the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church of the parish;
  - e) the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
- And for other matters of parochial or general Church interest.

Only lay people whose names are entered on the **Church Electoral Roll of St Luke's** as at **6 April 2021** will be entitled to vote at the election of parochial representatives of the laity.

We are planning to revise the electoral roll between 23 March and 6 April 2021.

If you consider yourself a regular member of St Luke's and are not already on the electoral roll, we would really encourage you to complete a form and return it to the office any time before 6 April 2021.

Forms are available from [office@stlukeswatford.org](mailto:office@stlukeswatford.org)

**If you would like to give by bank transfer the details are as follows:-**

**Account name PCC St Luke's Watford**

**Sort Code 20-91-79 Account No 70687472**

*[Donations to the Thanksgiving Fund have same Account name,  
and sort code but the Account number is 13611779]*

**Reference** state if the donation is for a particular appeal e.g. Santa hampers, Rebuild, Foodbank etc.

**Please remember to complete a Gift Aid as well if you are a Tax payer.**

## **Spring Time Prayer**

Creator God, in our island home  
you have given us an abundance of beauty.

The sea that surrounds us,  
the hills and the glens,  
all of this is your gift to us.

Help us to be good stewards of all that you have provided.

May we be a gift to the communities  
in which you have placed us  
as we witness to the truth  
that every place and every time is yours.

In an age of change,  
help us to see what we can do  
to make a difference in your world.  
In a world where people are fearful,  
help us to spread your message of hope  
and never forget that the earth is yours. Amen'.

***Author Unknown***

## **Springtime (for our time)**

The bulbs will advance,  
the lambs will soon prance  
and bluebells will cover the verges,  
more jabs will be had,  
and we will be glad  
when we meet once again in our churches.

***Steve Jenkins***

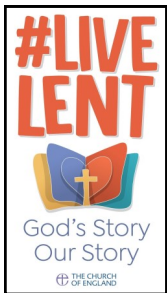
## St. Luke's Delivery

Over 200 paper bags, 240 home-made scones, 120 packs of pancake mix, 220 lent study guides, many different lists of addresses and a fabulous team of volunteers to help. Oh, and 10 days to organise it.

What a project! This is not what I thought I would be signing up for when I started the job at St Luke's, and it has been amazing and inspiring to be a part of a team that is able to plan and carry out such a big undertaking.

I will be honest, when we started making a list of all the households connected to the church, and collating the lists together, I was a bit overwhelmed.

Having only started here in September, during the Covid situation, there were a lot of names I didn't recognise. I didn't know who would prefer cream teas or pancakes, who had children, who had moved away, who had allergies. The team pulled together and others were able to answer these questions - a massive thank you to Wendy D who seems to have a very comprehensive knowledge of St Luke's attendees. She also baked the scones, so well done to her! I am in awe.



We had a minor wobble when it turned out the Lent books were out of print and there wouldn't be more until a few days into Lent. But God provided, by suggesting other suppliers, and He made sure all the deliveries arrived in time.

On the Thursday and Friday before Lent, the church was full of paper bags. Named and then colour-coded, we had started to group them for delivery - a row for me to take to Hemel, a row for Michael to deliver, a row for Jeremy H, three rows for the Wednesday Morning Life Group, two rows of children and youth families and connections, and many more. We filled the bags then left them to quarantine. Michael joked he had a very attentive congregation that Sunday!

On the Monday, with over 200 bags in church, I was a little concerned that I would be driving around all week to deliver them. But St Luke's team are fabulous, and as the day progressed, I watched in awe as 20 volunteers turned up, collected bags and went off

for delivery. Life Group leaders and the staff team pulled together and the bags seemed to fly out of the building - although I was busy checking addresses for delivery, as not everyone is in the directory!

We quickly started receiving feedback, and we are very glad that the gifts were well-received, as well as being glad that the addresses were correct and the majority of people were at home to receive them. The emails and photographs on Facebook and

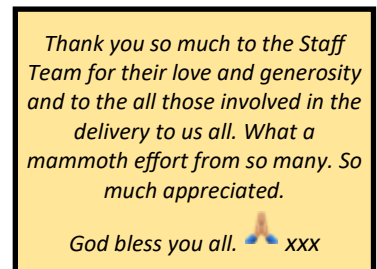
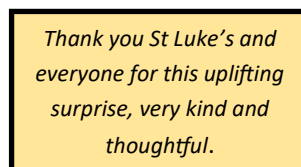
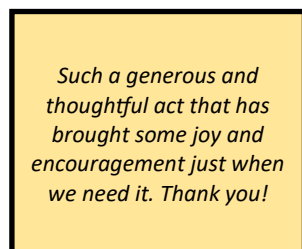
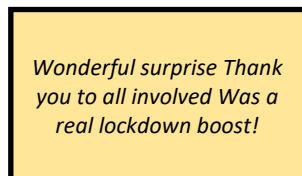


Instagram have been a lovely way to share, and to remind us all that we are connected as a church family even when we are not meeting in person. I know that the bags have meant a lot to many people who were struggling in a cold, lonely, locked down February. It has been touching and quite emotional to receive the phone calls, emails, letters and other messages from people who are showing their appreciation, and I have done my best to pass the messages on as well, as I am very aware that this would never have been possible without the team, and without God's blessing - we have all had safe travels and He definitely had a hand in keeping us all safe on the roads, as well as making sure we had enough of everything at the right times.

Personally, being able to deliver some bags (and there weren't many left for me to do) was a blessing, as I was able to meet some people face-to-face who I hadn't met before, which has been lovely. It's always nice to put a face to one of the names I have been learning!



We have been updating the Electoral Roll before the APCM, and this delivery project has also shown me that it might be time to update the directory, to make sure we have contact details for those who are happy to be contacted. Do let me know - and it might be helpful if I can add any allergies to the database if we ever plan something like this again!



## St. Luke's Partnership Fund

The last twelve months has been a difficult time for us all. In the midst of the uncertainty, we can see how God has been with us and guided us. Now we have a chance to say thank you to Him for all that he has given us, by supporting our latest Partnership Fund Appeal.

In Philippians we read *'In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel'*.

The St Luke's Partnership Fund's aims are to make a lasting difference by: ·

- funding buildings
- growing partnerships, and
- making known the love of God

This is our opportunity to show God's practical love by supporting teachers' accommodation at a rural secondary school in Uganda.

**RAFIKI THABO FOUNDATION** is one of St Luke's regular Mission partners. It is a UK-based registered charity that supports education projects in Kenya, Uganda and Lesotho. The purpose is to improve the quality of life and increase the life opportunities for members of link communities.

All Rafiki Thabo projects are initiated and managed by experienced members of the communities in Africa. The majority of the work is about supporting individuals' education in the focus communities. Through committees in-country, grants are provided to promising students to enable them to continue their education at secondary, polytechnic and university levels where otherwise they would be unable to afford the fees. All students supported by Rafiki Thabo have already qualified for their further education by their own merits. Financial assistance is simply provided to enable them to access the education they are qualified to have.

Rafiki Thabo also supports the infrastructural development of a link secondary school in each of the focus communities in order to provide a better learning environment for the children at those schools. Working with school management enables the identification of key development needs.

### SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

Kamuganguzi Janan Luwum Memorial Secondary School is Rafiki Thabo Foundation's link school in Uganda. The school is in a remote, rural area in South West Uganda, near the Rwandan border. In 2018 St Luke's launched an appeal to refurbish the boy's dormitory at the school. Now the school has a desperate need to offer safe and habitable accommodation to its teachers, who at the moment have long, expensive and sometimes hazardous journeys to and from school. The majority of the teachers live over 20 kilometres away from the school in Kabale and their commute costs them 80% of their monthly salary, depriving hard working people and their families of vital income. These long and expensive commutes also cause unavoidable delays to lessons when



*Dining Hall funded by a previous appeal. Also used as an exam*

teachers struggle to reach the school. Funds are sought to rebuild the accommodation so that the school can offer its teachers somewhere safe to sleep during the week.

The objective of this project is to accommodate 6 teachers during term time. There are currently some very dilapidated buildings (see photos below) in which some teachers do still currently live because they have no other alternative, but they are completely unfit for habitation. Teachers have reported numerous issues, including a roof that leaks and disturbs their sleep. They are also concerned for their safety as the doors and windows are not in the least bit secure. As a result, these buildings would be demolished, and new housing would be built in their place.

When asked about their current housing and how having new accommodation would help them in their jobs the teachers said:

*"At times when I'm sleeping the wind almost takes away the iron sheets"*

*"The floor is too old and sometimes we are threatened by snakes as the floor is not concreted"*

*"Given the chance that the house is renovated I could work comfortably knowing that my security is ok"*

*"If we had better accommodation, we would be able to make better preparations for our lessons... if we had power, we could make preparations in the night-time."*

**PROJECT BUDGET** - A budget for labour and materials has been prepared of £15,000. St Luke's is seeking to raise as much as we can to cover this budget.

**HOW TO GIVE** - The Partners-in-Mission group hope that church members will feel able to respond generously to this appeal. Gifts can be made directly through electronic payment to "PCC of St Luke's Watford" - sort code 20-91-79, account number 13611779 (remember to use a reference of Thanksgiving Fund) or by cheque presented to the office together with a Gift Aid envelope where possible.



**Please Help**

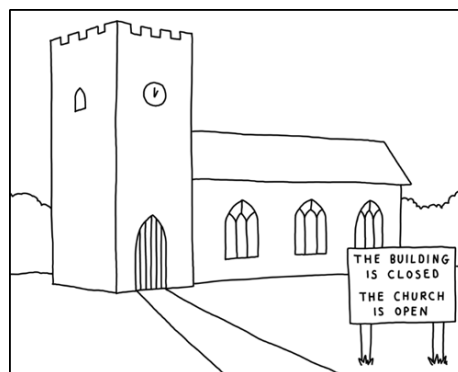
## Pastoral Care During the Present Crisis

St Luke's Pastoral Committee has decided the following:

1. **To communicate** regular messages to update all on our Church & Friends' email list. If you are not on our email address list and would like to receive updates then please send your details to [office@stlukeswatford.org](mailto:office@stlukeswatford.org).
2. **Those not on email** will be contacted by phone to check they are OK and informed of what's going on.
3. **Those church members in need**, either practically or spiritually, please call the Church Office on 01923 246161 and we will try to help.
4. **Members of the local Cassiobury Estate community**; we will be offering help to anyone in need if we can. Please call the Church Office on 01923 246161 if you need help.

### A Prayer from the Church of England

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us  
from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.



*Please pray for the nation at this difficult time.*

## Notices

Please send your email details to the Church Office at [office@stlukeswatford.org](mailto:office@stlukeswatford.org) if you would like to receive update emails.



### Children's and Youth Groups

during the lockdown are continuing online, but when permitted will return to the Church Building as soon as possible. Please refer to the Vicar's weekly email, contact Lydia Davies or Neil Brookes for more information, or email the Church Office.



## **EASTER TREASURE HUNT**

**SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2021**

**11am – 3pm**



**VENUE: Abbots Langley Village**

**Starting at St Lawrence Church**

**High Street**

**Abbots Langley**

**WD5 0AS**

- *£5 per Treasure Hunt Sheet*
- *£1 to guess the number of Easter eggs in the vase.*

*100% of money raised will be used on projects and materials  
for our Malawi initiative.*



**ANY QUERIES – CONTACT.**

**David and Eileen Adams / Mags Curtis / Laura Furlong:**

**Telephone number: 01923 265228:**

**Email address: [Eileen.Sexton-Adams@ntlworld.com](mailto:Eileen.Sexton-Adams@ntlworld.com)**

## Light at the End of the Tunnel?

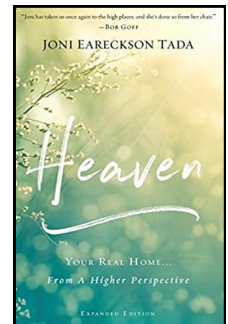
No doubt we have all heard this expression many times over the past year, and particularly in more recent months. But what does it mean for us as Christians? What, or more importantly, Who, is the light at the end of the tunnel for us?

Proverbs 13:12 says *“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.”* We have all experienced deferred hopes over the past year. Maybe the things we are hoping for, the light we are expecting at the end of this tunnel, won’t actually be fulfilled in the ways we would like. What then? Do we allow our hearts to become sick? Or do we place our longing in God?

We all need hope to sustain us when life tries us but if our hope is in something or someone fallible then it may fail us. Our hope needs to be anchored in Christ alone. If our deferred hope is rooted by faith in God then even though it tarries, we will never be disappointed.

Titus 2:12-13 tells us that the grace of God teaches us to *“live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of our great God and saviour, Jesus Christ.”* We will be blessed beyond measure when we see Christ. The trials of this life will be over, and we will see that *“our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”* (Romans 8:18)

I have just read a lovely book by Joni Eareckson Tada (paralysed from the neck down from the age of seventeen) called *“Heaven – Your Real Home”*, which I would highly recommend. She reminds the reader of all that awaits us beyond this life, not just making guesses about it but drawing information from scripture. Yes, we are to be thankful for our earthly life and the opportunities to come to know God more fully through His revelation in the Word of God, salvation, gifts and His presence with us, but we need to keep our eyes on what lies in store for us, as well as our loving Lord.



1 Corinthians 2:9 tells us *“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him.”* I challenge you to read Joni’s book and not get excited about what lies ahead for those who have placed their trust in Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross as a substitution for our sins. Not only has the judgment we deserve been laid on Christ so that we might be reconciled to the Father, but one day we will see Jesus in all His glory and majesty and we will live with Him forevermore. Why do we keep such good news to ourselves when millions have no hope beyond the grave?!

We can’t begin to imagine some of the dark tunnels our persecuted brothers and sisters are going through in countries like North Korea, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Syria and Eritrea, to name but a few. There is often no earthly light at the end of the tunnel for these brave believers. Their only hope is in Jesus, the true Light of the world whom they know

they will one day see and who will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Maybe it is hard to believe, (or maybe you have experienced it for yourselves?) that even in the midst of and through such affliction, there is joy to be known, as believers see the sure hand of God in their circumstances.

*1 Peter 1:6-7 "In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed."*

We are warned by Jesus that in this world we will have trouble, but he tells us to take heart because he has overcome the world. (John 16:33)

Whatever dark tunnels God allows us to travel through, we can trust in God's promise that He will never leave nor forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5). *"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ and through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God"* (2 Corinthians 1:20) So let's ask God to help us focus on the True Light at the end of the tunnel, not just the things we hope will make life easier for us.

*"Therefore let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* (Hebrews 12:1-2)

**Kim Smith**

## ONE HUNDRED YEARS AND COUNTING.....



Further to Neil's video introduction mentioning Urban Saints and how Susan and I have been leading it for ever....

Well, March 2021 marks the **100th birthday of a Crusader/Urban Saints group in Watford**. In fact, it is now in the top 10 of oldest continually operating groups in the country. But we definitely haven't been leading it all those years!

The original Watford Crusaders bible class was boys only. A sister girls' class started in the 1950's and the two groups merged in the 1980's. In the early days there were few competing attractions on a Sunday afternoon, and numbers boomed throughout the 1920s and 1930s regularly averaging over 150 boys, and peaking at over 200 in the immediate post-war years.

It is believed the original class was started by the curate of St Mary's, and over the years has met in several different venues around the town centre before settling for many years at the Kingham Temperance Hall in St John's Road. Meetings were traditionally on Sunday afternoon at 3pm, but in the 1960s an alternative Sunday morning meeting at 9.30am was offered, which by the 1980s had become the sole meeting time.

The Kingham Hall was sold for redevelopment in 1992 and the group was forced to find a new home. There had been close links over the years between Crusaders and St Luke's, and it seemed natural to join forces. In November 1992, we re-invented ourselves by down-sizing to a Junior only group (school years 2 to 6) and linking with St Luke's to provide the church's outreach to the junior school age group. Meetings moved to early Saturday evening, and the strategy was to feed our kids into the existing church youth work on reaching secondary school age. We started with a bang at our first meeting with over 80 kids in the old church hall, but mercifully numbers stabilised at somewhat lower and more manageable levels.

Staple ingredients of our programme have always been games evenings in the Park or at the Dumps, a summer BBQ and until the last few years we used to compete, often very successfully, in the Big Splash swimming gala in Windsor competing against other Urban Saints groups in the SE area. You can see the cup we won on several occasions in the church trophy cabinet!

In recent years numbers on a Saturday have been much lower, which is a pity as those who come enjoy the mix of games, craft and Bible teaching. We keep a number involved as teenage helpers, giving them the opportunity to develop their faith as well as developing leadership skills, and the younger kids love having them around.

When asked what they liked about Urban Saints, one child summed it up:

" Fun because we play lots of games.

Helpful because it teaches us about Jesus.

Awesome because there are lots of friends that come.

Urban Saints is GREAT!"

The past twelve months have been like no other. Once again, we have had to reinvent ourselves, replacing in person meetings with online Zoom sessions. We did restart physical meetings in July and were able to continue through to November, then restarted for two meetings in December before having to cancel and return online. Sadly, Zoom meetings are not for all children, and it would be hard to keep things going long term with the small number that do attend. We are therefore delighted that, all being well, we should be able to resume meeting in the hall in April - we are in fact targeting Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup> for the restart. It will be fantastic to see all our Urban Saints face to face again (or at least mask to mask!)

So, as we enter the second century of Crusader/Urban Saints work in Watford the question is can we keep it going for another 100 years? We have no idea. Susan and Bill have both been Leaders for far too long already and urgently need fresh blood to share the load. The last twelve months have been especially tough on our youngsters and there is a massive need for fun and freedom to return to their lives. There is a whole mission field of families waiting to be harvested which we remain committed to, and we would love to see Watford St Luke's Urban Saints continue on this mission for Jesus.

**Can you help us?**

***Susan & Bill Miller***

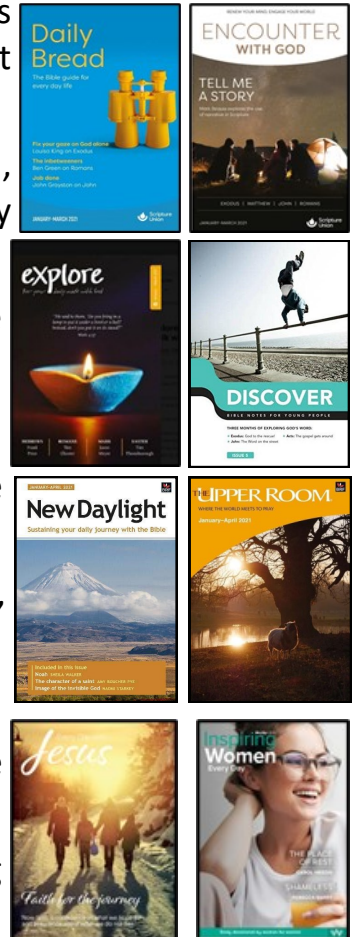
## The Bible, Bible reading and Bible Study

*"Your word is a lamp for my feet & a light for my path" - Psalm 119:105.*

I think it follows then that we Christians should be reading our Bibles to find out about God & the plans He has for our lives & the way ahead - see Eph. 2:10 as well.

The Church Directory indicates that I am the person who deals with Bible reading notes; currently I am distributing notes that come out **Quarterly** - these are produced by

- Scripture Union Daily Bread and Encounter with God, both following the same syllabus and currently studying the whole of Romans!), and
- The Good Book Company (Explore and Discover, the first for adults & the second for young teens).



Then there are notes that come out **every 4 months** - they are produced by

- The Bible Reading Fellowship, and they are Guidelines, New Daylight and Upper Room.

Then there are notes that come out **every 2 months** - they are produced by

- CWR, and they are Every Day with Jesus and Inspiring Women.

Only 24 Church members take these notes, and I'd like to think that there are many others who get their notes by some other means, or who are reading/studying the Bible on line!

If you would like me to get you notes to help you in your regular reading and your discipleship, please let me know - after all,

*"All Scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for teaching - - -" - 2 Tim. 3:16.*

**Jack Watson**

Of late my "Quiet Times" had been getting a bit stale, so I started using Daily Bread - it is an attractive, accessible form of notes, relatable, encouraging and great value for money. I have also started to send one to my daughter who says she has now started reading her Bible again. It is great sustenance, focussing on the truth of God's Word and enables me hear Him speaking to me"

**Pam Norman**



Some of you may remember

**Dr. Marguerite Ackroyd** (*nee von Bergen*)

My Aunt, Dr Marguerite Ackroyd sadly died on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at the age of 89 years. She was commissioned by St. Luke's Church to go out to Africa with the Church Mission Society and some people may remember her, (and me perhaps too).

My aunt was a truly admirable and lovely person. At the end of her life, while suffering from Alzheimer's disease, she was still valued by many friends and colleagues from all stages of her life, from her schooldays in Watford, through her work in Burundi, Africa, to her later life as a GP and Vicar's wife in Lancashire.

She and my father Peter, lived in Berceau Walk and attended St. Luke's with my Grandmother. Marguerite went to Watford Grammar School for Girls before going on to study medicine at Newnham College Cambridge.

She came to faith in Jesus early in her life, and came to know the Lord by the time she went to university. She qualified as a doctor, but of all the paths that could have opened to her then, she chose to spend 16 years as a missionary doctor in a challenging and remote country in Africa. Even in order to do this, she had to learn French and convert her medical qualifications. However I think she enjoyed her time in Africa very much and found it fulfilling. She has been described to us as a very skilful surgeon and she told me much later that she still missed Burundi.

When she returned to England permanently in 1976 she retrained to be a GP and met the widowed Reverend Michael Ackroyd, then the Vicar of Keighley, and his son Roland. Marguerite and Michael married in 1980.

She adopted Lancashire with her usual commitment! With Michael she spent a full life working, holidaying in various different caravans, both in the UK and abroad, and generally getting involved in a full social and Church life. In fact I remember her telling us about a holiday abroad where one of their group fell ill, but she accompanied the patient in the ambulance so that she could provide her with a translation of what the French paramedics were telling her.

After Keighley Marguerite and Michael moved to Whalley, and lived in the Vicarage there. While she was a busy GP, she started doing specialist clinical and forensic work helping and supporting some of the most vulnerable women at a time of need, and she recruited other female doctors to become a team. I'm told that "she was an amazing forensic physician and in many ways ahead of her time". Even after retiring as a GP she continued to help people by being a Community First Responder



providing skilled assistance at medical emergencies.

She was always a gentle and caring, self-deprecating and kind person. However she was also resolute and had an underlying strength of character. Her life of service grew out of her strong faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. There were many people whose lives she touched. It was a good life, well lived, and she will be missed, not least by me, till we meet again.

**Mrs Suzy Smith** (*nee von Bergen*)

## **News from some of Our Mission Partners**



**Sally Miller** from Friends International in Lancaster

### **A New Chapter in Lancaster**

Dear friends at St Luke's,

I wanted to update you on some exciting news: on April 1<sup>st</sup>, I will be starting a new role in Friends International as the Lancaster Centre Team Leader. For those of you who don't know, Friends International is a Christian charity working to support and share the gospel with international students studying in the UK. I have been privileged to be part of this ministry in Lancaster for six years as a staff worker and am looking forward to taking on my new role as the local team leader. This role means that I will have responsibility for the vision and strategy of the ministry of Friends International Lancaster and will lead the local team here of Friends International staff and volunteers.

As some of you might be aware from previous updates, this has been a hard year for our ministry with international students in Lancaster. Although we know that there are many students on the campus who are struggling and need support, we have found it difficult to connect with them online and our activities have had generally very low attendance. Despite the difficulties of this year, I still think that there is a lot to be encouraged by, especially as we look forward to the next term and the next academic year.

One of the opportunities that we have as a result of low numbers during this time is that we are able to dedicate more time to putting together a thoughtful plan for how we will transition back into in-person activities. There are several foundational aspects of the ministry that I am hoping to focus on during this time: one focus will be creating more opportunities to pray with supporters, volunteers, and mission partners for our work, recognising that we do this in God's strength and not our own; another focus will be rebuilding a strong team of volunteers to get alongside students, care for them, and share the good news of Jesus with them; and a final focus will be talking to local church leaders to find out how we as an organisation can best support them in their ministry to international students.

This transitional time between centre team leaders and from lockdown into in-person meetings also leaves us with new opportunities to rely on God's provision financially. As well as the continuing desire for me to be able to be paid full-time, we would also love to

be able to have the funds in place to appoint another staff worker, filling the role I have now left. Please do be praying for us as we look to raise this support and if you would like to know more about supporting me financially, then do get in touch.

We don't yet know what our ministry is going to look like next year, but I am hopeful that by working on these foundations over the next term we will be able to build a programme of events that connect with, support, and share the gospel with international students. I am excited by some of the ideas that we already have for the future and looking forward to seeing how God will use us to share his word with all nations as they come to study in our small city.

***If you would like to hear more about the vision for Friends International Lancaster as we move forward out of lockdown, please do join us for an evening of prayer and envisioning on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30pm. Email [sally.miller@friendsinternational.uk](mailto:sally.miller@friendsinternational.uk) for the zoom details.***

***Thank you,  
Sally Miller***

**Canon Martin Olando, Principal at Bishop Hannington Institute, Mombasa, Kenya:**

Greetings,

We are fine at Bishop Hannington Institute. Despite the COVID 19 third wave sweeping Kenya at the moment, we are fine. The students break for Easter from 1 March and report back on 6th April.

On a personal note, we were blessed with baby Aaron, born three weeks ago. We thank God in all things.

If God is for us, who can be against us? Quote: *"People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within."* Elizabeth Kubler Ross

***Blessings,  
Martin***

**Erzsébet Komlósi, Field Development Director for Europe - Scripture Union International**

Here is a short update on our SU situation in Europe:

In most countries in continental Europe, things seem to go just the opposite way as in the UK. As we are approaching Easter, more and more countries decide to bring in even stricter measures than before, and churches that have been open or semi-open for a while are going online again, as the number of Covid cases is rising rapidly everywhere (especially the mutant variations).

I had a meeting earlier this week with the leaders of our Support groups for our National Directors in Europe. This is our 3rd lock-down season on continental Europe, and we are dragging our feet a bit. While in the first 2 lock-downs (last spring and autumn) everybody was busy finding new ways to help individuals and churches engage with God's Word, as we had to give up our trademark field ministry like, camps, school and

beach missions, and a lot of wonderful resources were created by our creative SU staff. I can see now that our people are getting tired. At the same time, we fully know that people desperately need God's Word more than ever. So, we need to keep going, keep finding ways to reach children, young people and families with the Good News, and help them in their discipleship - we cannot give up!

Thank you for praying for us:

for strength

renewed vision

good financial stewardship for all our European movements in this economically very challenging season

and for me that I would be able to encourage our national directors all over Europe to keep up the good work, despite all the challenges. The Lord is alive, His Holy Spirit lives in us, so it is possible.

Loving greetings to you and all our brothers and sisters at St Luke's.

*Erzsébet*

### **Happy Easter to you. From The Gelsthorpes in Japan:**

Recently, many in Japan marked the tenth anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake. One of the sad things about the society here is that many people without hope - whether that be due to mental illness, the false promises of materialism or the grief that remains from losing loved ones in the earthquake and tsunami ten years ago. At Hanamaki Grace Christ Church we've been sharing our hope in Jesus through holiday bible club, the Alpha Course and two Easter services (on the 28th of March and Easter Sunday). How amazing the God gave us hope in the face of death through one surrendering himself to die on the cross. There's a hope that rings out across the world no matter who you are and where you live. Please pray that those without hope here in Hanamaki will find hope in Jesus this Easter.

*Thank you and God bless,  
Mark Gelsthorpe*

## **St Luke's Covid-19 Emergency Fund**

If anyone has any needs caused by the Pandemic, or knows of people who need help, and a one-off gift would be useful, please contact the vicar or a churchwarden and we will try to help.

“More than 340 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith”

This is a shocking fact from Open Doors, a charity supporting and advocating for persecuted Christians.

### Advocating for the persecuted church

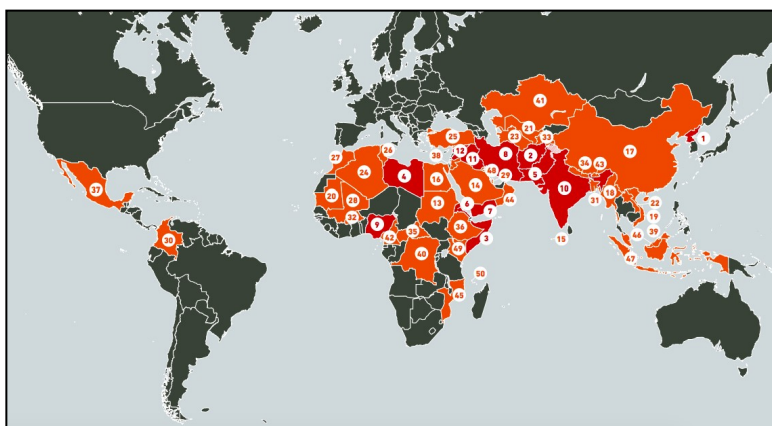
I’ve recently been accepted as a volunteer Advocacy Rep for Open Doors. Since I was a young Christian, I have been aware of the persecuted church, I read books by Brother Andrew and about Richard Wurmbrand. My boss, who was a Christian was a supporter of a staff member of an organisation called CMCW (Christian Mission to the Communist World). I was very aware of the persecution of Christians in the communist world.

I also felt that local churches and Christians could develop a concerted focus from our Watford and South West Herts churches. In October 2019 Rev Michael Norman became our new vicar, he noted that in our *‘Partners in Mission’* team (which I’m part of), we didn’t have a *‘persecuted Christians’* organisation in our portfolio, which seemed to be a message or pointer too. When an email arrived from Open Doors inviting applications it seemed that the Advocacy Rep role was exactly what I’d been thinking of. I immediately applied.

### Motivated by Jesus

Jesus’ parable of the sheep and the goats often features in my motivation, Matthew 25, 31 - 46, I think it is part of our Christian duty to make people aware of the plight of persecuted Christians.

I think that persecuted Christians would be included in this statement starting at verse 34 *“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’*



### World Watch List trusted by MPs

Over a period of around 10 years, Open Doors have produced their World Watch List. It’s gained increasing recognition by many MPs and politicians as a trustworthy authority on Christian persecution. They have a launch event normally at the Houses of Parliament, this year Open Doors used Zoom. At

least 98 MPs tuned into the event.

It was hosted by Thereasa Villiers, MP for East Barnet and featured Fiona Bruce MP, who was recently appointed as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief.

### Get your World Watch List 2021

If you'd like to know more, you can order free copies of the World Watch List on their website [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org) Order by phone, post or email:

- Open Doors, England and Wales, PO Box 6, Witney, Oxfordshire OX29 6WG
- Tel: 01993 460015
- Email: [inspire@opendoorsuk.org](mailto:inspire@opendoorsuk.org)

I've also got a few copies, you're welcome to contact me, details at end of this article.

### Information for children

World Watch List 2021 Children's pack: Grab your World Watch list pack for children and set off on a journey of prayer through the year. Each week, colour in a flag in the prayer passport, pray for that country and put a sticker on that country on the map. How many can you visit in the year?

- Full colour map of the Top 50 countries
- 24-page Prayer Passport with activities, prayer points, Bible verses and flags to colour in
- Stickers to add to the map.
- Order additional copies of the Children's Prayer Passport, stickers and World Watch List Map

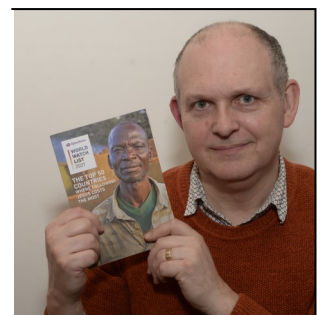


### Something simple to help persecuted Christians

You can write to your local MP letting them know that you're concerned.

This can be by email or letter. If you contact your MP it's important to include your address, please be concise and polite. There is also information and guidance on the Open Doors website. Watford's MP is Dean Russell, contactable at:

- <https://www.deanrussell.co.uk/>
- [dean.russell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:dean.russell.mp@parliament.uk)
- Dean Russell MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA
- He is also active on Twitter @dean4watford
- Dean Russell MP Constituency Office, The Wenta Business Centre, Colne Way, Watford, WD24 7ND



### Have you got questions?

You can contact Open Doors, you are also welcome to contact me with questions and for other ways to support persecuted Christians.

**John Williamson**



## The RAVEN

*"His hair was wavy and black as a raven"* This was how the lover in the Song of Solomon was described (ch5 v11). This black, very intelligent flyer is the first breed of bird referred to in the Bible. In Genesis 8, while still on the ark and before the dove is sent out, we read that Noah released a raven. It is described as *"flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth."* (v7)

During that waiting time, the raven was a companion for Noah as he observed it flying away, then back to the ark to rest. We normally remember the dove from this story - the more attractive bird perhaps, the one who brought back the olive branch. She had a significant role to play. The raven brought back nothing to Noah, it simply spent time resting, flying, and returning. It was not famous for any specific action, it had a back seat in the drama, yet it was considered important enough to be mentioned. It was present and active.

**Do you feel you are in the shadow of someone more attractive or productive? Does that make you feel invisible or undervalued?** Remember that your presence is not unnoticed by God. He sees you, He knows you and He loves you.

The prophet Elijah had many reasons to thank the ravens. He owed his life to them. We first hear about Elijah in 1 Kings 17, when he proclaims an unpopular prophecy of drought over Israel, to its ruler, King Ahab. For Elijah's protection, God immediately tells him, to go and hide in Kerith Ravine, with the instructions *"You will drink from the brook and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there."* He stayed there for some time, possibly years, and as promised *"the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening"* (1 Kings 17 v6).

Ravens normally eat carrion, mammals, eggs, birds and insects, but will also snack on food leftovers. Perhaps God had instructed a person to leave food out for the ravens which they then passed on, or maybe the birds stole the food from meal tables? Here, the raven was like the Robin Hood of birds, taking from where there was plenty and giving to a man who had nothing. How might it feel to be fed by birds?

Elijah was enduring a time in hiding, away from humanity, alone but for the regular visits of his catering friends. He must have asked himself what kind of meat it was or where the food had come from. The "ravens" that served him were likely to have been two ravens. Pairs of ravens tend to stay together all year round, but flocks usually only gather around a carcass. I wonder if Elijah ever got annoyed by the twice-daily visits, or would he have looked forward to their arrival as a welcome distraction from the emptiness of his surroundings? Ravens are big birds - up to 2 feet long, and with a wingspan of 4 feet. They strut around confident and inquisitive. No doubt Elijah watched them, talked to them, thanked them as he took or caught the food from their beaks, or rescued it from the earth where they dropped it. The brook was nearby for him to wash the dust off!



He may have questioned the quality of this fare, its source, its hygienic rating. Ravens were on the list of birds considered unfit to eat and unclean (*Lev 11 v 15*). For Elijah as a God-fearing Jew, merely being close to these birds may have been questionable. Yet, out of necessity to eat, he accepted the bread and meat as God's provision - God's sign to him of his care by fulfilling the promise He had made. Elijah learned to trust God for his daily bread, and not to question the means by which God chose to provide for him. He was grateful.

**Are you grateful for what God provides no matter its quality or source? Have you found yourself being fussy and wanting finery and variety when basic is sufficient?**



Ravens get another mention in Luke 12, a passage where Jesus instructs his disciples not to worry about the necessities of life. *'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear.'* (v22) He reassures them of the love and care shown by God to his people, *"Consider the ravens: they do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn, yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!"* (v 24). Jesus wants his followers to mull over and think in-depth about the ravens and how God provides for them. Unlike us, who may do a regular shop, stocking up on food for a period of time, ravens have no means of storing food, Jesus says, they lean on God to provide day by day. The Psalmist attests to this *"He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call."* (Psalm 147 v 9)

Job continues the theme *"Who provides food for the raven when its young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food?"* (Job 38 v 4) God provides for the ravens, and therefore because humans are considered by God as *"much more valuable"* than birds, we can look to Him for all our needs. If this is true, why are there countless people in the world who are starving? Gandhi said, *"The world has enough for everyone's needs, but not enough for everyone's greed."* Just as God needed ravens to purvey food to Elijah, God is relying on humans to make up for the shortages experienced by others, by being a source of food for those who are hungry.

**Is God calling you to provide for others in some way, perhaps by cooking a meal, or by giving money, so that people without food can be fed?**

You may wish to consider donating to this charity: <https://feedthehungry.org.uk/>

**Pam Norman**



## The Beekeeping year



There cannot be many of us who have not heard dire accounts of the decline in the number of insects in the U.K. and elsewhere. Of particular concern are the pollinating insects of which the honey bee is only one. Generally speaking, wild honey bee colonies are fairly unusual although not unheard of and appear to be increasing in number. The varroa mite made its appearance in the early 1990s and had a devastating impact on both wild and managed colonies, decimating the populations of both. Beekeepers developed treatments against this pernicious pest but wild colonies did not fare so well. The good news is that these bees are now developing resistance to the varroa and the diseases they carry and are beginning to recover.

Managed colonies mean precisely that – they have to be managed. DEFRA considers bees to be livestock and it is the beekeeper's duty and responsibility to care for them.

Assuming that all proper and appropriate preparations were made for the winter, January and February are quiet months. Very few flowering plants are available and most insects are hunkered down for the duration. Bees do not hibernate but cluster together around the queen gradually using up the stores of honey stored in the comb. Most beekeepers will supplement the winter food with candy – bought or homemade – and feed through the top of the hive.

As the weather warms feeding changes to thick syrup but more importantly early blooms appear and start providing both nectar for food and pollen for the hatching brood. The queen lays very few eggs in the early months but as daylight hours and the temperature increase more eggs will be laid. This number will reach a peak during May/June when she may lay up to 2000 eggs per day.

Spring blooms are vital to boost the population of bees following a long winter. A patch of crocus on a sunny day will be alive with foraging bees. Other important sources of nectar and pollen are the flowering currant, rosemary, primroses, winter honeysuckle, mahonia and willow catkins.

Mid spring can be both rewarding and treacherous. A week of good or bad weather can make a huge difference to the colony – remember the Beast from the East! By mid-spring the colony is increasing in size very quickly. Young bees replace the overwintering bees and the busy season is upon them. A strong colony will be collecting nectar and pollen. The nectar is processed into honey and stored in the classic hexagonal shaped honeycomb.

Late spring and early summer are the busiest months of the season. Flowering trees are profuse with blossom and bees love them. From early plums to late apples the bees will find them. Horse chestnut blossom is extremely important as it comes in such large quantities and is rich in pollen. Other early summer flowers include lavender, broad beans, dandelions, alliums, comfrey and many herbs such as thyme, mint and marjoram. Bees love borage and cotoneaster. Lime blossom is a late flowering tree the nectar of which produces an exquisite honey, greenish gold in colour and slightly tangy in taste.

reminiscent of mint.

In mid-summer it is time to harvest the honey crop. Each honey containing frame should be filled by the bees and sealed over with wax. Each frame starts off as a single sheet of wax secured within a wooden frame. Each sheet is imprinted with the hexagonal template of a honey cell. The walls of the cell are drawn up by the bees to a depth of approximately a quarter of an inch and this is filled with honey before sealing or capping,

There is a glorious stickiness to extracting honey and I defy anyone not to lick their fingers at some stage! The wax cappings are sliced off as thinly and carefully as possible. Honey is then removed by spinning the frames in a cylindrical drum with a collecting tank beneath it. One frame yields 2lbs of honey. A really strong colony may fill 45-50 frames with honey. That's a lot of honey!

Summer flowers continue to provide nectar. Sedums and echinacea are attractive to both bees and butterflies. Bees like open faced, uncomplicated blooms. Double blooms are difficult to access and a simple daisy type style is much preferred – like a sunflower. By late summer the nectar flow has slowed right down and attention must be given to building up winter stores, Ivy is a very important food source for many pollinating insects and can form the bulk of the winter honey stores.

Careful autumn preparation should ensure that the bees are protected from weather, starvation and disease. Careful monitoring and feeding with syrup or candy if necessary, will support a hive's survival against the cold winter months.



Bees are amazing creatures, existing in a true cooperative where every individual bee's activity is geared towards the health and well-being of the whole hive.

**Marion Harvey**

## Stay connected

To learn more about services, Our LifeGroups and other church activities you can take part in, email the office to get the weekly email sent on Fridays



## Prayer is the Light of the Soul

The author of this homily from the fourth century is unknown, but this gem of spiritual exhortation has survived despite all odds and continues to encourage, edify and strengthen the Christian's life of prayer and our calling to live in the light of Christ and in loving union with God.

*Psalm 145 Ephesians 5:6-20*

The highest good is prayer and conversation with God, because it means that we are in God's company and in union with him. When light enters our bodily eyes, our eyesight is sharpened; when a soul is intent on God, God's inextinguishable light shines into it and makes it bright and clear. I am talking, of course, of prayer that comes from the heart and not from routine: not the prayer that is assigned to particular days or particular moments in time, but the prayer that happens continuously by day and by night.

Indeed, the soul should not only turn to God at times of explicit prayer. Whatever we are engaged in, whether it is care for the poor, or some other duty, or some act of generosity, we should remember God and long for God. The love of God will be as salt is to food, making our actions into a perfect dish to set before the Lord of all things. Then it is right that we should receive the fruits of our labours, overflowing onto us through all eternity, if we have been offering them to him throughout our lives.

Prayer is the light of the soul, true knowledge of God, a mediator between God and men. Prayer lifts the soul into the heavens where it hugs God in an indescribable embrace. The soul seeks the milk of God like a baby crying for the breast. It fulfils its own vows and receives in exchange gifts better than anything that can be seen or imagined.

Prayer is a go-between linking us to God. It gives joy to the soul and calms its emotions. I warn you, though: do not imagine that prayer is simply words. Prayer is the desire for God, an indescribable devotion, not given by man but brought about by God's grace. As St Paul says: *For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself intercedes on our behalf in a way that could never be put into words.*

If God gives to someone the gift of such prayer, it is a gift of imperishable riches, a heavenly food that satisfies the spirit. Whoever tastes that food catches fire and his soul burns forever with desire for the Lord.

To begin on this path, start by adorning your house with modesty and humility. Make it shine brightly with the light of justice. Decorate it with the gold leaf of good works, with the jewels of faithfulness and greatness of heart. Finally, to make the house perfect, raise a gable above it all, a gable of prayer. Thus, you will have prepared a pure and

sparkling house for the Lord. Receive the Lord into this royal and splendid dwelling — in other words: receive, by his grace, his image into the temple of your soul.

*Anonymous fourth-century homily.*

**Prayer:**

To those who love you, Lord,  
you promise to come with your Son  
and make your home within them.  
Come, then, with your purifying grace  
and make our hearts a place where you can dwell;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

*Amen.*

*Taken with permission from GAFCON: Global Anglicans guarding and  
proclaiming the unchanging truth in a changing world: [www.gafcon.org](http://www.gafcon.org)  
and submitted by Jo Gardener*

## **Thank You God for answering our prayers**

It is encouraging to share with others how grateful we are to God for listening and answering our prayers. Please email these into the Office or to Margaret Forester and they can be printed here in the next edition of the magazine.

**My daughter just got a job  
back home in Switzerland.  
Out of 300 candidates!!  
Praise God Xx**

**Thank you Father for the  
scientists creating a COVID  
vaccine**

**Thank you God.  
After being made redundant  
for almost a year, my son has  
been offered not just one  
new job but THREE!!!**

**Loving Father, thank you for  
my Mum recovering from  
COVID**

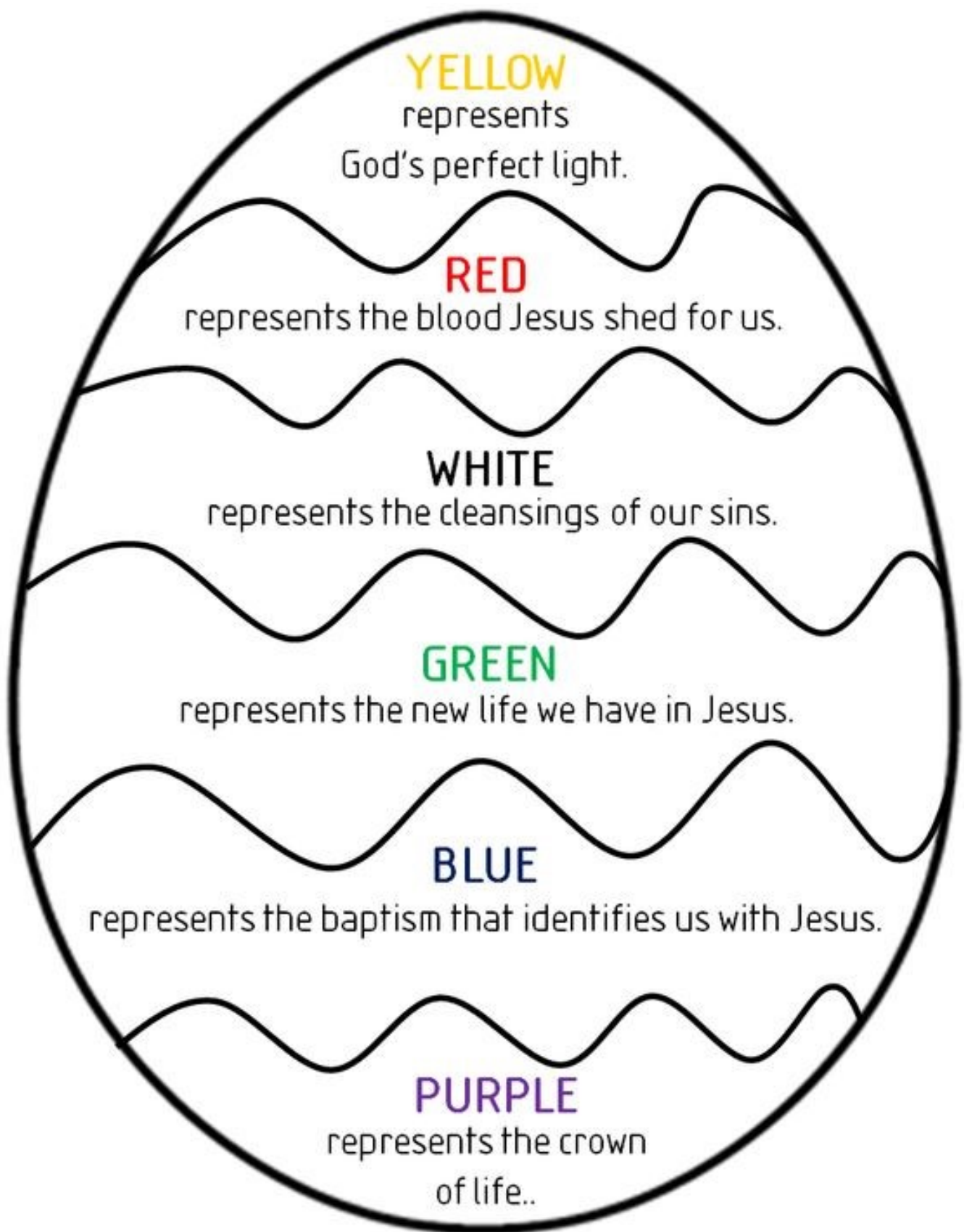
**Thank you Father for healing  
my friend**

**Thank you Father for the  
safe delivery of my  
granddaughter**

**Thank you for healing my  
daughter's hand**

## Children's Page

Colour in the egg to remind you of the Easter story



## WORD SEARCH

*Find these words which are all from  
the story of the first Easter morning  
as told in the Bible in Gospel of **St. Luke***

apparel	dead	Lord	tomb
away	early	men	two
body	first	risen	week
bowed	found	rolled	has
dawn	frightened	seek	He
day	Jesus	spices	
dazzling	living	stone	

F	Y	A	D	A	W	N	S	L	L	S
R	M	S	R	I	S	E	N	I	E	W
I	E	P	O	T	O	M	B	V	R	E
G	N	I	L	Z	Z	A	D	I	A	E
H	X	C	T	W	O	W	E	N	P	K
T	F	I	R	S	T	A	L	G	P	E
E	O	E	B	O	D	Y	L	R	A	E
N	U	S	U	S	E	J	O	H	A	S
E	N	O	T	S	Y	A	R	E	T	R
D	D	E	A	D	E	W	O	B	E	J

The next edition of St. Luke's News will be in June. You are welcome to submit an article, of not more than 450 words, by 21st May to be considered for the next magazine.

Please email articles to the editor, Margaret Forester or to the church office

If you wish to receive St. Luke's News regularly, either delivered to your door or emailed, please contact the Church Office (246161). Large print is also available. Alternatively, please let us know if you no longer wish to receive it.

The magazine appears on our website, [www.stlukeswatford.org](http://www.stlukeswatford.org)

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Reader	Dave Clarke
	Pam Norman
Reader-in-training	Wendy Somerville
Music Director	Jeremy Cooke
Youth Director	Neil Brookes
Children & Family Team Leader	Lydia Davies
Administrator	Beth Burns
Assistant Music Leader	Jeremy Hogarth
Church wardens	Susan Miller
	John Williamson
PCC Lay Chair	Cate Sims
PCC Treasurer	Paul Evans
PCC Secretary	John Sills
Safeguarding Officer	Mary Bowen

Please leave a message for any of the above on the Church Office answerphone -  
246161

<u>Website</u>	<a href="http://www.stlukeswatford.org">www.stlukeswatford.org</a>
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