



November 2021
Number 268

A time for everything...



Has it really been over a year since I started working at St Luke's? Firstly, I want to thank everyone for the welcome I have received and still feel on a daily basis. It has been wonderful to make new friends here.

This last year has really driven home the verse in Ecclesiastes 3: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens". Without listing all of the different suggestions in Ecclesiastes, I think we can all agree that there have been times of being busy, times of rest, times of preparation, of planning and of reflection, of joy and of mourning. I look forward to experiencing many more times like these!

Recently, we had our Harvest service, and it was a joy to see so many in the building. We also had our church family weekend, which was well-attended and a lovely chance to get to know each other better, as well as to hear from Rev. Keith Powell.



As we look forward to winter events and then Christmas, we hope for many more times of coming together, and we are thankful to God that we are able to meet in a safe way. This is also a time to be safe, and - for many - a time to be cautious. As a church family, and a wider community, we need to remember that some people are justifiably cautious, and we should find ways to include everyone.

With that in mind, our autumn and winter services will continue to be accessible online (in most cases), so that those shielding or isolating can have access. A wonderful time for technology and communication, and thank God for our dedicated team who make it possible every week!

As you look through the magazine, you will see opportunities for times of remembrance (the bereavement service, and Remembrance Day), for times of preparation (the Christmas Pudding making, and Advent services), of giving (the auction for the Peace Hospice and the different quiz opportunities), of prayer (prayer meetings) and of joy (Christmas services). We hope that you will join us for a variety of these opportunities.

If you have any questions about any of these services or events, please contact me in the church office - I would love to help!

For those who are feeling confident and able to attend services in person, perhaps you could think about whether it is your time to step up and volunteer - we are always happy to have extra helpers on the rotas, whether for welcoming, making tea and coffee, playing or singing with the music group, helping out with children or youth, or helping with the technology on the balcony. Maybe you could offer to help one Sunday every two or three months?

What is it your time to do?

Beth Burns
Administrator

Rotas

Please let the office know when you feel safe to come back onto the rota and we will be happy to welcome you back.

Newcomers to the rotas also welcome, please let us know.



Children's Sunday Groups during 10.30am service.

For more information about children & families at St Luke's,
contact children@stlukeswatford.org

Youth Groups

RISE	Thursdays 6.30pm
Rock Solid	Thursdays 7.45pm
Urban Saints	Saturdays 6.00pm
Altitude	Sundays during 10.30am

For more information about Youth groups, contact our Youth Director Neil

Services in November and December

8:00am Holy Communion services

These will be held once a month in St Luke's chapel. These are a said Communion service and all are welcome.

10:30am Morning Service/ Communion Service

These are our main morning services, and are currently available live-streamed on YouTube. All are welcome, and there are usually children's groups provided as well as a crèche for younger ones. The service plan is below, but details may change

6:30pm Evening Worship/ Communion Services

These are quieter services, which are not live-streamed. The Bible reading and sermon are made available online later in the week. The service plan is below:

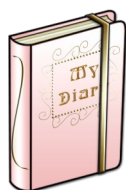
10am Tuesday Morning Holy Communion

We also have a weekly Communion at 10am on Tuesday mornings (it is a Service of the Word if the Vicar is unavailable). This is a lovely, reflective service with a couple of hymns, followed by a community tea and coffee.

Please do come along and join us for one of our services, we'd love to welcome you

November 2021			Theme
Tue 2nd	10.00am	Holy Communion	
Sun 7th <i>Trinity 23</i>	10.30am	Morning Communion	<i>Nehemiah 6</i> <i>Perseverance to Completion</i>
	3pm	Bereavement Service	
	6.30pm	Evening Service	<i>1 Peter 2</i>
Tue 9th	10.00am	Holy Communion	
Sun 14th <i>Trinity 24</i>	10.30am	All age Parade Service	<i>Remembrance</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Communion	<i>1 Peter 3</i>
Tue 16th	10.00am	Service of the Word	
Sun 21st <i>Trinity 25</i>	10.30am	Morning Service	<i>Nehemiah 8</i> <i>Joy of the Lord</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Service	<i>1 Peter 4</i>
Tue 23rd	10.00am	Holy Communion	
Sun 28th <i>Advent 1</i>	8am	Holy Communion	
	10.30am	Family Communion	<i>Nehemiah 9</i> <i>God's Word</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Service	<i>1 Peter 5</i>
Tue 30th	10.00am	Holy Communion	

December 2021			Theme
Sun 5th	10.30am	Morning Worship	<i>The Prophets</i>
<i>Advent 2</i>	5pm	Christingle Service	
Tue 7th	10.00am	Holy Communion	
Sun 12th	10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>John the Baptist</i>
<i>Advent 3</i>	4.30pm	Mince Pies & Carols	
Tue 14th	10.00am	Holy Communion	
Sun 19th	8am	Holy Communion	
<i>Advent 4</i>	10.30am	Morning Service	<i>Mary</i>
	6.30pm	Carol Service	
Tue 21st	10.00am	Holy Communion	
Fri 24th	4pm	Nativity Service	<i>Details tbc</i>
	11:30pm	Midnight Communion	
Sat 25th	9am	Family Service	
<i>Christmas Day</i>	10:30am	Family Service	
Sun 26th	10.30am	Holy Communion	<i>Jesus in the Temple</i>
<i>Christmas 1</i>			



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

14th Remembrance Sunday



18th Christmas Pudding Day (prebook)



20th Tearfund Big Quiz
7pm for Meal, BYO drinks



December

5th Christingle



12th Mince pies and Carols



24th Nativity Service





SHARING THE ST LUKE'S LOVE AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas can be a very sad and lonely time for many. For those who have so little it can be hard to find any joy or sparkle during the festive season. The Luke's Santa's Hampers were originally started by Anne Bolton about 7 years ago. After Operation Rudolph stopped, she carried on her own version at St Lukes. Anne took on the huge task,

largely on her own, sourcing, buying and storing all of the goods to make up many boxes and bags to give to families at the Refugee partnership and clients of the New Hope Trust. After Anne moved away, we have tried our best to continue this wonderful generous act of giving that she began.

Last year we had to scale the project down due to covid but this year we are planning to go big again.



The New Hope Trust has asked us for 48 bags for the homeless men of Watford and 12 for women.



Each drawstring sports bag is carefully packed by our wonderful 12th Watford Brownies (under our watchful eyes)! Items include warm woolly hats, gloves, scarves, chocolate, mince pies and other food goodies and some sanitary products.

The Watford Refugee Partnership has asked if we could please donate

boxes of Christmas goodies to 20 of the families they support. These will include lots of food items we know that families will love and items such as stationery and games for the children to hopefully bring some Christmas cheer.

All of this will be sourced and packed by a small team of St Luke's volunteers who endeavour to find quality products at competitive prices.

Each bag and box includes a Christmas card written by our church members offering blessing and well wishes.

It is not an easy task to source so many different products, often going back many times to make sure we have the right amount of each item. Finding space at home to store it all until packing day can also be tricky!

However, at a time of year that can be so much about ourselves, our own families and all the





things that they would like, it is refreshing to focus on preparing gifts for locals who may receive so little.

I try to involve my children in the Santa's Hampers project as much as possible and tomorrow we will be in Primark counting out 60 pairs of gloves and hats. Every year they come and help unload

everything and then carefully pack it all ready to be distributed. It has definitely shown them how much more enjoyable it is to give than to receive.

I know how difficult these times are financially for everyone and that we are being asked to give to so many worthy causes. However, if you are able to donate to this fantastic cause, we can really make a difference to refugee families and the homeless in our home town this Christmas time. Please clearly make any donations to ST LUKE'S SANTA HAMPERS.



Christmas Blessings to all of our lovely St Luke's Church family!

Caroline Tearle & the Santa's Hampers Team

To give online to Santa's Hampers:-

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

Sort Code **20-91-79**

Account No **70687472**

Reference **Santa hampers**

Please remember to complete a Gift Aid form

as well, if you are a Tax payer.

Forms are available from the Office





Urban Saints

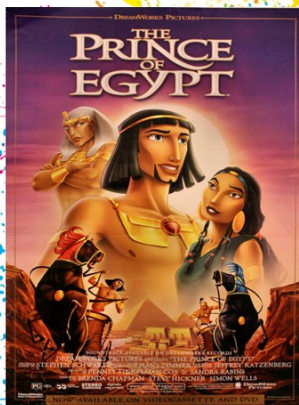
Fun, Games, Activities and Bible Teaching

Every Saturday Evening
6pm-7.30pm in Church Hall
For ages 7-11

For more details email Susan Miller
susan-miller@ntlworld.com



Urban Saints



Upcoming Dates this Term:

Half Term break (2 weeks)

6th Nov - Fireworks!

13th Nov - Prince of Egypt - Crossing the Red Sea

27th Nov - Prince of Egypt - The 10 Commandments

December - Christmas sessions!

the
Alpha
Course

Alpha



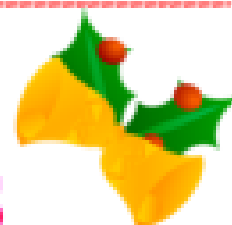
"DO I HAVE A
PURPOSE?"

why
am
I here

"WHAT'S
THE
MEANING

"IS THIS
IT?"

"DOES GOD
EXIST?"



Christmas Pudding Stir-up

St Luke's Church Hall, Langley Way, Watford

**Come and make your
Christmas Pudding with us.**

No previous experience needed.

Accompanied children welcome.

**Some ingredients are Fair-trade, and
Gluten-free option available.**

Date: Thursday 18th November 5.00-6.00pm
(choose 1 of 3 sessions to start stirring) 6.15-7.15pm
 7.30-8.30pm

Bring: Large mixing bowl, wooden spoon, apron.
Instructions and ingredients will be provided.
Take home to cook.

Cost: £8 per pudding - *paid in advance please.*

Payment to Parochial Church Council of St Lukes Watford

Account number: 70687472 *Sort code:* 20-91-79 *Reference:* xmas puds



Advance booking only

by Sunday 7th November

Beth Burns ☎01923-246161

office@stlukeswatford.org

Or speak to Kate DB at church

Silent Auction on the
night
in aid of



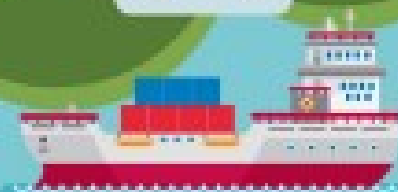


THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF A SIMPLE SHOEBOX GIFT BEGINS WITH YOU



PACKING, COLLECTING & SHIPPING

Our supporters pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Churches, schools and groups collect these boxes between 15-22 November. Then, thousands of volunteers check and prepare the shoeboxes for international shipping.



WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the good news of Jesus and bless children.



DISCOVER, FOLLOW, SHARE

Churches also invite the boys and girls (with parents' consent) to take part in a Bible discovery course, The Greatest Journey. In 12 fun, interactive sessions, they can explore how to follow Jesus and share Him with others. Through this, families are reached, churches grow and communities are transformed.



OUTREACH EVENTS

Our ministry partners around the world hand out shoebox gifts in the local community at festive outreach events. Along with the shoebox gifts children are also offered a Bible story booklet called The Greatest Gift, which tells them the story of God's greatest gift, His Son Jesus.



Samaritans Purse Shoeboxes

St Luke's hopes to give at least 100 shoe boxes to children via Samaritans purse. The Office has some boxes if you require one. They need to be returned filled with gifts for a child. Please indicate whether the box is for a girl or a boy and the age range of the child.

Please return your filled boxes to the Office or bring them to church on Remembrance Sunday, 14th November.

Not sure what to include?

Here are some ideas: -

Toys: Doll; Stuffed animal or toy; Small musical instrument (such as a harmonica or recorder); Small foam football or tennis ball; Finger puppets; Slinky; Skipping rope; Play-doh (you could add plastic cookie cutters as non-sharp utensils to use with it)

School Supplies: Pencils; Child friendly pencil sharpener; Ruler; Eraser; Coloured pencils; Pencil Case; Crayons; Felt Pens; Colouring pads; Colouring books; Picture book; Notebooks; Glue stick (Do not include liquid glue); Small adhesive tape; Watercolour paint set (Finger paint palette, paint brushes, paper); Pre-inked Stampers

Hygiene Items: Comb; Hairbrush; Toothbrush; Bar soap (*packaged and/or in a container*); Flannel; Reusable plastic containers (cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils *consider filling an empty container with non-liquid items such as hair bows, bracelets, sunglasses, or flannel to make use of the space*)

Other: Hat/scarf/mittens; Sunglasses; Small bag/purse; Hair bows or clips; Friendship bracelets (*woven with yarn or embroidery thread*); A personal note and photo



Parish Weekend 'Seeking the Presence of God' 16th/17th October

As we set off for our long-awaited Church weekend 'away' day at the lovely setting of Restore Hope Latimer (RHL), on an falling-leaves autumn Saturday the sun shone down...

Well, no, it didn't. On the way it was Pouring With Rain – should we have brought our wellies? But we found RHL and once inside the Old Dairy there was a warm welcome: friendly faces, conversation and cups of tea! And that led into 3 sessions, each starting with sung worship led by our Jeremys.



Our guest speaker was Rev Keith Powell, who has served as Renewal Adviser to the Diocese of Bath and Wells, and is our Adviser on Mission. He *'has a vision to see the Body of Christ, the Church, released in the love of Jesus and the Power of the Holy Spirit, exercising the Spirit's gifts as an everyday normal for every Christian disciple'*.

Our 3 sessions through Saturday were on:

The Father: seeking the Presence of God;

The Son: Who calls us into His Presence & blessing;

The Holy Spirit – the Counsellor to be with you forever.

And back at St Luke's on Sunday:

Joy: God doing a new thing (am - led by Michael, preaching from Keith)

Healing and Anointing service (pm - led and preaching from Michael).

Keith brought to the sessions, warmth, lots of storytelling about how God speaks in his experience, wide reference to Scripture, and passion for God and for others.

As we all reflect and pray following the church weekend, let's consider what the Holy Spirit is saying and how He is speaking - to us individually, to the Church – and how we respond. We will all have taken different things from the weekend and sadly some couldn't make it. But though I can't offer all the examples Keith described of God at work, and might get them wrong if I tried, I offer some cryptic notes of some of what I heard, and related Scriptures below – do ask me or someone who was there if they don't make sense to you!

First though, let's not forget the preciousness of being together, eating together, speaking & praying together – it refreshes the soul, grounds us in real life, and draws us together (but requires setting aside time, which can be very difficult in some life stages). **Hospitality** was special, and John and Melanie generously prepared us with wonderful hot food, even taking account of special diets – thank you so much Mel and John, and everyone involved in making it a special time!

Session 1: The Father: seeking the Presence of God,

God 'wooing' us – Hosea: speaking tenderly to the unloved/those called 'not my people'.

Not to be afraid of shaking

Ezekiel 36:26 – take away the stones in your heart – Keith portrayed these as possibly wounds – which need to be cleansed

Session 2: The Son: calls us into His Presence & blessing

Hebrews 1, and Joel 2:28-32, *don't deny the power of God* in your gifts, step out!

Ezekiel 37 (valley of dry bones) – speak and *repeat* blessing over what needs bringing to life

Blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46) – *cry out* for mercy in our need

Lazarus (John 11:38)– Jesus *starts with thanks* and building others' faith – then '*take off his graveclothes* and let him go!' Are some of us still walking around in graveclothes? Need help to remove them?

Praying God 'sets church free from death'

John 21 – disciples revert to old roles without Jesus' physical presence – go off fishing. In 'own strength' fruitless, but *listening to Jesus* – abundance!

John 14 Remain in me – *ask God to increase his fruit* in us

Session 3: The Holy Spirit – Counsellor to be with you forever

Will be in you, John 14

Garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Isaiah 61:3

Acts 1:4 *wait for the gifts... but do seek and take them (do not leave yours unclaimed)!*

Luke 4: Jesus returns from the desert in the power of the Spirit – *then* starts to teach. Later, God is seen to be at work, but rather than focus on the outcomes, Jesus *withdraws to pray*

Luke 4:43-4 – I *must* preach the good news of Kingdom of God – why I was sent (the *Spirit sends us out*)

Session 4: Joy. Luke 10:1-26 (Sending out of 72).

‘God doing a New Thing’ – inhabiting his people with joy... fullness of life... a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5)

1 Thessalonians 5:16 – to ‘be always joyful’ and give thanks in all circumstances – we need Jesus for this!

John 10:10 - The enemy comes to steal and kill our joy

Do we live with an agenda or with freedom?

Free to be who God made you to be in church vs trying to be someone else?

Full of effort and busyness?

Full of self or full of Jesus?

?need Jesus washing away our wounds

‘God wants the church full of joy’ and ‘Joy comes with filling of the Spirit’ – because a) our names are written in heaven, and b) revelation is made to ‘little ones’ (Luke 10)

More rejoicing in heaven when one lost sheep is found...

1 Peter – though we don’t see Him, we believe and our hearts are filled with the joy of salvation

Session 5 Healing & anointing service taken by Michael.

Acts 3: 1-10: Peter and John heal the crippled man – or rather God does! (also Luke 4)

The Sunday evening service, with fuller Covid precautions, concluded the weekend, with perhaps 40-50 of us. There was a sense of the Lord’s gracious unhurried presence in words and sung worship, and peace. This was the first time in almost 2 years we have been able to offer individuals prayer and anointing with oil where requested, and a number took this opportunity.



As well as formal sessions, children's activities were planned, though clearly there are many demands on families and in the event few young families attended.

*If you have ideas about what would really help us to be inclusive of and attractive to your **family** in a future church weekend or away day, we're gathering ideas, so please do talk to Lydia or another member of the staff team about it!*

During a break from formal sessions early Saturday afternoon, rain stopped, and led by John W (who also provided the photos), a number of us enjoyed a chance to chat as we walked together through local countryside and briefly visited the Church of St Mary Magdalen nearby. Others joined a lively music workshop with Jeremy C, engaging in work towards creating a short song based on Jeremiah 31 vs 3 - 'I have loved you with an everlasting love.'

I wonder, what do you take away, from being there, or from reading this?

Wendy Somerville



Congratulations to Wendy Somerville — our new Reader

On 19th September at St. Albans Abbey, Wendy was licensed as our Reader. The service was conducted by the Bishop of Hertford and she was supported by our vicar, Michael Norman. Please pray for Wendy and give thanks for her dedication and commitment in completing her studies.

We are blessed at St. Luke's to have three Readers now to support Michael, our Vicar. Please pray God's blessing on our other Readers, Dave Clarke and Pam Norman.





Tuesday Communion

10am - 11am in St Luke's Church

Our quieter contemplative Holy Communion service,
observing government guidelines

Community Coffee

Tuesdays at 11am

Teas and Coffees following Holy Communion, all welcome

If you would like to give to St. Luke's 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 Form as well if you are a Tax payer

A farewell from Peggy

This September, we waved a fond goodbye to a long-standing member of St Luke's. Peggy has lived in the parish since 1967 and had 54 "very happy" years at St Luke's, watching many vicars come and go.

Her husband, Jim, ran the 74th Scouts, and Peggy helped out at St Luke's Sunday school. They were very active in the church, as well as the Round Table, the 41 club, the Townswomen's Guild, Abbeyfield, U3A and Strollers (a walking club). Together, they did some of the Friday club dinners, cooking meals and taking them up to the church hall for the members. Peggy helped with coffee, and with "many, many fetes and jumble sales raising funds for good causes".

At various times Jim and some of their children, Margaret, Jane and Peter, all sang in the choir.

Peggy said that *"St Luke's has always been a place of welcome and warmth for us since day one."*

Jim's funeral was held in St Luke's in June 2002. So many people turned up that they had to run for extra chairs, and the church was packed out. The vicar had never seen a congregation like it. Peggy recalled, *"I was grateful for their presence and appreciate the support and care throughout our days with you all, and continue to do so."*

"St Luke's used to have a few social events for us all, suppers and a get together in the Hall. I seem to remember some dancing – not jitterbugging – suppers and meetings upstairs, and the interesting speakers; the church has many talented speakers who give up their time and their talent."

"I have never forgotten Wendy Dodson having a Thursday meeting at their home on a Thursday evening; Chris and Jane did not want to go as it was a Top of the Pops evening, so they allowed the young people to watch on the screen and then get down to the real business of being there. Jim and I were very impressed with this arrangement."

St Luke's church was so close to the family home that it was an encouragement to walk. Jim was brought up as a Catholic. When he said he would like to go back to the local Catholic Church, (Peggy's background was a Baptist one) he gave in and remained at St Luke's.

"Jim died a few years ago, and I am still at St Luke's, and always appreciate their welcome at each visit."

Peggy is moving to be closer to her daughter Sam. We wish her all the best.



Service of Bereavement

St. Luke's Church,
Sunday, 7th November 3.00pm

There will be an opportunity for individuals to light candles
and the names of those we mourn to be read out.

You are very welcome to this special service



7pm for meal

BYO drinks



At St Luke's Saturday 20th November. Get it in your Diaries!!!

News from some of Our Mission Partners



September Newsletter followed by October update from

Ruth Guinness (usually in Malawi but currently in the UK) :

Dear friends,

Greetings from Wareham, where I am staying with my parents. Thank you for your patience as I have not been in touch for a few months. In a sense, my prayer requests have changed little, but I'd love to bring you up-to-date with things now. I had a wonderful couple of months in Northern Ireland, staying with Edna and Glenda. This was really the core of my sabbatical, and I experienced God's love and faithfulness in providing much for me during that time – not least through unexpectedly being able to have my second COVID vaccination in Northern Ireland so that I could extend my time there.

It was so good being with friends, being able to go out for walks and days out, enjoying good food, and relaxing by playing games or just enjoying the garden birds. The scenery of the north coast is incredible, and I loved paddling in the sea, hunting for orchids in the sand dunes, and watching sea birds, porpoises and dolphins off shore. I enjoyed going to church again – albeit socially distanced and wearing masks! And it was good to be welcomed into a home group and to experience much warm Irish hospitality. Several different meetings on zoom gave shape to my time. One of these was the Regional Leadership Development programme which I have been a part of for nearly a year now – this has involved monthly webinars and meetings with a mentor, and will finish in October.



With Edna near the Giant's Causeway



The beautiful White Park Bay

Other meetings were new, and I saw them as a gift from God for this period in my life. One of these was regularly meeting a small group of people from SIM together with a coach who has helped us to think through preparing for a change of role.

Following on from the retreat I went on in April, I was invited to join a small group facilitated by Tony Horsfall to study a book by David Benner, "Surrender to Love". This fitted in with what became the main focus of my sabbatical, growing deeper in my identity in God, and in my

experience of God's love – over the years I had wrongly come to rely on an identity as a teacher in a Bible College. I've also met with a mentor through my sabbatical, which has been helpful. Checking in with someone regularly has helped me to recognise how God has been at work during my sabbatical, and how I have changed as I've gradually recovered from a time of reaching burnout in Malawi, and have been refreshed and

prepared for the next step. Being on sabbatical and in a time of transition during a pandemic has been a strange 'in between' time in many ways. Like many of you, I'm sure, I was pinged by the NHS COVID app, and on another occasion contacted by NHS Test and Trace ... so have had times of 'self-isolation'. I was also drained for a long time by a return of childhood asthma, and am thankful that medication brought this under control in mid-August. Having left full time teaching at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi, I had hoped that by now I would have a clearer idea of what I will be doing next. I have been praying that God will open a door. I am exploring something with SIM at the moment, but do not yet know whether this door will open! I do hope that I will be back in Malawi, involved with theological education/pastoral training. In this time of waiting, I have been reminded many times of God's sovereignty and given assurance that he will show me his way in his time: Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. Psalm 27:14 In August all of the family except my sister-in-law were able to come to Wareham to stay with my parents. It was certainly a full house! I enjoyed spending some time with my nephews and nieces, and some wonderful sunny weather enabled us to have good times at the beach.



Thank you to all who have enquired about Malawi. It looks as though the country is coming out of its third wave of the coronavirus. I don't have news from EBCoM, but often hear from former students by WhatsApp which is nice! Prayer points Please join me in giving praise for:

- a wonderful time in Northern Ireland – for time with friends, refreshment and time to reflect and re-focus;
- God's provision of different meetings and support during my sabbatical. Please pray for:
- God to open a door for my future ministry;
- planning for home assignment visits and making travel arrangements for that.

Thank you so much for your faithful support and prayers. I know that I have been upheld by prayer during my sabbatical, and I'm very grateful. I am planning to do 'home assignment' visits to churches in October and November. Over the autumn I will be updating my newsletter list for data protection reasons. Please do let me know if you are still happy to receive my newsletters. Thank you! I hope that it will be possible to meet up with many of you in the coming weeks. May God bless you,

Ruth Guinness



Update from Ruth Guinness October 26th 2021

Dear friends,

Warm greetings from Wareham!

Just a short update this month to let you know what is coming up. I have now moved into the 'home assignment' stage of my time in the UK and will be visiting churches as well as sorting out administrative things and having medical/dental appointments in preparation for returning to Malawi.

I'm excited to be working towards going back to Malawi in January. God has been opening doors, and I will be working with a team of people within SIM Malawi, all working in leadership development and discipleship. I am also excited to be taking on a more global role within SIM, again working with others in theological education, and developing our vision. This is still going through due process, but I look forward to being able to share more in person and in the coming months through newsletters.

Over the next few weeks I will be at the following churches:

31st October – **St Luke's Watford**

7th November – Pip 'n' Jims Walderslade, Chatham

21st November – Lady St Mary Wareham

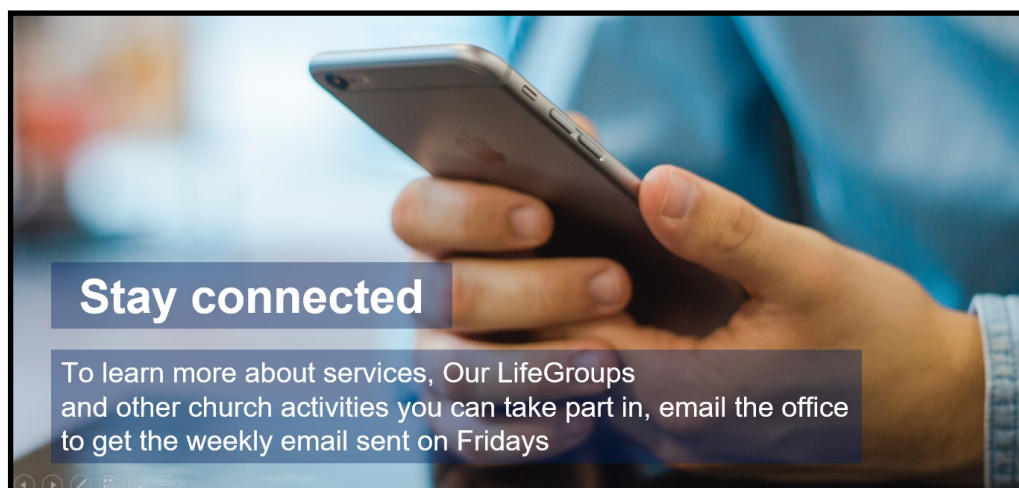
28th November – St Matthew's Worthing

Summary of prayer points:

- Praise for God's leading through the time of my sabbatical
- Praise that God has opened doors for my future ministry
- Pray for safe travel, and renewed relationships in each place I visit
- Pray that I will continue to learn to lean on God's love and his enabling in all I do

Thank you so much for your prayerful support. I'm praying for you too!

With love in Christ,
Ruth Guinness





An organisation that supports mothers with young babies

Drop in sessions @ St Luke's – check the weekly news

NEW WINE 2022

UNITED

at the EAST OF ENGLAND SHOWGROUND, PETERBOROUGH

23 JULY - 28 JULY 2022

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or see **John and Melanie Sills** (john.sills5@gmail.com)

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Creative Space

Saturday 25th September

On Saturday 25th September, a group of creative ladies gathered together for a morning of fun, friendship and craft. We started by sharing a delicious continental breakfast in the Gathering Area, which was a lovely opportunity to sit and chat to people, especially those new to the group.

Each month we think about a different theme and this one was **Gratitude**.



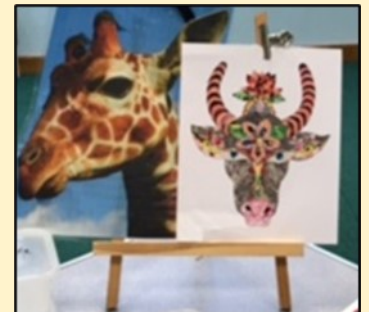
As we finished our tasty croissants and granola, Wendy Dodson got us thinking about the things we have to be grateful for. She only spoke for a few minutes but certainly gave us food for thought, as she

shared, among other things, how for her, a missed school trip to Switzerland ended up contributing to how she found her biggest sense of gratitude in God.



We also got to hear from the very talented Lee Owen, who had travelled all the way from Bath to share her gift of artwork in the form of collage. She is an amazing artist and reminded us how craft is such a diverse and enjoyable hobby, that we can pick up and put down at any stage in our lives.

Then came the moment we'd all been waiting for; creative hats on, we headed upstairs to find Lee's beautiful work on display in the hall, as well as tables decked out with animal templates, magazines, glue and scissors ready for us to get stuck into our own projects.



There was plenty of choice and between us all we certainly created quite a menagerie of wildlife, from peacocks to flamingos, lions to elephants and plenty more. All requiring different colours, shapes and imagination to bring them to life.

I think it's fair to say that most of us hadn't quite anticipated just how long it takes to build up a large picture using collage. Thankfully Lee had and we were all able to take home supplies to finish off our artwork in

our own time and then share with others on our Creative Whatsapp group.

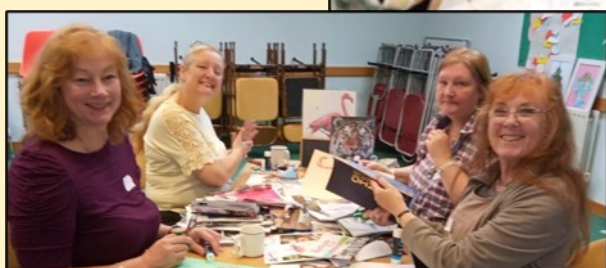
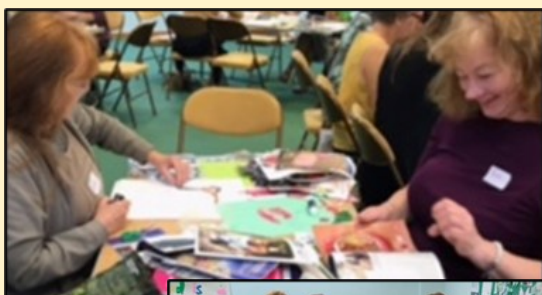
From a personal perspective I just wanted to share how much I enjoyed this event and would recommend it to others. I was unable to attend the previous session, but the beauty of this is that



you can attend as and when you are able and enjoy a lovely chilled time of creativity with other like-minded people. I brought a friend along with me, who shares a love of all things crafty and despite her not knowing anyone other than me; she felt very welcome and had a great time. We even bought some extra templates to try at home and she has put me to shame completing them all by the following weekend.

A big thank you to all involved and roll on the next event!

Laura Harvey



The LION

C.S. Lewis wrote his Narnia novels with Aslan the Lion as a central character. Aslan represented God. It reminds us that God is awesome, powerful and potentially ferocious and not to be messed with. We need to have a healthy “fear of God” just as animals have for the lion - the King of the Beasts.



The Bible has many references to lions. One of the most famous Bible stories is about Daniel, who survived a night in the lions’ den.

Read Daniel chapter 6

We see that Daniel is firm in his faith, he demonstrates this. Despite being forbidden to worship anyone but King Darius, Daniel continues to pray publicly to God, knowing the sentence for this is death. King Darius has been tricked into making an intractable law, so despite his friendship and respect for Daniel, he is forced to throw him to the lions. God steps in and “closes the mouths of the lions.” After a night with these hungry animals, Daniel is lifted out of the pit and on examination *“no wound was found on him because he had trusted in his God.”* Darius too, at this show of God’s power over animals, makes a decree that the people in his kingdom *“must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.”*

Imagine what it was like for Daniel, so close to these killer cats, watching their every move, hearing their breathing, perhaps their growling, yet trusting in God, who in turn honours and protects him. Perhaps Daniel even slept!

Are there times you feel unsafe, anxious or afraid, particularly at night? Look to God, moment by moment. He is by your side in every situation and able to deliver you as you trust in Him.

Read Judges chapter 14 vs 5 - 18

Samson, a young man, is faced with a roaring lion threatening him and his parents. Having been given supernatural strength, he kills the lion. On returning by the same route, he sees the carcass and notices a swarm of bees, then sees something glistening and gold inside. Honey! It tastes good, energises Samson, and gives him something to share with his family. This find inspires Samson to tell a riddle: *“Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong something sweet.”* Yet for the lion, this event was a tragic one; it came to a violent and premature end. Yet something good came from it.

Reflect on any trauma or difficulty that you or your loved ones have experienced in life - can you see any good resulted from it?

God's word makes this amazing promise; *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* (Romans 8 v 28) If you cannot see any good in those "bad" things right now, be patient, you may have to wait a while. Samson saw the bees before he saw the honey. The bees needed time for it to be produced (at least 3-4 weeks), it took a return journey by Samson revisiting the place where he fought the lion, to find the surprise sustenance. Thank God that he does work in all our circumstances to bring good, even if we do not as yet understand where the sweetness is buried.

The picture of a lion is frequently used in the Bible as a symbol of threat. For example in Psalm 57 v 4: *"I am in the midst of lions; I am forced to dwell among ravenous beasts – men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords."*

In the area of spiritual warfare for the Christian, the enemy (also known as Satan or the devil) is compared to a lion in 1 Peter 5 v 8; *"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."*

It seems from this verse that the Christian is vulnerable and open to attack. This can be the case and we need to be "alert and of sober mind", aware of his tactics and danger and the importance of not denying the enemy exists. Our defense and weapons against this "lion" are found in Ephesians 6 vs 10-18 where we are instructed to clothe ourselves in the *"armour of God"*. If we are in Christ, praying and worshipping, we can rely on God's power to help us in our temptation and our weaknesses. Like Samson in Judges 14 v 6, *"the Spirit of the Lord"* can be upon us too if we cry out for his help. God himself is our defence against this enemy.

It is interesting to note that when a lion is stalking its prey, it does not roar, instead it keeps silent, relying on the element of surprise. Perhaps the loud growls are an expression of frustration. The enemy is unable to find and destroy the followers of Jesus, because God has shut the mouth of the lion. As it says in Psalm 91:13



*You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.*

Pam Norman

From St Lawrence's Church, Abbots Langley



In aid of the
Malawi Project

QUIZ! NIGHT AND SUPPER

SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

7.30pm

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH HALL

Tickets: £12.50

Contact: wendymeldrum@gmail.com

or Parish Office: 01923 261795

Open Doors Quiz—Answers

There were 11 entries and it raised over £120. The high scorers were Mrs Pope, Lydia, Melanie S, the Millers and the winner was Pam Reynolds!

Well done all who had a go, even if you didn't enter I hope it was fun!

Pam Norman

New quiz coming soon

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 House | 1 Jack built one (5) |
| 2 Castle | 2 My home is my...(6) |
| 3 surgery | 3 Operation (7) |
| 4 Barn | 4 Where cattle or owls may dwell (4) |
| 5 Bathroom | 5 Heathland returns up to water container (8) |
| 6 Train | 6 It follows the bride (5) |
| 7 Supermarket | 7 Remake spurt remade like Asda (11) |
| 8 Doll's house or Rolls Royce | 8 Queen Mary had one most famous (5,5) |
| 9 Palace | 9 ER lives 'ere in London (6) |
| 10 pantry | 10 Attempt after cooking utensil (6) |
| 11 Car | 11 Half a pointy orange vegetable(3) |
| 12 Lift | 12 Being without energy takes tea to revive (4) |
| 13 Garage or Lounge | 13 A type of music to dance to (6) |
| 14 Plane | 14 Not pretty I hear, but is going places (5) |
| 15 Narrowboat | 15 Rosie and Jim rode this (10) |
| 16 Oven | 16 Cook your roast here (4) |
| 17 Sauna | 17 A steamy place to sit (5) |
| 18 wardrobe | 18 Item of clothing by patients' area (8) |
| 19 vault | 19 Leap to secure valuables (5) |
| 20 Lifeboat house or cabin | 20 In here are brave volunteers often at sea (8,5) |
| 21 Cottage | 21 Type of cheese (7) |
| 22 stable | 22 Unwavering and unlikely to collapse (6) |
| 23 Cage | 23 Inca geological site revealed a place of captivity (4) |
| 24 Cathedral | 24 Cradle hat unravels at St Alban's (9) |
| 25 Museum | 25 Ben Stiller spent nights here in 3 movies (6) |
| 26 windmill | 26 Early producer of green energy (8) |
| 27 Shed | 27 What snakes and lizards and birds do (4) |
| 28 Cable car | 28 Found on Tianmen Shan's famous attraction which is 7.4km long (5,3) |
| 29 Chest freezer | 29 Chilly place that holds the ice cream (5,7) |
| 30 Linen cupboard | 30 Parcel inbound unusually is found on landing (5,8) |
| 31 cafe | 31 Inca Festival reveals the answer (4) |
| 32 Understairs | 32 Harry Potter's room in Privet Drive (11) |
| 33 Basement | 33 Dark dwelling or storage place (8) |
| 34 lighthouse | 34 It is 133m high in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (10) |
| 35 Penthouse | 35 The best room in the hotel (9) |
| 36 Police station | 36 Where the Fuzz are found (6,7) |
| 37 Casino | 37 James Bond visited a "Royale" one (6) |
| 38 shack | 38 W P Young wrote a novel about this (5) |
| 39 mosque | 39 Zika insect has tail replaced with energy (6) |
| 40 Convenience store | 40 Reconvene section rebuilt often on the corner (11,5) |

Children's Page

Colour in these pictures



It is good to share what we have with others

**Read in the Bible how Jesus fed lots of people with just
5 loaves and 2 fishes *Matthew ch 14 v13-21***

Find these words from the story in the grid below

baskets

five

remote

broke

food

thanks

crowds

heaven

thousand

disciples

Jesus

two

evening

loaves

fishes

people

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

The will be in at the end of October. You are welcome to submit an article for next edition of St. Luke's News. It should not be more than 450 words.

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

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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	Richard Waddington
PCC Treasurer	Paul Evans
PCC Secretary	John Sills
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Please leave a message for any of the above on the Church Office answerphone -
246161

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