



February 2022  
Number 269

## New Year! New Mission Action Plan!



### Mission Action Planning

The start of 2022 was **definitely** a better one for us as a family than last year when we were ill with the covid virus. This year we have seen everyone over Christmas, enjoyed good meals, and stayed well. Although the Omicron variant is still around and any plans we make for this year still have risk attached, we are hopeful!

I'm starting another year as Churchwarden, but it feels like we are only just beginning to be able to think about future plans for the church other than covid risk assessments. As a church we have undergone huge changes in the last three and a bit years since we last reviewed our Mission Action Plan (MAP). We have had an interregnum, a new vicar, Michael in October 2019, key members have moved away and **crucially** a pandemic. The PCC therefore decided under God to begin the MAP process afresh.

***“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland” Isaiah 43:19***

We have been praying as a church for the last year and a half during the pandemic. We met in person as a PCC in May 2021 and onwards, to seriously begin the discernment process to hear what God is saying to us as a community of believers, about who He wants us to be as His church at this present time. After much prayer, prayer walks, discussion and looking at priorities in Life Groups and the PCC, we have been led to the following vision and goals.

## **Vision**

A picture was given of St Luke’s as a lighthouse, with small boats going out to rescue



people after the storm. We believe that this means that we are to be a place and people from whom God’s light shines into a stormy world to guide to safety, warmth, and salvation, reaching out in the power of the Holy Spirit to rescue with the gospel of Jesus Christ those who are drowning in the sea of life.

***“The gospel is God’s rescue mission to bring us from darkness to light. This is the work of Jesus, the light of the world. But Jesus himself turns to his followers and says, “You are the light of the world – so let your light shine.”” Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.***

It is hard to fix on priorities when there is so much to do! But we felt that God was making three areas very clear to us from this vision:

### **1. Rediscovering and developing corporate worship and prayer**

*1 John 1:7 “But if we are living in the light of God’s presence, just as Christ does, then we have wonderful fellowship and joy with each other, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from every sin.”*

Let’s enjoy coming together to worship our awesome God! How horrible it was to be scattered, worshipping alone in our houses. We are now free to come and sing together, to pray together, praising our amazing God who has rescued us, wretched sinners that

we are! We already have an amazing worship team led by the two Jeremys and it has been wonderful to see the young people taking part in the worship group as well.

*“Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob! Begin the music, strike the timbrel, play the melodious harp and lyre... In your distress you called and I rescued you.” Psalm 81: 1 and 7*

## **2. To grow our children, young people and family ministry**

*“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.... so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.” Psalm 78:4,6*

This ministry is close to my heart. My husband, Bill and I have been involved with Urban Saints for many years now because we passionately want to pass on to children and young people the good news of Jesus that dedicated Christian leaders passed on to us when we were young. We want children of all backgrounds to be part of God’s church, and we would love to see more families and young people participating in the life of St. Luke’s.

Michael made this a priority area as soon as he came, appointing Lydia as our Children and Family Team Leader. Starting during Lockdown was very difficult but how we needed her amazing videos and creative thinking to stay connected to our families! Together with Neil Brookes, our Youth Director, and a small band of committed volunteers they have kept the ministry alive with new ideas. However, we acknowledge that we have fewer children, families and young people returning in person consistently and we long to reach out to the many that are living in our parish.

## **3. Reaching out to those on our estate and beyond with the good news of Jesus Christ**

Whilst always being a church which seeks to share the good news of Jesus with others, this desire has seemed to become a more urgent priority for many of us since the start of the pandemic. Many of the initiatives that were particularly blessed during this time were when we went out and about in the community, for example knocking on doors to give Easter Eggs and candles, and of course, the various trails.

The vision of the Lifeboats seems to confirm this as a priority area for us. People are lost and drowning, without hope in a messy and fallen world. We have Jesus who alone can save the lost, but we are entrusted with a message of grace and rescue and need to go back out there in our lifeboats in the strength and power of the Holy Spirit to bring back the lost to Jesus and salvation. God loves them all and is not willing that any should perish. If we believe in the urgency of this, then our priorities and resources will be radically transformed.

*"How then can they call on the one they have not believed in?  
And how can they believe in him unless they hear of him?  
How can they hear about him unless someone tells them?"  
Romans 10:14*

## **For each of these priorities, we have focused on particular goals:**

### **1. Worship and Prayer**

Encountering more of God in our worship by

- a) Continuing to deepen the culture and rhythm of prayer in our church
- b) Looking for more freedom of expression and moving of the Holy Spirit in our worship
- c) Rebuilding and developing a prayer ministry at services and our healing services

### **2. Children, young people, and families**

- a) To train, enthuse, equip and build up the team of volunteers in children, youth and family ministry
- b) To grow our number of children, young people and families participating regularly in church on a Sunday and in church groups by prayer, children's groups, schools' work and work with families.

### **3. Outreach to the community**

- a) To reach out to our estate by prayer visiting half of the estate in 2022
- b) To have a team from Wycliffe Hall for a mission week in March 2022 to engage and reach out to groups connected with our church and to our estate.
- c) To train the church family to be confident in sharing their faith with their neighbours

These are challenging goals, but we believe and pray that they are "God's ideas" not just "good ideas". Please come alongside us by praying into these priorities and seeking God's will for where he would have you serve in them. This is for us all as a church family, not just for a few. However big a role, however seemingly small, God needs us all to reach out to those he loves.

***From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows, and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16***

***Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Philippians 4:13***

**Susan Miller  
Churchwarden**

## 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.



**We have some awesome kids groups on during our 10.30am services!**

For more information about children & families at St Luke's, contact [children@stlukeswatford.org](mailto:children@stlukeswatford.org)

## Youth Groups

K2	Tuesdays 6.15pm
Youth Alpha	Tuesdays 7:45pm
RISE	Thursdays 6.15pm
Rock Solid	Thursdays 7.30pm
Urban Saints	Saturdays 6.00pm
Altitude	Sundays during 10.30am

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

## Services in February and the start of March

### 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**

February 2022			Theme
<b>Tue 1st</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	
<b>Sun 6<sup>th</sup></b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> before Lent</i>	10.30am	Family Communion	<i>Luke 5:1-11</i>
	6.30pm	Confirmation	
<b>Tue 8<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	
<b>Sun 13<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	All age Service	<i>Luke 6:17-26</i>
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> before Lent</i>	6.30pm	Holy Communion	<i>Acts 17:16-34</i>
<b>Tue 15<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	
<b>Sun 20<sup>th</sup></b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent</i>	8am	Holy Communion	
	10.30am	Morning Service	<i>Luke 8:22-25</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Service	<i>Acts 19</i>
<b>Tue 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	
<b>Sun 27<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Sunday before Lent</i>	10.30am	Morning Service	<i>Luke 9: 28-36</i>
	6.30pm	Holy Communion	<i>Acts 28:1-10</i>

March 2022			Theme
<b>Tue 1<sup>st</sup></b>	10.00am	Holy Communion	
<b>Wed 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	7.30pm	Holy Communion	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

6 <sup>th</sup> Feb evening	Confirmation service led by Bishop Alan
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb-6 <sup>th</sup> March	Fairtrade Fortnight
1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> March	New Wine Leader's conference (some of the staff team to attend)
4 <sup>th</sup> March	World Day of Prayer
12 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Wycliffe Mission week
8 <sup>th</sup> May	APCM

### MARMALADE



It is Seville orange time again and I am busy making Seville orange marmalade and Seville and Quince marmalade for sale for local charities including The Peace Hospice and New Hope. It is available all year.

To order, contact **Di** on **01923 243020** or email [dianamigibbs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dianamigibbs@yahoo.co.uk)

Thank you.

**You are welcome to  
participate in our services!**



A gentle reminder that if you come up to the front for anything, we assume permission is given that you are happy to be on a livestream.



# 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](mailto:susan-miller@ntlworld.com)



# Urban Saints

Upcoming dates this term:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Feb – Healing of Jarius' Daughter
- 12<sup>th</sup> Feb – The Good Samaritan
- 5<sup>th</sup> Mar – Pancakes! Embracing justice – Fairtrade
- 12<sup>th</sup> Mar – Embracing Justice – Climate
- 19<sup>th</sup> Mar – Palm Sunday
- 26<sup>th</sup> Mar – Easter Celebration

## Santa's Hampers



On 24th September, 2021, a message was received from Caroline Tearle, in the Santa's Hampers What's App Group, saying *"Hullo everyone, its Santas Hampers time again!"*, and we were off. A lively, lovely, enthusiastic group of 9 began a frantic shopping spree to fill 20 Christmas boxes for families of the Refugee Trust, and 60 gift bags for men and women at the New Hope Trust. Spreadsheets were drawn

up, best prices sourced and shared, and then we shopped 'till we dropped, sometimes quite literally (buying 60 of any particular item takes stamina).



Our deadline of 2nd December for packing seemed a long way off, but there was SO much to buy and organise, time flew by. Within the refugee families there were various combinations of family members, and ages of children, so we therefore tailor made each box to include toys, activities, games, food items and toiletries. The New Hope bags contained toiletries, warm knitwear, treats, and in every gift there was a hand written Christmas card, sending love and greetings from St. Luke's.

Finally, on 2nd December, we piled up our cars and delivered everything to the upstairs lounge, (some considerable effort, but thank you to everyone who helped lift and shift).



We sorted everything out and laid it on tables for the troops to pack in the evening. Thanks to the amazing work of the Brownies and youth, everything was packaged and ready for delivery the next day.

They say 'it takes a village' don't they? Well what a village this was!



Heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated, shopped, stored, and packed. I'm sure we'll be back later in the year to do it all again, but would welcome anyone to come on board and join the Santa's Hampers Team. I promise you it's a fun ride.

**Love and New Year blessings to you all for 2022,  
Jill Rogers XX**

We filled **20** boxes for the Watford & Three Rivers Refugee Partnership. We made up **60** bags for the homeless which were delivered to New Hope Haven day centre. (**12** bags for ladies and **48** for men as was requested).

This is the most we have been asked to do so far!

St Luke's Church kindly raised **£2,585**.

Thank you all so much for these donations.

## THE BISHOP'S HARVEST APPEAL

The Appeal in the autumn of 2021 was for the "Water is Life" campaign on behalf of **TEAR Fund**. St Luke's Church contributed **£4,212** to this Appeal and we have received the following personal letter from **Bishop Alan**:

"It gives me great pleasure to thank your parish for its very generous support of my 2021 Harvest Appeal – **Water is Life**. I am well aware that many people in this diocese contribute generously to a variety of charities and, in a period which has been particularly challenging in many ways, this donation is very much appreciated.

Your gift will help to bring clean water to communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo which has a history of civil war and widespread poverty. More than 70% of the DRC population use unsafe drinking water and daily encounter the high risk of cholera which is a preventable disease. Your support will make clean water available to many bringing with it transformation to daily lives and hope for the future.

This comes with my thanks and best wishes."



### 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

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

It's the time of year to review our financial outcome for last year and to prepare for another year of supporting the whole ministry of the church at St Luke's especially from the perspective of church members' giving to God.

The PCC's budget for 2021 originally showed a loss of £14,000, a significant factor being the drop in income from letting parts of the building due to covid. Due to some generous giving the outcome for the year is a small loss of about £1,000. Letting income also showed signs of rising again towards the end of the year.

The PCC has agreed a budget for income and expenditure in 2022, which shows an anticipated loss of £7,000. A major assumption is that letting income will return to pre-covid levels and there are encouraging signs so far. Regular giving by church members also needs to increase by at least 4.0% (more would help to eliminate the shortfall). The costs of running the church will increase over the year as more regular activities recommence after the various lockdowns and, for example, our gas bills are expected to rise in the autumn by up to 50%. It remains the case that more than 80% of all our costs are in respect of people, that is support for clergy, staff and mission partners.

So please will all church members take some time to review their level of giving, especially if you have not done so for several years. There are a number of ways of giving regularly and directly so please ask if you need more information (or look at the church website). Thank you to all who give prayerfully and generously.

**Paul Evans**  
**PCC Treasurer**

**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**



## World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is a women-led service prepared this year by Christian women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Day of Prayer will be observed in many countries. In 2023, the service will be written by Christian women in Taiwan.

The overarching theme of this year's service is HOPE – very appropriate for this time when the world is coming to terms with the ongoing risks of a pandemic and the looming climate crisis. HOPE is depicted through the lighting of candles, the distribution of seeds and the exchange of message worldwide via social media using hashtag #WDP hope

The Bible Passage about the theme of Hope is from Jeremiah chapter 29.

We will be studying it together at:

### **Beechen Grove Baptist Church**

on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022

at 2pm

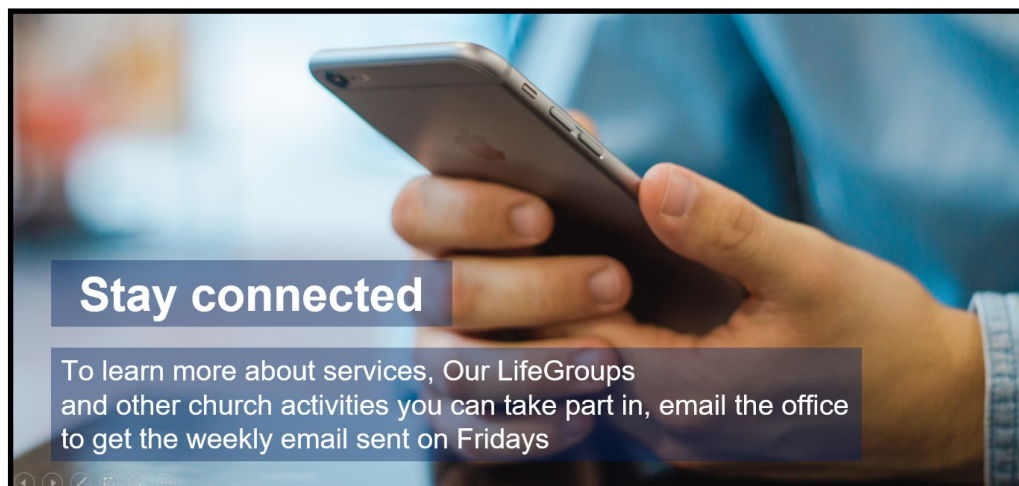
Everyone is invited to join the Watford WDP service to be held at:

### **Beechen Grove Baptist Church**

on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

at 2pm

The logo design comprises of arrows converging from the 4 points of the compass, 4 figures kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross and a circle representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.





**STORK AND THE BEES**

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

**A 23 JULY - 28 JULY 2022**

**Book by 15 September 2021 for best prices**

**FLASH SALE NOW OPEN** at [new-wine.org](http://new-wine.org) or see **John and Melanie Sills** ([john.sills5@gmail.com](mailto:john.sills5@gmail.com))

## News from some of Our Mission Partners



### Message from the Gelsthorpes in Japan:

*'Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.'* Psalm 89v14

Thank you so much for praying:

...for our Christmas Family Service and our candle-lit Christmas Eve service. **Praise God** that a handful of non-Christians came and heard the gospel including one man who'd never been to the church before. **Please pray** that they will be reminded of the gospel message they heard and respond to it.

...for our elementary school and youth Christmas parties, great opportunities to share the gospel with children from non-Christian families and lots of fun playing games including pass the parcel using giant balls of clingfilm. The nativity at the front of our church became a useful tool in explaining the Christmas story. **Please pray** that these children, some of whom have heard the gospel many times, will believe. **Please pray** that new children will come when groups restart this month.

...Thank you for praying for Mr Highbridge, a single father who joined our church last year. As he is a relatively young Christian, he is keen to learn lots about the Bible. **Please pray** for good times of fellowship every month and for Mr Highbridge to grow in his faith. **Please pray** for energy for him as he brings up his 7-year-old son.

We are very thankful that Grace did well in the IGCSEs that she took last year. **Please pray** for wisdom for her as she chooses her A Levels.

David and Manuella Pawson will be joining the team in May. Manuella is the daughter of the German family who founded this church. They have two children, Esther (3) and Gideon (1). **Please pray** that God will prepare lots of good opportunities for them to meet people and share the gospel and that they will be happy and thrive in Hanamaki.

We have booked tickets to return to the UK for a short trip on the 21st of February to visit family. We are thankful that many of the restrictions on travel have eased recently making the preparation for the trip more straightforward. **Please pray** for a good time with our parents and for some good rest.

Having been very busy over Christmas we have been reminded that there is a limit to the number of events we can supervise at the church. **Please pray** for wisdom in the coming weeks as we plan the church schedule for the spring.

Our weekly Minecraft Club which is due to start again on the 22nd of January. **Please pray** for new members to join our three regulars. **Please pray** that the regulars at our Teen Club (due to start on the 29th of January) will invite their friends and that more of the children will come to the Bible study we hold before the club and that there will be good, open discussions. **Please pray** for a warm and open atmosphere at these Bible studies. Thank you so much for praying and please let us know how we can pray for you.

Many Japanese churches, particularly in the countryside, are small and have elderly congregations. There are often few or no children in church. One significant reason for this is the business of Japanese school from middle school onwards. All middle and high schools offer a range of after school activities (called Bukatsu) ranging from English Club to football and, attendance is often compulsory. Japanese culture places a high value on commitment to groups so many Japanese people take their hobbies very seriously. Bukatsu is no exception with some groups meeting four or more times per week. This is great if you love your Bukatsu but can leave little time for church and lead to exhaustion.



At Hanamaki Grace Church we have an emphasis on fun, particularly in our Minecraft (video game) club for younger children and our Teen Club for youth. We play games together, enjoy food and drink and have a chance to share the gospel. Our prayer is that young people can find rest and hope in Jesus through the church. **Please pray** that the church in Hanamaki and beyond will be filled with young Christians.

*Love from  
Mark, Sarah,  
Grace, Isaac and Caleb*

### **Letter from Alastair Patterson**

Dear St. Luke's,

This past year has been very much one of 'déjà vu' still being in the UK and doing much the same work. The ongoing coronavirus situation plus some other circumstances have made it very difficult to plan any trips to Nepal. A few months ago, things looked to be improving, but then the omicron variant took hold. I had thought about travelling in January but cases are now rapidly increasing in Nepal with new restrictions. **Please pray** for suitable travel windows - March?

However, what is a real blessing is having the internet and thanks to God that there has been work to be getting on with. It is quite something that not so many years ago, one would have to go to a corner shop with a telephone to make an expensive international call, but now it is even possible to have a video chat on a smart phone at no extra cost.

Two main areas of work have been the Bible for Children stories and The Ancient Path evangelistic booklet. The upgrades of the main set of original BFC images were completed and I am now working on a few later stories that have better quality images but ideally could be improved. This is almost complete. The organisation has been updating their now over 400 different languages with the new images.

I originally started on these to print the booklets in Nepali but there have been problems with the existing Nepali translation. Thankfully, I am now working with someone in Kathmandu on a new translation. **Please pray** that this translation will be completed and good. This person also translated all 60 stories into his tribe language. If

the Nepali is good, then other languages can follow.

A small project has a children's ministry and they hope to use the booklets. When in Nepal it is easy for me to make and deliver them but it is a problem being 7000Km away. Please pray that we can find a way of making the booklets.

It has been good to be able to produce reading app versions of 'The Ancient Path' booklet in a number of different Nepali languages plus Vietnamese and Burmese. These are now official apps on Google Play Store. **Please pray** that these apps can be advertised so that people can access them and people will be touched by them. Also please pray that people spreading the printed versions in will be protected from opposition.

***Thank you and God bless,  
Alastair***

PS It was good to be able to go carol singing at The Essex Arms as I have not been part of a group singing traditional carols for a very long time. It was also great to be able to go to church with my parents.

### **Greetings to you from Nireekshana!**

Christmas was an amazing time as we decided to have women and young adults who don't celebrate Christmas. Thank you for your partnership we treasure your walk with us. Sujai decided to invite families of patients to our home. We had a beautiful time of conversations around our dining table which included aspects of disease transmission in spouses (HIV and Leprosy), treatment of diseases and children's education. Other families who were also around could relate to each other and had a good time.

The warmth of the season was felt as some were in tears for the love we showed here. The mothers were there enjoying the day preparing lunch and the young people had a very good time and met a popular show actor a physical fitness instructor who gave inspirational conversation with children. One of the very exciting things is that the children, women and patients felt at home as a big extended family all together having lunch, around 35 people.

We are grateful for your partnership in the Covid times it sustains many of the patients and women through the lockdown times. Winter was cold so we gave around 100 children warm blankets, a toothbrush, a toothpaste set a school pouch with pencils etc.

On our research side, we carrying out a project with Cambridge University (UK) on the early diagnosis of Leprosy (favour from Above).

We look forward to this new year with great hope of seeing the work carried out with passion and commitment.

Our warm regards to all the church families. We enjoyed watching online services once in a while.

***Much regards,  
Lavanya & Sujai Suneetha***  
Nireekshana ACET HIV/AIDS & Leprosy Clinic  
Hyderabad,  
India

## Greetings from Andrea and Clive

By God's grace, the latter part of 2021 ended with a long-awaited 2-month stint in Nepal with INF (International Nepal Fellowship). We're thankful for technologies, such as Zoom, that have enabled us to keep in contact and continue our work, but we certainly felt the benefit of face-to-face contact. Despite having been away for 2 years, we were pleasantly surprised by how quickly we slotted back into life and work. The warm welcome was hugely encouraging, with a number of our Nepali colleagues enjoying the opportunity to 'off-load' on us! We hope we have been a valuable sounding-board and an encouragement to them - especially since INF has faced some big challenges in the last couple of years, such as...

### The pandemic

Currently in the grip of a third Corona wave, Nepal cannot afford to have major lockdowns or provide support to the needy. Hospital fees are crippling for many and have led to families making difficult choices between treatment and financial survival. Without accurate testing or reporting, it's hard to know how many have lost their lives, but the impact has been emotionally and economically high. Tourism, one of the main sources of income, has taken a major hit BUT internal tourism has grown and migrants continue to head around the world (especially to the Middle East) to earn money to send back home. Many hospitals (including INF's Green Pastures Hospital) now have

their own oxygen 'plant' and the vaccination programme is progressing. The most creative, small-but-significant response we heard about was of a charity that included 1000 Rupee notes (~ 2 days minimum wage / ~£7.50) in 1kg bags of rice that were being distributed to the poor and needy. Those with modest means wouldn't bother going out to get a free bag, so there was no risk of the money going to the wrong people!



*Christmas - traditional dance together*



*Church Christmas Day*

### The ups-and-downs of being the oldest INGO/NGO in Nepal

INF has struggled with the departure of some key senior leaders and, coupled with the ongoing challenge of finding donor funding, morale and productivity has been affected in some areas. On the 'flip side', however, there is a real sense of excitement about the 70th anniversary celebrations this year and some of the new developments that are already bringing about life-transforming change. These include the palliative care programme, revitalisation of leprosy and rehabilitation services and a project to give basic nursing assistant training to survivors of human trafficking. It was heart-warming to hear locals comment that; "INF is No.1 for spine, skin and ear!". Christian counsellors

and staff who lead prayer and fellowship meetings attend to the spiritual well-being of patients whenever possible and appropriate - we certainly see Jesus' hands and feet whenever we visit!

### Officialdom

It's not possible to run hospitals and projects, or employ ~400 local staff and second ~25 expats without lots of paperwork and government agreements that take a very long time to process. Current negotiations have taken over 1 year so far and have significantly impacted the availability of work visas. This is a big challenge to Andrea for whom recruitment is one of her main responsibilities.

### The year ahead

We will both continue to support the work of INF (Andrea in recruitment, training and member care; and Clive as advisor to the ICT and communications/marketing teams) and pray that, God willing, we can head to Nepal late March for ~2.5 months, with another stint later in the year. There's also plenty of work that we're involved in at All Nations as we adapt and adjust to the ever-changing context of intercultural mission training - especially in response to the pandemic. And, of course, we will endeavour to spend time with, and support, family members in the coming months.



With Krishna - INF Director

For more information about INF, visit: [inf.org](http://inf.org) or  
[www.facebook.com/internationalnepalfellowship](https://www.facebook.com/internationalnepalfellowship)  
and All Nations, visit: [allnations.ac.uk](http://allnations.ac.uk) or  
[www.facebook.com/allnationsUK](https://www.facebook.com/allnationsUK)

### Greetings from Ruth Guinness in Malawi!

I arrived safely last Friday, and have been settling in over the last few days. I will be writing an update shortly, but given that you want something from me by tomorrow, I will write something short below! (I might repeat most of this in the update!)

Warm greetings from Malawi! I arrived back in Blantyre on January 14<sup>th</sup> after a smooth journey, for which I'm very grateful. I came back to a warm welcome and was able to spend a few days quietly in quarantine, unpacking and sorting out my house again.

For me, this is a time for new beginnings – and it's lovely to see this illustrated in the fresh green grass around me, as the rains have finally come, late this year. I'm looking forward to getting involved in my two new roles. One is based in Malawi, working with a team who are involved in theological education. We all have a desire to build up the church through good Bible teaching and discipleship. The other is an international role with SIM, being the global lead for theological education. It was great to have my first orientation session in this role this week. I'm excited about the potential there is for using various kinds of theological education to equip and empower the church.

**Please do pray** for Malawi. It was not long before I had my first visitor telling me of hunger. For many areas where the rains have started late, the hunger season before the harvest will be hard. In terms of COVID, the numbers are coming down from the 4<sup>th</sup> wave of the virus. A number of the SIM team have recently had, or still have, COVID, but thankfully seem to be recovering well.

It was lovely to see many of you when I visited St Luke's back in October. Thank you so much for your prayers and support. **Do give thanks** with me for the way that God has paved the way for me to be back here in Malawi. And **please do pray** that I will soon find my feet in my new roles, and also that I will be able to find a suitable car.

*Thank you,  
Ruth Guinness*

### **Volunteers urgently required for...**

Coffee after 10:30 service

Children's groups (Sundays and Tuesdays)

Welcoming (hopefully once a month maximum)

Security rota (about one week a quarter)

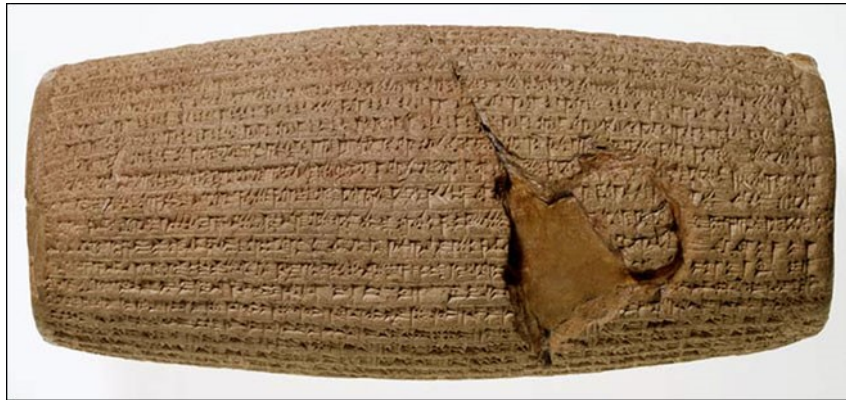
Please get in touch with Beth in the office if you wish to help.



There will never be peace in the world  
until there is peace in nations  
There will never be peace in nations  
until there is peace in communities  
There will never be peace in communities  
until there is peace in families  
There will never be peace in families  
until there is peace in individuals  
And there will never be peace in individuals  
until we invite the Prince of Peace to reign in our hearts

## Archaeology supporting The Bible

It is always assuring to know that archaeology supports the Bible. The great Persian King Cyrus (died in 529 B.C.) and his successors, including Artaxerxes I continued with this declaration, enabling Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The Jerusalem Temple was rebuilt during King Cyrus's reign, finished in the period 520—515 B.C., hence allowing for the 70 years in exile prophesied by Jeremiah (Jer. ch29 v10) from the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians by 587 B.C.



*Charter of the Rights of Nations*

*Inscribed on a clay cylinder in cuneiform*

*Discovered in 1879, now in The British Museum, London*

... I am Cyrus. King of the world. When I entered Babylon... I did not allow anyone to terrorise the land... I kept in view the needs of the people and all its sanctuaries to promote their well-being... I put an end to their misfortune. The Great God has delivered all the lands into my hand; the lands that I have made to dwell in a peaceful habitation...

***Submitted by Andrew Cheale***

**Creative  
space for  
hard-working women**



Come together for continental breakfast (Sats), drinks and cake (Mon), a short talk and then spend time enjoying learning a new craft.

**Creative space**

venue



**St Luke's Church**  
Langley Way  
Watford  
WD17 3EG

- learn a new craft skill
- chat with friends

**Places are limited**  
Please book yours by contacting Pam:  
07975 748243 or [pam.stlukes@gmail.com](mailto:pam.stlukes@gmail.com)  
[www.stlukeswatford.org/creative-space](http://www.stlukeswatford.org/creative-space)

"I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do.

I used to pray for answers, but now I'm praying for strength.

I used to believe that prayer changes things but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things."

Mother Theresa

### WOOL

St Luke's Knitting group, which meets once a month on a Monday morning is in need of more wool to make baby items and hats for adults.

Can you help? All wool gratefully received via the Church Office, during working hours.

To join the group contact **Di** via the office.

Thank you.



**We are recruiting for several different roles including:**

[Recovery Services Assistant Manager](#)

[TST Support Worker](#)

[Haven Support Worker](#)

[Sanctuary Support Worker](#) (Full-time and Part-time)

[Waking Night Support Worker](#)

[Outreach Plus - Street Outreach Worker](#)

These are internal and external vacancies so please do share within your networks and forward on to anyone who you think might be suitable.

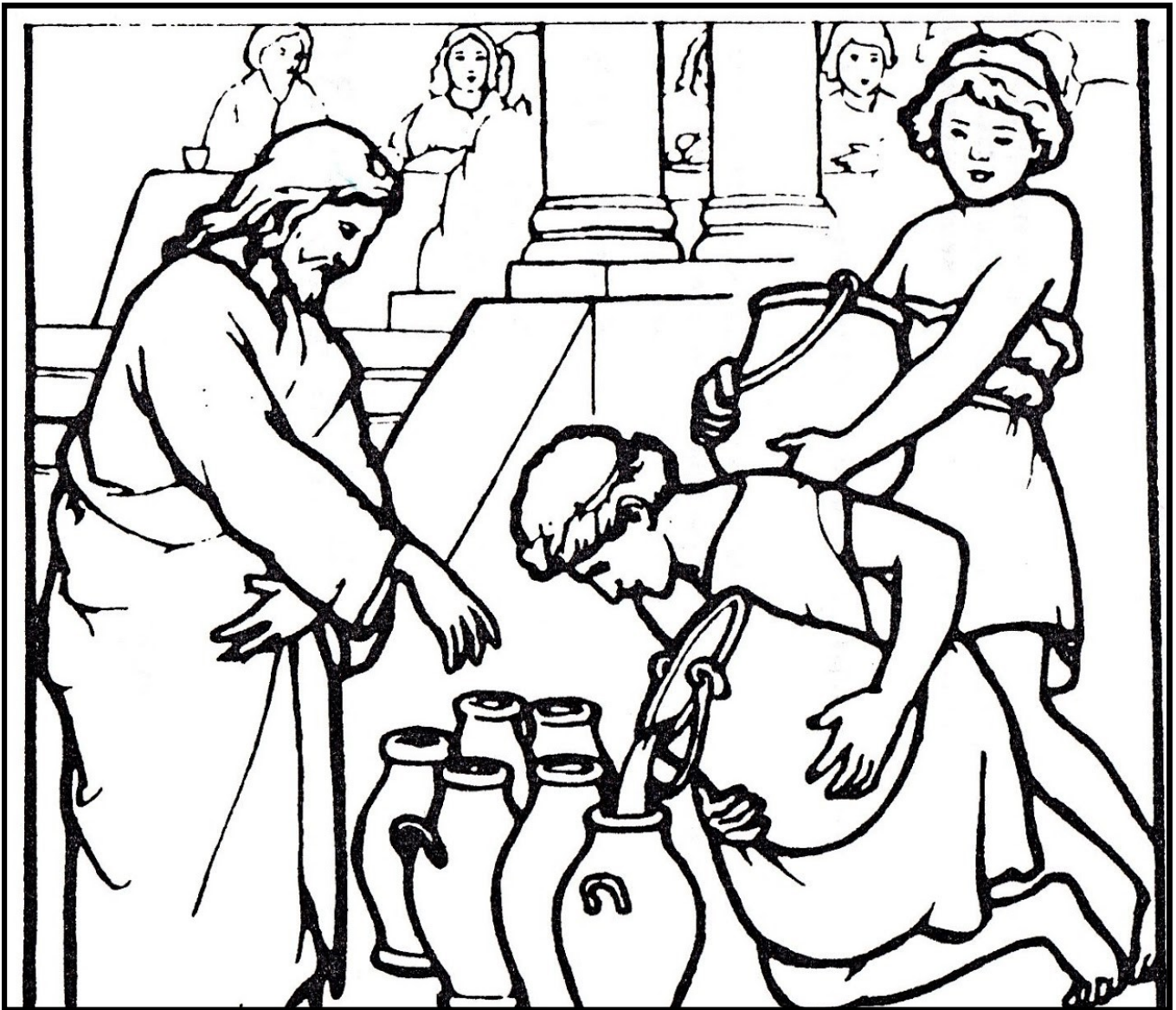
**To apply,** please send a letter of application stating how you meet the essential and desirable criteria stated on the person specification to Ekta Gurney, HR and Volunteering Officer: [egurney@newhope.org.uk](mailto:egurney@newhope.org.uk) to be received by the closing date.

\*If reading this on-line – click on job title to follow link to job description, otherwise go to the New Hope website to see them  
[www. https://www.newhope.org.uk/jobs](https://www.newhope.org.uk/jobs)

## Children's Page

Colour in this picture of Jesus changing the water into wine, which Lydia talked about in Church on Sunday 16th January.

You can read about it The Bible in John chapter 2



## Word Search

Find the following words which come from the water into wine story

banquet

disciples

jars

stone

best

fill

Jesus

twenty

bridegroom

Galilee

master

washing

Cana

gallons

mother

water

cheaper

guests

servants

wedding

choice

hour

sign

wine

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

The next edition of St. Luke's News will be at the end of March. You are welcome to submit an article which should not be more than 450 words. We may edit articles for clarity.

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)

Vicar	Michael Norman
Reader	Dave Clarke Pam Norman 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	Richard Waddington
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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