



November 2022
Number 271

Following the Star



Before we reach the Christmas story, there is a time of being prepared or getting ready. We call this Advent. In the bible story, this is reflected by many journeys and supernatural activities.

Angels journey from Heaven to visit Mary and others at the beginning of the story.

Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem to register under Quirinus' census. The shepherds travelled from the hills outside Bethlehem. However, the most impressive travellers were Gentile wise men from another country and certainly not of the Jewish faith.

But something moved the wise men as they looked at the stars and spotted a comet moving across the sky. So they followed it. God had clearly spoken to them, how is unclear, perhaps an inner conviction or a longing that would somehow be fulfilled by their journey. And journey they did, from modern day Iran (Persia) – a costly and tough journey.

They reached the Holy Land, stopping off in Jerusalem but finally reaching the Messiah king in Bethlehem, probably many months after Jesus' birth.

Perhaps as you read this you are struck by a longing for something more, a longing for home that an earthly home doesn't fulfil. Christmas is a time to discover afresh the call of heaven – the call to know, here and now, the good news that the angels proclaimed to the shepherds. It's a time of being with others, family and friends, but also with God, recounting the incredible story of Jesus the saviour born at Bethlehem.

St Luke's will have an exciting range of services for all ages (see details in the magazine) and it will be wonderful to celebrate Christmas this year in a more normal year.

However, with an international crisis with the war in Ukraine, a cost of living crisis in the United Kingdom and global warming leading to extreme weather events, normality seems difficult to find at this time. Our Lord Jesus was born, lived among us, died for us on a cross and rose again to show us this life is just a taster for the world to come.

That is the great Advent hope, we celebrate in the four weeks before Christmas itself. Yes, looking forward to Christmas but also to a future where *"there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain for the old order of things has passed away"*. (Revelation 21:4)

As we say during Advent,

Jesus says, "Yes, I am coming soon".

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

So come and celebrate with us at St Luke's this year, and know the love, joy and peace the Christ child of Bethlehem brings.

God bless you as you prepare.

Michael

Rev. Michael Norman,

Vicar of St Luke's

Services at St Luke's Church

November			
Sunday 13th	8am	8am Service	
	10:30am	10:30am Service	Luke 21:5-19
	5:30pm	Divine Appointments 1 The Ethiopian Eunuch	Acts 8:26-40
Sunday 20th	10:30am	10:30am Holy Communion	Luke 23:33-43
	5:30pm	Divine Appointments 2 The Woman at the well	John 4:1-42
Sunday 27th	10:30am	1st in Advent	
	5:30pm	Informal Communion Divine Appointments 3 The Philippian Jailer	Acts 16:16-40
December			
Sunday 4th	10:30am	2nd in Advent Holy Communion	
	4:30pm	Christingle	
Sunday 11th	10:30am	3rd in Advent Morning Worship	
	4:30pm	Mince Pies and Carols	
Sunday 18th	10:30am	Holy Communion	
	6:30pm	Carols by Candlelight	
Sunday 25th <i>Christmas Day</i>	8am	Holy Communion	
	9am	Holy Communion	
	10:30am	Holy Communion	

Themes for January & February 10:30 Services

Sunday 1st Jan	10:30am	Holy Communion	
Sunday 8th Jan	10:30am	Jealousy & Treachery	Genesis 37
Sunday 15th Jan	10:30am	Success, Temptation & Accusation	Genesis 39
Sunday 22nd Jan	10:30am	Experts in Wine and Bread	Genesis 40
Sunday 29th	10:30am	Dreams of Cows and Corn	Genesis 41
Sunday 5th Feb	10:30am	A blast from the past	Genesis 42
Sunday 12th Feb	10:30am	Revenge & Bargaining	Genesis 43/44
Sunday 19th Feb	10:30am	The great reveal/The happy ending	Genesis 45/46

Services

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 details in the service plan on the previous pages may change

5:30pm Evening Service

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



Sat 19th Nov

tearfund

Hundreds of churches. Thousands of people. One big quiz.

St Luke's Church, Watford 7pm

**Each team a table of 8.
Suggested donation £5 a head**

**Either pay on the door or
scan the code to get to
to the Justgiving page**



justgiving.com/st-lukes-big-quiz

tearfund

Please join us this Christmas

Welcome to St Luke's



St Luke's Christingle

4th

Sunday 4th December 4:30pm

**A fun family-friendly event,
In the Church building**



Wine for a Christmas Dinner

Wine tasting event (with food)

6:30pm-9pm

Saturday December 10th 2022

At St Luke's Church Hall

10th



11th

Mince Pies & Carols

Sunday 11th December 4:30pm

Nativity

Saturday 24th December 4:30pm



24th

Midnight Communion

Saturday 24th December 11:30pm



24th



Christmas Day Service Times

8:00am Holy Communion
(In the Chapel)

9:00am All Age Communion
(In the Church)

10:30am All Age Communion
(In the Church & Online)

www.YouTube.com/stlukeswatford



25th

**We look forward to welcoming you
and sharing our celebrations**

Diary Dates Coming Up:

November 17th – Christmas Pudding Making

19th – Breakfast Club
– Tearfund Big Quiz Night

December 3rd – Breakfast Club

4th – Christingle

9th – CAMEO Christmas Lunch

10th – Wine for a Christmas Dinner

11th – Mince Pies and Carols

17th – Breakfast Club

24th – Nativity

– Midnight Communion

Regular groups at St Luke's:

Children/ Youth Groups (evenings, term-time)



Urban Saints Tuesdays 6:15-7:30 (7-11 year olds)

Base Thursdays 6:15-7:30pm (11-14 year olds)

K2 Tuesdays 7:45-9pm (12-15 year olds)

RISE Thursdays 7:45-9pm (14-18 year olds)

Toddlers (term-time)

Thursday mornings 9:30-11am

Breakfast Club

On the first and third Saturdays of the month,
starting on September 17th. 8:30-10am

Speak to Lydia

Cassiobury & Nearby Community Choir Speak to Jeremy C

Wednesday evenings, term time 8pm in the church



YOUTH GROUPS

Mid week groups back from 12th September

ALTITUDE

Sundays during the service
11 - 16 year olds

K2

Tuesdays 7:45 - 9pm
yrs 8 - 10

BASE

Thursdays 6:15 - 7:30pm
yr 7 - 9

RISE

Thursdays 7:45 - 9pm
yrs 10 - 13

Cameo

Monthly on Friday evening, usually 2nd Friday of the month
Speak to Jos or Pam W for a programme.

Friday Club

Monthly on the last Friday in the month. Speak to Janet G

Creative Space

Craft Activities for women, Once a month, See Pam N

Prayer

Focus Prayer Tuesday 8pm on Zoom

Prayer for Children and Youth (term-time) Thursdays 3pm

Hour of Prayer Fridays 10am



Breakfast Club

Heroes relaunched on Saturday 17th September, now called Breakfast Club and open to all families! We meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturday mornings (do find the exact dates below).

We are a very relaxed bunch with a wide range of things to do; we have a toddler zone for the little ones, and snooker and table tennis for the big kids; we've been making Hama beads and friendship bracelets and playing

board games; and, above all, we kick off our weekend with a thought of the day that points us to Jesus. All of this over a bacon butty, vegan sausage, pain au chocolat or a simple bowl of cereal.

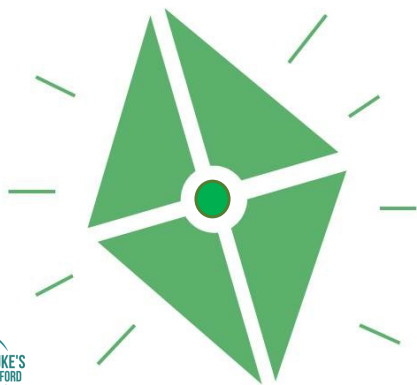
If you're thinking about coming along – do – get stuck in and join the fun no matter what your age (just call yourself a 'helper')! It's a wonderful time of fellowship for people of all ages, whether you are church family, or friend or neighbour. We are still a small, fledging group, but it is our prayer that we become a hub of community as we meet to do breakfast and life together. Breakfast Club is the land where milk and honey (and tea and coffee) flow!

Lydia Davies



CanCC

Cassiobury and nearby Community Choir



Wednesdays at 8pm

at St Luke's Church

Community Choir

**With occasional visit to the
Essex afterwards**

**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

www.stlukeswatford.org/creative-space



Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

**Please donate via bank transfer
or envelope marking both as: UKRAINE**

Wine

...for a Christmas Dinner



Wine tasting event

(with food)

**6:30pm-9pm on
Saturday December 10th 2022
At St Luke's Church Hall**

Christmas is a time of celebration as we mark the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas dinner is a time to open a bottle of wine. But what do we choose? Wine and food go closely together, you choose a wine that goes with the food you are eating: e.g. fish would have a white wine and red meat would have a red wine. For many meals it's quite straightforward but full Christmas dinner is complicated! The large number of tastes means a careful selection of a wine that can cope with but not dominate as to ruin the experience of the meal.

Come and join me on December 10th as we try around 12 different wines with food. Hopefully it should be a fun evening, learning a little more about wine and discovering one you can have for Christmas dinner. I am also looking to raise a good sum of money for the Peace Hospice. We will try three sparkling wines with starters, then six wines (three white and three red) with a main course and three with puddings.

Cost: £5 for the food (plus donations for the wine – any profit is going to the Peace Hospice). We are limiting the number of tickets to 50 people on a first come, first served basis. I suggest you arrange transport (taxi or by foot).

I look forward to you joining me as we discover good wines to celebrate the special day of Christmas.

Michael Norman
Vicar of St Luke's



News from some of Our Mission Partners



The Gelsthorpes with OMF in Japan

"I have made the Lord my refuge, that I may tell of all your good works." Psalm 73:28

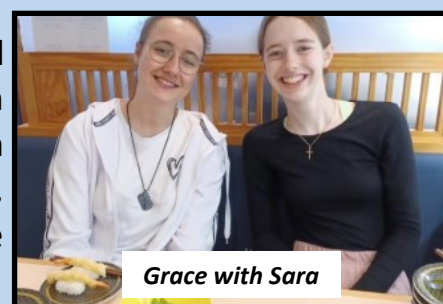
New Church Members: Praise God that two of our regulars at church want to become church members in November, affirming their support for the church and allowing to be involved in ministry. "A" is a Japanese lady who comes with her 12-year-old son and "E" is a Filipino lady working as a language helper at a local high school.

Please pray that they will grow in their gifts as they become more involved in ministry in church.

Please pray for A's son who has recently been asking about the meaning of baptism and communion. As Mark, Isaac and Caleb meet with him to discuss these issues, **please pray** that he will be certain in his own faith. "E" is working hard on Japanese language and now communicates well with Japanese people at church.

Please pray that the Lord will use her in supporting and encouraging other believers.

Sara Lackmann: Praise God that Sara, an 18-year-old short term missionary from Germany, arrived in Hanamaki on the 16th of October. She will be living in the church for a year and helping with English teaching, childcare, music and lots of practical jobs around the church.



Please pray that she will quickly settle into Hanamaki life and enjoy her time here.

Please pray that she can build good relationships in the community and at church.

Please pray that she will grow in her faith during her year of ministry here.

Samurai Projects Team (www.samuraiprojects.com) Samurai Projects is a bible college apprenticeship scheme based in Tokyo which currently has 10 students across two years. At the end of October, the students and two leaders are coming to Hanamaki for a mission trip at our church.

Please pray for lots of people to come and hear the gospel at the following events: 27th - Band night

29th - Craft morning Football event

30th - Preaching Sunday School

Please pray for guidance and boldness in preaching the gospel for the students who speak at each of these events.

Please pray for all of the team to work well together and to grow in faith

through the mission week.

The team will also be delivering flyers and tracts in the community.

Please pray that lots of people will visit the church through this publicity.

Home schooling Thank you for praying for Grace (16), Isaac (14) and Caleb (11) as they home school here in Hanamaki. **We are thankful** that Caleb is doing well in working independently now he is in Year 7 and he will be starting German lessons with Sara Lackmann soon. As we approach Christmas, Grace will begin revising for her AS Level exams to be taken in January in Tokyo.

Please pray for good concentration for her.

Isaac is enjoying Maths and Computer Science.

New children at Minecraft Club: Last week, we had three new children come to our weekly Minecraft (video game) Club.

Please pray that they will invite their friends and that lots of people will come and hear the gospel.

Thank you for praying for us, please let us know how we can pray for you.

*With love from,
Mark, Sarah, Grace, Isaac and Caleb*

The Gelsthorpes are working for OMF leading a church plant in rural, northern Japan.

Matsuzono Cho 1-11-40, Hanamaki Shi, Iwate Ken, Japan 025-0066

mark.gelsthorpe@omfmail.com

sarah.gelsthorpe@omfmail.com



Sally Miller with Friends International in Lancaster

'We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.' (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)

I had a good conversation last week with a Christian international student about the importance of returnee ministry and preparing Christian students to keep going as followers of Christ when they leave our city. It might seem a little early in the year to be having that conversation, but it reminded me that it is never a bad time to give thanks for all of our returnee students who are continuing to faithfully live for Christ all around the world. Please do join me in taking a moment this morning to thank God for them and to pray that they would keep going as followers of Christ! Please pray too for those who left Lancaster recently: that they would settle into a church quickly and become witnesses to their friends, colleagues, and family where they are.

Please continue to pray for more students to attend Talkabout, after we went down to one student again last week. Please give thanks for the conversation that we were able to have and pray that she will bring her friends next week.

Please give thanks for the small group of students who came to International Corner last week. Please give thanks for some good connections being made and interesting conversations around tables. Please pray that International Corner will continue to grow throughout the term.

Please pray for our trip to watch Lancaster Fireworks on Saturday. Please pray that many students would come and that we would have opportunities to chat with and share our faith with the students over the course of the evening.

Please pray for our Branch meeting on Friday as we discuss the term so far as well as looking at our strategy for international student ministry in Lancaster.

Please give thanks for the opportunity we have to update our partners at St Thomas' church on our ministry on Sunday. Please pray that we would clearly communicate the vision of international student ministry and that many in the congregation would want to become involved in reaching out to international students.

Sally Miller

Greetings from Ruth Guinness in Malawii



Dear friends,

Warm greetings from Blantyre, Malawi.

It's been a strange week here, as I've been confined to my home following a positive COVID test a week ago. Thankfully I'm now feeling quite a lot better, although I still tire easily, and am heeding advice and resting lots.

Thank you for praying for my visit to the Higher Institute for Evangelical Theology (ISTEL) in Angola at the beginning of the month. It was a very worthwhile trip. ISTEL hosted the ACTEA Visitation Team excellently. We stayed in a nearby hotel, and I was delighted to find that the hotel grounds had lots of trees and flowers. I was refreshed each morning by wandering round the grounds before we walked to the college, particularly enjoying a pair of African Paradise Flycatchers and some of the tame Common Duiker that lived in the grounds.

It was a great experience to see another college, and a privilege to come alongside them to listen to how things are going. I was impressed by their commitment to their vision of forming servant leaders for the church in Angola. I was also thankful that those I worked with most closely spoke English, although most larger meetings were in Portuguese.

The journey itself was quite an experience and gave me many opportunities to depend on God (especially when I was on my own without other English speakers). I'm so thankful for God's love and faithfulness, evident in many ways over the course of the trip.

Looking ahead, the consultation of the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education, in Izmir, Turkey, is coming up. This follows on from a number of zoom sessions in which ICETE has enabled dialogue and collaboration between people working in formal and non-formal theological education. There will be about 500 people, representing more than 90 countries, at the conference which runs from 14th – 18th November. I'm looking forward to lots of stimulating conversations, and to learning from many experienced people.

Summary of prayer points:

Give thanks for safety in travel;

Give thanks for a great experience on the ACTEA Visitation Team;

Pray for preparation for, and travel to, the ICETE conference in Turkey in November;

Pray for good networking opportunities and continued learning;

Pray for full healing from COVID.

Thank you so much for your prayerful support. Do let me know how I can pray for you too.

*With love in Christ,
Ruth Guinness*

ruth.guinness@sim.org

P.O. Box 136 Blantyre, Malawi

Clive and Andrea

Greetings everyone,

Thank you for your prayers.

There's certainly a celebratory mood at the moment having had several days of Tihar (Diwali) festivities. Also, INF's first big 70th anniversary event went well - this was the formal occasion with the 'big-wigs' (politicians, local leaders, etc.) who spoke very positively about INF :-). One of the original huts, that was part of the first ever hospital in western Nepal, was brought down to the Green Pastures Hospital complex and used to display old equipment and pictures of those early days when novel and life-changing healthcare was established. We still meet people today who fondly tell us about how they were treated by the 'Mims' at the Shining Hospital :-). The most memorable moment in the event was the testimony from a young man who is paralysed from the waist down - his treatment and faith



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.

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

combined have enabled some staggering achievements (including a bungy jump in a wheelchair!), he's a wheelchair basketball champ and now works in the hospital. His passion and enthusiasm is an inspirational testimony of what 'He' can do.

Next up are the '70th' inaugural prayer meetings and celebrations in Surkhet and Nepalgunj (in the mid-west) where INF runs two small hospitals (primarily focussed on leprosy and rehabilitation).

Clive will be heading to Nepalgunj tomorrow for 10 days - he will be photographing the events and taking photos of INF's community programmes and medical services. As many of the 'field staff' will be in town, he will be running workshops on photographic 'story telling' for reporting to donors and prayer supporters - there seems to be real enthusiasm to build local capacity in this area. Please pray for travelling mercies and for good interactions through the week.

Meanwhile, back-at-the-ranch, I will be working on promoting some of our priority expat vacancies (I'll send you a list in due course) and orientation of new INFers and other things. The All Nations' Explore course I'm running is going well and we're currently looking into developing a Chinese version. We're also producing a version of the EnVision course with Dutch subtitles and, hopefully, a version contextualised for the Austrian market. We trust you are well and that those in the UK are enjoying the warm autumn!

Love and blessings,

Clive & Andrea

PS. Part 2 of the BMS 'Behind the scenes' interview with Clive can be found here:
<https://www.bmsworldmission.org/news/good-land-photo-part-two/>

WOOL

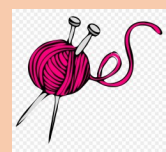
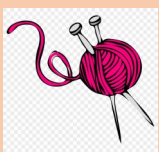
St Luke's Knitting group, which meets once a month on a Monday morning is in need of more wool to make baby items and hats for adults.

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.





Support groups, activities and events for those affected by dementia

'Be Our Guest'

1.30 - 3pm - 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month

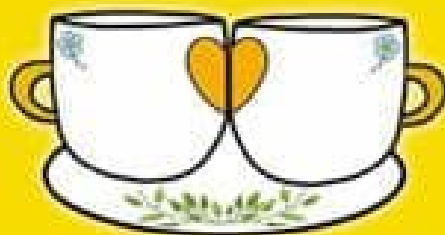


Caring for the Carer

Space for you to share with other carers whilst being supported by our **Trained Care Team and Wellbeing Specialist**

Happy Hour Hub

Themed activities for guests to evoke memories and stimulate the mind, body and soul



£6 each including refreshments per session



St Luke's Church, Langley Way, Watford, WD17 3EG
Free parking on site

For more information and to make a booking please call Hannah Say on 07884 185281 email: info@sayitwithasmileltd.co.uk

Security **M**emories **I**nformation **L**aughter **E**quality

Cameo Club – ‘Come and Meet Everyone!’

The founders of this Club in 2011, Jane and Maggie, set Cameo up as an outreach to all ladies and that has remained the focus ever since. The founders, sad for us, left to retire to the seaside on the south coast! Susan Miller then led the Club into ‘a new season’ and more recently, Jos and Pam have run it with support from the ‘team.’

I love the exciting words – *‘going into a new season’* – it’s good to have change plus gather ideas from our members!

How things have changed, in part with Covid! This year we’ve had speakers return to us on a Friday evening to update us on local charities. Dave Scourfield, now the **Watford Town Chaplain**, informed us of progress in the town with out reach to many - via **Street Angels** and other voluntary Chaplains. So good to learn about the expansion of the Watford Town Chaplaincy.

Tim Whittaker from **Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership**, another local charity, talked to us about the needs they were dealing with. Such needs that we must all be aware of – and perhaps could even help in some way!

In September we learned of more local needs and the work of the **Watford Food Bank**. Andrew Tranter returned to give us an update and to inform us of the increased needs of this. We do have the foodbank basket in the Church foyer and if every member of the Church could bring just one item weekly - what a difference that would make!

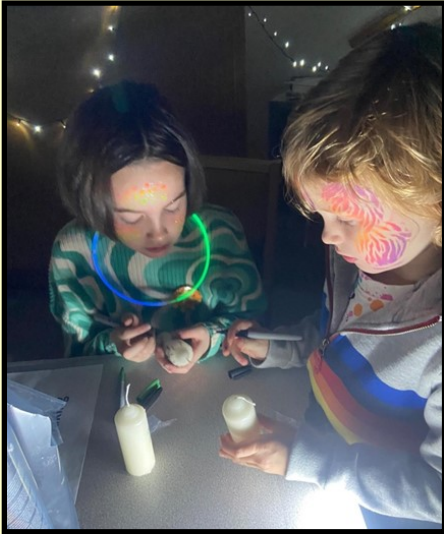
In between the seriousness of life, we do show various films, chosen as ever by Ann Tearle – who always makes good choices! Again, we have relaxing evenings with Geoff Fox, our in-house florist, with a promise of an interesting evening on **Friday 11th November!** Christmas lunch (**Friday 9th December**) - once again will take us to The Cock at Sarratt, a cosy village pub. This open to everyone, so do talk to Jos or Pam.

In the New Year, we plan to continue meeting on the 2nd Friday of the month at 7pm for that very important chat and cuppa, then commence the presentation at 7.30pm. When we have a Charity speaker, we do add **Cameo+** to adverts on the programme. We hope you all know that this means that we are inviting men as well and friends of course!

Finally, we have booked an interesting talk about the **RNLI** on Friday 14th March 2023. We may be one of the furthest counties from the sea, nevertheless it’s good to know just how much, the RNLI volunteers put their lives at risk, for so many. Any other ideas for next year’s programme are most welcome!

Jos and Pam

Light Party 2022

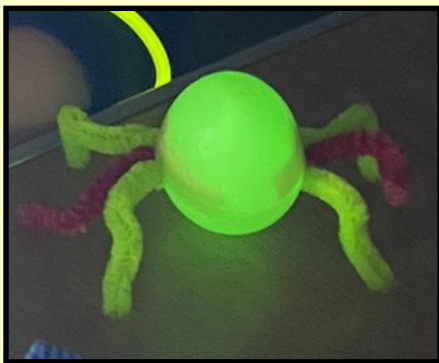


On Monday 31st October, the Church was transformed into a twinkling paradise with a thousand fairy lights, glow sticks and lanterns. We saw well over 50 children along with their families come through to have their face painted, play glow stick hoopla, be enthralled by



David Attenborough clips of bioluminescent creatures, make many crafts, and celebrate that Jesus is the Light of the World!

The craft table was the busiest with none other than Neil Brookes holding court as he taught the children how to make glow-in-the-dark bugs, glow-in-the-dark badges, and decorate candles – some



serious multi-tasking! And, of course, a big THANK YOU to Edna Williamson, our resident artist, for



some truly fantastic rainbow glitter face painting!

A reminder as we head into Advent and the Christmas season: we are the torch bearers now, carrying the light of Christ with us wherever we go, into every situation! Jesus said

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. - Matthew 5: 14-16.



There's no point in following Jesus if nobody knows about it – so don't hide under a bowl but do have a think and pray how you can shine God's light to those around you today, there's always an opportunity to shine brighter!

Our next celebration of Jesus' light is **Christingle**, so if you missed out on the 31st October, do join us on Sunday 4th December at 4:30pm!

Lydia Davies



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 please 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



Prayer for our Nation

Archbishops invite the nation to join them in daily prayer 6pm each day.



All guided resources for this can be found via Church of England website

TODDLERS AT ST LUKE'S
We're back on 8th September

Thursday Mornings
in the Church Hall
9:30 – 11am

Donation at the door:
£1 per adult
50p per child
free tea and coffee
but bring your own snacks!

St LUKE'S WATFORD FAMILIES

for more information talk to Lydia children@stlukeswatford.org.uk

When staying at Scargill House, an Anglican Retreat/holiday centre, in July this year, Andrew Cheale picked up the poem below. Scargill House is similar but smaller than Lea Abbey in the Yorkshire Dales.

The author is Helen Brocklebank, who helps to lead the community of approximately 25 people at Scargill House.

Why I'm not singing

Each time we gather to 'worship', to sing,
I'm reluctant, uncertain, asking, "What can I bring?"
Songs don't feed the starved, heal the sick or end war.

I hear the guitar, the piano, the drum
and Lord, I am praying, "Let your Kingdom come..."
but the words on the screen are not words from my heart,
my motives are mixed and I'm falling apart.

I hear others singing, so pure and sincere
but then look inside me – it's not pure in here.

This song makes a vow but I cannot take it,
You said, 'spirit and truth' so I'm not going to fake it.

I don't want to sing 'cause I feel that I should,
because everyone else does, or to make me look good.

In me, in the world there is so much that's wrong
but it's sanitised, airbrushed right out of the song.

When it's all, "Hallelujah, rejoice, praise the Lord"
the struggle and turmoil and pain are ignored.

There's dancing for joy but where's the repenting?
If we're always upbeat, there's no room for lamenting.

These songs don't acknowledge Your love manifest
in weakness and failure, through our worst not our best.

They sing about triumph, victorious secure
but I'm doubting and hurting and lost and unsure.

So, I come, sit in silence, it's all I can do,
I'm searching for truth and I'm longing for You.

I don't know what it sounds like or how it might feel
but I want to sing something that's honest and real.

Helen Brocklebank

FATHER'S LOVE LETTER

An intimate message from God to you. Love, Your Dad

My Child,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. *Psalm 139:1* I know when you sit down and when you rise up *Psalm 139:2* I am familiar with all your ways. *Psalm 139:3* Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. *Matthew 10:29-31* For you were made in my image. *Genesis 1:27* In me you live and move and have your being. *Acts 17:28* For you are my offspring. *Acts 17:28* I knew you even before you were conceived. *Jeremiah 1:4-5* I chose you when I planned creation. *Ephesians 1:11-12* You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. *Psalm 139:15-16* I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. *Acts 17:26* You are fearfully and wonderfully made. *Psalm 139:14* I knit you together in your mother's womb. *Psalm 139:13* And brought you forth on the day you were born. *Psalm 71:6*

I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. *John 8:41-44* I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. *1 John 4:16* And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. *1 John 3:1* Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. *1 John 3:1* I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. *Matthew 7:11* For I am the perfect father. *Matthew 5:48* Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. *James 1:17* For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. *Matthew 6:31-33*

My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. *Jeremiah 29:11* Because I love you with an everlasting love. *Jeremiah 31:3* My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. *Psalm 139:17-18* And I rejoice over you with singing. *Zephaniah 3:17* I will never stop doing good to you. *Jeremiah 32:40* For you are my treasured possession. *Exodus 19:5* I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. *Jeremiah 32:41* And I want to show you great and marvellous things. *Jeremiah 33:3*

If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. *Deuteronomy 4:29* Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. *Psalm 37:4* For it is I who gave you those desires. *Philippians 2:13* I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. *Ephesians 3:20* For I am your greatest encourager. *2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. *2 Corinthians 1:3-4* When

you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. **Psalm 34:18** As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. **Isaiah 40:11** One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. **Revelation 21:3-4** And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. **Revelation 21:3-4**

I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. **John 17:23** For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. **John 17:26** He is the exact representation of my being. **Hebrews 1:3** He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. **Romans 8:31** And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. **2 Corinthians 5:18-19** Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. **2 Corinthians 5:18-19** His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. **1 John 4:10** I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. **Romans 8:31-32**

If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. **1 John 2:23** And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. **Romans 8:38-39** Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. **Luke 15:7** I have always been Father, and will always be Father. **Ephesians 3:14-15** My question is... Will you be my child? **John 1:12-13** I am waiting for you. **Luke 15:11-32**

Love,

Your Dad My Child,
Almighty God

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Please feel free to copy & share with others

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.

Urgent plea from the Food Bank!

We're really low on donations at the moment, especially the following items:

- tinned soup
- tinned fruit
- tinned meat
- custard
- tinned fish
- rice pudding

Please would you consider adding a few extra items to your weekly shop to donate to the foodbank? We have food collection points in Asda, Tesco Extra and both Sainsbury's. Thank you!

There is also a collection basket in the Gathering Area at St. Luke's Church

The poster features a vibrant, abstract background with swirling colors of yellow, orange, pink, and blue. A purple banner with white text is tilted across the middle. At the bottom, a red banner contains white text and the Urban Saints logo.

BACK ON 13TH SEPTEMBER

URBAN SAINTS
Tuesdays 6:15pm - 7:30pm in Church Hall
7-11 year olds

CHANGE OF DAY

URBAN SAINTS

Prayer during the week

FOCUS

Tuesday evening **8pm** via Zoom

Hour of Prayer

Fridays 10am in the Church Lounge/Vicarage Garden

Pre-Service Prayer

Sunday Mornings 8.30am via Zoom

For log in details, contact office by email

A Prayer for Ukraine

**God of Peace and Justice, we pray
for the people of Ukraine today.**

**We pray for peace
and the laying down of weapons.**

**We pray for all those
who fear tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort
would draw near to them.**

Children's Page

Colour in this picture of a Christingle



Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:

- The orange represents the world
- The red ribbon symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness

Word Search

Christingle

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

east west south north seasons symbol

sweets ribbon world friends flame love

Jesus fruit candle light Christingle

You are welcome to submit an article for the next edition of St. Luke's News which should be no more than 450 words. We may edit articles for clarity.

Please email articles 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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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
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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>	www.stlukeswatford.org
<u>Email</u>	office@stlukeswatford.org