



Sunday 21st January 2024
Third Sunday of Epiphany



8:30am Prayer meeting On Zoom

10:30am

Family Communion

Esther: Part 2

In the Church and Online

Readings: Esther 2:15-23

Leading: Rev Michael Norman

Preaching: Dave Clarke (Reader)

5:30pm

Encounter

The Gift of Friendship

In the Church

Readings: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, John 11:1-5 and John 13:18-25

Leading: Simon Trundle (Reader-in-Training)

Speaking: Rev Michael Norman

For your Information:

✉ If you are new to St Luke's Church (online too!) – welcome. Please email your details to office@stlukeswatford.org and we will email back a welcome form for you to complete.

✉ St Luke's Church Office ☎ 01923 246161

✉ **Vicar's Messages** by email. Please send your email details to the Church Office at office@stlukeswatford.org if you would like to receive them.

✉ **Church Website:** www.stlukeswatford.org

Coming Up This Week

Tuesday 23rd

10am	Holy Communion in the Church
6:15-7:30pm	Urban Saints (school years 3-6) in the Hall
7:45-9pm	K2 Youth (school years 8-10) in the Hall
8pm	FOCUS Prayer on Zoom (4 th Tuesday)

Wednesday 24th

8:15am	Staff Meeting
8pm	CanC Choir in the Church

Thursday 25th

9:30-11am	Toddlers in the Hall
6:15-7:30pm	Base Youth (school years 7-9) in the Hall
7:30-9pm	Beta Group (see notice)
7:30pm	Partners in Mission meeting

Friday 26th

10-11am	Hour of Prayer in the Chapel
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Saturday 27th

8:30-10am	Breakfast Club in the Hall
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Sunday 28th

8:30am	Fourth Sunday in Epiphany
10:30am	Pre-Service Prayer meeting on Zoom
5:30pm	Morning Worship in Church and online
	Encounter with Holy Communion in Church

Other events happening through the week organised by external groups

Family and Church News

Jean H: Jean sadly died after a long illness. Her committal will be on Thursday 1st Feb at West Herts Crematorium at 2pm, followed by a funeral service at St Luke's at 2:45pm. All are invited to both or either part of the service.

Beta Group: After a positive Alpha course, we are inviting those who attended and any others who would like a simple bible study and have questions about faith to join a study on St Mark's gospel with space to continue to ask their questions. It is running on Thursday evenings from 7:30pm, initially for 5 weeks starting on the 18th January, with coffee and cake provided. It will be run by Michael – see him if interested.

Esther: Tickets available soon for the performance on Saturday 17th Feb.

Actors needed – we need an actor for the role of secretary on the 21st Jan and a secretary and an audience plant on the 11th Feb (need to be available to rehearse on the night before at 6pm and to be in the play on the 17th Feb at 2:30pm).

Scenery – helpers needed to paint scenery for the full play (see Neil)

Props still needed – 2 gaudy brooches

Directory: We have been making an effort to update everyone's contact details on the ChurchSuite directory. This is an online directory of contact details for those who attend or are connected with St Luke's. For security, each person in the directory needs a password to access it. If you would like to be added to the directory or given access, please speak to Beth or Jeremy H.

Get involved

Magazine: If you would like to contribute an article about a recent or upcoming event (max 500 words please), please send it to the office by the 26th Jan. Please be aware that articles are also put online.

Volunteers needed: We are looking for some volunteers to keep an eye on a vacant house in Bushey a couple of times a week until Easter. Please contact the office if you can help (even if for a couple of weeks).

Watford Schools Trust Prayer Week: WST are asking for some volunteers to help set up on the 5th Feb, and to welcome school groups on Wednesday 7th (all day), Thursday 8th (morning) and Friday 9th (morning). If you are able to volunteer for any of the sessions please contact info@watfordschoolstrust.org

Wycliffe Visit: we will be hosting a group from Wycliffe Hall from the 9th-17th March 2024. We are looking for people to host them overnight. The team will be joining in with church activities that week, including prayer visiting. If you would like to be involved, let the office know.

Lost Property: A lady from the community has lost a knitted woollen hat during the Christmas period. If you picked it up by mistake, please return to the office. It has great sentimental value to the lady concerned.

Upcoming Sunday Services:

There will be an 8am Holy Communion on the second Sunday in the month.

Our 10:30am Services will continue with the series of Esther. Family Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Our 5:30pm Encounter services will be looking at the theme of Healing. Holy Communion will be offered on the 4th Sunday of the month.

We will also be holding our usual 10am Holy Communion Services on Tuesdays.

There will be an Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at 7:30pm on the 14th February.

Prayer

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



Suggestions for prayer this week

Let us pray for the world, for the church, and let us thank God for his goodness.

Let us encourage one another to go deeper into prayer and to persevere.

Immediate needs: Peace in Israel and Gaza; Ukraine; lessening of tensions round the Red Sea; those struggling with rising costs; the repercussions of climate change and extreme weather.

St Luke's Outreach: our Partners in Mission, The Beta course; Plans for outreach this term including the WST prayer week and the Wycliffe mission

World Watch List: Christians in Nicaragua (50th highest area of religious persecution)

The updated World Watch List for 2024 was published on the 17th.

Deanery Cycle of Prayer: St John's, Watford and Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership

Those with on-going needs.

St Luke's family in need.

Our wider family and friends in need.

Those in mourning.

Giving Thanks: answers to prayer this week.

Please update the office regarding any prayer needs or answered prayer.

This week's prayer list is a **red** slip. Please do take one home to pray over.