



Sunday 28th January 2024
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany



8:30am Prayer meeting On Zoom

10:30am

Morning Worship

Esther: Part 3

In the Church and Online*

*Esther Drama will be audio-only online this week for GDPR reasons

Reading: Esther 3 and 4:1-3

Leading: Rev Michael Norman

Preaching: Wendy Somerville (Reader)

5:30pm

Encounter with Holy Communion

Healing 1 – Why people are ill

In the Church

Readings: Genesis 3.1-13 & 2 Kings 5.1-19a

Leading and 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 30th

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 (5th Tuesday)

Wednesday 31st

8:15am

Staff Meeting

8pm

CanC Choir in the Church

Thursday 1st Feb

9:30-11am

Toddlers in the Hall

2:45pm

Funeral in church – all welcome

6:15-7:30pm

Base Youth (school years 7-9) in the Hall

7:30-9pm

Beta Group (see notice)

Friday 2nd

10-11am

Hour of Prayer in the Chapel

Sunday 4th

8:30am

Second Sunday before Lent

10:30am

Pre-Service Prayer meeting on Zoom

5:30pm

Family Communion in Church and online

Encounter 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, for 5 weeks starting on the 18th January, with coffee and cake provided. It is run by Michael – see him if interested.

Urban Saints Bake Sale: On Sunday 11th Feb to raise money for the youth for the Step Out for the Homeless campaign. Please bring some cash to buy cakes after the morning service.

Cocker Spaniel in need of rehoming: The owner has developed allergies. Please speak to Lynley or contact the office for more information.

Jam Jars: Di is in desperate need of some jam jars for her marmalade. 1lb (454g) or ¾ lb (340g) size – **no** large or small ones please. Thanks.

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

Actors needed – we need 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

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

Pancake Day: Tuesday 13th Feb 5-8:30pm. Please volunteer for the kitchen pancake team. If you can spare an hour or longer, that would be appreciated.

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.

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

God our creator,
who in the beginning
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,
shine into the hearts of all your people,
and reveal the knowledge of your glory
in the face of 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: school visits this week, The Beta course; Plans for outreach this term including the WST prayer week and the Wycliffe mission

World Watch List: Christians in North Korea (*world's 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 an **orange** slip. Please do take one home to pray over.