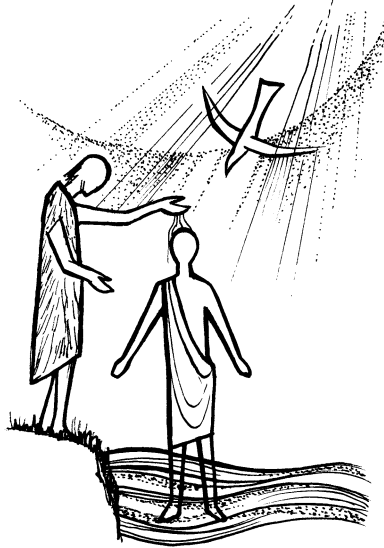




## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024 First Sunday of Epiphany



8:30am **Prayer meeting** On Zoom

10:30am

### **Family Communion**

*The Baptism of Jesus*

In the Church and Online

**Readings:** Mark 1:4-20

**Leading:** Dave Clarke (Reader)

**Preaching and Presiding:** Rev Michael Norman

5:30pm

### **Encounter**

*The Gift of Marriage*

In the Church

**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](mailto: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](mailto:office@stlukeswatford.org) if you would like to receive them.

✉ **Church Website:** [www.stlukeswatford.org](http://www.stlukeswatford.org)

# Coming Up This Week

## **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>**

10am

**Holy Communion** in the Church

8pm

**FOCUS Prayer** in the Chapel

## **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>**

8:15am

**Staff Meeting**

## **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:30-11am

**Toddlers** in the Hall

## **Friday 12<sup>th</sup>**

10-11am

**Hour of Prayer** in the Chapel

## **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Breakfast Club** in the Hall

## **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>**

8am

**Holy Communion** in the Chapel

8:30am

**Pre-Service Prayer meeting** on Zoom

10:30am

**Morning Worship** in Church and online

5:30pm

**Encounter** in Church

**Other events happening through the week organised by external groups**

## **10:30am Bible Reading**

### **Mark 1:4-20**

And so John came, baptising in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan River.

John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his

brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

## News

**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.

**CAMEO:** The next CAMEO meeting is on Friday January 13th. There will be a film entitled 'A man called Otto'. We shall meet in the Lounge at the usual time ie.7pm for 7.30 All ladies welcome.

**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.

**Christmas Cards:** Please collect your Christmas cards from your pigeonholes.

### **Upcoming Sunday Services:**

	10:30am	5:30pm
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Morning Worship – Esther 1	Encounter – The Gift of Sex
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Family Communion – Esther 2	Encounter – The Gift of Friendship
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Morning Worship – Esther 3	Encounter with Holy Communion – Healing 1
4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Family Communion – Esther 4	Encounter – Healing 2
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	All-age Service – Esther 5	Encounter – Healing 3

There will be an 8am Holy Communion on the second Sunday in 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 14<sup>th</sup> February.



# Prayer

## Collect

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling  
as your adopted children;  
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; Earthquakes in Japan; those struggling with rising costs; the repercussions of climate change and extreme weather.

**St Luke's Outreach:** Youth groups, Tuesday Coffee, CanCC, Toddlers, Pre-school Coffee and all the groups and teams planning outreach to the community this year.

**World Watch List:** Christians in Kazakhstan (*48<sup>th</sup> highest area of religious persecution*)

**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 **blue** slip. Please do take one home to pray over.

