



Sunday 4th February 2024
Second Sunday before Lent



8:30am Prayer meeting On Zoom

10:30am

Family Communion

Esther: Part 4

In the Church and Online

Reading: Esther 4:4-17 and Chapter 5

Leading and Preaching: Rev Michael Norman

5:30pm

Encounter

Healing in the New Testament

In the Church

Readings: Matthew 9v1-8 and 18-36

Leading: Rev Michael Norman

Speaking: Dave Clarke (Reader)

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

Monday-Friday	Explore Prayer Week in Partnership with WST
Tuesday 6th	
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
7pm	FOCUS Prayer in the Church
8pm	PCC meeting
Wednesday 7th	
8:15am	Staff Meeting
8pm	CanC Choir in the Church
Thursday 8th	
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)
Friday 9th	
10-11am	Hour of Prayer in the Chapel
7:30pm	Cameo with visit from Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy
Saturday 10th	
8:30-10am	Breakfast Club
Sunday 11th	
8am	Sunday before Lent
8:30am	Holy Communion in the Chapel
10:30am	Pre-Service Prayer meeting on Zoom
3pm	All-age Service in Church and online
5:30pm	Recital – see notice
	Encounter in Church

Other events happening through the week organised by external groups

Family and Church News

Beta Group: We are inviting those who attended Alpha 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, 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.

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 from Pam or the office.

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.

Afternoon Recitals will be restarting this month with Charis & Jack (violin & piano) coming to perform next Sunday 11th Feb at 3pm with works from Elgar, Teal & Schumann. Please join afterwards for refreshments.

St Luke's Sermon series on Love and Relationships: If you missed these Encounter services and would like to hear the sermons, they were recorded and the links are available by email. Please contact the office.

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 or Lydia.

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.

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

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,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
reigns supreme over all things,
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 Prayer outreach week partnering with Watford Schools Trust, plans for the Wycliffe Mission

World Watch List: Christians in Somalia (*world's 2nd highest area of religious persecution*)

Deanery Cycle of Prayer: St Luke's, Watford and the Peace Hospice (now Rennie Grove)

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