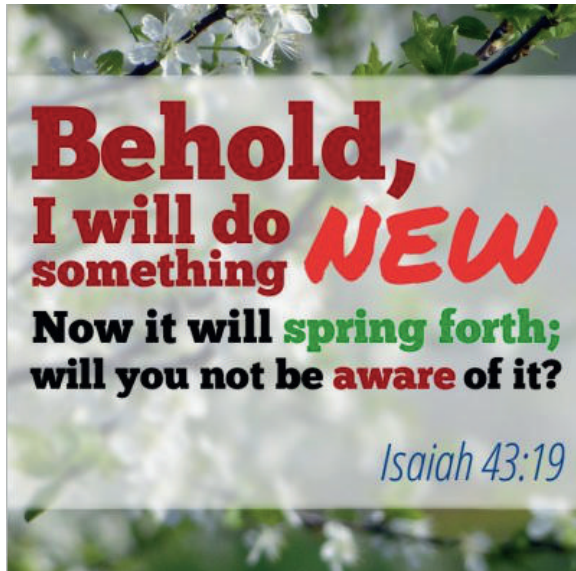




# St Luke's News

April 2025  
Number 284

## Lent, Holy Week and Easter



### Preparing for the New Thing

As we move through Lent towards Holy Week and Easter, we are aware of a world in turmoil with great uncertainty at this time. This is a broken world! A world that needs to turn to Jesus in repentance and receive His salvation and hope for the future.

Around us there are signs of green shoots, not just in nature, but in Church life locally and amongst the churches in the nation (see Susan's article on the *New Wine Leadership Conference* on page 11). A combination of renewed interest in spiritual things, especially in prayer, and a very moving Confirmation Service with a full immersion baptism has led me to believe God is beginning to move in a new way at St Luke's.

The Revd Keith Powell shared this verse with us in January 2025:

“Joshua told the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.’” *Joshua 3:5*

What does consecrate ourselves to the Lord mean? It means to repent, to be set apart, to be devoted to the Lord. There’s an exclusivity about it. It’s a challenge because in our modern day it’s easy to have our devotion divided. But our consecration is for a purpose, to enable the Lord to do amazing things among us!

This feels like the Lord’s command to us this Lent: “Get ready! I am about to do amazing things among you!”

This Lent then, is to be a time for preparation to come closer to our Lord Jesus Christ (or even for some for the first time to turn to the cross, repent and believe in Jesus), so our lives are in line with God’s will through Repentance, Prayer, Worship and Study of the Bible.

Our Sunday morning sermon series through Lent is on prophecies from Isaiah and could be summed up in *Isaiah 43:18-19a*:

“Forget the former things; Do not dwell on the past.

See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”

In *Isaiah 43:19b-21*, Isaiah goes on to write about streams in the wasteland and desert. Water physically brings life. Spiritual life is outpoured through the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. He brings to us the new life of Jesus and His salvation. We pray for many in Watford to come to faith in the Living Lord. We pray that as the Gospel is preached, many signs of the Kingdom of God will be seen, such as healings, answers to prayer and powerful testimonies of people coming to faith.



On Shrove Tuesday, I showed the Cassiobury Infants this photo of a sleeping dormouse. The message was for us to wake up to God. The dormouse wakes to the coming of Spring. As we approach the second half of Lent, we begin to tell of Jesus’ journey towards Jerusalem. Jesus knew He was going to His death on the cross – literally to hell and back – but coming back to life on the third day. He died taking the punishment for our sins, that we deserved, so that if we repent of

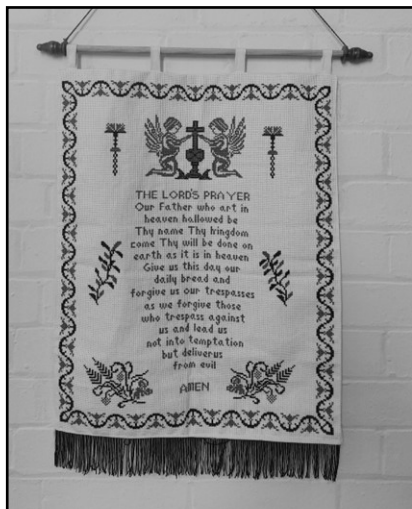
our sins and believe in Him, we can be right with God. Lent is a **wake-up call from God.**

Holy Week is especially about journeying with Jesus in this broken and uncertain world to the foot of the cross and of taking up **New Life** that comes from the Risen Christ.

There will be a service every night of Holy Week including an Easter Eve service at 8:30pm with an opportunity to renew our baptismal vows and prayerfully prepare for the Easter celebrations to come the next morning and in the new season to come.

So, Awake – let this Easter be for us a time to commit or recommit our lives to Christ. Remembering Joshua's words, **"Consecrate yourselves"** to the Lord (be set apart, focused on Him) for **"Tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you."**

*Yours in Christ,  
Rev'd Michael Norman  
Vicar of St Luke's*



# Prayer

## FOCUS

Tuesdays 8:00pm every week by Zoom (details from the church office), apart from 2nd Tuesday in the month which is in person, in the Chapel

## Prayer for Children & Youth

Thursdays 11:15am in the Chapel  
(during term time)

## Hour of Prayer

Fridays 10:00-11:00am in the Chapel

## New Electoral Roll

Please fill out an application for enrolment and email it to [office@stlukeswatford.org](mailto:office@stlukeswatford.org) or place it in the box at the back of the Church **by Sunday 13th April.**

## Services at St Luke's Church

### Sunday

#### 8:00am Holy Communion Service

This is a said Communion and is held once a month in the Chapel at St Luke's. All are welcome.

#### 10:30am Morning Service/Holy Communion Service

This is our main morning service, and is currently available live-streamed on YouTube. All are welcome, and there are usually children's groups and a crèche for younger ones. The details in the calendar below may change.

#### 5:30pm Encounter - Informal Evening Service

This service includes worship, a talk and opportunities to be prayed for.

### Tuesday

#### 10:00am Holy Communion Service

We also have a weekly Communion (or Service of the Word if the Vicar is unavailable) at 10:00am on Tuesdays. This is a lovely, reflective service with a couple of hymns, followed by community tea and coffee.

April	8:00am	10:30am	5:30pm
<b>Sunday 6th</b> <b>Passion Sunday</b>		Family Communion <i>Jesus prophecies from the Old Testament, Pt 7</i>	Encounter <i>Hard sayings of Jesus, Pt 6</i>
<b>Sunday 13th</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>		Morning Worship <i>Jesus prophecies from the Old Testament, Pt 8</i>	Encounter with Holy Communion <i>Hard sayings of Jesus, Pt 7</i>
<b>Holy Week – see page opposite</b>			
<b>Sunday 20th</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b>	Holy Communion	All-age Family Communion	Encounter
<b>Sunday 27th</b>	Holy Communion	Family Communion	Encounter

*Note:* The forms of service and sermon titles may change.

## The Journey to the Cross and Jesus' Resurrection 2025



<b>Sunday 6th April</b> <b>10:30am</b>	Passion Sunday The Suffering Servant of the Lord <i>Isaiah 52:13-53:12</i>
<b>Sunday 13th April</b> <b>10:30am</b>	Palm Sunday Jesus entering into Jerusalem on a donkey <i>Zechariah 9: 9-13</i>
<b><i>Holy Week</i></b>	
<b>Monday 14th April</b> <b>7:30pm</b>	Compline*, in the Chapel <i>Jesus in the Temple</i>
<b>Tuesday 15th April</b> <b>7:30pm</b>	Compline*, in the Chapel <i>Jesus teaches on faith and faces questions</i>
<b>Wednesday 16th April</b> <b>7:30pm</b>	Compline*, in the Chapel <i>Jesus anointed for burial</i>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>7:30pm</b>	Holy Communion, in the Church <i>Jesus at the Last Supper and in the Garden of Gethsemane</i>
<b>Good Friday</b> <b>10:30am</b>	Walk of Witness (meet at Children's playground in Cassiobury Park to walk to St Luke's)
<b>11:00am</b>	Journey to the Cross (an interactive service for everyone, moving around areas of the Church, followed by refreshments including hot cross buns)
<b>2:00pm</b>	Hour at the Cross, in the Church
<b>7:30pm</b>	Compline, in the Chapel <i>Jesus in the tomb</i>
<b>Holy Saturday</b> <b>8:30pm</b>	Easter Eve Service, in the Church <i>Includes an opportunity to renew baptismal vows</i>
<b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>8:00am</b>	Holy Communion, in the Chapel
<b>10:30am</b>	Church Family Easter Communion, in the Church and online
<b>5:30pm</b>	Easter Encounter Service, in the Church

\* The Compline service is a peaceful, reflective service of around half an hour, with a reflection on Jesus' journey to the cross and beyond.

## Diary dates coming up

### March

29th Breakfast Club (see p 36)

### April

1st Easter Holiday Club Short, 5:00-7:00pm (Advance booking essential, see p 20)

3rd Toddlers' Easter Special (see p 20)

5th Half-day of Prayer, St Luke's Chapel, 9:00am-12 noon

6th Lent donations of food for Watford Foodbank (morning and evening services, see p 8)

12th Breakfast Club (see p 36)

Creative Space (Book in advance, see p 39)

13th Last date for submitting Electoral Roll applications (see p 3)

Sunday Afternoon Recital, 3:00pm (see p 8)

21st Easter Monday Pilgrimage from St Luke's to St Albans Abbey. Meet at St Luke's at 9:00am. Take a picnic lunch. Service at the Abbey starts at 2:30pm. Speak to Jill Rogers for more information

24th Toddlers restarts after the Easter break (see p 20)

25th Friday Club Tea Party, 2:30pm

26th Breakfast Club (see p 36)

29th Kids Club (Urban Saints) restarts after the Easter break (see p 36)

### May

3rd Half-day of Prayer, St Luke's Chapel, 9:00am-12 noon

4th Annual Parochial Church Meeting followed by Parish Lunch to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day

10th Breakfast Club (see p 36)

Watford Symphony Orchestra Concert, 7:30pm (see p 27)

17th Creative Space (Book in advance, see p 39)

24th Breakfast Club (see p 36)

30th Friday Club Tea Party, 2:30pm

### June

7th Half-day of Prayer, St Luke's Chapel, 9:00am-12 noon  
Breakfast Club (see p 36)

Creative Space (Book in advance, see p 39)

14th The Sound of Musings – reflections on the musical, *The Sound of Music*, in the Church. More details to follow

## Regular groups at St Luke's Church

### **Children/Youth Groups (evenings, term-time)**

Kids Club (Urban Saints)	Tuesdays	5:30–6:45pm	7–11 year olds
Base	Thursdays	6:15–7:30pm	11–14 year olds
K2	Tuesdays	7:45–9:00pm	12–15 year olds
RISE	Thursdays*	7:45–9:00pm	14–18 year olds

\* Meeting intermittently so check with Neil Brookes for dates

### **Cassiobury and Nearby Community Choir**

Wednesday evenings, term-time, 8:00pm in the church

For more information, speak to Jeremy Cooke

### **Creative Space**

Craft activities for women, monthly

For more information, speak to Pam Norman

### **Friday Club**

Monthly, last Friday in the month

For more information, speak to Janet G

### **Knitting Group**

Monthly on a Monday morning

For more information, contact Di via the church office

### **Prayer**

FOCUS, Tuesdays, 8:00pm: every week by Zoom (for log-in details contact the church office), apart from 2nd Tuesday in the month which is in person, in the chapel

Prayer for Children & Youth, Thursdays, 11.15am, term-time

Hour of Prayer, Fridays, 10:00–11:00 am

### **Toddlers (term-time)**

Thursday mornings, 9:30–11:00am

## Watford Foodbank

St Luke's will be having a special food collection for Watford Foodbank on Sunday 6th April when items can be brought to the front of the church during the morning and evening services. Please donate generously this Lent. Thank you to those who have already contributed items.

### Shopping list:

- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned tomatoes
- Longlife fruit juice
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Cereal
- Jam
- Tinned fish
- Tinned fruit
- Instant mashed potato
- Tinned rice pudding and custard
- Longlife milk
- Tea/coffee
- Biscuits/snack bars

If you can, please consider adding a few extra items to your weekly shop to donate to the Foodbank. There are collection points at Asda, Tesco Extra and both Sainsbury's stores. Thank you!

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



### Sunday Afternoon Recital at St Luke's

3:00pm

13th April

Charis Sykesud and Jack Redman

Violin & piano

*To include works by Fauré, Amy Beach and Debussy*

Recitals are about 40 minutes. Free entry, donations welcome.

Tea & coffee afterwards





## My Journey to Confirmation

I was introduced to Christianity at a young age. My father shared Bible stories with me, took me to church and I attended a Christian school in Malaysia where I learned about Jesus's teachings. But as I grew older, I started to question things.

As I entered the working world, life became stressful, and my faith faded. I became frustrated with God. Annoyed, even. If He was real, why wasn't He making life easier? So, I decided I shouldn't take God seriously or think about spirituality. Maybe it was better to be agnostic. Over time, I stopped praying. Eventually, I stopped questioning; I had abandoned God.

Meeting people from different backgrounds also influenced me. I was surrounded by ideas of personal development, self-belief and empowerment; concepts that shaped my thinking at the time. For a while, I convinced myself I didn't need God.

I remember once, I was asked to list the most important things in my life. I talked about work, ambitions and relationships. Then they asked, "What about your spiritual life?". I stared at them. Spirituality? What has that got to do with anything? I hadn't thought about God in years. Without hesitation, I said, "I don't need spirituality." They looked exasperated but I dismissed it. Looking back, they saw what I couldn't.

One day, a Hindu colleague showed me a drawing of a god and asked about my faith. Without hesitation, I declared, "Oh, I'm agnostic!" My Hindu colleague who was very religious, just went quiet. It didn't bother me; I had no idea why. Looking back, I see why it surprised him. Faith was a huge part of his life, and I had just dismissed mine.

Despite this, sometimes, on my way home from work, when passing a church, I would step inside, sit in the quiet, and speak to God. I never stayed long, just enough to take a breath and feel a little peace. I felt confused, wondering why I was doing that.

One day, a friend sent me the song 'You Are My Anchor' by Stuart Townsend. It reminded me that God was still there, even though I had



spent so long ignoring Him. She told me she would pray for me, and I remember thinking: That's good – she's closer to God than I am; she has direct communication with Him.

My friend also reminded me that I could talk to God myself but I felt so distant from him. Before I could even ask God for anything, I felt like I had to apologise and thank Him for everything He had already done for me.

The truth is, God was good to me, even when I wasn't paying attention. He answered my prayers and I didn't even stop to thank Him. Even though I had turned away, God never did. He patiently waited for me to come back.

That was almost nine years ago. I asked God to help me find a church where I could grow in my faith, and in the way that only He can, He answered. I went to a talk at St Luke's. It wasn't even about Christianity but somehow, I just knew I had found my place. I am very thankful, not just to a loving and merciful God, but also to my brothers and sisters at St Luke's who have supported and encouraged me in my faith journey.

Since then, my faith has grown through the Alpha course and fellowship in the Life Groups. And recently, I made the decision to Confirm my faith in front of my church family. The encouragement and support from those around me helped me take that step, and I'm so thankful to all of them. My husband (shown in the photo) was also incredibly supportive throughout this journey, and it meant a lot to have him by my side.

I had been looking forward to my Confirmation for weeks, and as the day arrived, I felt nothing but joy and gratitude. Affirming my faith with my church family was something I deeply cherished.

As I stood there declaring my faith, I felt an overwhelming sense of peace and certainty. When the Bishop laid her hands on my head and invited the Holy Spirit, I felt strengthened and renewed – it was as though something had come full circle.

Looking back, I see that even when I wandered, God never left me. He waited patiently. And this time, I turned back to Him.

*"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13*

***Michelle Ephraimson***

## New Wine Leadership Conference 2025



### The time is now!

It's always a privilege to spend a few days away with the church staff team at New Wine Leadership Conference in Harrogate. I think I can speak for us all in that we arrived weary and in need of refreshment, as a depleted staff team from previous years. However, the Lord does not waste time – straight away He was at work with us with Rich Johnson's opening message of *Wake up from slumber, the time is NOW!*

He told us that our culture is changing from 'secular' to 'post-secular', ie people are becoming disillusioned with materialism and anxious about the world and are searching for something different. He spoke of institutions crumbling around us and a decline in those we take for granted, including the church. But he pointed to hope with stories emerging around the world of signs of renewal: "It has started to rain". There are signs that our culture is less secular than we assume, particularly among the younger generation.

It all starts with **repentance**, both individual and corporate, and there were many opportunities given over for this.

"Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity." *Joel 2:12-13*

Peter Wynter, Pastor of St Paul's Hammersmith, used the parable of the Prodigal Son to describe us as a Prodigal Nation. We took for granted all the good things we had, such as education, the NHS, freedoms, and had a party. Then we realised we were bankrupt. The mental health of 18-24 year olds is poor, and Peter suggested there is a stirring up among these young adults to go back to God. And God our Father waits every day for individuals and our nation to return. Peter asked, "**Are we ready to receive them?**". Could it be that they offend our traditions and cultures causing us to respond as the older brother? He ended with the message of Big Ben's chimes based on Handel's *Messiah*:

"All through this hour, Lord be my guide. That by thy power, no foot shall slide."

## **Raising generations**

Christy Wimber spoke at children and youth worker sessions about **humility** being essential for the healing of our land.

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” *2 Chronicles 7:14*

Self-reliance quenches the Holy Spirit. For the Spirit to come in power on us, we need to treat each other well, allow the Spirit to change us, and stop saying “I am right”. The Spirit is sovereign. Consecration always precedes renewal. Servanthood is the highest call, and we need to learn how to love people. *Ephesians 4:29* says:

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...”

It is important to have a culture of encouragement. Kindness changes people’s lives and it’s attractive to others.

## **There is Hope!**

In *Isaiah 43:19* we read: “See, I am doing a new thing!”

Pete Hughes, Pastor of King’s Cross Church, pointed to statistics which show there has been a 26% rise in 2 years in Britons believing in God. He said a church on fire is marked out by wholehearted worship. We have been following culture rather than transforming it. A church on fire is marked out by the presence of God’s Spirit. Pete suggests the younger generation feel it’s a dark world, they are frightened, suicidal and anxious. They are crying out for Daddy, for Heaven to break through to earth.

In *Isaiah 60:1-3* we read:

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See darkness covers the earth...but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.”

We are to get up while it is still dark, so the glory of His light comes upon us. We need to be attentive to what He’s doing, as in *Matthew 25* where the 10 virgins all started out with lights but some forgot they needed to have a power source to keep them alight.

## **Knowing God's peace**

To conclude, Dr Amy Orr-Ewing spoke from this verse:

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. *John 16:33*

The core truths of the Christian faith give us peace in this world, but we will have trouble. We should expect the experience of being pressed. There will be a rise in the urgency of the spiritual battle. Watch out, be on your guard but be assured that at the name of Jesus, dark powers must flee.

Dr Orr-Ewing asks: “Is Jesus at the centre? Is it Christ crucified and resurrected? Jesus offers us eternal life and transformation, as well as the people we are trying to reach. Where is the person of Christ in our churches? We need to fix our eyes back on Him. Whether we are discouraged or triumphant, we have to bring it all back to Him.”

This is just a snapshot of the teaching over three days.

## **Worship, workshops and networking**

The worship sessions were amazing: 1800 people worshipping God in a large auditorium. The Holy Spirit was definitely moving amongst us all.

I went to practical workshops, including one on Toddler groups, and had opportunities to talk with folk from other churches with different contexts but having similar challenges.

I had lunch with Lydia Davies, attending with her fellow church leaders from Sheffield. She says “Hi” to you all!

It was lovely to spend relaxing time with our own church staff over meals.

I have come away with many ideas, pictures and thoughts, but above all a new peace, and a renewed hope and energy to keep going. The church, that is God's family, is not in decline: He is doing a new thing with us!

***Susan Miller***



## Come to our Compact Communion



“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them” Jesus tells us in *Matthew 18:20*.

I’m reminded of this on the second Sunday of each month when St Luke’s holds a tiny Holy Communion in the Chapel.

It isn’t meant to be like this, but over the years the congregation for this service has shrunk and now numbers four: Michael, our Vicar, Mike Riley, one other faithful parishioner, and me. Mike and I do the preparation in turns. Just in

case more turn up, I usually fill six small plastic caplets of wine to go with the single slice of bread.

I don’t know why numbers have shrunk so much. I remember the days when we left the fire door unlocked so a worshipper in a wheelchair could use the ramp outside. Usually there were about eight or 10 in those days.

As a helper, this time of year it can be chilly some mornings if you forget to turn up the heating thermostat on the wall, and often you have to rearrange the chairs because a prayer group has put them in a circle and forgotten to put them back in rows afterwards. In the summer, you need to remember to open the windows to circulate the air.

It isn’t meant to be exclusive. We’d like a few more to come along. Think of the advantages. You get a preview of Michael’s sermon before the 10:30 service (I think he uses this time to perfect the final version) and if you cannot make the morning or evening services, you still get to go to church.

Mind you, it does start at 8 am. A bit early for some, perhaps, but worth it. If you decide to give it a try, you’ll be welcome. The dates for the next few months are 20th April (Easter Day), 11th May, 8th June, 13th July, 10th August. Just a thought – if you plan to come, tell Michael or the office so we can ‘beef up’ the catering.

Oh, one more thing: there’s no coffee or tea afterwards. But if it gets packed out, who knows? Full English breakfast perhaps?

**Chris Webb**

## Tim Keller: A Personal Tribute

Ruth Bushyager, Bishop of Horsham, wrote in the *Church Times* in June 2023:

“I was surprised how much I cried over the death of the Revd Tim Keller, given that I had never been to his church or had any personal contact with him. Yet I share with a great many others the sense of the loss of a spiritual giant.”



I too shared with her a great sense of loss but unlike her, I had experienced both meeting him personally and being present at services in Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York, where he was preaching.

### Meeting Tim Keller

About 25 years ago my husband and I became aware of a conference being held in a London church on the subject of church planting in which we were really interested. Tim Keller was the speaker, though at this time we had never heard his name before.

After a second conference on church planting at East London Tabernacle, Mile End, where Tim Keller was again the speaker, we were invited to a supper at the Minister's home (he was a fellow American). I have no idea how we managed to receive an invitation! His wife was a great cook and catered for about 20 of us, including their friends, Tim and Kathy Keller.

My husband and Tim spent quite a time chatting. It was a buffet-style meal and I remember seeing them both standing in deep conversation. It must have been a relief that both of them, being so tall, could have an eye-to-eye conversation.

I was privileged to spend time with Kathy who was always Tim's partner in the Gospel too.

Attending these two conferences was our first experience of Tim Keller's ministry and we were enthralled by his obvious passion for Jesus and the Gospel. One of his maxims was, 'The Gospel changes everything'. His vision for church planting was so inspiring that it kindled a spark in us to be involved in one.

At that time, we had started attending St Helen's, Bishopsgate, a vibrant evangelical church in the City of London. Amongst the vicars there, was

Andrew Jones who was keen to take a group from St Helen's and move into Hackney. Andrew had been taught by Tim in Philadelphia at Westminster Seminary and we formed a deep friendship with him and his wife as we had the same vision. For 2½ years we attended the morning service at St Helen's and in the afternoons we met with about 30 other adults at a sister church to pray and discuss the church plant. It was an exciting time.

On my husband's 60th birthday, we spent five days in New York and just before we flew home, we had time to go to Redeemer Church where Tim Keller was preaching. My husband said that was his best holiday ever!

How can I describe the service that night? It was conservative, a traditional hymn-prayer sandwich. The pianist played beautifully, the sung worship was heartfelt and moving, and the church was packed. There must have been about 2000 people there. I don't remember the subject of the sermon (this was over 20 years ago!) but all of us were totally absorbed as Tim drew us into the Bible passage, engaging unbelievers as well as believers. He presented Jesus to us in all His glory and in His suffering for us.

Some years later, I had another opportunity to hear Tim Keller preach in New York. By this time, there were five churches of which my nephew's local church, Hunter Lodge, was one. The lady who welcomed us told us that the location where Tim Keller was preaching that day had to be kept a secret so that there wouldn't be massive overcrowding. We were blessed that our visit coincided with Tim being the preacher. I remember that Tim spoke on the beauty of God. I remember too that he always met after the services with those people who wanted to have their questions answered.

Back at home we wanted to share his sermons with friends, so some Sunday afternoons we would invite friends, some of whom were not Christians, to tea (with homemade cake, of course!) and listen to a tape followed by a discussion. On one of the many tapes we listened to, we heard testimony after testimony of young men and women, who had been into all sorts of experimentation with drugs, sex, etc., soundly converted to Christ. We had many thought-provoking discussions and it was very enjoyable too.

### **The church plant in New York**

So how did Redeemer Presbyterian Church come into being? In 1989 Tim and Cathy felt called to go to New York to start a church and so Tim left Westminster Seminary. It seemed a daunting task as they had to uproot their family and start from scratch in New York. I have heard Tim



describe New York as ‘a city on steroids’ and at that time the residents quite unchurched and secular in their world view. He spent some time working out the demographics of the area and engaging with many people living in the apartments locally. He discovered many of them were young professionals who were living alone and working hard but some of them were ‘playing hard’ too and getting involved in all that was on offer in the city.

He started the church with about 30 people and it grew to 5000.

### **A God-given gift of preaching**

What struck me personally as I listened to Tim’s sermons at home was that he was able to connect with unchurched young people. He seemed to be able to articulate what their world view was, preparing the ground for them to receive the Gospel: a God-given gift of the Holy Spirit. He was widely read: Theology, Philosophy, Psychology, Music, Current Affairs, Literature and the Arts, are but a few of the references he would make in his sermons but much more importantly, he understood the way our culture forms us and how a person’s heart has to be reached. This was a man who knew Jesus and who had a passion to make His Saviour known in our modern secular world.

I think also what made him such a gifted speaker was the winsome way he spoke, sometimes quite humorously. He never seemed to take himself too seriously but he always took the Gospel seriously, especially when referring to Christ’s suffering on the cross and being punished for our sin. He influenced so many people in his lifetime, including my husband and me.

### **And finally...**

I never discovered how Tim found out about my husband’s terminal illness but we received a handwritten letter from him, mentioning the Christian hope of resurrection and he quoted from Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings* that, ‘heaven is a place where everything sad becomes untrue’. I was truly humbled to think that he had bothered to write a letter to a couple that he had only met personally on one occasion on a Summer’s evening in East London.

I started this article with a quote from Ruth Bushyager’s tribute to Tim Keller and so I shall finish with a quote from the end of her tribute:

“Tim Keller had mentioned that the past three years of his suffering and terminal prognosis had transformed his prayer life and that of

his beloved wife, Kathy. He died peacefully at home, saying, 'I am ready to meet Jesus'."

Ruth goes on to say that the most impressive thing about Tim was that you never came away saying, " 'Isn't Tim Keller amazing?', 'Isn't he wonderful?' but 'Isn't Jesus amazing?', 'Isn't He beautiful?', 'Isn't He captivating?'. There is no greater legacy."

**Ann MacLeod**

### **Books by Timothy Keller**

- My Rock; My Refuge (A year of daily devotions in the Psalms)
- The Way of Wisdom
- Encounters with Jesus: Unexpected answers to life's biggest questions
- Walking with God through Pain & Suffering
- The Meaning of Marriage
- Preaching: Communicating faith in an age of scepticism
- Prayer: Awe and intimacy with God
- The Reason for God: Belief in an age of scepticism (a response to Richard Dawkins's *God Delusion*)

### **Online sermons by Tim Keller**

Search for 'Tim Keller free sermons' or 'Tim Keller gospel in life sermons'

- Beholding the glory of Christ
- Goodness
- Better than miracles
- How we become believers
- Mercy, not sacrifice
- The still small voice

And hundreds more!

## How Smart is Your Radiator?

It's been a chilly winter, not helped by world events which have conspired to push up energy prices to frightening heights. Most of us with a smart meter get a regular shock (sorry) at the daily cost of heating the house.



So what if you've got a big church to heat? Since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, the annual cost of gas and electricity has risen by a total of £15k (c.160% rise).

And it's not just on Sunday the church needs warmth. Every day there are people in the office, people using the vestry and the lounges, and lots of outside groups hiring rooms for various activities. So the place has to be warm – but it would help if it didn't cost as much...

Enter the St Luke's Energy Group. It seems there are several options for lowering our heating bill.

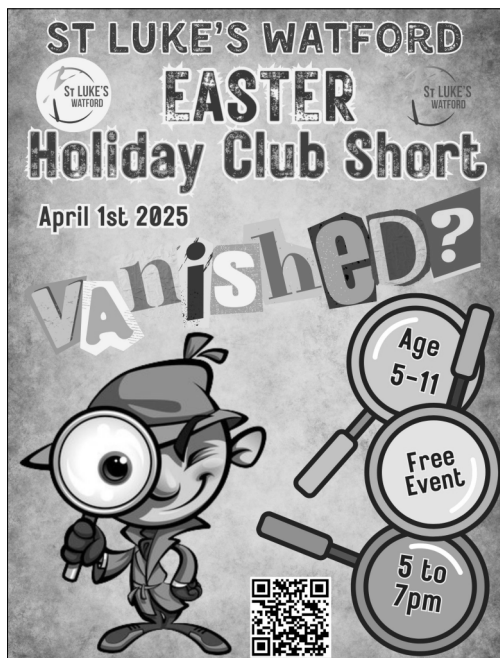
The group plans to add smart radiator valves to the rooms in the church so the space is only heated when the room is being used. At the moment, radiators are split into two zones, broadly upstairs and downstairs. This means if one room is heated upstairs, all the other upstairs rooms are heated and the same applies downstairs.

Smart radiators each have a high-tech valve that can be linked to a smart phone. In our rooms they will all be set to work together. Using the phone from any location, the room temperature can be set at a suitable level for a specific time. So, for instance, if there's a meeting in one of the upstairs rooms at 2 pm, the smart thermostat will allow hot water to fill the radiators in time for 2 pm. At the end of the meeting, say at 4 pm, the radiators switch off. Clever stuff.

There are other ways the group is helping to reduce energy use. Very soon, the globe lights in the church will be cleaned and fitted with low-energy lamps, and during the summer holidays the hall lights will be changed to take low-energy fittings which will reduce their consumption by 67%.

And just to make sure we're keeping up with the others, the group is waiting for the results of a free energy audit by the Diocese. Let's hope we get a warm response.

***John Henke and Chris Webb***



Food included!

Pre-book using  
the QR code



### News from Clive and Andrea

Dear friends,

Thank you for your ongoing prayers for us and our work.

Clive and I are thankful for our safe, though somewhat unusual arrival in Nepal recently. We circled a record 27 times over Kathmandu before detouring to Bangladesh to refuel! We're now busy with various projects and responsibilities but here's a brief update on what we'd been working on in the UK.



#### The latest from Clive

I've had a busy but rewarding time working with a video editor in Nepal to finish a contributor-led film which has been developing over the last year. It's the story of the International Nepal Fellowship (INF) Sunita palliative care project shared by the people who are benefitting from its services and those involved in its delivery; there were no scripts, no storyboards and no preconceived ideas. It has been an absolute privilege to spend time with the people in the story and has been very emotional at times.

The video was premiered at the International Palliative Care Conference in Kathmandu with guests including Nepal's Ministers of Health and Education and the British Ambassador. I made a brief appearance on the main screen at 4am GMT! The film is now available on YouTube, currently with subtitles, but will have a voice-over in due course:

<https://youtu.be/znnGKWgqUh0>

Please pray for INF as it considers the way forward now that the 3-year Sunita Project is coming to an end.

I've also continued to be involved in a variety of activities at college including the Flipped Learning Project and enhancing technical aspects of our online delivery. There is growing interest in the subject of ethics in mission. A colleague and I have been invited to lead three sessions at a conference in the Netherlands a few days after I return from Nepal in May. We'll talk on 'ethical considerations for missional life and work' and use storytelling ethics as an example. If you would like to attend the conference (19-22 May) then please email me for details.

*Advanced notice:* I'll be running a weekend workshop on Ethical Photographic Storytelling again this year, 12-13 July, details can be found on our website:

<https://www.allnations.ac.uk/courses/ethical-photographic-storytelling>

**The latest from Andrea:**

My INF responsibilities have been keeping me on my toes, especially the frequent meetings in multiple time-zones, from USA to Australia. This does, unfortunately, mean that I'm often checking work things early in the morning as well as late at night – the work-life balance hasn't been too good recently!

For my work at All Nations, I've been tutoring a delightful little group who are taking the online *Explore* mission training course. They are also keeping me on my toes with their thoughtful and thought-provoking reflections on mission. The next course starts in April. Please pray for some applications from the 'Global South', for whom there is a 50% discount on the course fees.

The pilot of a translated *Explore* module in a 'creative-access region' has gone well and the team are now working on translating/contextualising the remainder of the course. Although the wheels are turning slowly with this project, due to some of the unique complexities, we trust in God's timing.

As we settle back into Nepali life once again, we are thankful for the long-established relationships that have been built over nearly 30 years of our involvement with INF and the local church. Andrea is particularly looking forward to supporting the new INF International CEO and his wife as they settle and adapt to their new roles in Pokhara. It will be a steep learning curve for them but we're excited to have them and they will be a great addition to the team. Please remember Joff and Clare in your prayers.

Please pray for the expat retreat in early April. We're looking forward to welcoming our speaker – a gifted and spiritual lady who we met through All Nations.

No doubt, unexpected things will unfold in the coming weeks and months but we hope and pray that we will respond with wisdom and grace.

Thank you for your love and prayers

***Clive and Andrea***

## Ruth's February update

Dear friends,

Warm greetings from Malawi! It really is warm – in fact quite hot and sticky some days! However, I will soon be travelling to cooler regions ...

On Sunday 23rd February I begin my travels, first of all to a gathering of SIM leaders in Cyprus. I'm looking forward to connecting with people from all over the world. It will be a week of many conversations and much listening. Then, before going to the second conference, I will have a weekend with the Richters (my former neighbours) in Germany. The opportunity to see them is a wonderful bonus amidst the travelling!

The second conference is a global theological education consultation run by ICETE (International Council for Evangelical Theological Education) in Albania. I believe that this will be stimulating as groups of us work together in particular subject areas in 'Impact Teams'. I'm looking forward to meeting with 10 other 'SIMers' who will be there. I'll stay on for an extra couple of days to meet with a smaller group to discuss *Theological education by extension*, and am due to arrive back in Malawi on Monday 10th March.

Looking back on my five weeks back in Malawi, I'm very grateful to God for the different things I've been engaged in. The Board meeting for the Chisomo Theological and Vocational Training Centre went well, and was a day full of interesting discussion, with little breaks now and then when I enjoyed some of the bird life by the river where we held our meeting. I spent a few days with the Wheatleys in Nanjoka, a rural area very different from Blantyre. It was good to spend time with them as we encouraged one another. It was also a relief to see the maize in that area growing well – it's critical that the rains continue well so that people can harvest a good crop.

I'm delighted that Volker Glissmann and I have been able to edit the course we piloted last year, 'The Story of God and His World'. We're now editing a Facilitator's guide to go with it, and envisage finishing quite soon (although travel may delay that a bit).



One of the most important things I've been involved with for SIM Malawi is the Search Committee for a new Director. Our current director and his family, the Ongs, will be leaving Malawi later this year. The whole team were invited to share their ideas about the role, and today the next stage, asking for nominations or expressions of interest, has begun.

### **Prayer points**

- Give thanks for God's enabling in the various ministries I've been engaged in
- Praise God for the rains that are enabling crops to grow, and pray that they will continue well
- Pray for the connections made at both conferences, and for work to continue beyond the conferences and to have an impact
- Pray for the search process for SIM Malawi's new Director
- Pray that I will listen to God and learn from him, working with the strength he gives.

Thank you so much for your prayerful support.

With love in Christ,

**Ruth Guinness**

***ruth.guinness@sim.org***

***P.O. Box 136 Blantyre, Malawi***



Dear friends,

'Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." ' *John 11:25*

In a recent quiet time, I read this verse from *John*, which was a great reminder of the truth we will be sharing as we head towards the end of term and Easter. As we meet and talk to students at events in the next couple of weeks, it is good to remember that we have an incredible hope that we are holding out to them – that Jesus is the resurrection and the only place they can find true life that lasts beyond the grave. Please pray that this would be really clear in our conversations and in



the events we are part of so that many may hear this good news and come to trust in this hope for themselves.

### Prayer points

- **Please pray for more opportunities for us and Christian students to share the good news of Easter** with others who have not considered it before. Please pray that we would not be complacent in that, but that we would be looking for these opportunities and it would be really clear in all our conversations as well as in our own lives.
- **Please pray as we start to think about next term's events.** Please pray we would be able to work out a good schedule of events to reach out to students even in the midst of the exam season.



Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers!

*Sally Miller*  
*Friends International, Lancaster Branch*

### Update from the Gelsthorpe family in northern Japan

“To him be the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

*1 Peter 5:11*



### House move

Thank you for praying for our house move. We moved into our new house on 21 March. **Praise God** for a spacious house in an excellent location close to the church. **Please pray** that we will be a good witness to our new neighbours.

### Team changes in April

Thank you for praying for Yuzuki as she leaves Hanamaki at the end of March. **Praise God** that she is making progress in finalising the details for her work with international students in Australia in 2026. She also has some possibilities for volunteering in 2025. **Please pray** that a solid plan comes together in good time for her to start work soon.

Rebecca, Karlheinz and Birgit (short-term missionaries from Germany) are making their final preparations to come to Hanamaki in April. **Please pray**



Rebecca, one of our short-term missionaries, who joins us in April

for good ideas for what they can be involved with in Hanamaki and for God to use them powerfully here in sharing the Gospel.

**Next time I want to ask about the Virgin Mary Praise God** for 'Springsea', a lady in her twenties, who knocked on the church door a few weeks ago. She has been watching a Japanese cartoon (anime) with some Christian themes and wanted to find out more about the Bible. We have met three times to continue to read through Luke's Gospel together. She already understands quite a bit from research on the internet and asks

interesting questions like "What is the link between the Virgin Mary and the White Lily?" **Please pray** that she will believe in Jesus as her Saviour. **Please pray** for Mark and Sarah to communicate the gospel clearly with her as they hope to meet every week.

### **Home Assignment planning**

Last month, we shared with the church here that we plan to go on Home Assignment to the UK for a year in 2026. Currently, it seems unlikely that any long-term missionaries will be available to take over the church during that time. Therefore, we're beginning to think with OMF and the Church Eldership how the church can be led during this Home Assignment. **Please pray** for good provision of leadership for this church. **Please pray** for God to help Mark and the Advisory Board with the handover.

### **Termly Evangelistic Event**

As a staff team, we are encouraging our Church Eldership to plan and run an evangelistic event once a term. **Please pray** for good ideas and smooth planning for the Spring event and that lots of people will come and hear the Gospel. **Please pray** for each of the elders to grow in their faith and in their leadership skills.

### **People on the edge of church**

We have a number of regulars on a Sunday who are not committed enough to become church members. Please pray for them:

- *Mr Down-mountain* is still processing a difficult situation at his previous church. Please pray that, as a fellowship, we can help him.
- *Mr Trickle-brook* wants to have more fellowship but is still dealing with some difficult health problems from the past. Please pray for a new heart for him.

- *Mr Sun-valley* is very busy at work. He would like to be a church member but we don't see him very much. Please pray for wisdom for us, as a church, in knowing how we can best support him.



### **Grace, Isaac and Caleb**

Family worship

**Praise God** that Grace has been able to be involved in music ministry at Southampton Christian Union.

Thank you for praying for the planning of Isaac's Gap Year (from the summer of 2025). **Praise God** that he has made progress with some of the ideas. **Please pray** that he will come up with a good plan and use his time well.

We are currently considering different options for Caleb's education after our next Home Assignment. **Please pray** for wisdom.

### **Financial support**

**Praise God** that we were 96% supported in 2024. **Please pray** that God will provide the remaining 4% this year.

Thank you for praying for us.

With love from

***Mark, Sarah, Grace, Isaac and Caleb***  
**OMF Japan**

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



## **Concerts in St Luke's Church**

**Saturday 10th May, 7:30pm**

**Watford Symphony Orchestra**

*Schumann's Genoveva Overture, Rachmaninov's Paganini Variations and Brahms's Symphony No. 1*

Tickets £18, available at the door or via

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/watford-symphony-orchestra>



## Open Doors News

Dan from Open Doors visited St Luke's on Sunday 9th February and preached at the morning service.

We think it's fair to say that everyone at the service was inspired by Dan's challenging message. It also fitted so well with the final Daniel drama, a persecution story featuring Daniel in the lions' den. Dan spoke about the work of Open Doors as it supports and advocates for persecuted Christians worldwide. In particular, he highlighted the Arise Africa campaign which aims to collect one million signatures and persuade the UN to take more seriously the rampant violence towards Christians in parts of Africa.

Many St Luke's members responded by signing the Arise Africa campaign cards. It's not too late to add your signature to the campaign petition: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/act/arise-africa/africa-petition/>.



Dan (2nd left) with me, our Vicar, Michael, and Bill Miller (Chair, Partners in Mission)

*John Williamson and Michelle Ephraimson*



# CanCC

Cassiobury  
and nearby  
Community  
**Choir**



**Wednesdays from 8pm**  
**@ St Luke's Church, Watford**

**Anyone welcome of any musical ability to join.**

**Feel free to turn up on the night, or contact**  
**music@stlukeswatford.org 01923 246161**



## Museum of the Moon

“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?” *Psalm 8:3-4*

The amazing ‘Museum of the Moon’ artwork by Luke Jerram was displayed in the central nave of St Albans Abbey from 3rd January to 15th February. A range of events from talks like *The Moon in the Hebrew Bible & Rabbinic Literature* and *A Journey Back to the Beginnings of the Universe* to concerts such as *Pink Floyd by Candlelight* was organised by the Learning Department at the Abbey.

The Museum of the Moon measures 7 m in diameter and features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface.

The event coincided with National Astronomy Week, 1-9 February, so the Abbey hosted the University of Hertfordshire’s mobile planetarium ‘Cosmos in the Classroom’ and welcomed school parties.

For information on events at the Abbey throughout the year, visit <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/>.



The Museum of the Moon artwork by artist Luke Jerram

## Celebrating Birthdays!

Each month through 2025 there will be a big cake to share after the morning service to celebrate all the birthdays that month. Look out for the big birthday cake on the last Sunday of the month.

Now, that’s a good reason to stay for coffee, tea and chat after the morning service!



January’s birthday cake made by Wera (pictured)

## The Daniel Plays

I had a lot of fun being Daniel, in which I participated in 4 out of the 6 plays which ran for six Sundays from 5th January. It was a great experience and a unique opportunity!

My journey to becoming Daniel started long before January 2025 when Pam asked my sister, my dad, and me months earlier if we would like to be part of the play. I had done some acting in school so after thinking about it briefly, I agreed not only to participate but also to be one of the central characters, Daniel.

It was January before the rehearsals began. Every Saturday before a performance, my sister, dad and I would go to church at 5 pm to join the rest of the cast in practising for the following day. This was one of the hardest parts of the process, leaving home every Saturday evening to practice was time-consuming, to say the least. For example, on one occasion, it was my uncle's 50th birthday, and as soon as we left the rehearsal, we went straight off to his party. Regardless, whilst we initially started as an unprepared and disjointed cast (much to the dismay of Pam), everyone soon got the hang of it, and by the end of every Saturday, we had done at least one uninterrupted run-through. At the Saturday rehearsal, we also got familiar with the microphones, which unusually looped around your head like a pair of glasses.

After a good night's rest, we went to church early (at around 9 am) to do two final practice runs. These were definitely the best runs of all and were also a chance to wear our costumes! Whilst you may not have realised it, pretty much every costume was tailored to each of our specific sizes, and

a great deal of effort went into making them. Also, during these rehearsals, many of the handmade props were tested. For example, when testing the incredible 'wall' used during the "*Mene, Mene, Tekel, Peres*" writing on the wall (*Daniel 5*) scene, we encountered some problems in that the 'human hand' kept flipping over, revealing it to be a sports foam hand. Our Sunday rehearsals were used to sort out these last-minute glitches.



Me as Daniel and Terry Sullivan as King Belshazzar

Finally, it was the time for the performance. After sitting on the front row and participating

in the worship for around 20 minutes, the plays began and whilst everything did not always go to plan, we still managed to get the true message of the plays across, which was the incredible biblical story of Daniel.



The amazing 'writing on the wall' prop

After the play each week, the community choir (CanCC) sang a song to a popular tune using new lyrics written by Pam from the Daniel story.

If I had to sum up the experience in a few words, I would say it was a lot of fun! Not only was it interesting being part of the cast in a play and learning a lot about theatre production (something that will help me with my drama GCSE) but it also taught me valuable lessons, such as teamwork and patience. Furthermore, it definitely helped me spiritually, as it encouraged me to read the Bible more, to truly understand the story. This has extended beyond my time as Daniel as it has led to me to have a deeper appreciation of biblical stories and scripture as a whole. I would strongly encourage anyone interested in strengthening their faith, being part of a team, and generally just having a good time to get involved next time around!

**Zachary Oladuji**

*For a list of credits, see page 32.*

## Friday Club Tea Parties 2:30pm at St Luke's

**Apr 25th**

**May 30th**

**June 27th**

*Now all you people  
At work bench and sink  
Stop all your business  
Have time to think.  
Who else on his birthday  
Is put back in a cot  
That was only part one  
Now read the lot.*



## Daniel Plays – Credits

### **Narrators**

Pam R  
Pam N  
Andrew C

### **Daniel**

Zachary  
Jordan

### **Mishael (Mishak)**

Olu  
Fiona

### **Hananiah (Shadrach)**

Zuriela  
Bill

### **Azariah (Abednigo)**

Christine S

### **Kings**

Terry  
Chris St  
Olu

### **Ashpenaz (Chief Official)**

Colin

### **Man 1, Man 2**

Kevin  
Michael

### **Guard/Soldier**

Adrienne  
Kate  
Cleo  
Jordan  
Caroline

### **Attendants**

Edna, Bill,  
Colin

### **Arioch (Guard Commander)**

Fiona

### **Servants**

Bill, Chris Su,  
Andrew

### **Magicians**

Sophie, Gill

### **Enchanters**

Chris O, Fiona

### **Sorcerer**

Dean

### **Astrologers**

Kevin, Chris O,  
Sophie, Archer,  
Ivor

### **Fiery Fred**

Chris St

### **Party Planner**

Orla

### **Governor**

Ciara

### **Prefect**

Leah

### **Satrap**

Kevin

### **Diviner**

Yvonne

### **Son of Man**

Michael

### **Musicians**

Mitch, Ophelia  
Melody, Carl

### **Herald**

Adrienne

### **Abbas**

Bill

### **Temple guards**

Sophie, Ivor

### **Queen**

Pam N

### **Murderer**

Michael

### **Taster**

Melanie

### **Wise men**

Chris O,  
Michael

### **Nobles**

Colin  
Adrienne

### **God**

Andrew

### **Wife**

Fiona

### **Guest**

Pam W

### **Leo (Chief lion)**

Zuriela

### **Lions**

Mitch, Ophelia,  
Melody, James,  
Annabella

### **Ben & Jerry (Officials)**

Bill, Melanie

### **Angels**

Lissy, Laura

### **Stagehands**

Stephanie  
Annabella  
Gill

### **Props**

Stephanie  
Annabella  
Freddie  
Peter P  
New Hope

### **Song lyrics**

Pam N

### **Composer**

Jeremy

### **Singers**

CanCC and  
others

### **Costumes**

Charlotte P

### **Make-up**

Edna

### **Backstage help**

Gill

### **Sound, Vision & Broadcasting Team**

### **Assistant**

### **Director**

Bill

### **Writer, Director and Producer**

Pam N



## Community Pancake Party

On Shrove Tuesday the Gathering Area at St Luke's was buzzing all evening as families from St Luke's and Cassiobury Schools, members of Kids Club and K2, and many others dropped in for a pancake. All the pancakes were freshly cooked and tossed to order by Mary



Pam in the kitchen. Yummy fillings of strawberry, raspberry, chocolate and toffee sauces and marshmallows were liberally applied or for more traditional tastes, lemon and sugar. Asked how the pancakes tasted, the overwhelming response was "THEY TASTE GOOD!"

There were plenty of activities and constructive ideas for Lent for all ages:

- games like pick-up sticks and chess
- ideas to start up for Lent, such as reading the Bible and praying each day, memorising Bible verses, setting aside family time each week for a games evening, cooking pizza together or going for a walk
- ideas for service during Lent, like bake some biscuits to give as a gift, help an elderly neighbour with a gardening job
- resources to pick up and take away to help us focus on God during Lent.

A big thank you to Mary and Pam who mixed 6 kilos of flour, 12 pints of milk and 13 eggs and flipped some 150 pancakes during the evening, and to Neil and team for organising the event and all the games and activities.

*Yvonne Wilder*

### **If you would like to give to St Luke's by bank transfer, the details are:**

Account name PCC St Luke's Watford  
Sort code 20-91-79  
Account no. 70687472  
Reference Please state if the donation is for a specific appeal,  
eg Santa's hampers, Foodbank, etc.

**Please remember to complete a Gift Aid form if you are a tax payer**

# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025 Friday 7 March

A service for everyone!

If you are familiar with Circle Time, you will understand how good it is to have the opportunity to talk with others about our experiences, without fear of interruption, but in small bursts. Clutching a conch shell, 4 groups of 5 of us met together in February to study *Psalm 139*. Revd Vicki Davies led our Bible study at Christ Church. “God has made us wonderful” but life is not always easy or straightforward. We can learn much from listening to others.

Then on Friday 7th March, we were ready to join with many more to hear the experiences of three ladies from the Cook Islands: Mii, Vainiu and

Dr Dawn. Their descriptions of the fear of Covid-19, the suppression of their Māori language, their medical needs in such a remote location and the current depopulation through emigration were both moving and inspirational.



Our organist was Jeremy Cooke who played a variety of hymns and songs, two of which were composed specially by Cook Islanders. Thank you.

The hour of prayer was attended by Watford’s Deputy Mayor, Aga Dychton, and the Town Centre Chaplain, Geert Tap. It was lovely to chat with members of other Watford churches over a cup of tea and some delicious refreshments afterwards.

The wave of prayer rolled onwards to ‘our friends beneath the western sky’, until some 120 countries had used the same service to inspire their prayers during a 36-hour period.

Next year we shall be led by Christian women in Nigeria. Do join us. Details will follow.

**Mary Bowen**



## Bring & Share Lunch and Afternoon Recital

In the February edition of *St Luke's News* Michael shared 5 'Ps' to help us develop our Christian lives as individuals and as a church in 2025. The 5th one was 'People' – developing our life as a church family and having more occasions for us to socialise, including Bring & Share Lunches.



The first of these took place on Sunday 9th March. About 60 people attended, including a few children, and we helped ourselves to quiche, cold meats, baby potatoes, baguettes, salads and crisps, then afterwards cheesecakes, cakes, fruit and trifle, all organised by Mary and Marion.

We were seated at tables of 8 in the Church Hall and after the first course we were asked to move to a different table for dessert so that we could chat with more people. It was good to be able to spend time getting to know other members of our church family, and it would be great to see even more people there next time.

After the lunch at 3 pm a violin and piano recital was given in the church by Matthew Bethel and Winnie Wu. Around 70 people attended, some from the church family and some friends and former pupils of the Bethels.

The programme consisted of music by Tchaikovsky, Sibelius, Rachmaninoff, Kreisler and Strauss. Matthew played beautifully on his violin accompanied equally beautifully by Winnie on the piano, and the pieces were lovely and relaxing to listen to.

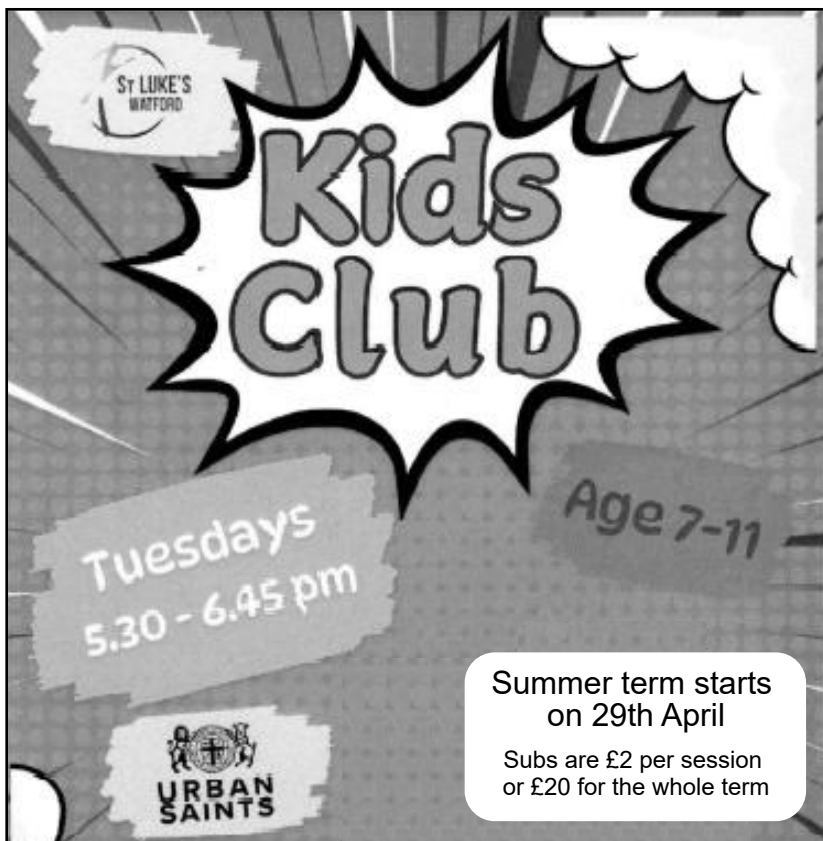
After the official programme there was an encore: 'Happy Birthday' (which we joined in to sing to Pat H) and another piece by Kreisler, 'Molly on the Shore'.



The next Sunday afternoon recital is on 13th April (see page 8).

Thank you to everyone who made this such an enjoyable afternoon.

***Alison Bishop***



ST LUKE'S  
WATFORD

# Kids Club

Tuesdays  
5.30 - 6.45 pm

Age 7-11

URBAN  
SAINTS

Summer term starts  
on 29th April

Subs are £2 per session  
or £20 for the whole term



**RISE & SHINE! IT'S**

# Breakfast Club

Start your family weekend with a  
tasty breakfast and fun activities

**Saturday Mornings 8.30 to 10am**

Join us on these Saturdays: 29th March, 12th and 26th April,  
10th and 24th May, 7th and 21st June, 5th and 19th July

## Questions... questions... questions...

*How many times did William Ewart Gladstone become Prime Minister?*

Who cares? Well, I do because I want to get the answer right for The Desperados, the name of our table at a quiz night. I make a guess: three times. The answer is four. Ah well, you can't win them all...

It's Saturday 15th March in St Luke's Church Hall and about 40 of us are gathered for the annual Watford Fairtrade Quiz Night. The tables scattered around the room are laden with crisps, biscuits, soft drinks and the occasional bottle of wine (bring your own refreshments the invitation said).

Near the front is a table laden with goodies (bottles of wine, bags of groceries — all Fairtrade of course) which are prizes for the best raffle I've ever been part of. There are so many prizes practically everyone wins something — even me. I shall pass my prize (48 Paper Snack and Sandwich Bags) to one of my granddaughters who is doing an A-Level cookery course.

The event has been organised by the Watford Fairtrade Committee to raise awareness of the Fairtrade Foundation. It doesn't make any money from the evening. Entry is £5 a head and raffle tickets cost £1 a time. All the money goes towards the hire of the church hall and the raffle prizes.

Now, how is your general knowledge? Here are a few of the questions (answers are on page 39):

1. What was the menu for the Owl and the Pussycat's wedding feast?
2. Which female singer had over 30 singles and 33 albums in the charts in over 40 years?
3. Who in Macbeth was 'from his mother's womb untimely ripped'?
4. Who is the hero in George Orwell's 1984?

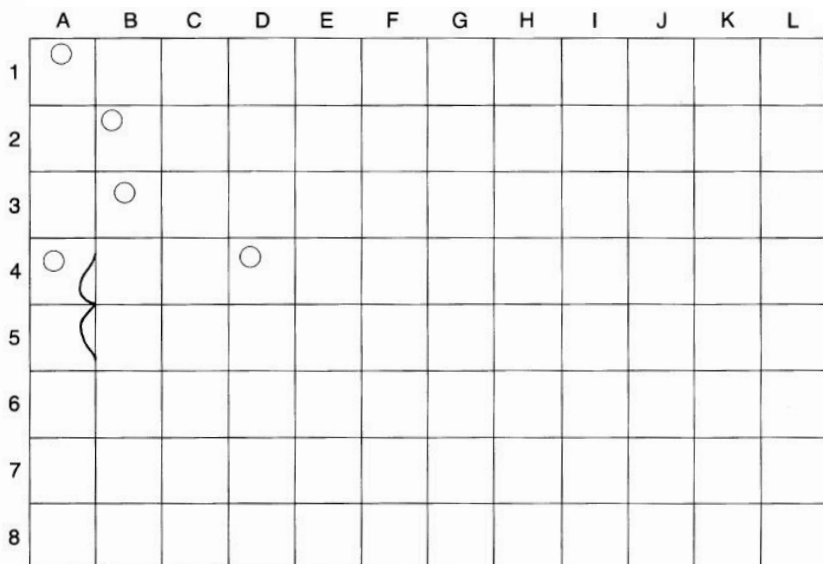
Apart from the use of the church hall, what has this got to do with St Luke's? Well, we encourage St Luke's members to shop for Fairtrade products and we give Fairtrade a discount on the rental of the hall — what you might call a bit of fair trade.

**Chris Webb**



# Children's Page

What can it be?



Shade in these squares to find out what Jesus and His friends cooked for breakfast one morning:

2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2K, 3C, 3D, 3E, 3F, 3G, 3H, 3J, 4B, 4C, 4D,  
4E, 4F, 4H, 4I, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6C, 6D, 6E,  
6F, 6G, 6K, 7F

Read *Luke 24:36-49*.



## CREATIVE SPACE FOR



### HARD-WORKING WOMEN

# COME JOIN THE FUN!

**Saturday 12 April, 10:00am-11:30am**

Informal Bring & Share Craft  
Banner making (Free)

**Saturday 17 May, 9:30am-noon**

Pastel & Painting Workshop  
£8 + donation for breakfast

**Saturday 7 June, 10:00am-11:30am**

Informal Bring & Share Craft (Free)

**Saturday 12 July, 9:30am-noon**

Book craft & Flower making  
£8 + donation for breakfast

**Payment is by cash only on the day**

To book your place, email Pam:  
[pam.stlukes@gmail.com](mailto:pam.stlukes@gmail.com)

## Questions... questions... questions...

The answers to the **Fairtrade Quiz Night** questions on page 35 are:

1. The Owl and the Pussycat dined on mince and slices of quince, which they ate from a runcible spoon
2. Shirley Bassey
3. Macduff
4. Winston Smith.



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: [office@stlukeswatford.org](mailto:office@stlukeswatford.org)

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](http://www.stlukeswatford.org)

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Readers	Dave Clarke
	Pam Norman
	Wendy Somerville
Reader in Training	Simon Trundle
Music Director	Jeremy Cooke
Youth Director	Neil Brookes
Children & Families Team Leader	Vacancy
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Church Wardens	Susan Miller
	John Williamson
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Please leave a message for any of the above on the Church Office answerphone – 01923 246161

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