



St Luke's News

November 2024

Number 282

A Time of Transition



Autumn is a season of transition. The crops have been gathered in, the weather turns colder and the leaves on the trees change colour and fall to the ground. We know then that preparation and transition into winter is under way.

Transition is a reality in life: some changes happen slowly, others are more sudden. St Luke's has faced some quite sudden 'comings and goings' of staff over the summer but gradually a new team is coming together with a new administrator in Dorothy and the post for a *Family and Children's Team Leader* is being advertised.

Transition can cause us to be unsettled as we have to adjust and it takes time for the new situation to become comfortable and eventually the 'new normal'.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, faced a real transition when she was told by Archangel Gabriel that she was pregnant with Jesus. The nine months before he was born must have been very difficult. What rumours were circulating around Nazareth? How would Joseph react? Did a visit to her cousin Elizabeth after six months help her to cope with the changes? No doubt there was fear and worry, as well as a time of preparation and expectation, as she looked forward to a new situation: the birth of a very special child.

In November, St Luke's will have several times of preparation for Christmas. There is the annual Christmas Pudding Making on 15th November and a Wine Tasting event to choose wines for a Christmas Dinner on 30th November. We look outwards with a Tear Fund Quiz Night on 16th November, a Christian Aid Christmas Appeal in November to support those fleeing conflict in Sudan, and a Christmas Hampers Appeal to give Christmas gifts to refugee families living in our locality.

Our church services begin with preparations during Advent and then Christmas itself. It is always a special time of year. It is a time when we start to emerge from the October/November gloom into the light and joy of the Christmas season.

Advent, the church's official season of preparation for Christmas, also focuses on the important themes of the Second Coming, Hope, Holiness and Prayer. It is good to focus on Advent before the final rush towards Christmas in order to be spiritually prepared and to concentrate on crucial themes, not usually covered elsewhere in the church's year.

So, we recognise we are in a season of transition. We prepare, embrace and prayerfully trust all will come together with the help of our loving heavenly Father. With God's help we will be ready! Physically and Spiritually!

***Michael
Vicar of St Luke's***

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.

November	8:00am	10:30am	5:30pm
Sunday 3rd		Morning Worship	Encounter <i>Hebrews 10:1-18</i>
Sunday 10th Remembrance Sunday	Holy Communion	All-age Worship with Parade of Uniform groups	Encounter <i>Hebrews 10:19-39</i>
Sunday 17th		Family Communion	Encounter <i>Hebrews 11</i>
Sunday 24th		Family Communion	Encounter <i>Hebrews 12:1-13</i>
December	8:00am	10:30am	5:30pm
Sunday 1st		Family Communion	Encounter <i>Hebrews 12: 14-29</i>
Sunday 8th	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Encounter with Holy Communion <i>Hebrews 13</i>

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

December	8:00am	Morning	Evening
Sunday 15th		Family Communion 10:30am	Carols around the Crib, 4:30pm
Sunday 22nd		Nativity Service 10:30am	Carols by Candlelight, 6:30pm
Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve			Christingle, 4:30pm Midnight Communion, 11:30pm
Wednesday 25th Christmas Day		Holy Communion with Carols, 9:00am All-age Family Worship with shortened Holy Communion, 10:30am	
Sunday 29th		All-age Family Communion, 10:30am	

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



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

Annual Bereavement Service

Sunday 17th November, 3:00pm



Every year in November we gather at St Luke's to remember our loved ones who are no longer with us. The service includes scripture readings, poems, a talk, music and prayer, and is a special time of remembrance in which we light a candle and the names of our loved ones who have died in the last five or so years are read out. Others can be named as requested. Please let the Church office know (tel 01923 246161) if you would like a name to be included on the list which will be at the back of the church in the week before the service.

Invitations will be sent to those who have lost loved ones in the last year.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

All are welcome to attend.

Michael
Vicar of St Luke's



Stay connected

To learn more about services, Our LifeGroups and other church activities you can take part in, email the office to get the weekly email sent on Fridays (office@stlukeswatford.org)

Diary dates coming up

November

2nd	Breakfast Club (see p 35)
6th	Big Parenting Questions run by Care for the Family, 7:30pm (re-scheduled from 19th June; see p 13)
8th	Cameo Film Night, 7:00pm for 7:30pm (see p 33)
10th	Remembrance Sunday Service with Parade, 10:30am
13th	Open Doors Prayer Meeting with Hannah from Open Doors Church Relations team, 7:30pm (see p 26)
15th	Christmas Pudding Making (see p 16, book in advance)
16th	Creative Space, 9:30am-noon (see p 29, book in advance)
	Alpha Away Day at Christ Church, Chorleywood
	Tearfund Big Quiz Night, 7:00pm (see p 14)
17th	Annual Bereavement Service, 3:00pm (see p 5)
	Watford Interfaith Pilgrimage (see p 15)
23rd	Breakfast Club (see p 35)
29th	Friday Club Tea Party, 2:30pm
30th	Wines for a Christmas Dinner (see p 11, book in advance)
	Watford Symphony Orchestra Concert, 7:30pm (see p 15)

December

6th	Cameo Christmas Lunch at The Essex Arms (see p 33, book in advance)
7th	Live at St Luke's, 7:30-9:15pm (see p 12)
12th	Carol singing at The Essex Arms, 7:00pm
13th	Friday Club Tea Party, 2:30pm
14th	Breakfast Club (see p 35)
15th	Carols around the Crib, 4:30pm
19th	Carol singing at The Essex Arms, 7:00pm
22nd	Nativity Service, 10:30pm
	Carols by Candlelight, 6:30pm
24th	Christingle, 4:30pm
	Midnight Communion, 11:30pm
Christmas Day	Holy Communion with carols, 9:00am
	All-age Family Worship with shortened Holy Communion, 10:30am
28th	Watford Sinfonia Concert (see p 15)

January

18th	Creative Space, 9:30am-noon (see p 29, book in advance)
31st	Friday Club Tea Party, 2:30pm

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

Come And Meet Each Other (Cameo)

Friday evenings, monthly (usually 2nd Friday of the month)

For a programme, speak to Jos or Pam W

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

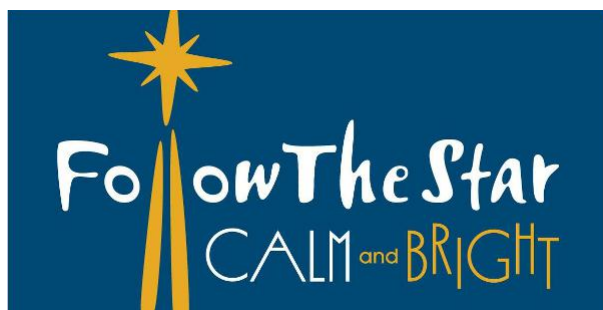
FOCUS, Tuesdays, 8:00pm: every week by Zoom (for log-in details contact the church office), apart from 2nd Tuesday in the month which is in person, in the chapel

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



Christmas Services

Sunday 15th December	Carols Around the Crib	4:30pm
Sunday 22nd December	Nativity Service	10:30am
	Carols by Candlelight	6:30pm
Tuesday 24th December	Christingle Service	4:30pm
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	Midnight Holy Communion	11:30pm
Wednesday 25th December	Holy Communion with Carols	9:00am
<i>Christmas Day</i>	Family All-age Worship with shortened Holy Communion	10:30am
Sunday 29th December	All-age Family Communion	10:30am

In addition, we will be singing carols at the *Essex Arms* at 7:00pm on Thursday 12th and Thursday 19th December.

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

Shede's Story – a Refugee in War-torn Sudan

Shede is a refugee rebuilding her life and her family's life after being forced to flee her home to escape the war in Sudan.

On the approach to Christmas, a highlight of this joyful time of year is hearing the Bible readings that tell of Christ's birth, and of the couple who could not find a room for the birth of their child and were then forced to flee the threat of violence and become refugees. It is also a story of comfort and joy as the angels proclaim the message of peace on earth.

Shede is from the city of El-Daein in Darfur, Sudan. She is married with three daughters. The youngest, Saida, is 6 years old. Her eldest daughter also has a 6-year-old daughter, Mariem. Shede worked in a restaurant and enjoyed tending her organic farm but on 15th April 2023 all that changed. As conflict tore through Sudan, Shede's family was torn apart. Fighting broke out and homes were bombed. The situation was dire and there was no longer food available. Shede's brothers were killed and she made the courageous decision in December 2023 to travel across the border into South Sudan to protect the lives of her children and grandchild, leaving all their belongings behind. Her husband stayed but with no means to contact him, they haven't spoken since.

On arrival at Wedweil Refugee Settlement, Shede's older daughters took the difficult decision to make a further onward journey, to look for work to support the family. Now Mariem and Saida are looked after by Shede in a United Nations High Commission for Refugees shelter.

Christian Aid works in the settlement with their partner, Smile Again Africa Development Organisation (SAADO) to provide financial support to refugees. This support from SAADO provides a vital lifeline to the family. Although the United Nations World food programme provides basic rations, this financial assistance means Shede can buy



Shede and her 6-year-old daughter, Saida, at the Wedweil Refugee Settlement in South Sudan

Image by David Macharia/
Christian Aid

nutritious food for Saida and Mariem to protect them from malnutrition and ill health.

This is a stark reminder for us among the excesses of Christmas, that many of our global neighbours have made impossible choices and are enduring unimaginable loss and trauma.

Please give generously to this appeal using the envelopes which will be available at St Luke's during November. The funds raised will enable families seeking refuge and urgent support to protect themselves from hunger and illness in South Sudan. The collection taken in the Sunday morning service on 24th November will be donated to this appeal. To find out more or to donate via the Christian Aid website, please visit: caid.org.uk/Festivi-tea.

Thank you.

Pam Willis



Wines for a Christmas Dinner

Saturday 30th November

6:30-8:30pm

St Luke's Church Hall



One of the most complicated meals to provide wine for is Christmas Dinner. Although some wines are drunk on their own, most wines are designed to be drunk with a meal. Most labels on a wine bottle will recommend types of food for the wine to go with. The problem is that Christmas Dinner, especially the traditional turkey dinner, has many elements: turkey, ham, roast potatoes, gravy, stuffing, carrots, brussel sprouts, roast parsnips, sweet potatoes and, of course, cranberry sauce. Finding a wine that compliments all these flavours is difficult. It means that some great wines that you might enjoy, say with a steak, don't go with Christmas Dinner! You don't want the wine to knock out Christmas Dinner.

So, we will be trying up to 12 wines with food on Saturday 30th November: three will be sparkling wines to go with canape starters, six (probably three whites and three reds) will be tried with Christmas Dinner and three will be for the pudding section, including of course Christmas pudding.

Come and discover which wine you think matches well with Christmas Dinner. You might be surprised!



Free tickets will be available from the Church office or directly from me. There will be a limit of 40 people. Donations can be given on the night and any profits will be given to The Peace Hospice.

Hope to see you there.

Michael Norman
Vicar of St Luke's

Santa's Hampers 2024 Are Now in Full Swing!

The Santa's Hampers WhatsApp group has come alive again for our annual flurry of activity to prepare the hampers. We are currently shopping for 50 hampers to give to families in the

Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership – from sweet treats, toys, toiletries and lots of other items to fill the boxes. These will be packed up on Friday 6th December with the help of our youth groups and will be delivered to refugee families who are most in need at this time of year.

As always, we can't provide these hampers without your generosity. Last year each hamper cost just under £40. Please, if you are able, consider making a donation via St Luke's website referencing *Santa's Hampers* or in the Gift Aid envelopes in the church (please write '*Santa's Hampers*' on the front of the envelope), to enable us to give a little joy to families who will not be able to give the treats which we take for granted at Christmas.

With our love and thanks, and may God richly bless you this Christmas.

St Luke's Santa's Hampers Team



LIVE AT ST LUKE'S

EXCITING LIVE GIG
FEATURING
LOCAL YOUTH BANDS

AN EVENT FOR SECONDARY PUPILS
FREE ENTRY
PLEASE INVITE FRIENDS
CAFE ITEMS FOR SALE

SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 7.30PM - 9.15PM

St Luke's Church, Langley Way, Watford WD17 3EG

'THE CHRISTMAS ONE'

Big Parenting Questions

Wednesday 6 November, 7:30 pm, St Luke's

As your child gets older, decision-making becomes trickier and there are no clearcut answers to many of their requests. 'Can I have a phone?' 'Can I stay at home on my own?' 'Can I have Snapchat?' You can find yourself in unknown territory, scrambling to find answers and overwhelmed with questions of your own. How do you know what's best for your child? How can you give them the freedom to grow without letting them wander into chaos?

Big Parenting Questions is a brand-new event for mums, dads and carers, designed to offer hope and help through the adolescent stage of children's lives. It explores principles that will equip you to come alongside your children as they try to establish their identity, assert their independence and find their place in the world.

During the event Robin Vincent and Cathy Madavan combine their decades of parenting experience with research-based principles, giving you a framework to make the right choices for your children and family.

Standard tickets are £11, Group tickets are £8 each (for groups of 3 or more).

Bookings can be made through:
www.careforthefamily.org.uk/bigparenting.

The poster features a vibrant background with green, yellow, and purple sections. On the left, the title 'BIG PARENTING QUESTIONS' is written in large, bold, purple and green letters. Below the title, a list of event locations and dates is provided. On the right, there is a photograph of a young man and woman smiling, with colorful question marks and arrows floating around them. In the bottom left corner, there is a QR code and the text 'Book now cff.org.uk/bigparenting'. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo for 'Care for the Family'.



Saturday November 16th

Start time: 7.00pm

St Luke's Church Hall

Hundreds of churches. Thousands of people. One big quiz.

Teams of up to 8 people or come on your own and join with others.
Suggested donation towards the meal: Around £5.00. Bring your own drinks.

To reserve a place sign up through Churchsuite:

[Tearfund's Big Quiz Night \(16-Nov-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](https://www.tearfund.org/quiz)

Every pound raised at the Big Quiz Night will help transform the lives of people living in poverty.

Visit www.justgiving.com/page/st-lukes-big-quiz

to donate to Tearfund or via the QR code:



tearfund.org/quiz

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE, United Kingdom

☎ +44 (0)20 3906 3906 ✉ info@tearfund.org 📱 @ /Tearfund

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tearfund

Watford Interfaith Association

The Interfaith Pilgrimage around Watford became an annual event in 2009 during National Interfaith Week. Members of the public are invited to walk around Watford and visit the various places of worship of the town. The pilgrims spend 20 minutes in each place of worship and receive a bite-sized introduction to different faiths and their community.

The most frequently visited places are: Watford and District Synagogue, Watford Central Mosque, St Mary's C of E Parish Church, the Al-Zahra Centre, the Holy Rood Roman Catholic Church and the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha but it can include other places. It varies every year.

This year's pilgrimage will be on Sunday 17th November – look out for more details soon.

Mary Bowen and Watford Interfaith Association



Image by Watford Interfaith Association



Concerts in St Luke's Church Saturday 30th November, 7:30pm Watford Symphony Orchestra



Dvorak's Czech Suite and Violin Concerto and Smetana's Ma Vlast

Tickets £18, available at the door or via

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

Saturday 28th December Watford Sinfonia

Debussy's Rhapsodie for Saxophone and Orchestra, Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet

More details to follow

Christmas Pudding Making, Friday 15th November



For many, the Christmas Pudding Making event at St Luke's marks the beginning of the festive season.

With all the ingredients laid out, a recipe and equipment provided, and clear instructions on how to cook your pudding when you get home, there is no easier way to prepare your own delicious pudding for the big day. You just need to bring a large mixing bowl, a wooden spoon and an apron.

Sign up for one of the three slots (5:00-6:00pm, 6:15-7:15pm or 7:30-8:30pm) using the QR code or by emailing stlukespuds@gmail.com



Bookings need to be made by 8th November to allow time for us to purchase the ingredients.

The event costs £10 and any profit will go to The Watford Food Bank.

Kate Dorsett-Bailey

**Questions from the 'New Testament People' Barnabas Fund
fund-raising quiz set in Summer '24 for those who haven't
yet tried it (Answers on p 29)**

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. This female has musical Oxford College connection on Mayday (4,9) | 22. Known for his doubting (6) |
| 2. He took Jesus' body to a tomb (6,2,9) | 23. His main work was in the Jordan river (4,3,7) |
| 3. Gospel Doctor (4) | 24. One of the first women on the scene at Easter - or a dancer (6) |
| 4. Son of encouragement (8) | 25. Hey - it's a famous Beatles hit! (4) |
| 5. Jesus spotted him under a fig tree (9) | 26. Hi! Untie cheetah upon scattering. (3,9,6) |
| 6. From Tarsus, he went through many trials (4) | 27. High priest during Jesus' ministry (8) |
| 7. Lass, I was mixed up! (5) | 28. The first martyr (7) |
| 8. This name contains a flyer (7) | 29. Simpson- shout and make a cat sound! (11?) |
| 9. Unknown man in the USA (4) | 30. Paul's fellow cellmate apparently the younger? (5) |
| 10. The perfect One (5) | 31. Angelic messenger to Mary (7) |
| 11. Taken in France by Black (9) | 32. What an artist did? Painted... (6) |
| 12. Sounds like workers up high? (5) | 33. Special Lady traditionally in blue? (4,6,2,5) |
| 13. Permit nose to be blown (5,5) | 34. Like number two - a carpenter (6) |
| 14. The one who betrayed with a kiss (5,8) | 35. Mix toenail tip pus? (7,6) |
| 15. The rod displays the ruler. (5) | 36. A teacher in Acts 22 (8) |
| 16. Lover of horses (6) | 37. A dealer in purple clost (5) |
| 17. She carried the letter to the Romans (6) | 38. Sapphira's husband (7) |
| 18. Famous ship in Bristol (7) | 39. Paul's dear friend with the moneybags? (6) |
| 19. This Saint has a park in London (5) | 40. Tenth named Disciple in Mark (8 or 9) |
| 20. Old money in Germany? (4) | |
| 21. Take a bite Hazel - crush it (9) | |

News from Partners in Mission

Dear praying friends,

Thank you for your ongoing prayers for our various involvements in the International Nepal Fellowship (INF) and All Nations.

We're pleased to report that we arrived in Pokhara safe-and-sound

a few weeks ago. This is more significant than usual given that it was probably the worst day of weather Nepal has had this year and, in fact, saw some of the heaviest rain for decades. Sadly, this has resulted in the loss of at least 250 lives. Even Kathmandu was flooded after the main Bagmati River burst its banks (see photo). Please pray for all those affected by the floods and landslides.



Our journey took 16 hours, rather than the usual 7-8, which was pretty exhausting but we thank God that all went OK. We went straight back to work and it's been great to catch up with folks in the office and the expat team. There's a lot going on in INF over the coming weeks, and also some exciting projects with All Nations (which we're working on remotely). Andrea is currently running the online Explore course with a small but wonderful group of six people from six nations (including Papua New Guinea and Hong Kong), and six tutors from six different nations!

We would value your prayers that our time in Nepal will be fruitful, and for God's hand to be upon family members while we're away. Thank you.

We would also like to thank Cameo for their kind gift (following our presentation in September) which INF will put towards its work with families who are without food due to the floods.

God bless,
Clive & Andrea

Update from the Gelsthorpe family in northern Japan

“... all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.” *Luke 13:17b*



Opportunity with Christian radio

The *Light of the World* radio programme is broadcast every day by a Christian organisation across local radio stations in Japan

(<https://www.radio-yonohikari.com/>). Each day, a pastor shares a gospel message for five minutes with listeners. Despite the very early hour of the broadcast, many people listen to it and some have become Christians through it (including one man we met at a church in Sapporo).



Worship service

service here at Hanamaki Grace Church (including a message from one of the regular pastors). This will be a good service to invite non-Christians to and, as it will be advertised on the radio, may attract more guests than usual. Please pray for many people to come and hear the gospel on that day and to feel very welcome at the church here.

On 10th November, some of the staff from the *Light of the World* programme will lead part of the

Baking classes

Praise God for the two baking classes held on 17th October where Rachel and her mum (visiting from the UK) were able to demonstrate how to make Welsh cakes and share a gospel message based on the story of Ruth. Praise God for the 12 people who came, including one lady who is completely new to the church. Please pray that they will think deeply about what they have heard about Jesus.



Lisa (Serve Asia Worker)

We thank God for the five months we've had with Lisa from Italy. She has faithfully led the Beginner's English

Rachel and her mum with Welsh cakes made at the baking classes

classes and helped out with lots of practical jobs around the church. Please pray for her to be a good witness as she says goodbye to the friends she has made in Hanamaki.

English Class discussions

During the time that Lisa has led the Beginner's English, she has introduced more discussion into the Bible teaching part of the class. Recently, we talked about justice and where our sense of justice comes from. One of the regulars said that she would no doubt have a different sense of right and wrong if she had been brought up in another country. When asked about how we compare systems of morality to decide which is correct, none of the class members could answer. Please pray that all those in the English classes will see that we need the Lord to give us a moral foundation.



Nabe (Japanese Hot Pot) Party – praise God for good food and fellowship and for the two non-Christians who came

Relationships amongst church ladies

Thank you praying for the relationships among the ladies in church. There has been some bad feeling among them for years now which came to a head more recently.

One particular lady (Mrs L) had retreated from fellowship but in the last few months we have been able to challenge and encourage her about the importance of having fellowship with other church members. Praise God that she seems to have had a change of heart and is much more open and friendly with others in the church. She is also offering to help with more church activities. Please pray for the Lord's protection on the relationships between the church ladies and that Mrs L will truly have a change of heart and not just be changing her actions out of a sense of duty.

Exams and University

Praise God that Isaac could complete the first of his A-Level Maths exams in mid-October (Statistics). He thought it went well and continued to prepare for the Pure Maths exam on 23rd October. Please pray that the results will reflect his hard work in recent months.

Grace is enjoying her music course at Southampton and is settling in well into a church, Christian Union and university life. Please pray for good friendships and a growing faith for her.

Staff team in Spring 2025

We are still hoping to recruit more men to serve in the staff team here from Spring next year. Please pray that God will lead the right people to come and serve here in Hanamaki. If you are interested in coming, please get in touch.

Thank you for praying for us, please let us know how we can pray for you.

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

Kisumu Children Annual Review

It was a privilege for St Luke's to host, for the third consecutive year, the annual meeting on Saturday 12th October of the Kisumu Children Trust, one of our Mission Partner Organisations. We originally joined with them many years ago to support the children's home they ran in Kisumu in western Kenya, but their work has now changed to support children in the community, particularly families affected by HIV/AIDS, and the local schools they attend.



Highlights of their work in 2023 included:

- supporting full education costs for 104 children in the local community
- providing 150 free lunches to children 6 days a week
- giving a grant of £29,000 to the local secondary school for new classrooms (with further funds given in 2024 towards a new kitchen and dining room, see photo)
- providing health education and disabled support to local families
- giving support that includes training for micro-businesses and for caregivers
- creating a child sponsorship programme for 25 of the neediest children.

In addition, in 2024 they launched their first-ever residential Bible camp, held in August, and also started a programme of IT training courses, both based at the children's home.

It was a joy to hear of the successes many of their children have had in education and employment. It has been a privilege too for St Luke's to contribute to their support with specific projects in the past, and we continue to provide regular support as part of the PCC discretionary giving.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring any of the children in Kisumu do please ask me for more details.



New kitchen and dining room at a local secondary school is almost finished and ready to provide meals for 1000 undernourished children

Bill Miller

Update from Alastair working for a translation organisation

Shortly after the trip to Nepal in February, I booked another trip for mid-August. However, my mother's health took a downturn at the end of May with two admissions to hospital and it looked like it would be impossible to make the trip as my mother is my father's primary carer. After putting out a prayer request, she was discharged the next day, so thank you for those prayers.

There was now only a short time left before the trip and I was still in a quandary about going. On the Sunday one week before departure, the preacher said that if we want to increase our faith, we should expect problems and that we should not focus on the problem but on God. This really spoke to me at the time, as I often wish I had more faith (it is a gift) and that focusing on God was really my only option. I had peace about going so I didn't cancel. During that week, my mother was stable and my sister was able to stay with my parents for several days during my absence. These were all answers to prayer.

Meeting the teams

Never before have I arrived in Nepal without making plans but it was good to make contact with the translation office and to meet various minority language translation teams. Although the teams' main work is NT and some OT translation, they also work on some 'advertising' materials which are printed. One of these publications, *Good News*, containing pictures and text, looked ideal for digital format. I collected the



Good News picture book in various languages

text and some recordings, and have been making online Bloom Library 'ebook' versions as well as an animated video version.

These meetings also provided an opportunity to demonstrate the online Bloom Library as this makes materials accessible on smartphones at no cost.

Similarly, the stories in 'The Book for children' lend themselves to ebook format and are a good way of teaching about The Book without making

a full translation. One of the team was able to translate two stories which I then made into various formats as examples.

The main work of the teams is to produce The Book but after the translation and checking, it still has to be typeset for traditional printing. I introduced the software I use to show how quick it is at producing a draft. I have now completed *Matthew* for testing.

Reaching a milestone

For some time I have been updating the stories in the Nepali 'Book for children' but the challenge has been finding native speakers to help. One of my contacts, 'S.' who has been a big help is part of an advertising organisation and at the time of my visit was busy running a training programme in a remote area (see photo).

All 60 stories have now been checked and can be used for translation into minority languages. While visiting S., we were also able to make some more recordings which I now need to work on as time there was very limited.

This is what S. says about the stories:

"This is a really good story book for kids. I really liked how the kids could



Visiting S. just behind the ridge where the arrow is pointing (the photo was taken on the walk back)

read the character and colour. It is more effective than just listening to a story. Especially we are working with non-believing children. Parents are allowed to join our program but they are not allowed to bring the [Book] to their home. So it is good that they will have the [Book] but the story version and the parents will not be angry, at the same time they will have their own [Book].

This story book has other advantages, available in many languages. We have more options and children can get the [Book] in their own language. Personally I am using this storybook in every ministry area I have, Sunday School, Slum Ministry, Children's Camp, Seminary (where we care for children)."

Prayer points and requests

- Incredibly grateful that the trip was possible, when it all looked so impossible
- Thanks for people who helped at home
- Thanks for more connections at the translation office
- Thanks for the recording work
- Thanks that the laptop survived temperatures of up to 35.5C in my room
- Nepal has suffered excessive rain recently leading to over 100 deaths
- For the next trip to Nepal in February
- Family health

Thank you for your prayers and support that make this work possible.

Alastair

Dear friends,

Greetings from Wareham! I can hardly believe that three months of my home assignment have gone already, but they have!

I had a wonderful 3 weeks with Edna and Glenda in Northern Ireland, including a trip to Donegal in the Republic for a holiday with Edna. All three of us camped as well – which worked amazingly well, given that we were in Northern Ireland which is very green for a reason. We had some long walks and ate most meals outside, which was great. Overall, I felt refreshed from spending time with friends and enjoying the incredibly beautiful coastal scenery!

In September I was a virtual participant at the Lausanne Congress in Seoul, Korea. About 5,000 people were there in person, with another 2,000 or so online like me. They recorded video and showed us highlights. This meant that, thankfully, I didn't have to be nocturnal and live in a Korean time zone. It also meant that it was quite difficult to feel engaged with what was going on, and I missed the atmosphere of being there with others and worshipping together. They only recorded the plenary sessions, so we did not get to go to any special interest meetings. Although many of these would have been interesting, the advantage for me was not being overwhelmed by too much information.

I enjoyed joining a group via Zoom to discuss one of the 25 areas that the Lausanne Movement has identified as 'gaps' in fulfilling the Great Commission. We looked at 'creation care and the vulnerable'. It was good having interaction with people all over the world, including Brazil, the USA, Australia, the Philippines, India, the Middle East, Greece and Norway.



On the coast of Donegal, Ireland

Earlier in September, I participated in a Board meeting for the Chisomo Theological and Vocational Training Centre in Malawi, through a video call. It was quite odd seeing the rest

of the Board members sitting by the River Shire in Malawi, and hearing the bird calls around them! I have various other Zoom calls coming up, but now is the time to focus on preparation for the next few weeks of home assignment which involves visiting churches.

Prayer points

Please join me in giving praise for:

- a refreshing holiday
- good internet and the opportunity to join in the Lausanne Congress.

Please pray for:

- preparation for the sermons and times of sharing I have coming up
- Chisomo Theological and Vocational Training Centre and the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi.

Thank you so much for your prayerful support.

With love in Christ,

Ruth Guinness

ruth.guinness@sim.org

P.O. Box 136 Blantyre, Malawi



News about Open Doors

Praying for persecuted Christians, Wednesday 13th November, 7:30pm

Hannah from Open Doors Church Relations team will be at St Luke's to lead us in praying and learning more about the persecuted church.

As we start to think about Christmas, this evening will give us an opportunity to think and pray for Christians who have to be really careful about how they celebrate Christmas – or maybe they can't celebrate Christmas at all.

Reply from Matt Turmaine MP

After quite a few emails and a couple of letters to the new Watford MP, Matt Turmaine, a recently appointed staff member has replied to me. I'm hoping to get to meet with Matt soon.



Dan from Open Doors Church Relations team

Visit of Dan from Open Doors, Sunday 9th February

The St Luke's Sunday morning series of plays about the life of Daniel will be in full swing during the early months of 2025. The persecution story of Daniel in the lions' den will fit well with the return visit of Dan from Open Doors who spent a weekend with us in September 2021.

We're looking forward to having Dan back with us and I'm hoping you can do your best to come along to see the Daniel drama and hear from Dan at the Sunday morning service on 9th February.

Christmas cards from St Luke's members and friends

Last Christmas we gave 26 cards to Dean Russell MP, thanking him for his work for Watford, and reminding him of the work of Open Doors. I'll bring Christmas cards to church in mid-November for people to sign for Matt Turmaine.

Those who sign a Christmas card will need to put their name and postcode on the card to show that they are from the Watford constituency.

Thank you all for your continued support for the persecuted church and Open Doors.

John Williamson

Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy Annual General Meeting



I attended the Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy (WTCC) AGM at St Mary's on Thursday 10th October.

The most urgent issue arising from the meeting is the financial situation. WTCC lost £16,000 in 2023, and there is a projected shortfall of £22,000 in 2024. Most of these costs have been incurred as a result of the employment of Geert Tap as Lead Chaplain on a full-time basis. The Chaplaincy has sufficient reserves to absorb these costs for the next year or two but in the longer term either additional funding streams will be needed, or it will need to move to a more volunteer-based model.

There are, however, many good things happening. Geert has come into the post with much vision and energy, and several new volunteers have joined, either as Street Angels or Day Chaplains. As the night-time environment is changing, with clubs closing and the High Street much quieter late at night, the emphasis is shifting from the Street Angels to the Day Chaplains in the Atria and the pubs and cafés in the High Street. A new Strategic Plan has been drawn up for 2024–2027 (I have copies of this if anyone is interested).



Volunteer Chaplains serve the community of Watford offering comfort, support and a listening ear. They volunteer in retail, business and GPs' surgeries

The meeting was also an opportunity for the Chaplaincy to give a proper thanks and farewell to the former chair, Tony Rindl, who has now moved away from Watford. In his place, Debbie Sharp was elected as chair. There was a plea for more volunteers to join the team and for new Trustees, so if anyone at St Luke's feels called to this vital work do please consider it prayerfully.

Bill Miller

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

Nov 29th

Dec 13th

Jan 31st

*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.*



CREATIVE SPACE FOR



HARD-WORKING WOMEN

COME JOIN THE FUN!

Saturday 16 November, 9:30am-noon

Eco Christmas hanging decorations & Silk painting
£8 + donation for breakfast
St Luke's Church

Saturday 18 January, 9:30am-noon

Freestyle shrinky dink keyrings & tags
£6 + donation for breakfast
St Luke's Church

Payment is by cash only on the day

To book your place, email Pam:
pam.stlukes@gmail.com

'New Testament People' Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mary Magdalene | 15. Herod | 28. Stephen |
| 2. Joseph of Arimathea | 16. Philip | 29. Bartholomew |
| 3. Luke | 17. Phoebe | 30. Junia |
| 4. Barnabas | 18. Matthew | 31. Gabriel |
| 5. Nathanael | 19. James | 32. Andrew |
| 6. Paul | 20. Mark | 33. Mary, mother of Jesus |
| 7. Silas | 21. Elizabeth | 34. Joseph |
| 8. Timothy | 22. Thomas | 35. Pontius Pilate |
| 9. John | 23. John the Baptist | 36. Gamaliel |
| 10. Jesus | 24. Salome | 37. Lydia |
| 11. Priscilla | 25. Jude | 38. Ananias |
| 12. Rufus | 26. The Ethiopian Eunuch | 39. Persis |
| 13. Simon Peter | 27. Caiaphas | 40. Thaddeaus |
| 14. Judas Iscariot | | |

Working in Nepal

On 13th September Cameo Club + welcomed our long-term friends, Clive and Andrea, for a fascinating update on their work in Nepal.

Both Andrea and Clive (microbiologist and engineer, respectively) have, in part, deviated over the years from their professional training. Andrea, these days, spends her time using her human resource and organisational skills, and running training courses. Clive has developed his photographic expertise and now helps create visual stories and trains local people in ethical storytelling. This plays a part in International Nepal Fellowship's (INF's) communications and work in training, caring for and advising those who are in poverty and often live in isolation. Many of these people also require long-term medical care for debilitating diseases, such as leprosy, and problems arising from spinal injuries and other chronic disabilities.



Much of this medical care takes place in INF's 'shining hospitals' where patients are treated holistically so, if necessary, some may stay for weeks or even months to improve their quality of life before returning to their families and villages. There are three of these hospitals in Nepal now, which have over the years become places of expertise. Some patients are often too poor to pay for hospital treatment and receive support from an INF social services scheme.

Sadly, leprosy has not yet been eradicated, although treatment following early diagnosis is simple: a course of antibiotics. However, treatment is often delayed as people are not diagnosed early enough or are living in isolated villages and are unable to travel to get treatment. If left to develop, complications set in and family rejection can follow, usually because of fear of transmission of the disease.

As Clive said, he and Andrea are 'small cogs in a big machine', using their expertise to support others as they train and care for those in great need. It's been a massive task but it has given them huge satisfaction.

Thank you, Clive and Andrea, for a special evening broadening our knowledge of Nepal, explaining more of your work and sharing your passion for the people of this beautiful country.

Jos Lawrance and Pam Willis

Do not worry!

St Luke's Harvest Festival celebration with a Parade of Uniform groups was held in the morning service on Sunday 6th October.

Donations of non-perishable food were collected for Watford Food Bank and New Hope and the offertory

supported the Bishop of St Alban's Harvest Appeal, a project in Sri Lanka which provides those affected by leprosy with the means to grow their own food and raise their standard of living. More information about the Bishop's Harvest Appeal can be found at:

<https://www.stalbansdiocese.org/parishsupport/growing-community/bishop-of-st-albans-harvest-appeal-2024/>.



The theme for the service was *Do not worry!* based on *Luke 12:22-31* and included a play. Our resident actors, Kate and Chris, worried about what to wear and what food to buy, the smaller children enthusiastically played the part of ravens and flowers of the field and a voice out of nowhere told us how futile our worrying is: "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?" (*Luke 12:25*).

Following on from the play, Neil Brookes, Youth Director, defined worry as going over and over in our minds things that we can't do anything about. Neil gave several reasons why worry is bad for us, including that it's like a shadow, casting darkness over our lives and it's like an inflating balloon, obscuring our vision. We were encouraged to shift our focus away from the things that worry us towards God in order to bring things back into perspective. Instead of worrying we were urged to think about the food, family and friends that God has blessed us with, and God's deep love for us.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the service, especially Neil for sharing his spiritual wisdom, playwright, Pam Norman, and the team who decorated the church.

Yvonne Wilder

Live at St Luke's

Live at St Luke's is a new initiative, trialled during the St Luke's Mission Week in March, and now a regular half-termly event. It aims to bring together local youth bands and their fans in a safe and encouraging environment.



The event on Saturday 19th October featured three bands from various Watford schools: gentle rock from an all-girls band, *Slackie*, funky music from *The Dilettantes* and heavy rock from *Train Wrecker*. It was well attended by family supporters and peer group fans who enjoyed both the musicianship and the atmosphere.



The aim is not only to encourage the musicians by offering them a venue at which to perform, but also to involve teenagers in operating the sound and lighting and running the café.

The hope is that by the Spring we will have formed a *Live at St Luke's* house band which will play at each event, introduce elements of Christian music, and play occasionally for the congregation.

Please speak to me if you would like to know more or join the team, and please pray for the next event which will take place on Saturday 7th December.

Neil Brookes
Youth Director



LADIES CAMEO CLUB

Autumn 2024 Programme

November

Friday 8th
7 for 7:30pm
Youth Lounge

Film Night
John Bunyan:
the People's Pilgrim

Bunyan's own
pilgrimage brought
to life

December

Friday 6th
12:15 for 12:30pm

Christmas Lunch at
The Essex Arms
Langley Way
Cameo + event

Cost £20
Book in advance
with deposit of £5

Bring your friends and neighbours!

For more information, email: Jos (jocelyn_lawrance@hotmail.com)
or Pam (pamela.willis@btinternet.com)

Cameo + events = men are welcome too

Donation for Club evenings - £4



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



Children's Page

Proverbs

Do you know what proverbs are? They are wise little sayings about how to live. Look these up in the *Book of Proverbs* in the Bible and fill in the blanks.



20:3 Any fool can start arguments; the honourable thing is to _____.

19:17 When you give to the poor it is like _____ and the Lord will pay you back.

20:30 Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us _____.

17:9 If you want people to like you, _____ when they wrong you. Remembering wrongs can _____ a friendship.

23:12 Pay attention to your teacher and _____ all you _____.

16:24 Kind words are like honey – sweet to the taste and _____.

17:22 Being cheerful keeps you _____.

KIDS CLUB

TUESDAYS

5:30 - 6:45 PM

7-11 YEAR OLDS

ORDER OF PLAY (ISH)

5:30PM - FREE TIME!
(FOOTBALL, GAMES, CRAFTS)

5:50PM - GAMES TOGETHER
(EG. DODGEBALL, PARACHUTE ETC)

6:15PM - CINEMA ROOM
(VIDEO CLIP AND CHAT)

6:30PM - TUCK SHOP
(YOU ONLY NEED 30P OR SO)

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



Saturdays

8:30 - 10 AM

Bacon, Vegan Sausages, Pastries, and Cereal
Table Tennis, Mini Snooker, Board Games, Crafts, and Fun!



All pre-school
and primary
school families
welcome!

FREE!

Oct 12

Nov 2

Nov 23

Dec 14

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

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

Vicar	Michael Norman
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
Administrator	Dorothy Englert
Church Wardens	Susan Miller
	John Williamson
PCC Lay Chair	Vacancy
PCC Treasurer	Martin Kirk
PCC Secretary	Margaret Forester
Safeguarding Officer	Mary Bowen

Please leave a message for any of the above on the Church Office answerphone – 01923 246161

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