



St Luke's News

June 2025
Number 285

Pentecost — The Not-So-Quiet Revival!



In recent months, both the Christian and secular media have been awash with reports of new life breaking out in many UK churches across the denominations, especially among the younger generation: the 18–24-year-olds (Gen Z). This may come as a surprise after decades of well publicised church decline. To misquote the fabled remark of Mark Twain: *“Rumours of the church’s demise have been greatly exaggerated!”*

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, there seems to have been a shift in the spiritual atmosphere pervading our nation. At the *New Wine Leadership Conference* in February this year, leaders from a variety of churches spoke anecdotally about significant increases in numbers attending church services, and one London-based church produced impressive statistics backing up this trend.

Since then, the Church of England has reported an increased attendance for the fourth consecutive year and the well-known Alpha Course has

had its most numerically successful year ever, with more than two million people attending worldwide. The intense media interest following the recent death of Pope Francis is a further indication that the spiritual climate may be changing in the UK and Europe.

So are we on the cusp of a major move of God? Well, what has been sensed anecdotally has now been confirmed by a major report published by the Bible Society with the title, *The Quiet Revival*:
<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/research/quiet-revival>).

In this report, YouGov surveyed over 13,000 UK adults and found that over 2 million more people are going to church now than in 2018. What was once referred to as a 'missing generation' of young adults in the church is now anything but, with 33% of all churchgoers being aged 18–34 years. In 2018, 4% of 18–24-year-olds were monthly churchgoers. That figure is now 16%.

All this is very encouraging for us at St Luke's, in line with what we have been praying for some time ... that 'green shoots' of revival would sprout up among us; that God would do a 'new thing', especially bringing into the church more people across the age spectrum, singles and families.

So maybe it's time to pray that the 'quiet revival' happening around the country would soon evolve into a mighty revival, the kind that in past history has transformed both Church and Nation in the UK.

After all, we celebrate in this month of June, the Day of Pentecost, looking back to the origins of the Christian Church which was birthed in revival. For on that day, over 2000 years ago, at a Jewish Spring Harvest Festival in Jerusalem, God poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit on that small band of 120 disciples of Jesus who were gathered in expectant prayer. It became a day which began a not-so-quiet revival as the gathered crowd experienced sounds of a mighty wind, fiery images, miraculous languages, exuberant praise to God and 3000 new converts in one day! What a harvest as these new believers were found:

“ ... praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 2:47

So in this season of Pentecost, we can be encouraged that God is on the move in our day. We can pray that as a church we should be prepared to keep in step with the Holy Spirit however He moves among us.

I leave you with the challenge the Bible Society report lays before us. Are we ready to welcome people who are searching? Are we prepared to

connect with people who walk through our doors? People come to church for many reasons but they will stay because of relationship. In this season, as people encounter Jesus and search for truth, are we ready to journey with them towards the way, the truth and the life?

Wishing you every blessing this season of Pentecost

Dave Clarke
Reader, 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

CHURCH



LUNCH

Stay for lunch after the 10:30am Service and get to know other church members

More details to come

Don't miss it!

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.

Plan for Sunday Services:

June	8:00am	10:30am	5:30pm
Sunday 15th Father's Day		All-age Worship <i>The Sound of Musings</i>	Encounter with Holy Communion <i>1 Peter 1:13-25</i>
Sunday 22nd		Family Communion <i>Acts 3 and 4, focusing on Acts 4:23-31</i>	Encounter <i>1 Peter 2:1-12</i>
Sunday 29th		Family Communion <i>Acts 5</i>	Encounter <i>1 Peter 2:13-3:8</i>
July	8:00am	10:30am	5:30pm
Sunday 6th		Morning Worship <i>Acts 6 and 7</i>	Encounter with Holy Communion <i>1 Peter 3:8-22</i>

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

July	8:00am	10:30am	5:30pm
Sunday 13th	Holy Communion	All-age Worship <i>Acts 8 with drama</i>	Encounter <i>1 Peter 4</i>
Sunday 20th		Morning Worship <i>Acts 9</i>	Encounter <i>1 Peter 5</i>
Sunday 27th		Family Communion <i>Titus, Part 1</i>	No evening service
August	8:00am	10:30am	5:30pm
Sunday 3rd		Family Communion <i>Titus, Part 2</i>	No evening service
Sunday 10th	Holy Communion	All-age Worship <i>Focus on Deep Sea Divers Holiday Club</i>	No evening service
Sunday 17th		Morning Worship <i>Philemon</i>	No evening service
Sunday 24th		Family Communion <i>2 and 3 John</i>	No evening service
Sunday 31st		Morning Worship <i>Jude</i>	No evening service
September	8:00am	10:30am	5:30pm
Sunday 7th		Family Communion <i>Acts 10:1-23</i>	Encounter

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

Diary dates coming up

June

- 14th Half-day of Prayer, St Luke's Chapel, 9:00am-12 noon
The Sound of Musings – reflections on the *The Sound of Music* with Briony Woods, 3:00 pm, in the Church, followed by refreshments. Free event (see p 10)
- 21st Breakfast Club (see p 32)
- 27th Alban Day: Pilgrimage & Festival (see p 8)
Friday Club Tea Party, 2:30pm

July

- 5th Breakfast Club (see p 32)
Half-day of Prayer, St Luke's Chapel, 9:00am-12 noon
- 6th Church Lunch (see p 3)
Watford Symphony Orchestra Family Concert, 4:00pm, at Clarendon Muse Concert Hall, Watford Grammar School for Boys, Rickmansworth Road WD18 7TJ. Tickets available at the door or via <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/watford-symphony-orchestra> (£15 adults; £3 accompanied child)
- 12th Creative Space (Book in advance, see p 28)
- 19th Breakfast Club (see p 32)
Community Choir (CanCC) Summer Concert (see p 19)
- 25th Friday Club Tea Party, 2:30pm

August

- 2nd Breakfast Club (see p 32)
Half-day of Prayer, St Luke's Chapel, 9:00am-12 noon
- 5th-8th Deep Sea Divers Holiday Club (see p 19)
- 16th Breakfast Club (see p 32)
- 23rd Creative Space Tea Party (see p 28)
- 29th Friday Club Tea Party, 2:30pm
- 30th Breakfast Club (see p 32)

September

- 6th Half-day of Prayer, St Luke's Chapel, 9:00am-12 noon
- 13th Creative Space (Book in advance, see p 28)

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

Breakfast Club

Every other Saturday, 8:30–10:00am

For more information, speak to Bekki Hadley

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

Thursday mornings, term-time, 9:30–11:00am

For more information, speak to Bekki Hadley



Alban Day: Pilgrimage & Festival

Saturday 21st June

Witness the awe-inspiring spectacle of 12 ft puppets weaving through the streets of St Albans, retelling the story of St Alban. For more information visit <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/Event/alban-day>



SERVICE TIMES

Sundays 10:30am

Morning Worship (In person & live streamed)

&

5:30pm Encounter

Informal Worship (In person)

Tuesdays 10:00am

Holy Communion (In person)

Introducing Bekki

My journey to St Luke's

I wanted to share my journey to help everyone to get to know me better and know a part of my story before coming to work at St Luke's.

Let's start with my interests outside work, which are swimming, going to the gym, and going to football. Most of you will know by now that I'm a big fan of West Bromwich Albion as I grew up in the West Midlands.

My parents are both Christians so I grew up knowing the truth about Jesus from a young age. I gave my life to Christ at the age of 14, after hearing a sermon about being one in God.

From 2015 to 2018, I studied for a BA (Honours) degree in Childhood and Youth Studies and Practical Theology at St John's Bible College, Nottingham. During this time I lived in Derby and did many placements within children's ministry, including a church and Christian school work charity and in a special school. All of the placements gave me valuable experience of working with children.

After finishing university, I worked in a private nursery which I enjoyed. During the COVID pandemic, I was on furlough as the nursery didn't need all the staff. At this time I felt God was calling me into children's ministry, and in response to this, in September 2020 I started a *New Wine Discipleship Year* at All Saints' Church in Marlow, Buckinghamshire. It was a strange time to do an internship as we were still partly in lockdown a lot of the time and it therefore involved a lot of filming myself doing teaching for the children. By the end of my year in Marlow we were able to meet in person.

On completing the New Wine Discipleship Year in 2021, I started working as a children and families worker at St Leonard's Church in Chesham Bois near Amersham. I led the Sunday morning groups and family fun days during the school holidays, which were great outreach opportunities as we had many families who did not attend church but



Me with my assistant, Palmy, who enjoys meeting the younger children

loved coming to the Family Fun Days. I also helped with *Open the Book*-style assemblies in the local primary school and supported the church-owned preschool.

After 3½ years at St Leonard's, it was the right time to move on to enable growth in my ministry so I applied for the children and families team leader job at St Luke's.

I'm enjoying being at St Luke's and looking forward to working with you to develop the Children and Families ministry.

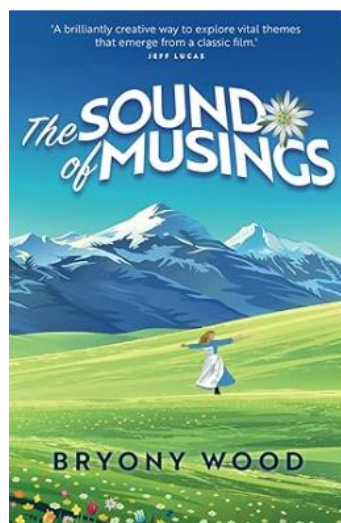
Bekki Hadley

Children and Families Team Leader

The Sound of Musings Live

Saturday 14th June at 3:00pm

St Luke's Church



Celebrating 60 years of the film, *The Sound of Music*

Bryony Wood reads from her warm and humorous book, reflects on the adventures of the flibbertigibbet nun-turned governess and shares stories from her own life interspersed with film clips and a sing-a-long to the much-loved songs. It's honest, quirky and a lot of fun!

Enjoy a cream tea and apple cake afterwards

Free entry. Come on the day and bring a friend

The Writing on the Wall ...

Unwrapping the mysterious workings of the upstairs balcony!

We do have hymn books, prayer books and Bibles at St Luke's, but if you have been coming to Sunday services for the past almost 20 years, you'll know you don't need them.

All the words you need to know throughout the service are written on the wall on a pair of screens either side of the altar. In addition, the main points of the sermon are often highlighted with pictures. And the speaker has a microphone.



Why do we do this? Well, putting the words of hymns and readings on screen saves a lot of page-turning, while the use of microphones helps spread the word across the congregation. And we don't need to stick to the same liturgy each week — it can be varied.

It's not only those inside St Luke's who benefit. Thanks to the techies up in the gods, each morning service is broadcast live on YouTube as well, so that people who are unable to get to church in person can still be included. We also usually record the sermon at the evening Encounter service and broadcast it on the St Luke's website for later viewing.

How do we do it? Well, there's a lot of equipment on the balcony at the back of the church.

In essence we have a sound desk — the sort of thing you may have seen on tv in a recording studio. Then there's a computer loaded with a specialist program called *Easy Worship*, which manages liturgy, Bible readings, hymns, songs and graphics. Finally, there is a video set-up that provides pictures for those watching the live stream at home, and a further computer that relays the service to the internet.

Here's what's involved:

The sound desk

This equipment sets the output for musicians and speakers. You may not know it but there's a microphone hidden inside the grand piano, in the drum kit and guitars, while each of the other musicians has an



The sound desk

individual microphone, as does the leader of the service and the speaker. Those who do the Bible readings and intercessions use the mike attached to the lectern.

The portable mikes are battery-powered and are recharged before each service. The person on the sound desk, wearing headphones, balances the outputs so that we can all hear what's going on.

Easy Worship

All the words being said and sung during the service are loaded onto the *Easy*

Worship computer in advance. The operator's job is simply to select the right words at the right time and click a mouse to put them on the wall. It sounds easy but it has its hazards. For a start, if you make a mistake, everybody sees it instantly.

It's all written down, so what can possibly go wrong? For example, with each hymn, the words are projected on the screen two or three lines at a time, and are sent from the computer in the right order while the hymn is being performed. Well, two things can go wrong here:

- the operator may become so engrossed in the words on the computer screen that he/she reads ahead and loses their place and either forgets to click the mouse to move the text on, or jumps a few lines to the next verse.
- we'll call this one artistic discretion: there have been occasions when the music leader decides to repeat a phrase or verse in a hymn to add emphasis or provide a tidy ending. The *Easy Worship* person needs to know in advance that this is going to happen in order to put the right words on the screen. Sometimes they do, sometimes they don't. It all adds a little spice to the proceedings!

Video output

The video output transmits pictures of what's going on in church to the outside world. The operator selects the correct



Easy Worship in action

camera (there are four) and where necessary puts the Easy Worship text in the right place. The words of hymns are at the bottom of a picture, prayers and readings are in a small panel at the top right of the broadcast picture.

Two of the four cameras are usually aimed at the two lecterns; the third one generally covers the musicians and there is what we call a fourth 'get out of jail free' camera which shows the full width of the church stage.

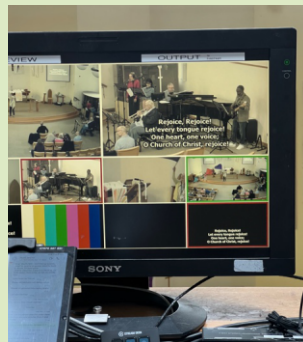
Most professional tv broadcasters sit their guests in a chair or tell them exactly where to stand in the studio so the camera can get a good shot. On the balcony one of our biggest challenges is a wandering speaker — someone who maybe starts at the lectern and then walks away to the centre of the stage before wandering back — or maybe walking up the aisle.

We do have a control panel that can steer our cameras but this hide-and-seek routine isn't much fun for the viewers, particularly if you are trying to include some text from a prayer in the top corner. This is when we use the 'get out of jail free' camera — the wandering speaker will be in there somewhere!

As you may have guessed, unlike some American churches which produce flawless, carefully rehearsed broadcasts, ours is usually all done as it happens, and by a different team of three operators each week. So if there's the occasional slip-up please forgive us.

Being upstairs on the balcony delivering the audio/visual output certainly adds a new dimension to the service downstairs. It keeps you on your toes, and is immense fun. If you fancy trying your hand, we provide full training and induction into any or all of the roles mentioned, and the skills are transferable to the world of media. You might like to consider it, or encourage your kids to have a go — or both! If so, contact Tim Whittaker (timwhittaker@virginmedia.com; tel 0776 882 1189).

Oh and one last thing — our pictures include the congregation in the first five rows. If you don't want to be on film, please sit further back!



Picture selection screen

Chris Webb

Watford Foodbank

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.

Shopping list of non-perishable items (in order of preference):

- 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



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



Deanery Synod Meeting, May 2025

On 22nd May St Luke's hosted a meeting of the Deanery Synod.

There are 14 parishes in the Deanery, stretching from Abbots Langley to Bushey Heath, and also Soul Survivor Church, which has a Bishop's Mission Order.

Our worship together is always led by the host church and the theme of Rogation and God's generosity was celebrated.

Our main purpose at this meeting was to learn how the Diocese uses its funds and to understand how the Parish Share determines our contributions to that. This is a complex calculation but the sum we are requested to pay to the Diocese is always displayed on the small print notice board in the car park corridor. Our Treasurer, Martin Kirk, always refers to this sum in our Annual Accounts. The Diocese has a past record of working efficiently with the monies it receives and last year managed a small surplus. However, it now considers it is time to spend more on clergy housing.

We heard news from neighbouring parishes, with Revd Dave Scourfield having been licensed the previous day as Curate-in-Charge of St Paul's Langleybury; St Mary's will welcome their new vicar, Revd Richard Banham, on 28th July; St Michael and All Angels' are holding interviews in July; St Matthew's Oxhey will have a vacancy from July.

Our elected representatives are Dave Clarke, Mave Clarke, Phil Matthews and me. We hold office until July 2026 when there will be fresh elections.



St Luke's Deanery Synod reps:
from the left, Mave, Dave,
Michael, me and Phil

Mary Bowen

The Top 10 Ways to be a Churchwarden by Sally Miller Aged 7¾!

The official Church of England role description says that churchwardens are:

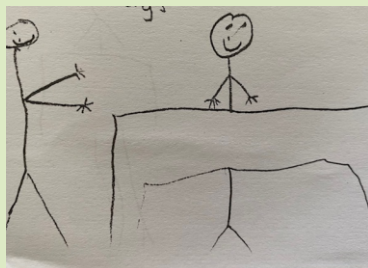
“elected lay officers who are officers of the bishop, trustees of the parish charity (that is managing the church’s assets, including safeguarding and care of the building), and representatives of the laity. They are expected to keep records and return reports to the Archdeacon and other relevant authorities.”

A more detailed role description on our Parish Dashboard begins with the statement that churchwardens must:

“use their best endeavours to encourage the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace.”

But perhaps the most helpful guidance is in a handbook, *The Top 10 ways to be a Churchwarden*, written by our daughter, Sally (now a St Luke’s Mission Partner) when she was about 7 or 8 years old for her dad who was churchwarden from 1996 to 2002. Here is Sally’s list:

- 1 Love your job, your church and Christianity
- 2 Get to church early and organise what needs doing, hymn books and that sort of stuff
- 3 Love God. If you want to be churchwarden, you have to love God
- 4 Help the Vicar. You need to help him prepare meetings
- 5 Go to meetings a lot because you have to expect unexpected invitations to meetings
- 6 Know a lot about the Bible. You may have to read out or memorize something
- 7 Be good at counting moving things as you may have to count children in groups, who knows what they will be doing!
- 8 Listen to people and hear their problems
- 9 Be ready coz you will need to take action if nobody else who gets the church ready is there



“Go to meetings a lot” — a drawing from Sally’s handbook to being churchwarden

- 10** Be friendly to other people. If there is someone new, make them feel welcome.

I have found these 10 ways to be wise and hugely relevant to the role and have passed the booklet to Terry Sullivan as he begins his term of office as St Luke's Churchwarden.

Terry and I were formally admitted to the role at a service held at St Lawrence's Abbots Langley on Tuesday 10th June. Please pray for us.

Susan Miller

250 Parkruns

9am on Saturday morning for millions of people around the world means it's time for Parkrun.

Worldwide there are over 2,300 events, including Junior Parkruns, and it's still growing. Basically, it's a free weekly running/walking event for everybody and it was the brainchild of Paul Sinton-Hewitt 21 years ago.

Several members of St Luke's are regulars at Cassiobury Parkrun.

We've recently celebrated our 250th Parkruns. Milestones are a big deal in the Parkrun community, and we're now officially proudly



Some of the St Luke's regulars at the Cassiobury Parkrun



Jill completing her 250th Parkrun and Wera wearing her 250th Parkrun sash



Parkrun volunteers help to keep runners safe

wearing our green '250' T-shirts. The next milestone is not until we've participated in 500 Parkruns, so this has been a really exciting achievement.

Parkrun is only possible each week with the help of volunteers. Volunteering is as much a joy as running and walking. There are so many different roles to be filled each week: setting up, marshalling, time keeping, distributing finish tokens, to name a few. Each one is just as important as another and fulfilling to be a part of. Whilst Jill celebrated her 50th volunteering role on the same day as her 250th Parkrun, Wera will be celebrating her 100th volunteering milestone on 21st June — absolutely remarkable!

If you want to know what all the fuss is about, come and see for yourself. You will be welcomed and encouraged, and the first milestone T-Shirt is only 25 Parkruns away.

Jill Rogers and Wera Irvine

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

June 27th

July 25th

Aug 29th

*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.*





Deep Sea Divers

St Luke's Watford Summer Holiday Club

Tuesday 5th–Friday 8th August

10am–1pm with lunch included

For 5–11 year olds



Pre-book by
scanning the
QR code



America!

Songs from Across the Pond

Cassiobury and nearby Community Choir's

Summer Concert

Saturday 19th July

5:00 pm

St Luke's Church, Langley Way

Watford WD17 3EG

FREE event

(Donations to the Royal British Legion welcome)

Refreshments afterwards

Photo by John Williamson
www.petermagnusdesign.co.uk

Update from Alastair working for a Bible translation organisation

Dear All,

It is said that when writing newsletters, we need to write impact stories. Just two weeks after having an emergency tooth extraction, I was impacted from the side by a Highways Maintenance truck while cycling (not my fault) and I ended up hitting the end of the handle bar just where I had had the extraction, so another trip to A&E. Does that count? Fortunately I am still able to operate the laptop (damaged thumb).

The main focus of work is the typesetting of the EM New Testament. Changes are still being made which can mean re-working the text in places but several times now, when I think it is completed, something else comes along. This is mainly related to 'peripheral material', ie what goes at the beginning and the end, such as concordance and maps.

In the background, I am checking, editing and correcting more of the online Bible stories but the people who develop the software to create the stories are often making changes so all of a sudden on 18th April, editing became impossible. Fortunately I've been able to work with the developers and we've come up with a solution so I can carry on.

On 4th May, I was surprised to hear a thump on the floor by the front door and was very pleased to see that it was a printed copy of the previous New Testament that I had typeset (see photo). Very nice to see



The newly printed New Testament

a real product and thank you to all those who enable me to do this as you are part of it as well. Please pray that more people will be blessed by the *Good News* in their mother tongue.

Thank you for your prayers and support
God bless

Alastair

Dear friends,

Warm greetings from Malawi. It's been a week for getting lots of odd jobs done. Part of my roof was re-sealed to stop a leak, and a couple of ceiling tiles damaged by water were then painted over. I'm happy that a friend from church was able to come and mend my electric kettle – something small that makes a big difference! And an electrician has fixed the light fitting in my office so that I'll be able to see better.

Seeing – spiritually – has been a theme in the office devotions this week as we have been going through *John 9*. I've enjoyed studying this passage with others. We pray for those in Malawi who, like the man born blind and was healed, are rejected by their community because of their faith.

Good news this month is that *The Story of God and His World*, a 6-week course to help people understand the whole story of the Bible, has been published online. I'm currently working on the Chichewa translation and hope to run a course in Chichewa soon. I had a good talk with one of the church leaders about it this week. Volker and I are discussing our next project. You can read a description of the course here: <https://teenet.org/blog/the-story-of-god-and-his-world/>

Thank you for praying for the process of finding a new SIM Malawi Director. A name has been put forward to SIM International for consideration – nothing will be finalised until there have been various approvals and confirmations. The process has taken a lot of my time and energy so I'm very glad now to be able to focus again on my wider role. On 5th June I will be leading a Zoom call for SIM leaders in Southern Africa. As we think through theological and missiological education, we need to be flexible and explore new models, making sure that theological education is accessible, relational, transformational and missional.

I heard more good news when at a meeting of the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi last week. A visiting speaker from the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA) gave an update on the situation in Michiru, the forested mountain area in Blantyre that I have told you about



before. There was terrible destruction of the woodland for charcoal production but now the community around the mountain has been engaged and community scouts have been trained most of the poachers have gone. It is safe to go to Michiru again. It's great to hear of this collaborative effort, though Michiru is still vulnerable. If you'd like to know more, CEPA have a video about it on their Facebook page: https://web.facebook.com/CEPAMalawi/videos/michiru-is-back-%EF%B8%8F/972295197812460/?_rdc=1&_rdr#.

Prayer points

- Give thanks that *The Story of God and His World* is now available for groups to use
- Give thanks that community involvement has helped to save Michiru for now
- Please pray for the opportunity to run a course on *The Story of God and His World* in Chichewa
- Please continue to pray for the appointment of a new SIM Malawi Director

Thank you so much for your prayerful support.

With love in Christ,
Ruth Guinness
ruth.guinness@sim.org
Serving in Mission (SIM)
P.O. Box 136 Blantyre, Malawi



Dear friends,

“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” *Philippians 2:9-11*

In our Bible studies at Globe this term, we are looking at Paul's letter to the Philippians together, and in early June we looked at these verses from

chapter 2. This passage is a great reminder of Jesus' love and humility shown in his death and resurrection, as well as the great victory that He achieves through this. As our students prepare for exams and think about what their next steps are, please pray that this revelation of who Jesus is would be a comfort and encouragement for them to keep following Him even when things around them are uncertain.



Prayer points

- **Please give thanks for the students who came to our International Dinner at the end of May.** Please give thanks for lots of opportunity to connect with students who have been coming to our events regularly this year as well as new students. Please pray that many would come to other events in these next few weeks..
- **Please pray for our plans for the summer months.** Please give thanks that we are able to run our Conversation Cafes again and pray that we would see many students coming along to those and the trips we run.

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers!

Sally Miller
Friends International, Lancaster Branch

Update from the Gelsthorpe family in northern Japan

"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." *Mark 1:15*



Prayer in the church

We struggle to encourage church members to come to our weekly Fellowship Meetings and monthly Prayer Meetings. **Praise God** that, with the short-term workers also attending, we had a lively prayer meeting this week with prayers in German, English and Japanese. **Please pray** for more church members to be excited about meeting together outside Sunday and about prayer.

Short-term workers

Praise God for our three short-term workers from Germany (Rebecca, Karl Heinz and Birgit). Rebecca is in her 20s and Karl Heinz and Birgit are



Cooking class with Rebecca

an older couple with some experience of mission in Japan. **Praise God** that they are getting to know church members and people in the community. **Please pray** that many people will hear the Gospel through the evangelistic cooking and craft events they are running at the church each week. **Please pray** that each of them will grow in their faith and will continue to contribute good, creative ideas to the ministry here. They are delivering lots of flyers to people's doors. **Please pray** for a good response.

Children's party

Praise God that we could hold a children's party for about 15 local children in mid-May (many of them came from the local children's home). Our church member, Erika, shared the Easter story in pictures (a popular Japanese method of story telling called Kami-shibai). **Praise God** for a really fun time and for the good relationship we have with the children's home. Please pray that the children and teachers who came will think more about the Gospel.

Annual General Meeting

On Sunday 25th May we held our Annual General Meeting looking back on the past year of life in the church. **Please pray** that God will continue to grow his church in faithfulness and that we will soon be able to hand over the church to Japanese leadership.

Home assignment planning

Planning continues for our Home Assignment in April 2026. In particular, we are working with the church eldership to hand over responsibility for leadership to them for a year at least at that point. **Please pray** for fruitful and efficient meetings to discuss this hand-over and for good ideas about how the church can run in this period.

Teen events

Teenagers in Japan are typically very busy because of school club activities so it can be hard to reach them with the Gospel. **Praise**



Water colour painting with Birgit

God that we have been able to share the Gospel with lots of teenagers in Hanamaki through church teen events. Recently, attendance has been low and we often find that new people come through personal connections with people already connected.

Please pray for the teen ministry team to meet new teens and to effectively encourage them to attend. **Please pray** for wisdom in how to advertise and what events would be popular.

Study for Grace, Isaac and Caleb

Praise God that Grace has enjoyed her first year of university in Southampton. **Please pray** for good results in her exams and assignments and a safe journey back to Japan at the beginning of June. Isaac has finished his A-Level exams. We are thankful for an opportunity for him to go to the Philippines for an Internship in August. **Please pray** for the practicalities, safety and a good time observing the work. Caleb has begun his IGCSEs. **Please pray** for a good time at Japanese school for him (half day only) and for effective English language study at home.

Thank you so much for praying for us.

With love from

Mark, Sarah, Grace, Isaac and Caleb
Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) Japan



In Tokyo for Isaac's exams

News from Clive and Andrea

Dear friends,

Thank you for your prayers and support for our recent visit to Nepal. Despite feeling like we were hit by a work tsunami, we were SO thankful for valuable time shared with so many.

The following is a snap-shot of some of the things that are going on.



One key achievement was the production of the Sunita video, showcasing the palliative care work of International Nepal Fellowship (INF). Clive had spent many hours with the family during the making of this film and it was a privilege to visit them on our way to Pokhara — the transformation in their quality of life is extraordinary.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znnGKWgqUh0>

Please pray that the valuable work of the Sunita Project will continue, especially in rural areas.

INF is looking into delivering a diploma-level Health Education Program at Green Pastures Hospital. This would be a big step and involve considerable investment in infrastructure, planning and human resource. INF is also exploring how to strengthen holistic mission as a core part of organisational identity and practice. This will take care, commitment and the selection of the right people to move forward.

Our official visas were granted for another 12 months (hurray) ... however, INF is approaching a time of uncertainty as the 5-year agreement between INF Nepal, INF International and the Government of Nepal ends in December. Please pray that there will be minimal disruption to INF's work and for Andrea and others who are responsible for advising and guiding new applicants.

We returned to the UK on 16th May and on the 18th, Clive headed to the Netherlands with a team from All Nations College where he led a workshop on storytelling ethics in photography and video. He is also running an ethical photographic storytelling course at All Nations, 12th–13th July. If you would like to attend, please visit:

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

Please also pray for Andrea's father who had major surgery after a fall and is making slow progress with his recovery.

Thank you for your prayers — we can't do what we do without you!

Clive and Andrea

Update from Hyderabad, India



Dear Friends and Partners,
Greetings from Nireekshana!

We are delighted to share progress in the work that's been happening at the clinic, the empowerment centre, and the new building.

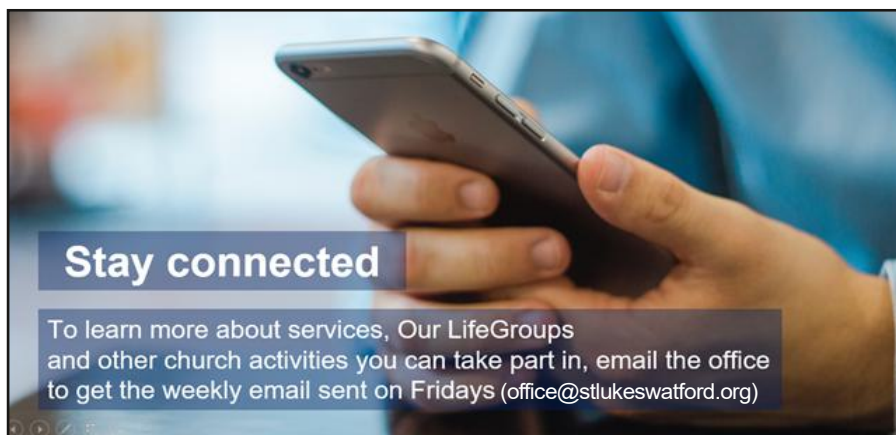
The vision for the new building is to provide services to people infected and affected by HIV, leprosy and neglected tropical diseases, with an emphasis on prevention and care.

Recently raised funds have paid for the dental equipment. Now, as we move forward, we are seeking support for needs such as the establishment of the clinic, clinical biochemistry laboratory and pharmacy. We're looking forward to your partnership in this regard.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and encouragement throughout this journey and we will be delighted to connect with you on this!

Warm regards
Drs Sujai and Lavanya Suneetha

For more information on developments at Nireekshana, please ask Bill Miller (billmiller2@ntlworld.com).



Easter Flowers



Some of our Easter flowers. Thank you to Geoff F for the floral displays and Wendy D for the Easter garden



**CREATIVE SPACE
FOR**



HARD-WORKING WOMEN

COME JOIN THE FUN!

Saturday 12 July, 9:30am-noon

Marbling & Flower making
£8 + donation for breakfast

Saturday 23 August

Summer Tea Party

Saturday 13 September, 9:30am-noon

Paper Quilling
£8 + donation for breakfast

Payment is by cash only on the day

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

Joy at the Easter Monday Pilgrimage 2025

*"Thine be the glory, risen,
conquering Son, endless is the
victory thou o'er death hast won."*

This is such a rousing hymn, and none more so than when sung in St Albans Cathedral on Easter Monday, with dogs joining in, and the congregation waving their orders of service.



St Luke's merry band of pilgrims

The Easter Monday Pilgrimage to St Albans Cathedral is an annual, family-friendly event, which has taken place for the past 79 years. It's an all age event, where around a thousand pilgrims gather to celebrate the joy of Easter. Typically, people walk to the cathedral and picnic on the grass before processing in at 2:30pm for the service at 3:00pm.

A small group from St Luke's set off from the church at 9am for the 8/9 mile walk and met others en route. We made excellent progress, considering we had some very young first timers with us, and arrived in good time for our picnic.



Ready to process into the Cathedral, proudly holding our banner aloft

The theme of the day was Joy, inspired by *Psalms 16* and *Matthew 28*, and was explored through reflections from two local ordinands. Their reflections were about how the joy of the Resurrection shows up in our lives.

The 2025 service absolutely lived up to its title of 'JOY'!

Next year, we would love more to join us for the very special 80th anniversary. If the full distance is too challenging, it's possible to meet us at various stages on the route, or join us at St Albans for the picnic.

Jill Rogers



BEAVERS

Ages 6-8
Mondays 5-6pm

cubs Scouts

Ages 8-10.5
Mondays 6-7.30pm

Ages 10.5-14
Mondays 7.30-9pm

74th Watford South Scouts St Luke's, Langley Way

Scouts are do-ers and give-it-a-go-ers. Yes, we go camping, hiking, swimming, abseiling, cycling and canoeing.



But, we also get to hang out with our friends every week – having fun, playing games, working in a team and taking on new challenges.



Sign up with the QR code to help your young person discover their 'thing': from archery to coding to performance art and everything in between.



For enquiries please email
devansscoutleader@gmail.com

VE Day 80 Lunch

After the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 4th May, St Luke's Church family joined together for a special lunch to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day.



The lunch was prepared by the fantastic Mr Fox and his amazing team. The Church Hall was decorated with bunting and the tables were decked out in red, white and blue, and Union Jack flags and serviettes.

After Michael, our Vicar, had said Grace, we were served with coronation chicken (or in this case, liberation chicken quipped Paul R), new potatoes and salad, followed by summer fruit pavlova.



At the start and between courses we were entertained by the Cassiobury and nearby Community Choir (CanCC) to a sing-a-long of favourite wartime songs such as *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, *The White Cliffs of Dover* and *We'll Meet Again*.

Thank you to everyone who made it such an enjoyable and memorable occasion, especially Geoff and team for catering and the community choir conducted by Pam Norman and accompanied and rehearsed by our Music Director, Jeremy Cooke.

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

St LUKE'S
WATFORD

Kids Club

Tuesdays
5.30 - 6.45 pm

Age 7-11

URBAN
SAINTS

Subs are £2 per session or £18 for the Summer 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: 21st June, 5th and 19th July, 2nd, 16th, and 30th August

Pastel and Painting Workshop at Creative Space

Last month at Creative Space, following what was described by several ladies as a 'yummy' breakfast and a five-minute reflection on the hymn 'What a friend we have in Jesus', around 40 ladies settled down to a morning of watercolour painting and oil pastel artwork.



For some, this was a new venture, whereas others were more experienced. As friends together, everyone helped and encouraged each other along the way as various techniques were practised, such as creating colour wheels, and mixing and blending to achieve different effects.



The themes

Then work began in earnest. Themes included: Road to Horizon, Night Time, Dolphin, Sunset over the Water and Tulips. Slowly but surely, masterpieces began to emerge. By the end of the morning everyone had a piece of artwork to be proud of and we were asking for a similar session at a later date.

New members are always welcome. Forthcoming events are:

- Saturday 12th July – Marbling & Flower Making
- Saturday 23rd August – Summer Tea Party
- Saturday 13th September – Paper Quilling

For further information, see the advert on page 28, pick up a flyer at church, or contact Pam Norman on 07975 748243 or pam.stlukes@gmail.com.






Pam Reynolds

Children's Page

WHAT IS GOD'S KINGDOM LIKE?

(READ LUKE 13:18-19)

A  takes a  and plants it
_____ in his 

The plant

and becomes a

and the  make their

in its

Quiz word fit

Jesus heals. Read *Matthew 8:5-13*.

Write the answers to the questions in the boxes; the number of spaces is the number of letters in the word. The first letter has been written in to help you.

1.	C						
2.	S						
3.	P						
4.	C						

Who came to Jesus for healing?

Who did the man ask Jesus to heal?

What was wrong with the person Jesus healed?

In which town did the healing take place?



TODDLERS AT ST LUKE'S

THURSDAYS 9:30 - 11 AM



19th June - King's Official Birthday
26th June - Summer Fruits
3rd July - Sports Day
10th July - Let's Go To The Seaside
17th July - Summer End of Term
Special
***Toddlers at St Luke's will be back
on 4th September***

For more information speak to the church office:
office@stlukeswatford.org

From Birth to Pre-School

All Welcome!

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of Peace and Justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort
would draw near to them.

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
Reader in Training	Simon Trundle
Music Director	Jeremy Cooke
Youth Director	Neil Brookes
Children & Families Team Leader	Bekki Hadley
Administrator	Dorothy Englert
Church Wardens	Susan Miller
	Terry Sullivan
PCC Lay Chair	Melanie Sills
PCC Treasurer	Martin Kirk
PCC Secretary	Pam Norman
Safeguarding Officer	Mary Bowen

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

Website www.stlukeswatford.org

Email office@stlukeswatford.org