



# St Luke's News

December 2025

Number 287

## Towards the Coming



Image by rawpixel.com on Freepik

A while ago, I was cycling on the Down's Link — a mainly offroad cycle and walking track between Shoreham and Guildford. There is a great variety of scenery, from the tree-filled county of Surrey to the open farmland of the West Sussex Weald, to the open coastal terrain by Shoreham-by-Sea. In one place, the track goes past a grass landing strip, part of a private airfield of a West Sussex mansion. There is a notice 'Beware of Low-Flying Aircraft' by the track. On this day, I stopped near the sign, looking away from the landing strip, across the open fields. I saw a very small dot on the horizon. It was almost hidden by the beautiful scenery. "That's strange", I thought. As I watched it, the dot gradually got larger and larger, the scene sped up and a biplane whizzed past me, its engines roaring, and it touched down on the grass landing strip.

This picture came back to me recently at night. I believe it expresses Advent which means 'Towards the Coming'. As you read this, you will know that Christmas is on the way. The shops are full of decorations,

Christmas lights have been switched on and shops and radios have started the traditional Christmas songs. The Christmas adverts for retailers and films have begun. As we count down to Christmas, things speed up. Cards are written, presents purchased, family arrangements are made, and sometimes changed!



‘Watching’ was what I did, that sunny summer day in West Sussex, as the plane landed nearby.

‘Watching’ is what we are called to do at Advent, but for what? What are we to preparing for?

Physically, we prepare for the get-together, parties or meals with work colleagues or friends, we

decide what presents to buy, what food to choose for the Christmas meals and celebrations.

How about preparing spiritually? Does everything around us crowd out the real meaning of Christmas? Advent is a time to ‘watch’. Watching in the Bible is connected with discernment in prayer, listening to what God is saying and what He is doing.

The first Christmas and in the year before that, something was ‘about to happen’. The High Priest Zechariah saw an Angel and then his wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant in old age. Mary met the Archangel Gabriel who gave her startling news about her giving birth to Jesus.

There was a dot on the horizon then, which grew and got bigger: Joseph had a dream, a census was declared, Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem. Then, God came to earth at the birth of Jesus Christ — God with us! That is what we are celebrating.

Putting aside the wonderful extras of Christmas, this is the dot that becomes larger and larger and lands. God becomes man, He arrives to be with us and this year we can experience the joy of this afresh. Joy is our theme for Christmas this year.

However, I recognise that for some people, for various reasons — loss, people absent, illness, etc. — Christmas is a difficult time. This year there will be an opportunity, especially at the Carol Service on 21st December at 6.30pm, to recognise those difficulties and in prayer, to ask for help and comfort. We can discover the true meaning and

experience of Christmas, but we also want to acknowledge the pain this time of the year can bring for some people.

For many of us, Christmas is a special time, a joyful time and there is a spirit of generosity and kindness. As we are aware of it getting closer, as we see the dot, that gets bigger, the true centre of Christmas — Jesus — let us not let it be hidden by all the glitz around it.

This year, come and join us to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas — God with us in Jesus Christ.

A very happy Christmas to you all

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



## St Lukes Watford Christmas

*Child friendly*

**Carols & mince pies around the Crib**

Sunday 14th December, 4.30pm

**Holiday Club Short** (ages 4 - 11)

Friday 19th December, 5 - 7pm

**Nativity service**

Sunday 21st December, 10.30am

**Christingle**, Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th December, 4.30pm

**Christmas Day**, Family all age service

Thursday 25th December, 10.30am

*Finishing with optional short Holy Communion*

### *Christmas events*

**Carols at the Essex Arms**

Thursday 18th December, 7 - 9pm

**Carols by Candlelight**

Sunday 21st December, 6.30pm

**Christmas Eve**, Midnight communion

Wednesday 24th December, 11.30pm

**Christmas Day**, Communion with Carols

Thursday 25th December, 9am

**Advent Candles**

We'll be lighting advent candles

every Sunday morning service

at 10.30am during December

*FYI: most church services last around an hour*

Langley Way, Watford WD17 3EG

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



## 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 and Christmas Services:

December	8:00am	Morning	Evening
<b>Sunday 7th</b>		Morning Worship <i>Acts 20</i> <b>10:30am</b>	Encounter with Holy Communion <i>Symbols of the Prophetic: The Shepherd</i> , <b>5:30pm</b>
<b>Sunday 14th</b>	Holy Communion	Young people take over <b>10:30am</b>	Carols around the crib <b>4:30pm</b>
<b>Sunday 21st</b>		Nativity Service <b>10:30am</b>	Carols by Candlelight <b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 24th Christmas Eve</b>			Christingle <b>4:30pm</b> Midnight Communion <b>11:30pm</b>

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



<b>December (cont'd)</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Morning only</b>	
<b>Thursday 25th Christmas Day</b>		Holy Communion with carols, <b>9:00am</b>  Family All-age Worship with optional short Holy Communion, <b>10:30am</b>	
<b>Sunday 28th</b>		Morning Worship, <b>10:30am</b>	
<b>January</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>5:30pm</b>
<b>Sunday 4th</b>		Morning Worship <i>Acts 20:13-38</i>	Encounter <i>Acts 21</i>
<b>Sunday 11th</b>	Holy Communion	All-age Worship with Drama <i>The beggar healed</i> <i>Acts 3:1-4:31</i>	Encounter <i>Acts 22</i>
<b>Sunday 18th</b>		Morning Worship with Drama <i>Ananias and Sapphira</i> <i>Acts 4:32-5:16</i>	Encounter with Holy Communion <i>Acts 22:30-23:35</i>
<b>Sunday 25th</b>		Family Communion with Drama <i>Paul's conversion</i> <i>Acts 9:1-22</i>	Encounter <i>Acts 24</i>
<b>February</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>5:30pm</b>
<b>Sunday 1st</b>		Morning Worship with Drama <i>The Philippian jailer</i> <i>Acts 16</i>	Encounter with Holy Communion <i>Acts 25</i>
<b>Sunday 8th</b>	Holy Communion	All-age Worship with Drama <i>The shipwreck</i> <i>Acts 27</i>	Encounter <i>Acts 26</i>
<b>Sunday 15th</b>		Morning Worship with Drama <i>Paul in Malta</i> <i>Acts 28</i>	Encounter with Holy Communion <i>Rome</i> <i>Acts 28</i>

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

## Diary dates coming up

### December

- 6th Breakfast Club (see p 14)
- 12th Santa's Hampers packing, 6:30pm, contact [office@stlukeswatford.org](mailto:office@stlukeswatford.org) if you can help
- 14th Carols around the Crib, 4:30pm followed by mince pies
- 18th Carols at the Essex Arms, 7:00-9:00pm
- 19th Friday Club Tea Party, 2:30pm
- Holiday Club Short: Christmas Party (Book in advance, see p 39)
- 21st Nativity Service, 10:30am
- Carols by Candlelight, 6:30pm
- 24th Christingle, 4:30pm

### January

- 10th Breakfast Club (see p 14)
- Half-day of Prayer, St Luke's Chapel, 9:00am-12 noon
- 13th Kids Club restarts (see p 34)
- 15th Toddlers restarts (see p 39)
- 24th Breakfast Club (see p 14)
- Creative Space: Teabag folding, 9:30am-12 noon, £8 + donation for breakfast (Book in advance, text/ WhatsApp Pam on 07975 748243)
- 30th Friday Club Tea Party, 2:30pm

### February

- 1st Bring & Share Church Community Lunch
- 6th World Day of Prayer Bible Study, 2:00pm, St Mary's, led by Amanda Allchorn (Kings Langley Baptist Church)
- 7th Breakfast Club (see p 14)
- Half-day of Prayer, St Luke's Chapel, 9:00am-12 noon
- 14th, 15th Snowdrop Garden Open Day (see p 16)
- 17th Holiday Club Short: Pancake Party, 5:00-7:00pm (Details to follow)
- 18th Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service, 7:30pm
- 21st Breakfast Club (see p 14)
- Creative Space: Copper wire art, 9:30am-12 noon, £8 + donation for breakfast (Book in advance, text/ WhatsApp Pam on 07975 748243)
- 21st, 22nd Snowdrop Garden Open Day (see p 16)
- 27th Friday Club Tea Party, 2:30pm
- 28th Watford Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 pm, St Luke's Church (visit [www.watfordsymphonyorchestra.co.uk/](http://www.watfordsymphonyorchestra.co.uk/) for more details)

## Regular groups at St Luke's Church

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

Kids Club	Tuesdays	5:30–6:45pm	7–11 year olds
Rock Solid	Mondays	6:30–7:45pm	Years 7–9
Base	Tuesdays	6:30–7:45pm	Years 9–11
K2	Tuesdays	8:00–9:15pm	Years 11–13

### **Badminton and Table Tennis Club**

Friday evenings (except 2 weeks at Christmas and Good Friday),  
7:30–10:30pm

For more information, speak to Fiona Craigie

### **Breakfast Club**

Every other Saturday, 8:30–10:00am

For more information, speak to Bekki Hadley

### **Cassiobury and nearby Community Choir (CanCC)**

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 (except in December when it will be on 19th)

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

## 32 Steps to Becoming a Reader

On 28th September at the Readers' Annual Celebration Service at St Albans Cathedral, with Bishop Jane of Hertford officiating, I had the joy of being admitted and licensed as a Church of England Reader (or 'licensed lay minister'). It was great to see so many supporters from St Luke's, and from wider afield at the service, which itself was a mixture of uplifting worship, the challenging and the joyful, and the making of a deeply spiritual commitment. *Thank you to you all and a special thank you to my wife, Keshy, and daughter, Grace.*



With Bishop Jane in St Albans Cathedral

### So how did I get here?

Well, God calls all of us and He calls all of us to different kinds of service. But my specific calling, to 'Reader' ministry, began when we moved to St Luke's about four years ago. Before that, I had had a more general sense of Christian vocation going back as far as teenage years. Now, having been a lifelong free church member, I had the strong sense that God was asking me to identify with the Anglican Church and to explore ministry. So I prayed with Michael and other 'lay' members of St Luke's.

Then began a discernment process — three conversations with a wise Diocesan Vocational Advisor, a conversation with the Reader's advisor and attending a three-day course on guidance: 'Seeking the Way', spread over six weeks (giving time for further reflection). Finally, there was the Readers' selection conference with interviews and presentations before a panel of clergy and readers.

It took three weeks for the Bishop's approval to come through. Yay! I was to move forward to training for the public-facing role of Reader ministry! Receiving that email was such an exciting, fulfilling and affirmative moment — now it was not just me, there was also the affirmation of a whole range of other people.



Keshy and Grace before the Licensing Service

Two years of academic and vocational training followed. I thank God for the wise and spiritual team who acted as my 'Local Training Group' keeping a twice-termly watchful and supportive eye as 'critical friends' here at St Luke's. And I thank God for the encouragement of the diocesan lay ministry staff, and the challenges laid down by the

lecturers on the Eastern Region Ministry Course.

One ministry portfolio, two church placements totalling 12 weeks away from St Luke's, two retreats and nine assignments (totalling 23,500 words) later – you'll understand why the Service of admission and licensing to the office of Reader was such a joy! It's been quite a process.

Please continue to pray for me as I begin to seek God about how this ministry is to develop, beyond preaching and leading services.



With our Vicar, Michael, and Pam (Reader) outside the Cathedral

***Simon Trundle  
Reader***

## Keeping St Luke's Visible

Our church is fortunate to have a variety of ways to communicate with our members and friends, and also with the Cassiobury Estate and Watford and the wider area (and with those worldwide) through our website and social media (Facebook, Instagram and YouTube).

Until Summer 2024, Jeremy Hogarth, in a paid role, was spending six hours per week on design and publicity work. Dorothy Englert, our Administrator, together with volunteers, have been doing a great job since then, but there's a lot to do.

St Luke's has been on the hunt for someone to undertake the publicity role for quite some time, and there have been various ideas as to how this work could be combined with other job roles. In September, I took on the job of Publicity Officer at St Luke's to do six hours per week — this fits well with my other work as a graphic designer, website designer and photographer.

My wife, Edna, and I have been part of St Luke's since Autumn 2014 and we are both active in the church. I was Church Warden until May this year.

One of my current objectives for publicity at St Luke's is to get the church



John Williamson, St Luke's new Publicity Officer



website ([www.stlukeswatford.org](http://www.stlukeswatford.org)) up to date. I've been working with staff and volunteers to update their web pages and sections. It's a work in progress.

In addition, this is a busy period in the church year so there has been publicity to design for Harvest, the Alpha Course, the Tearfund Big Quiz Night and Christmas services and events.

I'm really pleased to be doing this work. I believe that God has blessed me with creative talent and communication skills and it's good to be able to use it for St Luke's Watford and God's Kingdom. Publicity for St Luke's is important but I very much realise that the best way to let people know about Jesus and the Christian story is word of mouth.

In addition to posters, flyers, banners and the church magazine, here are our online publicity outlets:

- Public Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/stlukeschurchwatford](http://www.facebook.com/stlukeschurchwatford)
- Friends Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/stlukeswatfordfriends](http://www.facebook.com/groups/stlukeswatfordfriends)
- Instagram page: [www.instagram.com/stlukeswatford](http://www.instagram.com/stlukeswatford)
- Website: [www.stlukeswatford.org](http://www.stlukeswatford.org)
- YouTube: [www.youtube.com/stlukeswatford](http://www.youtube.com/stlukeswatford)
- St Luke's page on *A Church Near You* managed by Mary Bowen: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19467](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19467)

Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions regarding our publicity on [media@stlukeswatford.org](mailto:media@stlukeswatford.org) or 0777 999 1551.

**John Williamson**  
**Publicity Officer**

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

**Dec 19th**  
**Jan 30th**  
**Feb 27th**

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

## Emergency Evacuation Practice (Fire Drill)



Since October 2006, churches, church halls and outdoor events are defined under fire safety legislation as 'Places of public assembly' which requires the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to conduct a 'Fire Risk Assessment' (FRA) of our buildings and to improve the fire protection of the building if any shortcomings are found. A regular timed evacuation practice is part of this requirement.

St Luke's now has several members with varying ranges of disability, including impaired hearing, mobility, sight and perception. We have an *Emergency Evacuation Policy for People with Disabilities* and we are drawing up a *Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan* (PEEP) for each known member of the congregation with specific needs. **If you think this could apply to you, please inform St Luke's office or the Churchwardens.**

On 5th October at the end of the morning service, we conducted an emergency evacuation practice. We safely evacuated everyone to the car park in 5 minutes. During this Practice, we observed a few weaknesses in our procedures. We have reviewed all these procedures with St Luke's Staff, Deputy Wardens and Stewards and are implementing a series of action points.

These are our trained officials:

- **Fire Marshals:** Susan Miller, Neil Brookes, Fiona Craigie, Michael Norman
- **Fire Safety Awareness trained:** Jeremy Cooke, Dave Clarke, Dorothy Englert

**Please take time to read these instructions of what to do if the Fire Alarm sounds. There are some changes to previous instructions.**

- Fire Marshal/Churchwarden, Deputy Warden and Stewards on duty will put on Hi Viz Jackets. They will position themselves by the Exit Doors.
- Those who can evacuate themselves without assistance will be encouraged to **leave all belongings, including buggies, and proceed in silence swiftly to the exit doors at the rear of the church and walk immediately to the Car Park via Langley Way. Please walk as far down the car park as you can to ensure everyone can assemble safely.**
- **Those with physical or cognitive impairment needing assistance will be encouraged to sit near the right-side fire exit door by the vestry.** Stewards will ensure they have a buddy to assist evacuation, **so please do not stop to help, as this causes blockages in the evacuation.**
- Children will be brought to you by their leaders also in Hi Viz jackets.

- Seating outside in the car park for those with physical impairments is being organised.
- Please wait in the car park until given further instructions by the Fire Marshals or Fire Brigade. **Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so.**

A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL FOR READING THIS.

*Susan Miller and Terry Sullivan*  
Churchwardens

### If the Fire Alarm sounds:

Leave building in silence by nearest fire exit



Able bodied exit swiftly first

Those requiring assistance from the church wait by Vestry exit

Make your way to the Church Car Park Assembly Point



Children will be brought to you in the car park.

Do not take belongings or buggies



Do not return to the building



# 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**



## Growing in the Prophetic

### St Luke's Church Day at Home

On Saturday 22nd November, I had the privilege of joining other members of St Luke's for a Church Day at Home which focused on 'Growing in the Prophetic'.

The day was led by The Revd Keith Powell who is the Renewal Advisor for the Diocese of Bath and Wells and also St Luke's Mission Advisor.



Prophecy serves as foundational evidence of the Bible's divine authority, specifically by identifying Jesus as the Messiah through predictions made centuries before His birth. Beyond proving the faith, it offers us deep emotional and spiritual stability by demonstrating that God is sovereign over history and holds a victorious plan for the future.

The inspiration for the day was from *1 Corinthians 14:1*:

"Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially prophecy."

The day was divided into four sessions: What is prophecy?, What does prophecy do?, How does God speak?, Exercising and developing the gift of prophecy.

Keith expertly led the sessions using his sound biblical knowledge, combined with practical examples. In between each session there was a refreshment break which gave us an opportunity to discuss what we had learned in the previous session.

The day was informative and thought-provoking. We learned a lot about what prophecy is and what it isn't. For me, the key takeaways from the day were the importance of listening to God, not to let the lies of the Enemy (ie Satan) deny the power of God, the importance of being humble, that prophecy should never be done out of judgement, and ultimately that it is vital that we always trust God.

In the final session of the day we were given the opportunity to pray for each other, and this was a very powerful time of prayer.

The day was spiritually uplifting and I have a much better understanding of what prophecy is. I also feel better equipped to listen to God and more confident of hearing His voice when I pray.

**Helen J Booth**



# 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**

**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:  
6th December, 10th and 24th January, 7th and 21st February**



## Lighten Our Darkness (but don't let it cost too much)

If you were in the church building during the summer holiday period, out-of-hours so to speak, you may have noticed little piles of discarded lights tucked away in odd corners.

The reason was that the ground-floor lighting system was having a makeover.

John Henke, from the St Luke's Energy Group, says initial assessments suggest that the new LED lights in the church hall alone will save 64% of the cost of electricity compared with the fluorescent tubes they have replaced. The work cost £4,340, and the reduction in consumption will save more than £1,000 a year with a payback period of 4.3 years.

And, maybe you haven't noticed, but the globe lights in the church itself have been cleaned and refitted with LEDs as well. These cost £3,851, will cut consumption by 50% and the payback (I guess because they are not used as much as those in the hall) will take 9.7 years.

Improving the efficiency of the ground-floor lighting has had a substantial effect on the overall electricity bill. Improvements in the hall deliver a 9.7% saving on the total bill at St Luke's, while the improved globe lights reduce the total bill by 3.3%.

It's possible, of course, to get even bigger savings. As John points out:

"A 100% reduction in consumption can be delivered if the lights are not switched on when God provides the daylight."

You can't argue with that.



The old and the new in the church hall. The new lamp (left) is smaller and produces as much light for less than half the price compared with the older light-box of fluorescent tubes

*Chris Webb*

### **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**

## Snowdrop Garden Open Days

The Bishop of St Albans' Garden will open to visitors this February, offering a much-loved chance to enjoy God's creation in its early spring beauty. This year's openings may be the last time the garden is made accessible to the public, making the occasion especially meaningful.

Thousands of snowdrops and other early bulbs will be in bloom, creating a peaceful, uplifting place in which to wander and reflect. All proceeds will go directly to the *Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust*, which helps fund essential repairs to historic churches across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

Bishop Richard, Acting Bishop of St Albans, writes:

"This is a lovely way to enjoy the first signs of spring while supporting an important cause. We're proud to contribute to preserving the unique heritage of our local churches."

### Open Garden dates

Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, St Albans AL3 4HD

- Saturday 14th February
- Sunday 15th February
- Saturday 21st February
- Sunday 22nd February

Time: 2pm–4pm

Entry: £5 per adult (all proceeds to the Trust)

All are warmly invited.



## New Banner

There is a stunning new banner to enjoy in the Gathering Area at St Luke's!

Creative Space members have made leaves, animals, birds and fish to adorn a 'Tree of life' banner. The banner depicts the tree of life from the New Testament book of *Revelation*. It reflects the seasons and the tree's proximity to water.

Laura painstakingly embroidered two Bible verses to ensure the banner points us towards God:

"The river of the water of life...the tree of life...the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." *Revelation 22:1-2*

"The person who delights in the law of the Lord...they are like a tree planted by streams of water...whatever they do prospers." *Psalms 1:2-3*

It has been a community project for over a year and in mid November, finally, with the hard work of Tass and Wendy, the banner was completed and hung on the wall. The children sitting on the sofas beneath the banner are already taking an interest in it.

Thank you to all the people who contributed, particularly to Tass who designed and managed the project.

**Pam Norman**



## ‘For the Fallen’

Alan and I were very moved when, in November last year, we unexpectedly came upon a stone plaque commemorating the place where the famous words from the war poem *For the fallen* by Laurence Binyon were thought to have been written. Its discovery was all the more poignant as it was just days after Remembrance Day.

We were on holiday in North Cornwall, walking sections of the South West Coast Path, and found the memorial at Pentire Point near Polzeath, not far from Padstow. The exact location where the poem was written is not known as there is a smaller plaque further south, still on the north coast, near Portreath, which also claims to be the place.

British armed forces suffered casualties at the Battle of Mons on 23rd August 1914, the Battle of Le Cateau on 26th August and the First Battle of the Marne, 5th-9th September. These events provided the context for Binyon’s poem which he penned in mid September 1914 while he was sitting on a cliff top looking out to sea. Binyon recalled later that the famous verse, which is the fourth verse of seven, came to him first. The poem was published in *The Times* on 21st September 1914 and the fourth verse was adopted soon after by the Royal British Legion as ‘The Exhortation’ for ceremonies of Remembrance to commemorate servicemen and women who have died in conflict. The Exhortation is said before the Last Post and the two-minute silence.



One of the ceramic poppy displays at the Tower of London, 6th May–11th November 2025, to commemorate 80 years since the end of the Second World War



Memorial to the Poem *For the Fallen* by Laurence Binyon on Pentire Head near Padstow. Image courtesy of Bill Bartlett

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left  
grow old,  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years  
condemn.  
At the going down of the sun, and in the  
morning,  
We will remember them.*

**Yvonne Wilder**





Dear friends,

It has been a while since my last prayer letter but I am excited to share some of the encouragements from the past few months as well as some news about a big change coming up.



There were lots of opportunities to get to know new students over the summer and in Welcome Week at the beginning of the academic year. It was encouraging to see some of those students going on to join church events as well as events run by the Christian Union, Chinese Christian Fellowship, and Chaplaincy. We have been praying that our events would be a good starting point for students to meet Christians who will invite them to other Christian meetings.

We have continued to enjoy our International Dinners. I have found that one of the great joys of these meals is cooking alongside a student who has suggested a recipe from their culture; it gives a great opportunity to get to know the student and their context better as we prepare the food together.

It has been good to partner with the Christian Union's Globe team for our International Dinners, and I have enjoyed joining them for their weekly events. Skyler and I continue to lead the Bible studies for Globe. Please give thanks for the team there but do also pray that more international students who do not yet know Jesus would come to Globe and the Bible studies.

One big encouragement over the past year has been within Lancaster University Chaplaincy Centre. We have had an office in the Chaplaincy Centre for many years and have been running our events there since 2018. However, our position there has always been a little uncertain and we were never sure how much longer we would be able to use the spaces. This year has seen the Chaplaincy team change and those who have joined are very supportive of Friends International and the work we are doing with international students. Please give thanks for this positive change and for the greater opportunities it will give us to link international students with local Christian volunteers.



### **Life update**

There is going to be a big change at the end of this year. In January 2026, I will be moving from Lancaster to join a new church plant in Tamworth, Staffordshire. However, I will not be leaving Friends International! I have the great privilege of joining the Friends International Birmingham team, working particularly with the city centre universities (Aston University, Birmingham City University, and University College, Birmingham). There are more international students between these three universities than there are at the University of Birmingham itself, which is where most of the international student ministry is currently happening, and the Friends International team in Birmingham have been praying for someone to join the work in this capacity for a long time.

I'm really excited about this new opportunity and the way that God is already starting to bring together a team of volunteers, particularly those wanting to serve the international students at these universities. Please pray for me as I prepare for the move and particularly for all of the practicalities! Please pray for the hand over of the ministry in Lancaster and pray that the right person would be appointed to take over the Centre Team Leader role. Please pray that God would continue to grow the ministry in Lancaster and that many international students would come to trust in Jesus.

### **Prayer points**

- Please give thanks for the regular group of students who have been coming to International Dinners and our Conversation Cafés. Please give thanks for the conversations we have had with them.
- Please give thanks for our positive relationship with Lancaster University Chaplaincy Centre and pray that the foundations for this partnership would remain clear and that it would lead to many opportunities to connect with international students on the campus.
- Please pray for all the changes ahead in this academic year. Please pray for the Lancaster team and the ministry here. Please pray too for the Birmingham team as I prepare to join them in early 2026.
- Please pray for me as I prepare to move!

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers.

***Sally Miller***  
***Friends International, Lancaster Branch***

Dear friends,

Warm greetings from Malawi! Here in Blantyre the rains started a couple of weeks ago. The transformation from dry, brown grass to lush green was amazing! Today has been very grey, with rain on and off all day. It's brought the temperatures down from the very hot weather prior to the rain which is a relief.



For the last couple of weeks I have been mainly at my desk, and it's been good to begin to catch up on several things. I'm thankful to have made progress in the editing of the new Theological Education by Extension (TEE) course with Volker. We are planning to pilot it in January.

An exciting development is that I've been invited to work with the Association of Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA), on a part-time basis in their accreditation department. This will dovetail nicely with my role in SIM.

A week ago Steven and Jo Wheatley joined us at our SIM prayer meeting. They are now back in the UK starting a sabbatical. It will be very strange without them here in Malawi. But I will be travelling soon as well. I will be in the UK in December, to spend time with family and friends, before coming back to Malawi in January.

### **Prayer points**

- Give thanks for progress made on the new TEE course
- Give thanks for the connection with ACTEA
- Pray for the Wheatleys as they have finished their time in Malawi, and for their refreshment on sabbatical
- Pray that I'll be able to get done all that is needed before I travel to the UK, and then for a good time with family and friends.

Thank you so much for your prayerful support.

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

## Update from the Gelsthorpe family in northern Japan



“My eyes long for your salvation and the fulfilment of your righteous promise.” *Psalms 119:123*

### The Stanfields

**Praise God** for the enthusiastic way our current three short-term workers have worked in the last month and a half. They have helped to run a worship night, an international night, met lots of people in the community and have faithfully served the church members.



Our team with the Stanfields

On 18th November, Spencer and Hannah Stanfield joined us from Australia and will live and work in the church until Christmas. **Please pray** for them to meet lots of new people, to be able to share the Gospel clearly and to work well with the rest of the team. **Please pray** for open hearts for those listening as they share their testimonies at the English classes in the coming weeks.

### Australia Night

**Praise God** for the opportunity to hold an Australia Night on 28th November, for a good turnout, a clear presentation of the Gospel and a fun time playing games, holding a quiz and enjoying Australian food.

### New people coming to church services

**Praise God** that Markus and David (short-term workers from Germany) were able to prepare delicious schnitzel for our church lunch last Sunday. Partly through an invite to this lunch, a regular couple from the Beginners' English Class came to the church service on that day. **Praise God** that they heard the sermon and had a good time chatting to church members. They have heard the Gospel many times at English classes. **Please pray** that they will think about their own need for salvation and come again to church.

### Worship Night

**Praise God** that Markus, with the help of lots of church members, organised and ran a Worship Night in early November. **Praise God** for the opportunity to praise Him and to hear about praise from the Bible.

**Please pray** for wisdom in how to encourage more praise together as a church family going forward.

## Church Social

Last Sunday, many of us from the church service spent the afternoon picking kiwis at a friend's house in the countryside near Hanamaki.

**Praise God** for warm fellowship and the chance to get to know one another better. **Please pray** for openness to spending time together outside of the church services.



Picking kiwi fruit

## Pre-Christmas Café Time

As we have lots of short-term workers at the moment, we are holding a weekly morning café in the church on Thursday mornings. Last week, a regular, 'G', from our worship service, who isn't a Christian came and had a long chat with Mark and Markus. He recognises that he is a sinner but is not yet ready to believe in Jesus. **Please pray** that we can find wise words from the Bible to encourage him and that he will see that nothing is better than following Jesus as Lord.

From this week, Dany (from Chile) will be holding a crochet class during the café time. **Please pray** for God to bring lots of people and that we can share the Gospel with them.

## Christmas events

Like you, we are now advertising our Christmas events. Each of them will include a short Christmas talk. **Please pray** that people will hear and believe. These are our events in December:

- 6th: Craft Café
- 13th: English Class Christmas Party
- 14th: Nativity Service and Children's Party
- 19th: Music Night
- 20th: Candle Service

**Please pray** that all of us will invite our friends and be praying for these events.

## Grace, Isaac and Caleb

We are so thankful to God for His love and care for our children.

Grace is enjoying leading music regularly at Southampton University Christian Union. **Please pray** that she will be used by God in this work.

Isaac is enjoying meeting lots of young people and sharing the Gospel with them through his internship at Setagaya Grace Church in Tokyo. **Please pray** for a fruitful last month for him.



Enjoying autumn leaves in Tokyo with Philip and Esther (Sarah's parents)

Caleb is now half-way through his first half term at Hebron School in India and is gradually getting used to the routines there. **Please pray** for strong faith and growing friendships for him.

### **Holiday time**

**Praise God** that we could have a good week away in Tokyo with Sarah's parents

recently. We also met up with Isaac as he's living in Tokyo.

Thank you so much for praying for us.

With love from

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

## **Santa's Hampers Appeal**

The St Luke's Santa's hampers team are back in action and have begun work on 50 gift boxes which will be filled and given to 50 families from the Watford & Three Rivers Refugee Partnership. The hampers will be packed with the help of St Luke's youth groups on Friday 12th December.



Each hamper contains treats for the whole family. Then essentials such as toothbrushes, hair brushes and body wash are added. Finally, age-appropriate toys and books are selected for each family.

### **How can you help?**

Please support the cost of the hampers if you are able by 'buying a hamper' for a family. Each hamper costs £45 to put together. You can donate via the church office or in the Gift aid envelopes in church, marking donations 'Santa's hampers'.

All donations are most gratefully received.

***Thank you and a very Merry Christmas to you all!***



## A Coincidence, a Reunion, and Fresh Mission Opportunities

In 2023, at Keswick Convention, I was surprised to see an All Nations Christian College friend being interviewed during the evening celebration. This led to renewed contact with Paul (distantly related to our mission partner, Ruth Guinness!), 20 years on — both of us now married with families.



Paul and Alison, Jeremy, Grace and Lydia

Paul and Alison and their children, Jeremy, Grace and Lydia, live in Burundi, East Africa. Their work with Africa Inland Mission (AIM) involves teaching, encouraging and supporting leaders and organisations, especially in mission.

One of the most exciting fruits of their work has been the development of a 'mission mindset' in Burundian churches. There is an increasing awareness of the responsibility for everyone to follow the Lord's Great Commission in *Matthew 28.19* "... make disciples of all nations..."



Map of East Africa showing the proximity of Burundi and South Sudan. Image by Freepik ([www.freepik.com](http://www.freepik.com))

When I asked Paul and Alison how we could help their work, they suggested supporting two young Burundian missionaries, John and Moses, on the AIM 'Inbound' programme in South Sudan.

There are huge advantages to the growing trend for local African Christians to become missionaries: better cultural adjustment with closer cultural values, overlap in languages, reducing reliance on the 'professional white missionary', and more importantly, African



Moses and John

Christians hearing God's call to be sent as cross-border missionaries.

John and Moses have been in South Sudan since July, learning practical mission skills, working in a small team, away from home and family for the first time, but with input from experienced missionaries.

The St Luke's Partners in Mission committee decided to send a one-off gift of £600 to AIM to support John and Moses (8% of AIM's budget for them).

***Simon Trundle***



## **MPs' Christmas Card Letterbox**

Can you take a moment to write a Christmas card inviting your MP to attend the Open Doors *World Watch List 2026* Launch? The World Watch List is Open Doors' annual ranking of the 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution.



We have put Christmas cards and a letterbox in the St Luke's Gathering area under the tv screen. There is information about what to do on the front of the letterbox.

Many of us are in the Watford constituency with Matt Turmaine as the MP. If you live outside the Watford constituency, you may know who your MP is but if not you can check on an internet search.

Last year over 100 MPs attended World Watch List Launch – a great result, as it was a new post-election intake of MPs. We're hoping to equal, or better, that figure this year.

***Michelle Ephraimson and John Williamson***  
***Open Doors Advocacy Reps***  
<https://www.opendoorsuk.org>

## Autumn Events and Highlights

### THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE



On Tuesday 7th October, 40 children and adults travelled by coach from St Luke's to see the acclaimed West End production of *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe* at the Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury. C S Lewis's much-loved book was brought to life in a spectacular show which delighted all ages.

Mimi, said of the experience, "*The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe* was a great evening out with my friends. I had so much fun watching the incredible actors bringing the story to life (and possibly eating too many sweets). The set design was amazing, with clever props, and the lighting and sound effects brought it to life. My friends and I loved the message of the show and how Aslan embodied Jesus. The comparison of how Aslan gave his life at the stone table and Jesus dying on the cross made the play feel even more special."

Neil Brookes, Youth Director, added, "Massive thanks to Dorothy for taking the idea for the outing and making it work in reality (booking tickets, coach and managing the whole trip from behind the scenes). My favourite moments were firstly the mint imperials being passed backwards and the Haribo forwards on the coach, as the youth and congregation got to know each other. Secondly, the moment that the Aslan puppet became a man — deeply moving."

Thank you to Neil and Dorothy for arranging the trip.

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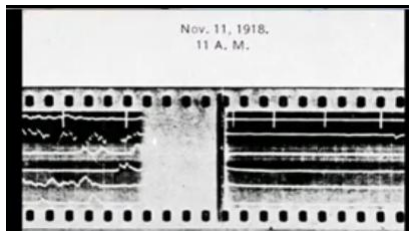
Michelle Ephraimson, Open Doors Advocacy Rep for Watford constituency, met Watford's MP, Matt Turmaine, during the autumn to talk about Open Doors advocacy work on behalf of persecuted Christians around the world with the aim of ensuring that the UK government continues to take the issue of Christian persecution seriously.



## Remembrance Sunday

The uniformed organisations joined the congregation at the morning service.

During his talk, Neil Brookes, Youth Director, played a moving short soundtrack of the moment the guns fell silent when the First World War ended. The soundtrack was recreated by the Imperial War Museum from an actual trace of sound vibrations on photographic paper made on the battlefield. A snippet from the trace (pictured) showed that the guns fell silent at exactly 11am on 11th November 1918.



Neil challenged us to consider how we used the 2-minute silence at commemorative events. He suggested that a good way to honour those who have sacrificed their lives for peace is to actively ask God to restore our hearts, let go of anger towards others and seek God's healing, peace and love, and to pray that we would seek to extend God's love, peace and good news to all who we meet.



Thank you to Neil for his talk, Tim and the AV team for their assistance and Geoff for his poignant floral display, all of which enriched our Service of Remembrance.



Thank you to Wendy and Wera for the cake to celebrate September birthdays and to mark Simon's Licensing as a Reader on Sunday 27th September



Thank you to all who catered at the Fellowship lunch after Tuesday Communion on 21st October

## St Peter, the Guards and the Angel

As I write this, the horror of the Manchester Synagogue attack is still fresh in the news.

Yet religious persecution is nothing new.

Almost 2000 years ago early Christians were suffering similar problems — problems that regrettably continue today in many parts of the world. The story we are focusing on is spelled out in the book of Acts, Chapter 12, and was dramatised on stage at St Luke's in the morning service on 21st September.

The plot is simple: King Herod, to discourage unrest, has one of Jesus' disciples, James, executed. When this goes down well with the local religious leaders, he arrests Peter, another disciple, and throws him into jail.

The plan is to hold a mock trial, at which Peter will be found guilty, and execute him too. But it has to wait a little because this is the time of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

To make sure Peter does not escape, Herod vastly increases security, putting four sets of four guards — sixteen in all — on round-the-clock duty.

The night before his trial, Peter, chained between two guards in his cell, is asleep. The two other guards are on duty at the door. Then, inside the cell, an angel appears, wakes Peter and tells him to get up. As he does so, his



At the end of the play as the congregation applauded, the cast turned to the cross above the altar to give glory to God

chains fall away. He follows the angel out of the cell and out of the prison to freedom.

And what did Herod think? To quote *Acts 12.18-19*:

“In the morning there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed.”

Not a happy tale for the guards, but one that was dramatically told by a cast of around 20, including many children. Written and directed by Pam Norman, the drama was the highlight of the morning service.

**Chris Webb**

### **New productions in January**

Confucius said, *“I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand”*.

As well as loving writing dramas based on the Bible, I bring them to stage so that people watching may remember what they see. Acting in the plays gives people the experience of ‘doing’ and I trust no matter what their ages, this hands-on experience will stay with everyone and will teach them something more of what a great God we have.

I’m looking forward to producing six more exciting dramas from the book of *Acts*, one each week on Sunday mornings from 11th January 2026:

- A beggar’s healing and a Sanhedrin hearing
- Ananias and Sapphira
- Paul sees the light
- The slave girl and the jail break
- The Shipwreck
- A Maltese welcome

We need more actors, particularly on 11th January and 1st and 15th February. If anyone is interested in acting, helping backstage, or with prop making, please email me: [pam.stlukes@gmail.com](mailto:pam.stlukes@gmail.com) or see me on a Sunday.

**Pam Norman**



## Keshy's Sri Lankan Chicken Curry Recipe

After Simon's licensing service at the Cathedral on 28th September (see pages 8–9), the Church family gathered at St Luke's for a short service of praise and thanksgiving followed by a celebratory meal in the church hall.

It was suggested that the menu should be a Sri Lankan chicken curry to draw on my Sri Lankan heritage.

So, Wendy Dodson and I got together and cooked a meal based on one of my recipes.

Here is the recipe (serves six):

### Ingredients for 6

- 6 chicken thighs (chicken on the bone is more flavoursome)
- 5 tbs mild curry powder, 1.5 tbs tomato paste, a pinch of salt (marinade)
- 60ml oil
- 230g chopped onion
- 4-5 curry leaves (optional)
- 4-5 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1.5-inch piece of ginger finely chopped
- 5 cloves, 5 pods cardamom (remove the shells), 1 stick of cinnamon, all ground together
- 400 ml tin coconut milk (a major ingredient in many Sri Lankan curries! It could be optional if you don't like coconut but leaving it out produces a much drier curry)

### Method

Marinate the chicken in the curry powder, tomato paste and salt. Set aside for at least 30 minutes — the longer the better.

Heat the oil in a large saucepan.

Add the chopped onion and curry leaves. When the onion starts to change colour, add the garlic and ginger.

Continue to fry the mix till the onions turn a golden colour.

Add the ground spices (cardamom, cloves and cinnamon).



Wendy and Cynthia dishing up Keshy's Sri Lankan chicken curry and yellow rice to some 40 people to celebrate Simon's licensing

Stir for about 2 minutes then add the chicken and stir to coat with the onion mix.

Fry until the chicken is well browned. If the mix is catching on the bottom of the pan, add 250ml water.

Cover and simmer, stirring occasionally until the chicken is cooked through.

Add the coconut milk, cover and simmer for a further 25 minutes.

Add salt to taste.

*Handy tip:* Transferring it to a slow cooker for an extra 4 hours will really draw out the flavours.

### **Yellow rice**

- 2 cups (US measurement) basmati rice washed and drained
- 1 medium onion sliced
- 4 curry leaves
- 3-4 cardamon pods lightly crushed
- 4 cloves
- 1 stick of cinnamon
- 850ml hot chicken stock
- ½ tsp of turmeric

### **Method**

Fry the onion, curry leaf and spices in 3 tbsps of oil until the onion is golden.

Add the rice and fry for a further 3 minutes so the rice is slightly crisp.

Add 1 cup (US) of the stock with the turmeric.

Cover and cook until absorbed. Then slowly add the remaining stock.

Cover and turn to a low heat, cooking until soft but the rice grains are still separate.

*Note: These ingredients/timings are not necessarily precise as I cook by eye and taste!*

Serve with poppadoms and raita. And, if you must, a little mango chutney.

***Keshy Trundle***

PS Raita is just grated cucumber in yogurt with chopped fresh mint and coriander leaves.

Thank you to Keshy for her delicious chicken curry and to Wendy and Cynthy and everyone else who helped with the catering and clearing up afterwards.

## Holiday Club Short: Light Party

We had a fantastic time at our Light Party on October 31st! It was a wonderful opportunity to share the light of Jesus with 24 children during a season often associated with darkness.

The evening started with a lively disco presented by our fabulous DJ, Dean Tearle. The children played games like Musical statues and Musical bumps to disco lights and music. They learned what it means for Jesus to be the light of the world and they loved singing worship songs led by our very own live band. It was great to hear them singing as they participated in worship.



Enjoying pizza and cake

At the end of the party each child received a goody bag containing a book about Jesus being the light of the world, sweets and leaflets about children's activities at St Luke's.

A big thank you to our team of volunteers who helped make the Light Party such a success.

Our next Holiday Club Short will be a Christmas Party on 19th December. To register your child please use the QR Code on the advert on page 39.



Pass the parcel



Following worship, we moved into the Gathering Area to eat pizza and cake, after which we made lanterns by decorating paper cups and placing tea lights inside. The fun continued with a final game of Pass the parcel.



Making lanterns

**Bekki Hadley**  
**Children and Families Team Leader**



## Badminton and Table Tennis Club

Come and join us at St Luke's Church Hall on Friday evenings, 7:30-10:30pm, for badminton and table tennis

It's for singles, couples, young people and families (children under 11 yrs old must be accompanied by an adult)

We welcome all standards

Please speak to Fiona Craigie for more information (Tel 07759 024409)



## Christmas Pudding Evening 2025

On Friday the 14th November, St Luke's annual Christmas Pudding making event took place with about 60 puddings made during the evening.

It turns out that we have delivered a recipe, not only for a delicious pudding (thank you Caryl Boxhall), but also for a great community event.



### Recipe for a Successful Christmas Pudding Evening

- Start with 5 cups of preparation
  - 3 cups of organisation
  - And 2 cups of communication (emails, whatsapps, phone calls – whatever you have to hand)
  - Mix in a punnet of prayer
  - Pour in a large glug of charitable spirit
  - Combine with family and friends
  - Add in a dash of memory making
  - A pinch of tradition
  - And three spoons of nostalgia
- Cover with an amazing Christmas play list
  - Stir together and enjoy the start of the Christmas celebrations.

Thanks to everyone who came to make their pudding or helped in the kitchen. We made *just under £150 for the Watford Food Bank.*

And a huge thank you to Fran, Beth, Mark, Neil and Dorothy for all their time and substantial effort in ensuring the evening was a success, and thank you to Edna for her lovely photos.

***Kate Dorsett-Bailey***





## The Big Quiz Night 2025

Hundreds of churches. One big quiz. Transforming many lives

Tearfund is a Christian aid and development agency following Jesus to the places of greatest need to respond to disasters and help communities unlock their own potential to overcome poverty. This year, over 700 churches signed



up to host a Big Quiz Night on Saturday 15th November, coming together to take part in one of the biggest simultaneous quizzes ever!



*So far this year, Big Quizzers have raised an amazing £78,444 (and counting).* Every penny goes to Tearfund's Transforming Communities programme, helping local churches around the world lead their communities out of extreme poverty and into a sustainable future. People like Pastor Mwai (pictured left) in Malawi, who attended Tearfund's training

and was able to lead her church in restoring the environment by planting trees, including fruit. Pastor Mwai says:

"Before, reckless cutting of trees was common, but as of now, when someone cuts a tree, they plant over ten more as a replacement. We planted a lot of trees in our communities through this [Tearfund] training."

A gift of £600 from the Quiz Night will help an entire community, like Pastor Mwai's, lift themselves out of extreme poverty.

Here at St Luke's, 60 quizzers took part following a delicious meal together. There was much discussion, laughter and intense competition as we had a go at the questions on the Big Quiz video!

The winners were The Ever Hopefuls (pictured right), new keepers of the coveted trophy for 2025. Well done to them.

*But most importantly, we raised over £1000 which was just amazing, and we thank everyone for their generosity!*

**Susan Miller**





## Creative Space Christmas Special

Our Christmas Creative Space event on 15th November gave double delight.

It saw us packing almost 40 people into the hall after enjoying bacon butties and a short talk from the Vicar.

Geoff demonstrated making Star table decorations with lights, foliage, pine cones, baubles and ribbons (pictured right).

The second craft we included was designed to use a large quantity of champagne corks. We made tree decorations: penguins, elves, angels, mini trees, snowmen and more.



Many happy ladies took home little Christmas pieces of fun. As always there was a gentle hubbub of chat and laughter, appreciation of some *creative space* away from work and home, and the satisfaction of making individual little works of art.

A BIG thank you to Michael and Geoff for their contributions.

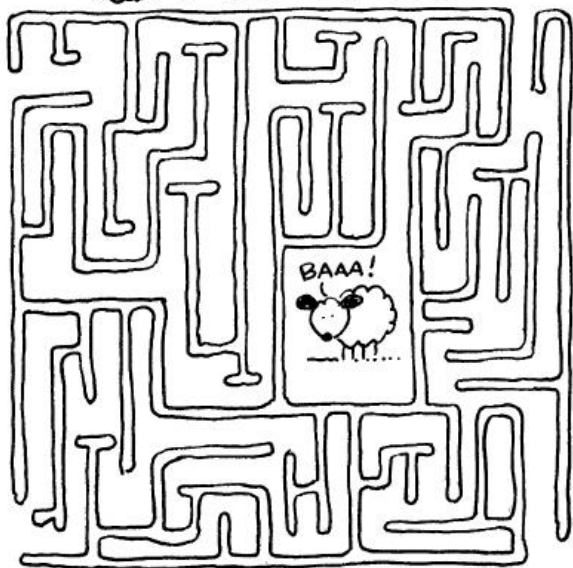
The next event on 24th January is Teabag folding (not what it sounds like!). Look out for the flyers and ask your friends to come along. 'Creative Space for Hard-Working Women' has been running for 4 years and is one of our St Luke's 'bridges' into the community. Let's keep building links and having fun at the same time!

**Pam Norman**



# Children's Page

BAAA!



HELP THE  
SHEPHERD  
FIND HIS  
LOST SHEEP



Read  
Matthew 18:10-14  
or Luke 15:3-7

A	J	B	C	N	E	H	P	E	T	S	T
D	A	B	P	E	P	I	L	I	H	P	H
F	M	G	E	H	L	E	I	N	A	D	O
J	E	A	T	N	K	L	M	N	O	K	M
W	S	D	E	P	J	Q	N	R	R	S	A
E	T	A	R	U	V	A	W	A	X	Y	S
H	L	M	J	O	H	N	M	Z	S	A	B
T	C	U	D	T	E	F	D	I	V	A	D
T	G	H	A	J	K	L	M	M	N	N	O
A	P	N	Q	P	R	O	N	O	S	A	J
M	O	S	T	A	N	D	R	E	W	U	V
J	W	X	Y	B	Y	H	T	O	M	I	T

## WORD SEARCH

'Boys' names from  
the Bible'

ADAM	MARK
ANDREW	MATTHEW
BENJAMIN	PAUL
DANIEL	PETER
DAVID	PHILIP
JAMES	SIMON
JASON	STEPHEN
JOHN	THOMAS
JONATHAN	TIMOTHY

# HOLIDAY CLUB 'Short' Christmas Party

5 - 7pm



Book here



[stlukeswatford.org/light-party](http://stlukeswatford.org/light-party)

Food included

## Friday 19th December 2025



No need  
to book,  
just come  
along!

Thursdays 9:30 - 11am

From Birth to Pre-School  
All Welcome!

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

For more information, scan the QR code above  
or contact the church office  
(email [office@stlukeswatford.org](mailto:office@stlukeswatford.org) or phone 01923 246161)

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. The delivery date for contributions to the next issue is Monday 2nd February.

Please email articles to the Church Office: [office@stlukeswatford.org](mailto:office@stlukeswatford.org)

If you wish to receive *St Luke's News* regularly, either delivered to your door or emailed, please contact the Church Office (246161). Large print is also available. Alternatively, please let us know if you no longer wish to receive it.

The magazine appears on our website, [www.stlukeswatford.org](http://www.stlukeswatford.org)

Vicar	Michael Norman
Readers	Dave Clarke
	Pam Norman
	Simon Trundle
Ordinand and Youth Director	Neil Brookes
Music Director	Jeremy Cooke
Children & Families Team Leader	Bekki Hadley
Administrator	Dorothy Englert
Publicity Officer	John Williamson
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](http://www.stlukeswatford.org)

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