



September 2022
Number 270

A New Season, A New Thing

Isaiah 43:18-19

Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past.

See I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?

***I am making a way in the desert and streams
in the wasteland.***

It's very easy to dwell on the past. The pandemic has heightened this, with pre- and post-pandemic comparisons. It's changed for many of us our usual habits. The return to a 'new normal' is taking a fair time, especially with more shocks such as Ukraine, inflation, global warming. This keeps life for many in an anxious state. The call is to continue to look to God, where our help comes from (Psalm 121). At St Luke's, it has been great to see some normality return with the church heavily used by groups, perhaps even more than before! The start of new groups, e.g. the Cassiobury and nearby Community Choir on Wednesdays at 8pm (restarting on the 14th September) by our music director has been great. Along with a very positive holiday club in early August, and 18 church members attending the New Wine Conference which everyone found inspiring, it's been a good summer.

However, the New Wine Conference only just happened! They struggled with attendance around 1/3 down, and with volunteers. I use this example

to highlight the fact that the church nationally has struggled to recover from Covid and the various lockdowns. Lower numbers and a loss of people willing to serve is a national reality. St Luke's has not been immune to this national trend.

The gift of service mentioned in Romans 12 verse 7 is initially needed if we are to return to health and growth as a church. Romans 12 verse 1 talks about us being living sacrifices, a people offered up to God, seeking his will for our lives. The church needs servers. However, will we ignore the call? God is calling us to use our gifts, natural and spiritual gifts and for some just to pitch in and help, so that those at the forefront of serving feel supported, have sufficient helpers and don't get worn out.

This autumn is a real opportunity to not only return to some normality, but to do "New things". God is on the move, a new thing will happen, it will spring up, the question is will we perceive it? The autumn changes that have been hoped for will happen and God will bless them if we pray and participate. Below, I draw your attention to a major change to our worship.

The Evening Service (from October 2nd)

The most substantial change will be a new look, new time (5:30pm) evening service called "Encounter". It will start at 5:30pm and have a very different structure to our previous services. There will be band led sung worship for 20-25 minutes, bible reading, an address and prayer ministry. Within that we expect there will be room for the Holy Spirit to move, for spiritual gifts to be used and testimonies shared.

Who is this for? Obviously, anyone is welcome but we are particularly aiming to attract those who like a "New Wine" format to attend and also families with older children/ youth who find sport on Sunday morning/ afternoon interferes with attendance on Sunday mornings. From the beginning there will be a late Junior/ early Secondary school group (approx. school years 5-9) for young people to attend after the time of sung worship. Older young people are encouraged to stay in the whole service.

The service begins on October 2nd and we will trial it for 9 weeks until early Advent (December), when the Christmas services begin. It will be a time of experiment, it may well develop, more groups may be required in the service, maybe an older teenage group might meet after the evening service. We are taking the step, praying hard and seeing where God leads us! This new service will be widely advertised among church members, connected groups to our estate and beyond.

As you read this, God may be calling you to attend or even help in some area. If you are, please contact Jeremy Hogarth for music, Neil Brookes for help with young people or Ann MacLeod or myself for prayer ministry; all can be reached through the church office (office@stlukeswatford.org or 01923 246161).

This autumn can be a new start. The Pandemic changed many things including church attendance; many still stay at home watching the livestream. Can I encourage you to return! For the cautious, masks can still be worn, communion is still carefully administered, and there are more spaced out areas to sit if desired. You are greatly

missed, and if there is no medical reason to stay at home, we would love you to join us again regularly, at our morning or evening services.

God is doing a new thing! Will we perceive it?

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

Services at St Luke's Church

September			
Sunday 4th	10:30am	Back from Camp Sunday Family Communion	
	6.30pm	Evening Worship	
Sunday 11th	10:30am	Life group Sunday Morning Service	Luke 15:1-10
	6:30pm	Evening Holy Communion	
Sunday 18th	10:30am	"Back to Church Sunday" Family Communion <i>(An opportunity for people to re-join us after the 2 plus years of the pandemic)</i>	Luke 16:1-13 or 15:11-32
	No evening service		
Sunday 25th	8am	Holy Communion	Luke 16:19-31
	10:30am	Alpha Sunday service <i>(An opportunity to invite friends along to hear what alpha is about)</i>	
	No evening service		

October			
Sunday 2nd	10:30am	Family Communion with Rev. Keith Powell (our mission advisor) as our guest preacher.	Luke 17:5-10
	5:30pm	Launch of "Encounter" Evening service The Kingdom of God	Mark 1:14-15
Sunday 9th	8am	8am Service	
	10:30am	Harvest	Luke 17:11-19
	5:30pm	The Gospel of the Kingdom: following Jesus	Mark 1:16-20
Sunday 16th	10:30am	Prayer 1	Luke 18:1-8
	5:30pm	The Spiritual Battle 1	Mark 1:9-13, 21-25
Sunday 23rd	10:30am	Prayer 2	Luke 18:9-14
	5:30pm	The Spiritual Battle 2 Prayer and Healing	Mark 1:29-39
Sunday 30th	10:30am		Luke 19:1-10
	5:30pm	Power Encounters 1 Over Nature	Mark 4:35-41
November			
Sunday 6th	10:30am		Luke 20:27-38
	5:30pm	Power Encounters 2 Over the demons	Mark 5:1-20

November			
Sunday 13th	8am	8am Service	
	10:30am	10:30am Service	Luke 21:5-19
	5:30pm	Divine Appointments 1 The Ethiopian Eunuch	Acts 8:26-40
Sunday 20th	10:30am	10:30am Service	Luke 23:33-43
	5:30pm	Divine Appointments 2 The Woman at the well	John 4:1-42
Sunday 27th		1st in Advent	
		Divine Appointments 3 The Philippian Jailer	Acts 16:16-40
December			
Sunday 4th		2nd in Advent	Christingle

Services

8:00am Holy Communion services

These will be held once a month in St Luke's chapel. These are a said Communion service and all are welcome.

10:30am Morning Service/ Communion Service

These are our main morning services, and are currently available live-streamed on YouTube. All are welcome, and there are usually children's groups provided as well as a crèche for younger ones. The details in the service plan on the previous pages may change

5:30pm Evening Service (from October)

See Michael's lead article on page 2 for a description of the new format of this Service

10am Tuesday Morning Holy Communion

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

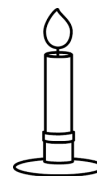
Please do come along and join us for one of our services, we'd love to welcome you

Diary Dates Coming Up:

September 11th – Life Group Sunday
14th – CanCChoir starts
15th – Watford Town Centre Chaplaincy AGM
17th – Breakfast Club launch
18th – ChurchSuite Introduction
23rd – Friday Club
28th – Alpha meal (& every week until 7th December)



October 1st October – Breakfast Club
2nd October – launch of the new service
4th – Charity Golf Day supporting Alternatives
7th – World Day of Prayer planning meeting
9th – Harvest Service
14th – Cameo—RNLI
15th – Breakfast Club
22nd-30th Half Term
28th – Friday Club
31st – Light Celebration



November 6th November – Bereavement Service
11th – CAMEO: Christmas Blessings with Geoff Fox
13th – Remembrance Parade Service
17th – Christmas Pudding Making
19th – Tearfund Big Quiz Night



tearfund

BREAKFAST CLUB

**HEROES RELAUNCH
17TH SEPTEMBER**

St LUKE'S WATFORD 8:30 - 10AM
1st and 3rd Saturday Mornings

Let Lydia know if you can help

ALL PRESCHOOL - PRIMARY FAMILIES WELCOME

Regular groups at St Luke's:

Children/ Youth Groups (evenings, term-time)

Urban Saints Tuesdays 6:15-7:30 (7-11 year olds)
Base Thursdays 6:15-7:30pm (11-14 year olds)
K2 Tuesdays 7:45-9pm (12-15 year olds)
RISE Thursdays 7:45-9pm (14-18 year olds)

Toddlers (term-time)

Thursday mornings 9:30-11am

Breakfast Club

On the first and third Saturdays of the month,
starting on September 17th. 8:30-10am
Speak to Lydia

Cassiobury & Nearby Community Choir Speak to Jeremy C

Wednesday evenings, term time 8pm in the church

Cameo

Monthly on Friday evening, usually 2nd Friday of the month
Speak to Jos or Pam W for a programme.

Friday Club

Monthly on the last Friday in the month. Speak to Janet G

Creative Space

Craft Activities for women, Once a month, See Pam N

Prayer

Focus Prayer Tuesday 8pm on Zoom
Prayer for Children and Youth (term-time) Thursdays 3pm
Hour of Prayer Fridays 10am





YOUTH GROUPS

Mid week groups back from 12th September

ALTITUDE
Sundays during the service
11 - 16 year olds

K2
Tuesdays 7:45 - 9pm
yrs 8 - 10

BASE
Thursdays 6:15 - 7:30pm
yr 7 - 9

RISE
Thursdays 7:45 - 9pm
yrs 10 - 13

An Invitation to Alpha 2022



Centuries before the birth of Jesus Christ, a prophet called Isaiah brought this message of promise to God's people.....

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation...your God reigns! (Isaiah 52v7)

Well, at St Luke's church, we believe this message found its fulfilment in the Gospel – the Good News - of Jesus Christ, his life, death and resurrection. And we would love to be a part of those 'beautiful feet' by sharing this good news with as many people as possible.

One way to do this is by running **The Alpha Course** at St Luke's Church on Wednesday evenings 7.30pm in the Autumn term 2022. If you have never attended an Alpha course before, why not join us and explore the Christian faith for yourself? So.....

What is an Alpha Course and what is involved?

Alpha is a ten-week course which covers the basic beliefs of the Christian faith, for example God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Prayer, the Bible. Throughout the course, we hope to give people an opportunity to investigate these Christian beliefs by discussing them in a friendly and comfortable environment.

And to do this, Alpha begins at 7.30pm each Wednesday evening with a cooked meal - a great chance to get to know others in the group! Afterwards we watch a DVD presentation looking at some aspect of the Christian faith, followed by discussion in small groups. The whole evening will be finished by 9.45pm.

Is Alpha for me?

Yes, Alpha is for everyone, but especially:

Those wanting to investigate Christianity for the first time

Newcomers to the church

Church members who want to brush up on the basics of the Christian faith to strengthen and encourage their own journey of faith

To help you decide if Alpha is for you, we run an Introductory Supper as a taster evening with 'no strings attached' - although of course we would love you to remain for the remainder of the course!

What does the course cost?

There is no charge for the course; however you are welcome to make voluntary



**Is there more to life than this?
Got questions?**

Try Alpha 



Wednesdays 7:30pm @ St Luke's Church

From 28th September 2022

www.stlukeswatford.org/alpha-course

contributions towards the cost of food if you can afford to do so.

What are the Topics?

Introductory Supper and Taster Evening (28 Sept)

Week 1: Who is Jesus? (5 Oct)

Week 2: Why Did Jesus Die? (12 Oct)

Week 3: How Can We Have Faith? (19 Oct)

(no meeting half-term week)

Week 4: Why And How Do I Pray? (2 Nov)

Week 5: Why And How Should I Read The Bible? (9 Nov)

Week 6: How Does God Guide Us? (16 Nov)

Week 7: How Can I Resist Evil? (23 Nov)

Week 8: Why And How Should I Tell Others? (30 Nov)

Week 9: Does God Heal Today? (7 Dec)

Week 10: What About the Church? (11 Jan)

In addition, there is an Alpha "Awayday" at Latimer Park near Chenies (Saturday, 12th November) where we explore topics such as:

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- What does the Holy Spirit do?
- How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

On the final Alpha meeting, Wednesday 11 Jan 2023, guests will be offered the opportunity to attend an Alpha follow up group or join an existing Life Group at St Luke's should they so wish.

Do I need to book?

If you're planning to attend it would help us to know how many people to expect. To book your place on the next Alpha course, please contact the Church Office on 01923 – 246161. Hope to see you there!

....a note to church members. Guests have attended Alpha for many different reasons; they have noted the Alpha banner outside church, visited the church Alpha website and so forth. However, the most effect way by far, has been through personal invitation, maybe with the proviso that you would attend the course with your guest.

So, we encourage you to think about people in your circle of friends and relatives who you would love to see come into a relationship with Jesus. Start praying for them as well as asking God to give you the confidence to invite them!



Let us pray that Alpha will be used for many to get to know and encounter Jesus in a new way! It is an exciting time for you to play a role in all of this and be those 'beautiful feet'!

The Alpha Team

The Point Pathfinder Camp...

quickly settled into its new home at Embley School, Hampshire. We were fully booked this year and 40 lively 10- to 14-year-olds descended on us, hungry for fun and adventure, post pandemic.

We took the theme of 'Time Travel' to go back and forth through the Bible to deliver key messages about God's love being unconditional and the same for us yesterday, today and always. Whatever the world or life throws at us.

The Pathfinders had a wonderful time, as did the leaders; it was an honour and privilege to yet again serve God in such a rewarding, spiritually uplifting week.

Katie Llewellyn

New Wine – United 2022

A group of us from St Luke's joined thousands of fellow Christians at the New Wine United conference this summer, for what proved to be a fantastic week. Out of the group three of us were intrepid enough to camp, but I am afraid to say that the rest of us retreated to the comfort of a hotel at night.

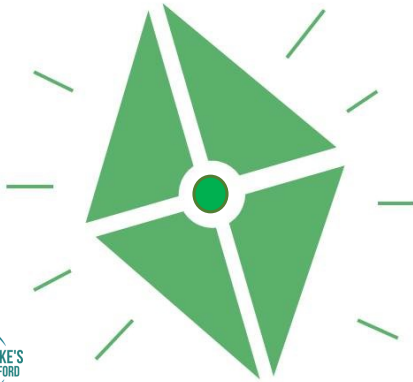


On a typical day at New Wine, we would head off to the morning celebration at around 9am. For early birds there was the option to attend the early morning bible teaching or give prayerful Pilates a go. These began at 7:15 and while a couple of us did make the early morning bible study, the rest of us decided to enjoy a leisurely breakfast instead. The morning celebration would include worship lead by the fabulous New Wine worship band and a then a talk was given. It felt amazing to be able to worship with



CanCC

Cassiobury and nearby Community Choir



Wednesdays at 8pm

at St Luke's Church

Community Choir

**With occasional visit to the
Essex afterwards**

**Creative
space** for
hard-working women



Come together for continental breakfast (Sats), drinks and cake (Mon), a short talk and then spend time enjoying learning a new craft.

Creative space

venue



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

- learn a new craft skill
- chat with friends

Places are limited

Please book yours by contacting Pam:
07975 748243 or pam.stlukes@gmail.com

www.stlukeswatford.org/creative-space



Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

**Please donate via bank transfer
or envelope marking both as: UKRAINE**

thousands of others each morning and all of us found Jon Tyson, who was the speaker for the week to be excellent. He gave a series of thought-provoking talks. At the end of the session there was the option to receive prayer ministry.



There were lots of seminars on throughout each day on a whole host of various topics ranging from bible studies, prayer, and evangelism to contemporary issues to things may be affecting people personally. There was something for everyone and we were spoilt for choice! For those with a creative streak there were art workshops and a space for creative prayer. There was also a resource hub to visit and do some shopping, and to find out about the work of various Christian organisations who were exhibiting. To round each day off there was an evening celebration which included more worship and a different guest speaker each night. These sessions were very powerful as we got to hear about some of the amazing work that God is doing today.

Everyday we would gather as a group for lunch and dinner, with a different team being responsible for the cooking each day. To say we were roughing it on a campsite we had some delicious meals, and the atmosphere was always very lively with a lot of laughter. Mealtimes gave us a time for fellowship which we always enjoy when we go to New Wine and which we value very much. Everyone who went to New Wine talked about how much they enjoyed it, and we all took something from the event that helped us to move forward in our faith journey.

Helen Booth



Partners In Mission Giving



As many of you know, St Luke's has a long tradition of supporting Mission both at home and overseas. This is largely expressed through our network of Mission Partners, and our support takes various forms including most importantly prayer, but also financial support.

You may not be fully aware of how much money we give, to which Mission Partners, and where that money comes from.

It has been a long-standing principle of the PCC that St Luke's should give to Mission ten percent of our total income. In 2022 this is projected to come to £27,000. The money is allocated by the Partners in Mission group (or PIM for short), who have the difficult task of deciding which of many worthy causes we should support this year.

Our Partners fall into two main categories:

Mission Partners

These are individuals we support with whom St Luke's has had a direct relationship. Either they have been sent out onto the mission field with the blessing of St Luke's, or they are people that we have come to support over the years. The key thing is that the support is for the individual not necessarily the mission organisation they work with.

The current list of PIM's official Mission Partners is:

Ruth Guinness – working with SIM in Malawi

Mark and Sarah Gelsthorpe – working with OMF in Japan

Sally Miller – working with Friends International in Lancaster, UK

Alfred Olwa – Bishop of Lango Diocese in Uganda

Alastair Paterson – working on Bible translation work in Nepal

Clive & Andrea Thomas – working with INF in Nepal and All Nations College in the UK

Partner Organisations

St Luke's also provides financial support to a number of agencies, at home and abroad. The organisations that we provide the greatest annual support to (£1,000+) tend to be local agencies. These include the Watford Schools trust, the Town Centre Chaplaincy, New Hope, the Peace Hospice, Alternatives, Watford & 3 Rivers Refugees, & ASCEND.

Further afield we support Open Doors (supporting persecuted Christians), Rafiki Thabo (providing grants for education in East Africa), Nireekshana ACET HIV/AIDS clinic in Hyderabad, India, St Luke's Hospital in Malosa, Malawi, and Kisumu Children Trust in Kenya.

Of course, St Luke's members support many other mission societies and Christian

agencies on a personal basis, and seek to publicize their activities from time to time. It would be fantastic to be able to support them all, but PIM's belief is that the church is more effective in its giving if we target a smaller range of organisations with larger sums rather than spread our net too widely.

Information about all our Mission Partners can be found on the Partners in Mission notice board (in the corridor opposite the office), or on the church website; and a full list of the amounts paid can be found on the PCC noticeboard.

If you have questions about the church's giving, or want to know more about the work of Partners in Mission, or if you want to get involved, please contact either myself or any member of PIM.

Bill Miller
Chair, Partners in Mission Group

News from some of Our Mission Partners

Greetings from Ruth Guinness in Malawi

I'm writing this from the home of the Wheatleys in Nanjoka, a 5 hour drive from Blantyre. I came up on Thursday to be with them for a few days. It's lovely to have a change of scene. Although the drive is long, I love the landscape on the way – red earth, baobab trees, mountains in the distance, and bright splashes of colour from bougainvillea bushes.

August has been busy both on the compound and in the office. We've had builders extending the height of the front wall, and I've had a few other jobs done, including mending my washing machine and various things which often take longer than expected! The Richters' two daughters were here over their holiday from university, and I've enjoyed some fun times with the family.

SIM Malawi's Spiritual Life Conference was at the end of July. It was good to see people, and fun to have the freedom to walk in the small game park. I was due to speak at the Africa Evangelical Church retreat for pastors and their wives immediately after that at the beginning of August, but this has been postponed again. I'm not sure when it will happen.

I have started to meet weekly with the Principal and Academic Dean from the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi. We are working through a book by an SIM colleague, Steve Hardy, called 'Excellence in Theological Education', which I hope will be helpful.

Looking forward to the next few months, I will have a lot of travel. At the beginning of October, I will be travelling to Angola with a team from the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA) to help with the accreditation of a Bible institute there. In November I plan to be at a global conference run by the

International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE) in Turkey. More on that in future newsletters!

Summary of prayer points:

- Give thanks for safety in travel
- Give thanks for time with friends
- Pray for preparation and planning for the trip to Angola at the beginning of October
- Pray for discussions with the Principal and Academic Dean to bear fruit
- Pray for wisdom and discernment in my roles, and continued learning.

Thank you so much for your prayerful support. Do let me know how I can pray for you too.

With love in Christ,

Ruth Guinness

ruth.guinness@sim.org

P.O. Box 136 Blantyre, Malawi

Rotas

Please let the office know when you feel safe to come back onto the rota and we will be happy to welcome you back.

Newcomers to the rotas also welcome, please let us know.

TODDLERS AT ST LUKE'S
We're back on 8th September

Thursday Mornings
in the Church Hall
9:30 – 11am

Donation at the door:
£1 per adult
50p per child
free tea and coffee
but bring your own snacks

St LUKE'S
WATFORD
FAMILIES

for more information talk to Lydia children@stlukeswatford.org.uk

I went into St Lawrence one hot afternoon to pray and contemplate. As I sat looking at the east window the silence was marked only by the ticking of the ancient clock. I then heard another faint sound. It prompted me to write the following:

Butterfly at St Lawrence

In the cool quiet of the church, I hear your wings fluttering against the stained glass, such a delicate creation that belongs in the sun-drenched meadow. You are trying to find your way at the feet of Jesus, He looks down, does he see your struggle through His pain held fixed in that window?

You, inherently beautiful, don't know the way out of the church so to enliven the world with your colours. I know my way into the world, it begins with me turning my back to the image, but can I carry the creator's purpose with me?

In sorrow I turn, you are too far out of my reach, and leave to the fading whisper of your wings against the pane. But may the memory of your fervour at the feet of Jesus urge me to find a way to carry to the outside His love, His care, His sorrow.

Steve Jenkins



SUMMER 2022, PURE JOY



After a two-year pandemic break, and what we have gone through, both globally and as individuals, I looked forward to this year's summer with a lot of anticipation and excitement.

We have been going for Big Church Day Out (BCDO) for over a decade and I started volunteering in 2018, it was nice to be back!

This year's festival now renamed Big Church Festival was welcomed with such joy. The festival was held over the Jubilee weekend at the usual venue – the beautiful Wiston Estate, Steyning - and it was bigger and better. With more stages, a larger crowd and a fantastic atmosphere of worship led by Christian artists from around the globe. Matt Redman, Rend Collective, Brian Houston, Graham Hendrick, Travis Greene, Gurnard B, Jonathan & Melissa Hesler were just some of the 2022 headliners. The festival caters for every generation and most music tastes. There were quiet spaces, spoken word performances, late night worship sessions, games, food stalls, exhibitions and much more.

Despite the occasional downpour, it was such a celebratory atmosphere and nothing beats being in one place worshipping God with Christians of different ages, denominations and countries. Campsites becoming communities, memories in the making, the happiest festivalgoers on the planet. My summers wouldn't be the same without it.

This is the church!

May Bank holiday weekend 2023 promises to be better, another wonderful weekend of Christian worship, music, fun and pure JOY!

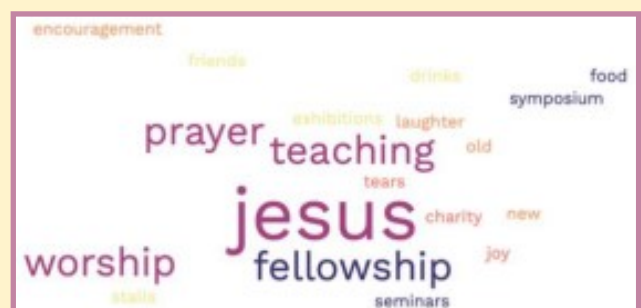


Despite a lot of hesitation because of Covid, August bank holiday weekend saw the return of the Overseas Fellowship of Nigerian Christians (OFNC) Annual family conference at Hilton Metropole in Birmingham. It always holds here because of the somewhat central location and the size of the hotel and facilities.

OFNC is a non-denominational Christian organisation of Nigerians by nature, nurture, or affiliation who all have a passion for the unity and extension of the Church.

The conference caters for adults, 18-30s, teenagers and young ones with various activities and seminars and we all come together for meals, talent show and the charity fundraising dinner.

The 2022 theme was “**Jesus is Alive**”. We were encouraged to demonstrate to the world that Jesus is alive by representing Him positively in our world. We need to **intentionally** do the Lord's business till He comes (Luke 19:13) through preaching the



word (Romans 10:14 -15) in our various spheres of contact and influence, as we see the Lord's Day approach. This theme echoed in most of the events over the 4-day weekend.

A big highlight and pleasant surprise for everyone was having the Archbishop (Primate) and the Dean of the Anglican Church of Nigeria in attendance for Sunday morning Communion service.

I feel truly refreshed and joyful to have activities back in person. To God be the glory!

Mo Fasanya

Supporting **DEMENTIA FRIENDLY** WATFORD

Say it with a **Smile**

Supported by: **Guideposts**

Support groups, activities and events for those affected by dementia

'Be Our Guest'
1.30 - 3pm - 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month

Caring for the Carer
Space for you to share with other carers whilst being supported by our **Trained Care Team and Wellbeing Specialist**

Happy Hour Hub
Themed activities for guests to evoke memories and stimulate the mind, body and soul

£6 each including refreshments per session

M
MORRISON'S

St Luke's Church, Langley Way, Watford, WD17 3EG
Free parking on site

For more information and to make a booking please call Hannah Say on 07884 185281 email: info@sayitwithasmileltd.co.uk

Security Memories Information Laughter Equality

Volunteers urgently required for...

Coffee after 10:30 service

Children's groups (Sundays and Tuesdays)

Welcoming (hopefully once a month maximum)

Security rota (about one week a quarter)

Please get in touch with Beth in the office if you wish to help.



Stay connected

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

WOOL

St Luke's Knitting group, which meets once a month on a Monday morning is in need of more wool to make baby items and hats for adults.



Can you help? All wool gratefully received via the Church Office, during working hours.



To join the group contact **Di** via the office.

Thank you.

Interaction France

7-15 August

It was a joy to return to my favourite chateau in the Pays de la Loire for my 9th Interaction camp this year. The camp felt much more like normal, with campers able to come from the UK again for the first time since 2019, allowing the camp to regain its distinctive bilingual atmosphere. We were also blessed with incredible weather, with bright sunshine and temperatures in the low 30s every day until the last one, and even then we were appreciative of some refreshing rain!

My role was a bit different this year, as I was back leading a dorm group of campers, rather than being with the "animefs" (animateurs en formation - leaders in training). This was great fun, although a bit of a challenge being with a group of predominantly French teenagers who spoke at breakneck speed! They were a delightful bunch though, and really seemed to revel in the talk programme and Bible studies, which was wonderful to see. The philosophy of the camp is to present the message of the Bible in a way that is faithful but not forceful, allowing everyone to mull over what is said, ask questions, and respond only as they feel comfortable. We are also asked to avoid making the talks feel too much like church. As an example, mine, on the theme "who is Jesus?", ended up containing a discussion of questions of identity, a game of human "Guess Who?", a "Stranger Things" quiz and a rendition of Joan Osborne's "(What if God was) One of us"...

Alongside the spiritual and language elements, the camp contains a relentless programme of fun activities, from sailing to canoeing, from Maths sessions about complex numbers (guilty!) to silly games in the chateau (the picture shows one such of these: the classic "save the falling egg" game). For one activity, a friend and I found ourselves dressed as members of Abba, dancing about a bit then telling the campers to find other leaders disguised as Abba fans around the local town, to gain their trust and get them to reveal an Abba song that formed a clue (for some far-fetched premise about another thing for which Scandinavia is famous: the Northern Lights - don't ask)! It was a day of much hilarity, gratuitous singing and potential loss of street-cred if my students in Watford ever found out what I was doing!

Sadly, we had a few disciplinary matters to deal with on camp this year as a couple of campers, who were clearly facing some big challenges in life, pushed the boundaries more than we are used to. I was grateful for the wise leadership of our excellent Director, Keith, and for a very supportive team who stepped in for each other as folk needed help. It was a reminder though that the experiences teenagers face in life can be really tough, and is a prompt to keep praying for them, that God would meet both their spiritual and emotional needs.

We were hugely encouraged to learn at the end of the week that two French former campers/animefs, whom I have known for a number of years, were getting baptised the following Sunday. Camp has been very significant in both of their journeys, so it is wonderful to see how God has used it to lead them to take such a significant step.

I am very grateful to those from St Luke's who prayed for the camp this year. It was a week of great blessing, and one that I found very spiritually enriching on a personal level too. Interaction runs bilingual camps every Summer in Belgium and Germany as well as France, so if you'd be interested for any young person you know, do speak to me or have a look at the website: <https://interactioncamps.org/>

Phil Matthews

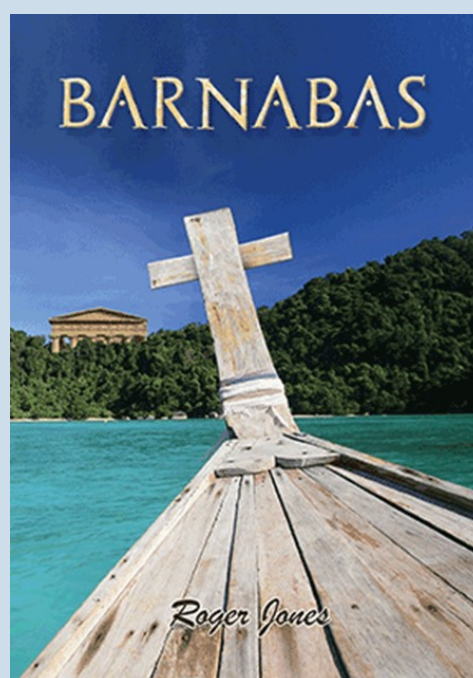


Joyful Noise Choir

Sarah Moreton

conductor of Joyful Noise Choir
is leading a Christian musical event at
St Oswald's, Croxley Green
on Saturday 29th October.

For further details please email
Sarah at moretons1964@gmail.com



Deanery Synod, June 28th 2022

Michael, Wendy S and I represented St Luke's at Deanery synod at St Matthews, Oxhey. Their newish vicar, Revd Sam Frampton, led evening prayer. It was a challenge to read the psalm observing the pointing but a reminder to me to read Scripture more slowly to absorb its meaning. Readings were from Ezra 3 and Romans 9.

Colin Heath, from St Peter's Bushey Mill Lane, had been made Deanery Lay Chair.

The Revd Dr Peter Waddell, our Rural Dean, led the meeting, where the main business was to discuss the Parish Share. The Deanery Standing Committee had thought through this very carefully. The sum we pay is displayed each year on our small print notice board in the car park corridor. The Share is derived using a formula, the product of church attendance and a complex formula relating to the relative prosperity of that parish and congregation. It was interesting to learn that our largest church in the Deanery, Soul Survivor, is not included as it is self-supporting, but that it is voluntarily making a contribution. Several of our churches have an interregnum at present and circumstances mean that we need to pay rather more next year in order to support the ministry of the Deanery.

We heard that Diocesan Synod details can be found on the Diocesan website. There are financial cuts afoot in this year's Diocesan budget, likely to include reduction of staff at the centre, a reduction in the number of Curacies, and some retiring stipendiary clergy not being replaced.

We were kept up to date with General Synod matters discussed this year by our representative, the Revd Jon Stevens, executive pastor at Soul Survivor.

It was good to meet in person but our three year term is racing to its conclusion. Our next meeting will be on October 19th.

**Mary Bowen and
Wendy Somerville**

If you would like to give to St. Luke's by bank transfer the details are as follows: -

Account name PCC St Luke's Watford

Sort Code 20-91-79

Account No 70687472

*[Donations to the Thanksgiving Fund have same Account name,
and sort code but the Account number is 13611779]*

Reference please state if the donation is for a particular appeal
e.g. Santa hampers, Rebuild, Foodbank etc.

Please remember to complete a Gift Aid Form as well if you are a Tax payer

Urgent plea from the Food Bank!

We're really low on donations at the moment, especially the following items:

- tinned soup
- tinned fruit
- tinned meat
- custard
- tinned fish
- rice pudding

Please would you consider adding a few extra items to your weekly shop to donate to the foodbank? We have food collection points in Asda, Tesco Extra and both Sainsbury's. Thank you!

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



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.**

As Mark Twain once quipped,
"I am an old man and have known
a great many troubles,
but most of them never happened."

Or as a Swedish proverb puts it:
"Worry often gives a small thing a big shadow."
If your life is overshadowed right now by anxiety,
ask God to bring you out of that shadow
and into the light of his presence,
enabling you to trust him for whatever is troubling you.

*Father,
I can't see even one minute into the future,
so help me stop trying to do so.
Instead, teach me to live in this present moment,
casting all my cares on you.
Amen*



BACK ON 13TH SEPTEMBER

URBAN SAINTS

Tuesdays 6:15pm - 7:30pm in Church Hall

7-11 year olds

CHANGE OF DAY



Prayer during the week

FOCUS

Tuesday evening 8pm via Zoom

Hour of Prayer

Fridays 10am in the Church Lounge/Vicarage Garden

Pre-Service Prayer

Sunday Mornings 8.30am via Zoom

For log in details, contact office by email

Children's Page

Colour in this picture of Jesus feeding 5000 people from 5 loaves and 2 fishes

You can read about it in The Bible in Matthew ch14 13-21

Jesus uses a boy's lunch to feed 5,000 people.

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15



Word Search

Find the following words which come from the story of feeding the 5000 from Matthew ch14 13-21 in the Bible

boat	down	Jesus	town
bread	evening	large	twelve
broken	fish	loaves	two
crowd	five	people	villages
disciples	grass	pieces	
disciples	Heaven	sit	

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

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 editor, Margaret Forester or to the Church Office

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
Reader	Dave Clarke Pam Norman Wendy Somerville
Music Director	Jeremy Cooke
Youth Director	Neil Brookes
Children & Family Team Leader	Lydia Davies
Administrator	Beth Burns
Assistant Music Leader	Jeremy Hogarth
Church wardens	Susan Miller John Williamson
PCC Lay Chair	Richard Waddington
PCC Treasurer	Paul Evans
PCC Secretary	John Sills
Safeguarding Officer	Mary Bowen

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

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