



Sunday 22nd December 2024

10:30am Nativity Service All Age with Parade
in the Church and online

Leading: Michael Norman (Vicar)

Speaking: Neil Brookes

6:30pm Carols by Candlelight

Leading and speaking: Michael Norman (Vicar)

Christmas Eve

4:30pm

Christingle

Leading: Michael Norman (Vicar)

Speaking: Neil Brookes (Youth)

11.30pm

Midnight Holy Communion

Leading: Michael Norman (Vicar)

Speaking: Michael Norman (Vicar)

Christmas Day

9am **Holy Communion**

Leading: Michael Norman (Vicar)

Speaking: Wendy Somerville

10:30am All Age Family Service followed by Communion

Leading: Michael Norman (Vicar)

Speaking: Wendy Somerville (Reader)

If you are new to St Luke's Church (online too!) – welcome. Please email your details to office@stlukeswatford.org and we will email back a welcome form for you to complete.

Weekly updates by email – contact church office if you would like to receive them.

St Luke's Church Office ☎ 01923 246161 **Church Website:** www.stlukeswatford.org

Church Office closed Tuesdays

**Sunday
29th December**

10:30am

Family Communion

Tuesday 31st

10:00

Holy Communion

Sunday 5th

10:30am

Family Communion - Daniel 1

5:30pm

Encounter – Daniel 7

Happy Christmas to all the family of St Luke's!

Massive centenary congratulations to Marika who is 100 on Boxing Day!
Hurrah.

Congratulations to Richard and Marina W for their 23rd wedding anniversary today!
Congratulations also go to Neil and Kate B wedding anniversary on Friday 27th.
Happy Birthday wishes to Pam R on Christmas Day; Graham J on Friday 27th,
Paul R and Lynley M on Saturday 28th, India T on Sunday 29th; Melody H and
Caroline T on Monday 30th and Kevin B on the 31st! Please let the office know of
any celebrations you would like to share.

Props needed for the Daniel plays starting January 5th 2025 we still need some
props: a clear orb or globe, glass or otherwise, divining sticks, small bunch of
artificial flowers that a magician might pull from his sleeve, or a hat and stuffed
rabbit. Walking sticks, a baton, leather or fake belts, brass or gold-coloured
goblets or cups. See Pam N if you can help. Or email Pam.stlukes@gmail.com

Life Group Leader's Training Saturday 11th January 2025

10:00am – 12pm with Jenni Fenton.

Living Out on Wednesday 15th January 7pm- 9.15pm.

We have a **Living Out Event** in Church to look at the area of Human Sexuality as
the Church of England Synod continues to discuss this issue. Living Out is a group
of same-sex attracted Christians who aim to live a biblical lifestyle and they teach
churches how to be welcoming to all, but within the boundaries of the Bible. All
welcome.

PCC Bring and Share Lunch – 19th January 12:30pm – 2:30pm with our
mission adviser Keith Powell.

Confirmation Service at St Luke's with the Bishop of Hertford – Sunday 9th

February 2025 If anyone is interested in being baptised and confirmed on this
date please contact Michael. Preparatory classes for adults and young people will
be announced in the New Year. michael.stlukes@gmail.com

Collect for Advent 4

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Collect for Christmas Midnight

Eternal God,
in the stillness of this night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:
give to the earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Collect for Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

Collect for 1st Sunday after Christmas

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

Let us pray for the world, for the church, and let us thank God for his goodness.

Syrian Christians are asking us to pray for peace, for wisdom and for the new leadership of the country to be committed to reconciliation for all Syrians,” says a spokesperson for Open Doors. “Christians are also asking us to pray that they will be lights of hope and peace in the midst of a chaotic time in Syria’s history.”

Let us pray for the world, for the church, and let us thank God for his goodness. For peace in Gaza and Lebanon. For peace in Ukraine. For humility, wisdom and understanding in our world’s leaders. Let us encourage one another to go deeper into God’s word, to pray and to persevere.

World Watch List: Christians in **Comoros** (*world’s 45th highest area of religious persecution*)

Those with on-going needs: Marina W, Pat W, Janine (Gill Es’ sister), Barbara T

Our families in need: Valerie T, Helen J, Veronica C, Val and Ron H, Mark H

Our wider family and friends in need: Andrew C’s brother Tony; Pam N’s brother Stephen R and others we know and love. Many will remember Pennant and Maureen Jones who were stalwarts of St Lukes in the 60’s, 70’s, and 80’s. Pennant making a notable contribution as Churchwarden. Pennant died last week aged 92. He was a leader of Watford Crusaders from the 1950’s and continued until they moved to Chorleywood around 1990. Their homes were always memorable places where young Christians were nurtured and encouraged. May Maureen and the family be surrounded by the comfort of the Lord in the hope and assurance of faith.

Those in mourning: friends and family of Pennant Jones; friends and family of David W’s step mum Valerie Waller and the Cairns family; friends and family of Myrtle Paterson; friends and family of Christine Thomas; friends and family of Francis Fernando; friends and family of Audrey Pitkin; friends and family of Tim McEwen (Andrew C’s brother-in-law); and all those we know mourning loved ones at this time.

Giving Thanks: We give thanks for the many answers to prayer this week. The next prayer list is **peach**. Please do take one home to pray over.