



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**8:00am**

**Holy Communion**

**10:30am**

**Family Communion**

in the Church and online

**Readings: Isaiah 40 1 – 11 (p.723); Malachi 3 1-4 (p.961); Luke 3 1-6 (p.1029)**

**Leading: Neil Brookes (Youth)**

**Speaking: Michael Norman (Vicar)**

**5:30pm**

**Encounter with Holy Communion**

***Concluding Exhortations***

**Reading: Hebrews 13**

**Leading: Michael Norman (Vicar)**

**Speaking: Pam Norman (Reader)**



**If you are new to St Luke's Church (online too!) – welcome.** Please email your details to [office@stlukeswatford.org](mailto: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](http://www.stlukeswatford.org)

**Church Office closed Tuesdays.**

**Tuesday 10th**

10am

**Holy Communion** in Church

8pm

**Focus Prayer Meeting** in chapel + zoom**Thursday 12th**

7:30pm

**BETA group** in chapel

7:00pm

**Carols at the Essex Arms****Friday 13th**

10-11am

**Hour of Prayer** in the Chapel**Saturday 14th**

7:30pm

**Men's Christmas Meal** Church Hall**Sunday 15th**

10:30am

**Family Communion**

4:30pm

**Carols Round the Crib****Luke 3 1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the desert,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.  
Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill made low.  
The crooked roads shall become  
straight,  
the rough ways smooth.  
And all mankind will see God's  
salvation.' ”

**Celebrations:** Happy Birthday to Christine S, Dean T and Alastair P on Friday. Please let the office know of any celebrations you would like to share.

**Massive thank you to church family** for helpers for the **Wine for a Christmas Dinner.** £220.72 (after costs) was raised for the Peace Hospice.

**Stamp Collection** Christmas is coming and we hope to receive Christmas cards. Please save the stamps, trimming at least 2 centimetres around them and deposit them in the box in the welcome area. They all go to support the Peace Hospice. Thank you. Pamela W

**Men's Meal – 14<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30 – 10.00pm** Please book places (£15) via office or directly with Bill M.

**Rainbows** We are marking Catherine Farman's extraordinary service for Rainbows during our **Nativity Service** at 10:30am on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Please let any ex-Rainbows know so they have the opportunity to attend.

**PROPS needed** For the Daniel plays starting January 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Pam.stlukes@gmail.com)

**Confirmation Service at St Luke's with the Bishop of Hertford – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:michael.stlukes@gmail.com)

**Myrtle Paterson's Funeral** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon followed by refreshments. All welcome to attend and celebrate Myrtle and all she has contributed to the life of St Luke's.

## **Christmas is coming!**

Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	7:00pm	<b>Carols</b> at the Essex Arms
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	4:30pm	<b>Carols Around the Crib</b>
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	5 – 7pm	<b>Christmas Holiday Club Short</b>
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	7:00pm	<b>Carols</b> at the Essex Arms
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	10:30am	<b>Nativity Service</b>
	6:30pm	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b>
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	4:30pm	<b>Christingle</b>
	11:30pm	<b>Midnight Communion</b>
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	<b>Holy Communion with Carols</b>
	10:30am	<b>Family Celebration</b> with shortened Holy Communion
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	10:30am	<b>All-age Family Communion</b>

## Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

## Suggestions for prayer this week

Let us pray for the world, for the church, and let us thank God for his goodness.  
Let us encourage one another to go deeper into God's word, to pray and to persevere.

**World events:** For peace in Gaza and Lebanon. For peace in Ukraine. For humility, wisdom and understanding in our world's leaders.

**World Watch List:** Christians in **Cameroon** (*world's 43rd highest area of religious persecution*)

**Those with on-going needs:** Pat W, Janine (Gill Es' sister), Valerie W, Barbara T

**Our families in need:** Valerie T, Helen J, Veronica C, Val and Ron H, Mark H, Elizabeth S, Maeve K, Gill E, Bryan H, Ryan W and others we know.

**Our wider family and friends in need:** Andrew C's brother Tony; Pam N's brother Stephen R and others we know and love.

**Those in mourning:** 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 **red**. Please do take one home to pray over.