



St Luke's News

September 2025

Number 286

40 Not Out!



Cricket enthusiast, Revd Michael Norman, talks to Chris Webb about his 40 years in ordained ministry

Years ago, after 40 years' service many people were coming up for retirement, and if they were lucky maybe their grateful employer gave them a gold watch.

Michael, our Vicar, has just completed 40 years in ordained ministry but God doesn't do retirement or gold watches. However, on 6th July St Luke's congregation marked the occasion with a presentation and a cake (what else?).

So, what has Michael been doing for the past 40 years? When I talked to him about this, it seems he's done a great deal. We can't cover it all but here are a few snippets.

How do you become a priest?

"For me, my life's work beckoned when, in September 1976, I was re-saying my confirmation promises to God in bed and I was moved to fully surrender to him."

Michael was born into a Christian family so there was no disapproval of his thirst to read the Bible or his determination to become a priest.

Did you have any misgivings? "At first, I did have misgivings about how I would handle funerals and visiting the sick in hospital — but the Lord dealt with that," he says.

He studied at Wycliffe College Oxford where services were held morning and evening on weekdays, interspersed with lectures and hands-on training, doing such things as visiting hospitals and helping at local parishes.

He also had a spell as an ordinand chaplain at Campsfield Detention Centre, an approved prison/detention centre in Kidlington, Oxford. At the time, 14–16-year-olds who got up to no good were sent there as part of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's 'short sharp shock' treatment for young offenders. As a result of the Chaplain's influence, one of the inmates came to faith.

Following a Curacy at Woodley, Reading, Michael became Vicar of St Barnabas, a church in the middle of a large council estate in Weston-super-Mare. The church and vicarage were in the middle of a large green area — the only play area the local children had. "Sometimes it was like the Alamo when all the local kids were playing outside," he recalls.

The church was not wealthy. "I think there was about £1200 in the reserves when we arrived, and I spent that on a sit-on mower." He does, however, have a strong belief that God will always provide what is needed.

One of his challenges was a railway line that cut through the middle of the estate. The railway acted as a barrier and most people on the other side of the track didn't bother to come to church. He says God came to the rescue. A dilapidated doctor's surgery was for sale on the other side of the railway. What if that could become an outpost for the church?

The sale price was £30,000 (this was the 1990s remember). The church didn't have anywhere near that sort of money but this is where God took a hand. The Diocese discovered that it did not own the St Barnabas Vicarage and decided to buy it from the church for £30,000. Then Walter, a member of the congregation, had a vision (see box on page 3 for Michael's account).

As a result of Walter's vision, the church negotiated the price of the doctor's surgery down to £15,000 and bought it to be a community centre. With a grant from the Diocese, giving from the congregation, money that came through the post, etc., the building was re-roofed and renovated. "Prayer works and God provides," says Michael.

The grumpy milkman and the vision

Walter, the grumpy milkman, was true to his name. He did not go to church but his wife Pat did. Pat suffered from migraines. When she attended a church healing service, Walter decided to go with her. Sometimes in a healing service, people being prayed for 'rest in the spirit' — in effect they pass out, and helpers ensure that they do not come to any harm when they faint. Walter was furious that his wife 'fell over' during the service and afterwards he stomped off.

However, four days later he returned full of repentance. Walter came to faith and was confirmed and Pat's migraines were cured.

"In a prayer meeting, Walter had a vision which led us, after much prayer, to purchase the doctor's surgery on the other side of the railway mentioned earlier," said Michael.

"His vision was of a light shining from a waterfall. On each side of the waterfall were trees. Doves were flying back and forth between the trees. This was interpreted as a message from God: the waterfall was the railway and the doves were God's Word being spread to people on both sides of the railway.

"The next day a picture of this same vision, in the form of an advert for a commemorative plate showing the baptism of Jesus, arrived in the post. This confirmed our call to move to the other side of the railway. Walter bought the plate." (pictured)



Michael and family later moved to Bath (21 more years of adventures!) where he continued his ministry, before moving eastwards to St Luke's.

How do you see your challenges here? "The estate where we are is privileged and beautiful. People enjoy the pleasures of this life but it is a culture that has little regard for God and that's a tragedy. Our calling as a church is to share the good news of Jesus. That being said, we have some amazing saints among those who serve at St Luke's. We have perhaps 100 volunteers but of these, 20 or 30 people do most of the work.

"We need to grow a younger congregation. The congregation is made up of around 30% from the Cassiobury Estate and the rest from outside. At the Communion Service on Tuesdays, the congregation is mostly elderly. On Sundays, we have a wider spread of age groups but we could do with more young people."

Let's finish with a quick-fire quiz of your favourite things

Food	Spaghetti bolognese, Pork ribs
Drink	Wine
Sport	Cricket and Rugby
Colour	Green
Music	Mainly 1970s: Stevie Wonder, Dire Straits, The Beatles, Cliff Richard
Book	Acts of the Apostles
TV shows	Bargain Hunt and most sports programmes
Relaxation	Sport, especially Cricket and Rugby, and Cycling



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

Services at St Luke's Church

Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion Service

This is a said Communion and is held once a month in the Chapel at St Luke's. All are welcome.

10:30am Morning Service/Holy Communion Service

This is our main morning service, and is currently available live-streamed on YouTube. All are welcome, and there are usually children's groups and a crèche for younger ones. The details in the calendar below may change.

5:30pm Encounter - Informal Evening Service

This service includes worship, a talk and opportunities to be prayed for.

Tuesday

10:00am Holy Communion Service

We also have a weekly Communion (or Service of the Word if the Vicar is unavailable) at 10:00am on Tuesdays. This is a lovely, reflective service with a couple of hymns, followed by community tea and coffee.

Plan for Sunday Services:

September	8:00am	10:30am	5:30pm
Sunday 21st	Holy Communion	Morning Worship <i>The Church in Antioch</i> <i>Acts 11:19-30</i>	Encounter <i>Meals as enacted community</i> <i>Luke 7</i>
Sunday 28th		Family Communion with Drama <i>Peter's miraculous escape from prison</i> <i>Acts 12:1-19</i>	Simon Trundle's Welcome as Licensed Reader and short Celebration Service followed by a meal Note: 6:30pm start
October	8:00am	10:30am	5:30pm
Sunday 5th		Morning Worship <i>Paul's first missionary journey</i> <i>Acts 13 and 14</i>	Encounter with Holy Communion <i>Meals as enacted Hope – Luke 9</i>

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

October	8:00am	10:30am	5:30pm
Sunday 12th Harvest	Holy Communion	All-age Worship with Parade <i>Harvest celebration</i>	Encounter <i>Meals as enacted mission – Luke 14</i>
Sunday 19th		Morning Worship with Archdeacon Charles <i>The Council of Jerusalem – Acts 15</i>	Encounter with Holy Communion <i>Meals as enacted salvation – Luke 22</i>
Sunday 26th		Family Communion <i>Acts 16:1-15</i>	Encounter <i>Meals as enacted promise – Luke 24</i>
November	8:00am	10:30am	5:30pm
Sunday 2nd		Morning Worship <i>Athens – Acts 17</i>	Encounter with Holy Communion <i>Symbols of the Prophetic: The Eagle</i>
Sunday 9th Remembrance Sunday	Holy Communion	All-age Worship with Parade <i>Corinth – Acts 18</i>	Encounter <i>Symbols of the Prophetic: The Lion</i>
Sunday 16th		Family Communion <i>Paul in Ephesus Acts 19</i>	Encounter <i>Symbols of the Prophetic: The Ox</i>
Sunday 23rd		Morning Worship with Keith Powell <i>Encouragement and the Prophetic Acts 20:1-12, Acts 21:10-14</i>	Encounter with Holy Communion <i>Symbols of the Prophetic: Wind, The Dove</i>
Sunday 30th		Family Communion <i>Advent Sunday</i>	Encounter <i>Symbols of the Prophetic: The Man</i>

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

Autumn Sermon Series



Morning services at 10:30am

We started our study of the New Testament book of the *Acts of the Apostles* in June and early July. We covered the first half of *Acts* up to chapter 9, most of which is the story of the apostles in Jerusalem and the Apostle Paul's conversion. Now, after the Summer break we return again to this inspiring book with more dramas to bring the stories alive.

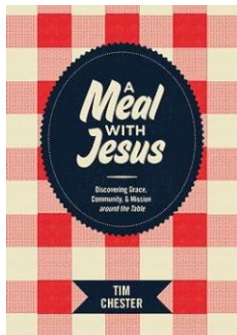
Through the Autumn, we will learn about the church as it expands beyond Jerusalem, including the stories of St Peter witnessing the Holy Spirit coming upon the Gentiles and Peter's escape from prison (both of which will be dramatised by church members, currently learning their words!). Then, we will see God moving in power in Paul's missionary journeys to take us up to *Acts* chapter 20.

Following a break for Advent and Christmas, the series continues from 12th January to 15th February when we will have sermons and weekly dramas on various events in *Acts* in the morning services, while the later chapters of *Acts* will be covered in the 5.30pm Encounter services.

Come and join us as we continue and conclude this exciting series following the development of early church and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Encounter services at 5:30pm

Encounter returned on 7th September and we started by looking at the underlying principles of the Encounter Service, "Bring something to share from God and encountering God".



On 14th September we started a new series on *Meals with Jesus* from St Luke's Gospel and based on the book, *A meal with Jesus* by Tim Chester. This ties in with our objective to meet more as a community over meals at church and in our homes, and we will see how Jesus did this.

Later in the Autumn, we will be looking at Prophetic Symbols in the Bible, such as the Eagle, Lion and Ox.

Revd Michael Norman
Vicar of St Luke's

Diary dates coming up

September

- 20th Piano recital by Alexander Ardakov of works by Chopin, St Luke's Church, 7:30pm
- 22nd Sep-5th Oct Fairtrade Fortnight
- 24th Alpha Introductory Supper (see p 10)
- 26th Friday Club Tea Party, 2:30pm
- 27th Breakfast Club (see p 39)
- 28th Licensing of Simon Trumble as Reader, St Albans Abbey, 4:00pm

October

- 4th Half-day of Prayer, St Luke's Chapel, 9:00am–12 noon
- 7th *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* outing
- 11th Breakfast Club (see p 39)
- 12th Harvest Festival Parade Service, 10:30am (see p 16), followed by Bring & Share Lunch
Sunday afternoon recital, 3:00pm (see p 38)
- 18th Creative Space (see p 41)
- 25th Breakfast Club (see p 39)
- 31st Friday Club Tea Party, 2:30pm
Light Party, 5:00–7:00pm (see p 43)

November

- 1st Half-day of Prayer, St Luke's Chapel, 9:00am–12 noon
- 7th World Day of Prayer Regional Preparation Day, St Luke's, 10:00am–2:00pm
- 8th Breakfast Club (see p 39)
Alpha Away Day (see p 10)
Recital by Garfield Jackson and Winnie Wu, 2:00pm (see p 41)
- 9th Remembrance Sunday Parade Service, 10:30am (see p 16)
Annual Bereavement Service, 3:00pm
- 15th Creative Space (Book in advance, see p 41)
Tearfund's The Big Quiz Night (see p 15)
- 16th Watford Interfaith Association's Pilgrimage
- 22nd Breakfast Club (see p 39)
St Luke's Church Family Prophecy Day with mission advisor, Keith Powell, 10:00am–4:00pm
- 23rd Sunday afternoon recital, 3:00pm (see p 38)
- 28th Friday Club Tea Party, 2:30pm
- 29th Watford Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 pm (see p 41)

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

* From the end of September (tbc)

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

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



Is there more to life than this

Alpha



stlukeswatford.org/alpha-course

Wednesdays 7:30pm @ St Luke's Church
Langley Way, Watford WD17 3EG

Introductory Supper & Taster Evening

24th Sept, 7.30pm

Alpha is a safe place to learn about different topics of the Christian faith, There is no pressure to talk and no follow-up. It is free and includes a meal and dessert at every session!

Everyone
is welcome,
no matter your
background
or beliefs.

- 1: **Who is Jesus?** 1st Oct
- 2: **Why Did Jesus Die?** 8th Oct
- 3: **How Can We Have Faith?** 15th Oct
- 4: **Why & How Do I Pray?** 22nd Oct
- 5: **Why & How Should I Read the Bible?** 5th Nov
- 6: **How Does God Guide Us?** 12th Nov
- 7: **How Can I Resist Evil?** 19th Nov
- 8: **Why & How Should I Tell Others?** 26th Nov
- 9: **What About the Church?** 3rd Dec

Alpha 'Away day' Saturday 8th Nov

For more information about the Alpha course and to book your place, please scan the QR code above or contact the church office (email office@stlukeswatford.org or phone 01923 246161)

Single Friendly Church

Since the beginning of 2025, St Luke's has begun the journey towards becoming a single friendly church. One of our priorities is to create a strong sense of family among the congregation at St Luke's. This notion is upheld throughout the Bible and was what Jesus intended for His church. *Matthew 12:50* says "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother" and *1 John 3:1* calls us "children of God". God intends the people in His church to be a family to one another.



SFCN stand at the Church of England Synod. Image by Single Friendly Church Network

In the UK, approximately 40% of the adult population is single. This statistic covers all age groups and circumstances. In a congregation like that of St Luke's, it may include people who find themselves single due to widowhood, divorce, having never met 'the one', and people who feel that remaining single is what God asks of them. Our desire is that everyone who calls St Luke's their church will feel at home here and part of a wider church family, whether they come as part of a family or alone.

However, some single people say that being part of a church often feels more difficult than it does for married people, and report that they can often feel marginalized or excluded. Therefore, as part of the wider church family agenda, St Luke's has begun working with the Single Friendly Church Network (SFCN). This is a UK-wide organization whose aim is to encourage churches to welcome and value single people. It was formed as a result of research commissioned by Christian Connection focusing on the experiences of single people in church.

A small group at St Luke's has been meeting to complete the single friendly church audit which will enable St Luke's to register as a single friendly church. The process of completing the audit has been an illuminating experience and has allowed us to view this issue with a critical eye. We have been able to recognise all the good things that we do as a church to welcome singles (and there are a lot!) and identify the next steps to help us provide an effective ministry to all.

If you have any questions or feedback that you would like to pass on,

please speak to Revd Michael Norman, John Williamson, Helen J Booth, Ann McLeod, Mo Fasanya or Melanie Sills, or contact the church office.

For more information about the work of SFCN, please visit www.singlefriendlychurch.com.

Helen J Booth

Single
Friendly
CHURCH NETWORK

Meet the Scouts ...

The 74th Watford South Scout Group has long called St Luke's its home — and that connection continues to be the beating heart of what we do. With over 70 young people currently taking part across Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, we're proud to be a thriving part of the St Luke's community, providing adventure, learning and leadership opportunities that last a lifetime.



This year has already been packed with activities and achievements. In May, we held a large Group Camp, bringing together our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts for a shared weekend of outdoor fun and community-building. These kinds of group-wide events are central to our ethos of mixing ages, skills and experience in ways that help young people grow, while giving them a sense of belonging that transcends their own section.

Our Scouts have been particularly active, taking part in lightweight expedition-style camps and even competing in the Green Beret challenge — a demanding and fun county-wide competition involving agility, teamwork and resilience. It's been a brilliant way to channel their energy and develop confidence.

Our leadership team is made up of dedicated volunteers, many of whom began their own Scouting journeys at St Luke's (more years ago than we'd like to remember!). The continuity of people giving back to the group that once shaped them is part of what makes our story so special. That spirit of commitment was seen again recently during our

Leaders Camp — less of a break, more of a mission! Volunteers spent the weekend repairing equipment and treating all our wooden kit to protect it from woodworm. It was a huge task but it also served as a valuable time to reflect, reconnect and invest in the future of the group.

Earlier in the year, several of our leaders and fellow Scouters attempted the Three Peaks Challenge. Two of our leaders completed it successfully which was a massive achievement.

Supporting them along the way was another of our current leaders, who drove our newly refurbished minibus throughout the trip. It's a real example of teamwork and determination in action, and we're incredibly proud of them.

We're also lucky to have a strong and growing group of Young Leaders — older Scouts who are stepping into leadership roles and learning how to support younger members. Their presence helps build bridges between age groups and ensures the next generation of leaders is already on the rise.

All of this is only possible because of the generous support and space we receive from St Luke's. In an era where some groups have sadly had to scale back or close due to the rising cost or unavailability of premises, we have been able to grow and thrive, providing affordable, high-quality Scouting to a growing number of families.

Of course, none of this works without people. We're always looking for more adult volunteers to help lead our sections, whether that's weekly support or occasional assistance on trips. If you've ever thought about getting involved, now's a great time to give it a try. There's nothing quite like



Group Camp and AGM



Our newly refurbished minibus which gets us around and is loaned out to other uniformed groups

helping a young person overcome a challenge, grow in confidence or just try something new.

Our thanks go to the entire St Luke's community for continuing to be part of our journey and for enabling us to do what we love. Here's to the next 74 years—and many more camps, adventures, and shared memories along the way.

Jack Jarman
Group Lead Volunteer

Cardboard Replica

When Cinderella needed a coach to go to the ball, with the wave of her wand, her fairy godmother created one out of a pumpkin.

OK, fairytales aren't true.

However, when St Luke's wanted to create a chariot — well before any pumpkins were ripe — they created a cardboard replica using large sheets of cardboard donated by the congregation. We didn't have a magic wand — just a few Stanley knives, scissors, lots of sticky tape, the odd piece of plastic pipe and a lot of ingenuity. Oh, and some plywood staging inside built in by 'Mr Fixit', John D.



The raw material,
modelled by Dorothy



Annabella paints the chariot
panels which have been cut to
shape

OK, it won't pass an MoT, but it served its purpose on stage on 13th July for the drama, *A meeting on a desert road* (based on Acts 8:16-40). In it, the apostle Philip meets a powerful Ethiopian official (Andrew C all dressed up in the chariot), explains the meaning of certain writings from the prophet Isaiah, baptises him and through his conversion Christianity becomes established in Ethiopia. Amazing!

Are these mini-dramas worth it? Well, this is what the prop-maker, Stephanie G, had to say:

“It was heartwarming to see how this drama brought our community together. I noticed some people even invited their family from other parts of the country to watch the performance. I truly believe this event helped reconnect both our local and extended communities — all God’s children. We should be proud of what we’ve achieved and share our stories with others who might be inspired to express Christian values in a similar way.”



Finished chariot with the cast, left to right, Sophie, Adrienne, Colin, Chris S, Andrew C, Ivor and Jordan

The next mini drama on the *Acts of the Apostles* will be performed in the morning service on Sunday 28th September and then there will be a series of dramas in January and February next year.

The credits: *A meeting on a desert road*

Director, writer, producer: Pam Norman

Props: Stephanie, Annabella and team

Sound: Tim Whittaker

Chris Webb

Big Quiz Night 2025

Come and join us for an evening of epic fun for an amazing cause.

Saturday 15th November

Start time: 7.00pm

Venue: St Luke’s Hall



tearfund



Harvest Festival Service

Join us at 10.30am on Sunday 12th October 2025 for a special Harvest Parade Service

 HARVEST FOOD GIFTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL CHARITIES

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



ALL WELCOME AT 10.30AM ON SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2025 FOR OUR ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE PARADE SERVICE






CanCC

Cassiobury and nearby Community Choir



Anyone welcome of any musical ability to join.

Feel free to turn up on the night, or contact music@stlukeswatford.org 01923 246161

Wednesdays from 8pm
@ St Luke's Church, Watford



News from Partners in Mission



Ruth Guinness

Malawi
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Dear friends,

Warm greetings from Malawi. The change of season here is shown in the garden, covered by leaves. It looks like autumn but the cold season is past, and the days are getting warmer and drier with beautiful blue skies. Amaryllis, in pots, are blooming, and I've seen the first blossom on some jacaranda trees.



I love the rhythm that God has built into creation, and am experiencing a season change in several ways at the moment.

A new season for SIM Malawi

In SIM Malawi, the season has changed. Rev. Paul Mawaya started as our Director in early September. It has already been good to meet him regularly in the office. As a new leader comes in, another is moving on. Several members of the Ministry Leadership Team met with Pete Ong, our outgoing Director, for a farewell lunch. We went to an Ethiopian restaurant and enjoyed a meal with injera (a type of flatbread). Pete and his family leave Malawi in mid September.

A joyful holiday season

Another change is moving away from the holiday season. Although I'm no longer governed by school/college holidays in my work, July and August did see a change of pace with two very different weeks. At the



The farewell meal with our outgoing Director, Pete Ong

end of July the SIM Malawi team met for our annual Spiritual Life Conference, and a week after that I had a few days holiday with the Richter family.

It was a special time. We stayed in a lodge by Lake Malawi where we have been before. I loved sunrise walks along the

beach and enjoyed leisurely meals with the family. We played games in the evening, and one day, Laila, Elias and I enjoyed painting pottery. On the way back to Blantyre we stopped in Nanjoka for one night, for time with Steven and Jo Wheatley and Marilyn Barr. I always enjoy going there.



Staying at a lodge by Lake Malawi with the Richter family

A fresh season with new opportunities

Since the refreshment of the holiday (including no emails for a week!) I have had more energy to move forward with various things. For a while, it had seemed like a hard slog, with many hours at my desk rather than training or teaching in-person. But I sense another change here too, as there are more in-person opportunities coming up.

At the beginning of October, I will visit Nanjoka again for about a week. This will include going to the monthly lakeshore pastors' fraternal meeting.

In mid-October I will go to Johannesburg for a meeting of SIM leaders in Southern Africa. I have been asked to lead four sessions at their conference, and we will explore challenges and opportunities in theological education in this region.

Something that I find stimulating is working on the next Theological Education by Extension (TEE) course that Volker and I are writing. It uses the overall Bible story, which we covered in the first course, as an aid to understand Bible passages. In the new course we are following the story of Abraham. Our plan is to go through a draft with a group in November, to shape it further.

Uncertain season in Malawi

On 16th September Malawi will hold a general election, including the election of President. The incumbent President, Lazarus Chakwera, is standing, as well as Peter Mutharika who was President before him, and 15 other candidates. There are many challenges for whoever is elected. Some have a very obvious effect on people day by day – inflation is high, and electricity generation cannot keep up with the

growth in demand. This year has seen several periods with a shortage of fuel, especially petrol. The following BBC article gives a helpful summary: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckgy3g7zpl3o>.

Marking the seasons

It was the 25th anniversary of my arrival in Malawi with SIM on 20th August: how thankful I am to God for his faithfulness through all the ups and downs since then!

Prayer points

Through all the changing seasons, it's wonderful that we can depend on God who remains faithful and true. I've been encouraged recently reading through some of the psalms, including this one:

"For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does." *Psalm 33:4*

Please join me in giving praise for:

- A joyful holiday season;
- More opportunities for in-person teaching and training.

Please pray for:

- The outcome of the Malawi general election on 16th September
- Paul Mawaya as he learns his role, and Pete Ong and family in their transition
- Preparation for the Southern Africa conference in October
- Writing the new TEE course
- Trusting in God in changing seasons.

Thank you so much for your prayerful support.

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

Update from the Gelsthorpe family in northern Japan



“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come.” *Revelation 4:8*

Opportunities with relatives

Two of our church members have been supporting sick relatives recently. **Praise God** that they have both been sharing the Gospel and asking for prayer to be a good witness. Mrs Camelia’s mother-in-law died recently but she was able to sing hymns and read the Bible to her near the end of her life. Mr Babblingbrook’s mother is now seriously ill in hospital and he was able to explain that the only hope for forgiveness at the end of our lives lies in Jesus. **Please pray** for all of the members of these two families — that they will believe in Jesus and be saved.

Trip to Hebron School India

Praise God for the opportunity we had to visit Hebron School in India, 16th–19th August. This is a Christian boarding school which offers UK education with a significant discount for missionaries. We had a very positive impression of the school and enjoyed meeting staff, other parents and students. Next week, we will receive the results of the admission test Caleb took while he was there and will then decide whether Caleb will enter the school, continue with homeschool or will go to international school in Japan. **Please pray** for wisdom for all of us in this decision.

Summer events

Thank you for praying for our Summer events. At the Men’s Dinner, Caleb (14) was asked by a friend from football about what the Bible says about worry. At the Welsh Night, Rachel shared the story of a young girl who walked miles to be able to receive her first Bible. Caleb gave a Bible talk about hope in the face of worry at the Band Night. At the Children’s Summer Festival we welcomed children from the local children’s home, the church and other friends. **Praise God** for the opportunities we have had to share the Gospel. **Please pray** for people to think deeply about what they heard about the Gospel and for a growing heart in the church to share the Gospel.



Caleb at Wales Night



Isaac, Sarah, Mark and Caleb at Tokyo Railway Station

Grace and Isaac

Praise God that Isaac arrived safely in the Philippines and is enjoying his work experience in construction-related engineering. **Please pray** for good planning for his education for next Autumn.

We very much enjoyed our time with Grace here in Japan but she

is now back in the UK. **Praise God** that, despite some administrative challenges, she was able to get her driving licence before she left.

Please pray for a good start to her second year at university.

Preaching on Revelation

Thank you for praying for our preaching series on *Ruth*. **Praise God** that we were very encouraged as we reflected on the grace of God in the Gospel. We have now picked up our series in *Revelation* at chapter 4.

Please pray for good encouragement and challenge for all of us in Hanamaki as we learn from this prophecy. **Please pray** for a sharp focus for Mark to apply this teaching well with a good balance between the main points and the details of this (sometimes difficult) book.

Thank you so much for praying for us.

With love from

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

Kisumu Children Trust Update

Peter, our Chairman of Trustees, made his last visit to the Children's Home in Kisumu, western Kenya, in June. He's visited many times since early 2000 but age catches up and a new team of trustees has been formed to take the charity, Kisumu Children Trust, forward. Peter was the founder and he and his wife, Cherry, have had a long-time commitment to many of the children from those early days. Those children are now grown up and have children of their own. Many



managed to visit the Children's Home with their families to say farewell to Peter.

New trustees, Graeme, Jonathan and Aneta joined Peter on his visit. Graeme will be taking over as Chair at the next Annual Review in Tonbridge on 18th October.

Jonathan is now the Treasurer and Aneta, who has been a member for little more than a year has been successfully promoting the charity. I call this an exciting 'New Season'!



Kelvin, our new Youth Worker, with some of the children

The team had a busy schedule, much was shown to the newcomers and friendships were formed, especially between Aneta and the Home's Social Worker, Pamela. During the visit an interview was held by Philemon for a new Youth Worker. Kelvin was appointed and he assisted with the Bible Week in August when 70 children lived in. Next, Kelvin will be reaching out to the 18–25-year-olds, who are desperate to find work as there is high unemployment in Kenya.

There is at last a positive move by the government on school uniforms — children can no longer be sent home because they can't afford a uniform. In Tiengr'e School some teachers kindly helped those in poverty to get fitted for a new uniform! The Head, Alice, has a generous heart and allowed children to attend the rural school, even though they were not wearing uniform.

Feeding the children has been a priority and the Home feeds 150 children daily and now Tiengr'e School, due to the charity financing the building of a kitchen/dining room, feeds 1000 children when they are in school. What a difference this is making. In the past, I've seen children go home at lunchtime, knowing there will be no lunch when they get home.

Continuing to upgrade local schools with boreholes and proper toilets is on the 'priority' list. A school a few miles away was built in 1976, has had no repairs since then and has no ceiling boards or loos. This was shown to the trustees and they will be working to raise finance by applying to Charitable Trusts. George our 'architect' will draw up some plans at a some point. We've known George for many years and he does a good job! Some time ago, he built Noble Charity for us, a residential home providing accommodation and respite care for the

elderly. We visited towards the end of the build and he was very proud to tell us, “It is finished and it is good.”

The new trustees are working well together and are excited at the prospect of this new chapter. Peter gave them a good introduction to Kisumu Children Trust and they now have to plan ‘what’s next’, though Peter will remain as a trustee to guide them.

To find out more, please visit www.kisumuchildren.org.uk/.

***Jos Lawrance
Former Trustee***

The Visit of Veronica and Julie

Every couple of years since my wife Pam and I have been at St Luke’s, we have been visited by Veronica and Julie. They have had a long-term evangelistic and teaching ministry in South East Asia for over 30 years. In that time, they have planted churches, discipled and trained many leaders and led numerous people to faith in Jesus.



Veronica and Julie at the Vicarage with Pam and me during their recent visit

Veronica and Julie are now in Taiwan and ministering through a church. The challenge of their calling there is a bit like St Paul’s challenge in Athens — it is a place of many shrines, many gods and a culture that doesn’t believe in the God we serve.

They explained during their visit to our morning service on 11th May about the challenges they face and their ministry in that country.

Please pray for them:

- For more opportunities to witness
- For continued blessing on their training of leaders
- For more invitations to speak at churches
- For opportunities with neighbours and groups that they attend.

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

Update from Alternatives Watford



In June, we celebrated the 1st anniversary of our charity shop on Queens Road in Watford! Thank you to everyone who joined us, including long-term supporters, volunteers, staff, trustees and the Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor.

The highlight was a stunning cake from Denise and Dave at *Tapestry Cakes*, designed to resemble one of our baby baskets. We couldn't quite believe it was an actual cake and not a real baby basket!



The stunning cake made by
Tapestry Cakes

"I think we were all a little apprehensive about moving to a smaller shop. However, we have had a brilliant first year. Regular customers have followed us here and new ones have discovered us, all commenting on how lovely and bright the shop is, as well as the warm welcome they receive from our staff and volunteers. We are also grateful for the community of other retailers on Queen's Road. We look

forward to continuing to provide high-quality items at affordable prices to local families."

Gill, Volunteer

Baby baskets

Since we started this service, we have given over 500 baskets! We have achieved a 100% satisfaction rate from recipients who have given feedback. Every month, we put together up to 10 new baskets for newborns and give them to members of the local community.

Volunteer with us

Are you looking for something impactful and meaningful to do with your time? We need more volunteers in both of our shops in Watford and Hemel Hempstead to assist



Our shop in Queens Road

with serving customers, sorting donations, and helping to run the shop. We would love to hear from you! Please email us at: info@alternativeswatford.co.uk to express your interest. Times that we need volunteers:

- Watford — Friday and Saturday
- Hemel Hempstead — Tuesday to Friday

You can volunteer anytime between 10 am and 4 pm on these days. We don't have a limit on how long or short you help out for — whatever works for you, works for us!

Alternatives Watford

Update from Watford Foodbank



Harvest Appeal

As the days shorten and the weather turns colder, the signs of autumn are all around us. It's also Harvest time — traditionally, a time when communities gathered to work together to bring in the crops. And still today, Harvest provides a powerful moment of connection and sharing with our local communities.

It is also the time of year when referrals to foodbanks increase as household budgets become squeezed by colder and darker days. Last year an amazing 7,000 kg of food was donated by local schools, churches, businesses, community groups and individuals.

We would really appreciate your support again so that we can ensure we make the greatest possible difference to people experiencing hardship in Watford. Your food donations are vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three-day supply of food.

There are also running costs to the Foodbank to enable us to store and distribute the food, so if you are able to assist with financial support too, that would be much appreciated. Please visit our website for ways you can give: <https://watfordfoodbank.co.uk/>.

Foodbank Fortnight: Donate smarter (1st–14th October)

Food Bank Fortnight is a fresh take on a classic tradition — a two-week celebration of giving where communities come together to support

local food banks. Just like the Harvest Festivals of the past, it's about sharing what we have to help others – but with a modern, meaningful difference: *Give What's Needed, When It's Needed*

Food banks often receive too much of one item and not enough of another. That's where 'BanktheFood' steps in. By using this app, you'll get real-time alerts from your local food bank, so you can donate exactly what they're short of. Whether you're popping into the supermarket or clearing out your cupboards, you can give smarter and make a real difference.

Food Bank Fortnight is the perfect time to get involved. Rally your neighbours, your workplace, your church or your local community group – and show that we're stronger when we give together.

Food donation

There are Foodbank Donation Points at: ASDA, both Sainsbury's stores and Tesco Extra.

Items currently most needed are:

- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned tomatoes
- Longlife fruit juice
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Rice
- Jam
- Tinned fish
- Tinned fruit
- Instant mashed potato
- Tinned custard
- UHT milk
- Toiletries
- Baked beans



On 31st July Head Trustee John Bishop and Manager Jane Havlin welcomed Watford's MP Matt Turmaine to discuss the challenges facing foodbanks

Watford Foodbank

Summer Events and Highlights



Revd Bryony Wood visited St Luke's over the weekend of 14th–15th June to share some reflections from her book, *The Sound of Musings*, published in 2024 and aptly timed to tie in with the 60th anniversary of the film *The Sound of Music*. In her book, Bryony traces Maria von Trapp's journey through the film, drawing parallels with her own life and faith: the ups and downs and times of doubt.

At both the Saturday afternoon presentation and the Sunday morning Father's Day Service, Bryony read excerpts from her book, interspersed with film clips and a sing-a-long to the much-loved songs.

Additionally, on the Saturday afternoon the Cassiobury and nearby Community Choir (CanCC) sang a medley of classics: *Climb every mountain*, *Do-re-mi* and *Eidelweiss*, and the event finished with a thoroughly enjoyable and beautifully presented tea of scones and apple cake served on best china.

Thank you to Bryony for an engaging and inspiring reflection on God's love and purposes for us, Pam Norman and Gill S for organising the event, the AV team, the choir, and Gill and team for the refreshments.

On Sunday 6th July St Luke's celebrated Revd Michael Norman's 40 years of ordained ministry with a presentation of gifts and a church family lunch. Church Warden Susan Miller said how grateful we are for Michael's ministry among us and for Pam who has supported him throughout the 40 years.





Cassiobury and nearby Community Choir (CanCC) gave their summer concert on Saturday 19th July in St Luke's Church. Titled, 'America – Songs from across the Pond' they performed 16 great American songs, including classics such as *Moon River*, the Beachboys' *Surfin' USA*, the Everly Brothers' *All I have to do is dream* and James Taylor's *Fire and Rain*, giving the audience a hefty dose of nostalgia.

The concert raised £176 in support of the Royal British Legion.

Thank you to the choir for entertaining everyone so well, to Pam Norman for conducting and compèring, and to Jeremy Cooke for accompanying.

St Luke's had a clearup and clearout day on Wednesday 27th August. Some items were rehomed or recycled but inevitably some were broken or in poor condition and had to be relocated to a skip. Amidst the hard work, tea, biscuits, laughter and chat were enjoyed.



Thank you to Dorothy for directing the effort and to everyone who helped.

Breakfast Club continued fortnightly through the Summer holidays much to the delight of the families who come.

Thank you to Bekki, Neil, Simon, Susan, Edna and John for breakfast and lots of fun.



**Questions from the 'alternatives' fund-raising quiz set in
Summer '25 for those who haven't yet tried it (Answers on p 40)**

Find a pair of alternative choices for each of the following clues

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. eg Knitting pattern (6, 11) | 21. Ghosting you (anagram) (8,3) |
| 2. Methods of purchasing (6, 2-5) | 22. 4 donate and mailed again? (7,6) |
| 3. Rhino cried (anagram) (4,6) | 23. What to do with dosh? (5,4) |
| 4. Ready for the catwalk, or not? (11,8) | 24. Introduction or conclusion (9,3) |
| 5. Carriage choice? (5,5) | 25. Pavement or road travel (4,5) |
| 6. Degrees of problem (6,5) | 26. Zebra or newspaper (5,5) |
| 7. Arrogant or lowly (5,6) | 27. Motives can be these (4,3) |
| 8. Mattresses (4,4) | 28. Tooth/taste (7,5) |
| 9. Road surfaces (5,6) | 29. Hot drink choice (3,6) |
| 10. Water from the tap (3,4) | 30. And with these words = a soap (4,4) |
| 11. Tenth beaver afraid (anagram) (5-7, 5) | 31. Pep plaster (anagram) (4,6) |
| 12. Basic or posh in height? (8,9) | 32. One side indicated by a label (4,5) |
| 13. Who to cheer at the movies? (4,7) | 33. Handshakes (4,4) |
| 14. Breakfast? (11, 4,7) | 34. Response to study (4,11) |
| 15. Speed at the piano (6,5) | 35. Written ways to communicate (5,5) |
| 16. Two compass points (5,5) | 36. Public transport (5,3) |
| 17. Life or death in deep water (4,4) | 37. Eject creme owl (anagram) (7,6) |
| 18. Either end of the pool (4,7) | 38. Old and new TV (5,3,5, 6) |
| 19. For the rich or less well off (5,5, 6,5) | 39. High or low mood (7,10) |
| 20. Loud or soft on ebony and ivory (5,5) | 40. Knitting stitches (4,4) |

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

Cheers!

How do you drink a glass of wine? Perhaps you don't — in which case please turn the page.

For those still with us, we are at a Michael Norman wine-tasting evening and this is how it's done:



Wine-tasting evening in the Vicarage garden

Look at the colour of the wine in the glass. Is it red, purple, pink, amber, yellow? There are many options. The only bit I remember is that the darker reds have more 'body'.

Does it have 'legs'? Tilt the glass so the wine goes up the side, then straighten it up. Is some of the wine still clinging to the side? If so, it has 'legs'. Wine with no legs is a bit on the watery side. More 'leggy' wines have more body.

Sniff it. If red, does it smell of raspberries, plums, old oak, or if white does it have the scent of lemons, oranges or flowers? I always fail this test — it all smells like wine to me.

Sip it. Is it a bit sharp, smooth, sweet — do you like it?

Take a little food. Michael has provided what he calls canapés. We start with a small biscuit with cream cheese and a little smoked salmon on the top, and progress to small pieces of meat and later on even a small chicken korma and a spare rib. The idea is to see how the wine tastes with food. Incidentally, white wine should normally only be drunk with food, red wine you could drink on its own, although with food it's better.

Michael's summer wine tasting on 18th July, held in the Vicarage garden, attracted around 20 people. It was fully subscribed and we shared 13 bottles of wine, lots of portions of food and gave our unofficial verdicts on all manner of things. There were quizzes on subjects ranging from where the major wine provinces are in France to naming where the various wines on offer came from. Did you know that Zinfandel comes from the USA? Neither did I.

Oh, and there was a voluntary contribution at the end which raised £205 for Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care. I'd like to think the wine helped....

Chris Webb

A First-Timer's Take on New Wine

There's a unique thrill when stepping into something completely new — especially when it's a gathering of thousands united by worship, fellowship and a shared love for God's presence. For us, this summer's adventure took the form of our very first visit to the New Wine Festival at the Bath and West Showground near Shepton Mallet, 30th July-4th August. We have been to other Christian festivals but not for many years when our children were quite small.



Setting off — excited and a little apprehensive

Our journey began in Leavesden, with car boot packed, excitement running high and a tinge of trepidation about what the next five days might hold in store for us. After driving through some winding country lanes, barely big enough for our car, we arrived at our cosy Air BnB, just 10 minutes from the festival site. We would be sharing with some old friends who we didn't often get to spend a lot of time with. This was our back-up plan...in case we hated New Wine! We'd just bunk down at the bungalow with good wine, good cheese and good OLD friends. How naïve we were!

The heart of New Wine beats inside the Big Top Celebration, a vast canvas cathedral alive with energy. Walking in for the first time, you can't help but be struck by the sheer scale — and the sound! Thousands of voices lifted in praise, the worship band filling the air with songs that seemed to rise beyond the tent walls and right up to the heavens above.



Every church attending appeared somewhere on a set of pictures. We found 'St Lukes Watford' in the centre of the ARE poster!

Our mornings began with a leisurely start, making our way to the Big Top for Bible study at 10:30am, unpacking Scripture with depth and freshness and just about the right amount of 'groanable' dad jokes from Paul Langham, who was leading! It wasn't just about learning

more. It was about hearing God speak in ways that felt personal, challenging and timely. Other members of the group were 'up with the larks' and attending the early morning *Rise* session at 7:15am – returning to their hotels for breakfast afterwards!



Our fellow 'campers' from St Luke's

Of course, no festival is complete without food and friendship, and St Luke's 'camp' delivered both in abundance. We shared meals, laughter, and those spontaneous conversations that somehow end up being the highlight of the day. It was an absolute privilege and pleasure to get to know everyone a little better (usually over a washing-up bowl!).

New Wine's rhythm — worship, word, and fellowship — made space for God to refresh tired spirits and knit hearts together. It was more than an event. It was a glimpse of the Kingdom in motion, and for first-timers like us, it was nothing short of life-changing.

As we packed the car for the journey home, we couldn't help but think — this won't be our last New Wine.

Adrian and Helen Booth

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

Sep 26th

Oct 31st

Nov 28th

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



Deep Sea Divers Holiday Club

We had the privilege of again running a four-day summer holiday club, 5th–8th August, with the highest ever attendance of 75 children. This year's theme was 'Deep Sea Divers' based on material produced by Scripture Union. We focused on *Matthew's Gospel* to help the children learn more about who Jesus is. Over the course of four days, we dived into different Bible stories from Matthew, including the birth and baptism of Jesus, the healing of a man who could not walk, Jesus walking on water, the crucifixion and the resurrection.



Bible teaching through drama

Each day, the children participated in a range of engaging activities, including Bible teaching presented through fun drama performances. They also enjoyed worship songs, featuring the Deep Sea Divers theme song, 'Our God Is a Great Big God', and 'My Lighthouse'. It was wonderful to see the children learning the songs and enjoying singing them.

After the teaching sessions, the children had snacks before enjoying rotation time, which included crafts, games, and relaxing or chatting in small groups to reflect further on the Bible teaching. Following rotation time, we provided lunch for both the children and the team before they went home.

It was great to see the children's enjoyment throughout the week and to receive positive feedback from parents. The entire time was an incredible opportunity to connect with so many children and share the message of Jesus with them. We are praying that the children will continue to seek to learn more about Jesus and that we can build on the connections we have with their families.



Worship through action songs

There will be another Holiday Club Short on 31st October which will be a Light Party to provide an alternative to Halloween. We will be celebrating Jesus as the 'Light of the world'. We hope to strengthen our



Thank you to everyone on the holiday club team

links with holiday club families. Please pray that many families will attend the Light Party and make a long-lasting connection with St Luke's.

Bekki Hadley
Children and Families Team Leader

TODDLERS
 AT ST LUKES
 Thursdays 9:30 - 11am
 From Birth to Pre-School
 All Welcome!
www.stlukeswatford.org/toddlers

No need to book, just come along!

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

Houseparty at Bethany School

Houseparty at Bethany School, originally a Crusader camp, has been running for 106 years and feels like being away with family. Based in Goudhurst in Kent, we stay in boarding school houses and make full use of the wonderful facilities the school has to offer, including the swimming pool and the school fields, set in the pastoral idyll of the Kentish countryside. This year, the young people studied the book of *1 Peter* in their morning groups, and the evening worship explored Peter's life as documented in the Gospels.

As well as the Brookes/Dorsett-Bailey family, we were joined by leaders Maria and Ben (and reunited with Lydia) as well as Belle, Annabella, Jake, Orla, Mimi and India. I have asked a few of the young people to share their impressions on their first Houseparty, 9th–17th August.

Orla

This was the first time I had been to Bethany Houseparty. There are a lot of lovely people there and they do a lot of fun crafts and sports. The bunks are really nice. I was with a lot of kind people, and I made friends with them on the first day.

Mimi

This year's church camp at Bethany Houseparty was an incredible week — full of creativity, competitive sports and spiritual growth. The days were filled with arts and crafts, making vibrant coasters, personalised Bible covers and colourful bracelets that became keepsakes of the friendships we formed. If we were feeling more competitive, there was always an energetic game like Crusaderball or Danish Rounders, each one bringing laughter and teamwork to life. I met so many amazing



people from all over the country, including Whitchurch, Dorset and Abergavenny, and it felt like we'd known each other for years by the end.

Our evening meetings were especially powerful, deepening our understanding of our faith and strengthening our bond with God through worship, reflection and shared stories.

One evening, we dressed up in our prettiest outfits for the barn dance. Spinning and laughing under twinkling lights, with super fun and easy dances, everyone felt like a big family. Another evening, we ventured out for a night walk with neon glow sticks and a beautiful sunset. On one of the last days, we played an epic game of 'Capture the Flag' that had everyone buzzing. People were running around trying to win their team a flag while being chased by the opposite team.



By the time we packed up to leave, I had made some amazing memories. It was the little things from having nice chats at meal time, with incredible food, and talking in our room that night about the day's gossip, to all the exciting sports and crafts we did and the spiritual evening and morning groups. I left with new friends and lots of great memories.

Thank you everyone that helped look after us for an incredible week. I can't wait to go back next summer!

India

I had the best time at Houseparty. The leaders were so lovely and everyone got on so well. My favourite part was the barn dance. It was so much fun dancing with my friends to Cotton Eye Joe! Even though the queue for food was very long, the meals were delicious and we would get the leaders to run up for seconds!

The church services were so lovely with brilliant art work, beautiful songs and thoughtful prayers.

It felt so wonderful to be around a group of people your age who could all connect and talk about their faith.

Thank you Neil, Kate, Lydia, Ben, Maria and all the other brilliant leaders who made all of us feel so welcome and gave us the best first year ever!

Spaces go incredibly fast, so speak to Neil Brookes if you know a young person (aged 11–18 years) who would like to join us next year!

Kate Dorsett-Bailey

Greenbelt 2025 — Hope in the Making

Greenbelt is an annual Christian Festival that has been taking place over the August Bank Holiday since 1974. I've been going since I was a teenager, and after doing many different volunteer and paid roles I am currently privileged to be its Managing Director.

Greenbelt is so hard to put into words — it has to be experienced. But it is such a valued and important annual gathering for so many, and here are the views of just three of them:

"Each year I go to the amazing Greenbelt Festival in the UK which really is like heaven on earth to me. It recharges and inspires me for the year to come. And this time it felt even more special. Thank you to friends old and new, and to anyone who makes Greenbelt happen!"

"Greenbelt Festival is the place you can take your friend of nearly 40 years for the first time and not worry one iota - of course she is going to be swept up into the beautifully creative, inspiring, utterly inclusive craziness of it all. God is good. Friendships that span times and seasons, new experiences and depths of understanding are too. Maybe, just maybe, they are gloriously connected."



"Three days immersed in a community of people who dare to long for a world that embodies love, compassion, light and hope. Thank you."

We are an unashamedly inclusive Christian space in a world that is becoming ever-more divided. This year we welcomed the glorious gospel music of *Annie & The Caldwells*, considered the future of economics with Kate Raworth and marvelled at the acrobatic excellence of *No Fit State Circus*. To get a better flavour of what happens the full programme is here: www.greenbelt.org.uk/2025-lineup.



On Sunday morning the festival shuts down and we gather together for Holy Communion. For our 2025 gathering, we focussed on human hands — the creative work they can do, as well as the damage, and the capacity of human hands to create a hopeful future empowered by God. We shared bread and wine as an act of resistance to despair. We sang and shouted our belief that Christ is



Lord — which means Caesar is not. We turned our hands towards making the world better. We resolved to live in the light of the freedom that we choose to believe is coming tomorrow. Those who led the Act of Communion had all had experience of having their hands tied — being marginalised or excluded. To find out more and to listen to the service, please use this link: www.greenbelt.org.uk/communion/hope-in-our-hands.

There is a growing group of St Luke's folk who come each year, and, with a radical 'pay what you can afford' ticketing model, why not join us in 2026?

Derek Hill



Sunday Afternoon Recitals at St Luke's

3:00pm

12th October

Adrienne Cooke

Viola

To include works by Anton Schoendlinger and J S Bach

23rd November

Sophie Harrison

Flute

To include works by Mel Bonis and Sergei Prokofiev

Recitals are about 40 minutes. Free entry, donations welcome.

Tea & coffee afterwards



Attributes of a Priest

Strength of an Ox

Tenacity of a Bulldog

Daring of a Lion

Patience of a Donkey

Industry of a Beaver

Versatility of a Chameleon

Vision of an Eagle

Meekness of a Lamb

Hide of a Rhinoceros

Disposition of an Angel

Resignation of an Incurable

Loyalty of an Apostle

Heroism of a Martyr

Faithfulness of a Prophet

Tenderness of a Shepherd

Fervency of an Evangelist

Devotion of a Mother



Please pray for your Vicar

Posted on Facebook by a friend of Margaret Forester

A colorful poster for a 'Breakfast Club'. The background features a bowl of orange cereal on the left and a slice of orange on the right, set against a light blue and green background. The text is arranged as follows:

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: 27th September, 11th and 25th October,
8th and 22nd November, and 6th December**



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 (office@stlukeswatford.org)

'alternatives' Fund-raising Quiz Answers

Quiz clues are on page 29

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Simple/Complicated | 21. Outgoing/Shy |
| 2. Online/In-store | 22. Forgive/Resent |
| 3. Nice/Horrid | 23. Spend/Save |
| 4. Fashionable/Outdated or Outmoded | 24. Beginning/End |
| 5. Quiet/Noisy or Horse/Train | 25. Walk/Drive |
| 6. Tricky/Cinch | 26. Black/White |
| 7. Proud/Humble | 27. Good/Bad |
| 8. Soft/Firm or Hard | 28. Savoury/Sweet |
| 9. Rough/Smooth | 29. Tea/Coffee |
| 10. Hot/Cold | 30. Home/Away |
| 11. Faint-hearted/Brave | 31. Salt/Pepper |
| 12. Basement/Penthouse | 32. Back/Front |
| 13. Hero/Villain | 33. Firm/Limp |
| 14. Continental/Full English | 34. Lazy/Hardworking or Industrious |
| 15. Presto/Lento | 35. Letter/Email |
| 16. North/South | 36. Train/Bus |
| 17. Sink/Swim | 37. Welcome/Reject |
| 18. Deep/Shallow | 38. Black and White/Colour |
| 19. First class/Second class | 39. Elation or Ecstasy/Depression |
| 20. Forte/Piano | 40. Knit/Purl |



CREATIVE SPACE FOR



HARD-WORKING WOMEN

COME JOIN THE FUN!

Saturday 18 October, 10:00-11:30am

Informal Bring & Share Craft
Learn to crochet (Free)

Saturday 15 November, 9:30am-12 noon

Christmas Star Table Centrepiece
and Cork Tree Decorations
£8 + donation for breakfast

Saturday 24 January, 9:30am-12 noon

Teabag folding
£8 + donation for breakfast

Payment is by cash only on the day

To book your place,
email pam.stlukes@gmail.com
or whatsapp on 07975 748243



Concerts in St Luke's Church

Saturday 8th November, 2:00pm

**Garfield Jackson (Viola)
and Winnie Wu (Piano)**

Entry free, donations welcome

Saturday 29th November, 7:30pm

Watford Symphony Orchestra

*Verdi's Overture: La Forza del Destino, Mendelssohn's Symphony no 4
in A major 'The Italian' and Berlioz's 'Harold in Italy' for Solo Viola and Orchestra*

Tickets £18, available at the door or telephone 07925 749928



Children's Page

WHICH ARE THE ODD ONES OUT?



WORD SEARCH

See if you can find the names of these prophets:

AMOS
DANIEL
EZEKIEL
EZRA
HABAKKUK
HAGGAI
HOSEA
ISAIAH
JEREMIAH

JOEL
JONAH
MALACHI
MICAH
NAHUM
OBADIAH
ZECHARIAH
ZEPHANIAH

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



A poster for Kids Club with a blue background and a white starburst shape in the center. The text 'Kids Club' is written in large, green, bubbly letters inside the starburst. In the top left corner, there is a logo for St Luke's Watford. At the bottom left, a green banner contains the text 'Tuesdays 5.30 - 6.45 pm'. At the bottom right, a green banner contains the text 'Age 7-11'. A white rounded rectangle at the bottom right contains the text 'Subs are £2 per week or £18 per term'.

St LUKE'S
WATFORD

Kids Club

Tuesdays
5.30 - 6.45 pm

Age 7-11

Subs are £2 per week
or £18 per term



A poster for Holiday Club 'Short' with a blue background and a yellow sun in the center. The text 'HOLIDAY CLUB 'SHORT'' is written in bold, yellow, block letters at the top. Below it, a yellow sun with a flame on top is in the center. The text 'LIGHT PARTY' is written in white, block letters across the sun, and 'Save the Date!' is written in a white, cursive font below it. In the top left corner, there is a logo for St Luke's Watford. To the right of the sun, the text '5-7pm' is written in white. At the bottom left, the text 'Food Included' is written in orange. At the bottom, the text 'Friday 31st October 25' is written in large, blue, block letters.

St LUKE'S
WATFORD

HOLIDAY CLUB 'SHORT'

5-7pm

LIGHT PARTY

Save the Date!

Food Included

Friday 31st October 25

You are welcome to submit an article for the next edition of *St Luke's News* which should be no more than 450 words. We may edit articles for clarity.

Please email articles to the Church Office: office@stlukeswatford.org

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

The magazine appears on our website, www.stlukeswatford.org

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

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

Website www.stlukeswatford.org

Email office@stlukeswatford.org