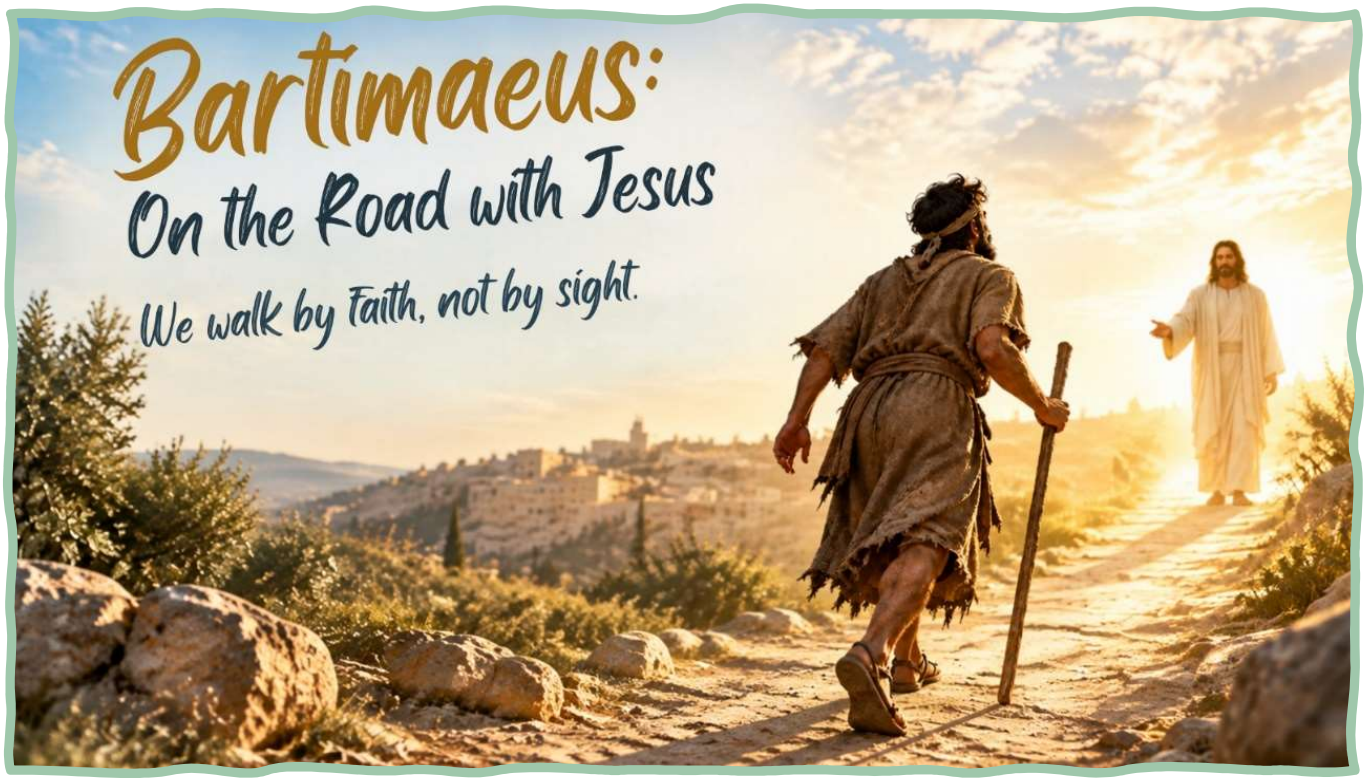
Sunday 29th November 2026

10:30am Morning Worship with Baptism
Bartimaeus: On the Road with Jesus
Mark 10:46-52, pages 1015 and 1016 in Church Bibles
Leading: Michael Norman (Vicar)
Speaking: Dave Clarke (Reading)

5:30pm Encounter Service with Communion
Sermon, spectacle and scepticism
Romans 15:14-22, pages 1141 and 1142 in Church Bibles
Leading: Dave Clarke (Reader)/Michael Norman (Vicar)
Speaking: Neil Brookes (Youth Director and Ordinand)



If you are new to St Luke's Church (online too!) – welcome.
Weekly updates by email – please contact office@stlukeswatford.org if you would like to receive them.
St Luke's Church Office ☎ 01923 246161 **Church Website:** https://www.stlukeswatford.org

DECEMBER	
Tuesday 1st	
10:00	Holy Communion, followed by community coffee
20:00	Focus (Zoom)
Wednesday 2nd	
19:30	CanCC
Saturday 5th	
09:00-12 noon	Half-day of Prayer
Sunday 6th	
10:30	Family Communion
17:30	Encounter – this is the last Encounter Service for 2026, restarting on 3rd January 2027, with a new theme of 'What is Worship'

Celebrations: Birthday wishes to Jenny R today and Emily W for Wednesday. Please tell the Church Office about any birthday or anniversary celebrations you would like shared with the church family.

A Special Welcome to Baby Jack and his parents Natalie and Tommy and the family as he comes to Baptism this morning.

Jeff Gibbs' thanksgiving service: this will be held on **Thursday 3rd December** at 1.30pm at St Luke's, with refreshments afterwards in the hall. Dress code is smart casual with red accents and Arsenal scarves. RSVP for catering reasons to dianamjgibbs@yahoo.co.uk. A sheet containing further details of the day, including livestreaming is attached.

The Longest Night Service: 7pm on Monday 21st December. Do you find Christmas difficult? There are many reasons that some are not looking forward to Christmas. This year we are having a service of reflection and hope for all that find it difficult. It will be a gentle,reflective service (45-50 minutes) with an opportunity to light a candle,offering to God how we feel and handing it over to the Lord.
All Welcome.

ACTORS NEEDED for our New Year Parables dramas during the 10.30am Sunday services on 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st January and 7th February. To help with acting, scenery, props or assisting, please see Pam N or email Pam.stlukes@gmail.com. Each play's rehearsal is at 6pm on the Saturday before.

New Wine Woman's Day – 6th February 2027: tickets are now on sale for the New Wine Women's day and cost £25. Women from St Lukes will be going to the event being held in Ealing. If you would like to join us please visit https://nwln.churchsuite.com/events/pdira6vy to buy your ticket or speak to Helen J Booth if you need help with this. Buy your ticket ASAP as it will sell out!

The church magazine, **St Luke's News**, is now available. Please take a copy home with you to have an informative and enjoyable read!

Christmas services at St Luke's – the flyer will be available for despatch next week. We are looking for willing volunteers to help distribute these around the estate. Please contact the Church Office if you can help.

Santa's Hampers (Bags) 2026 – The team are preparing 50 useful, joyful gift bags (not boxes this year) for families in the Watford & Three Rivers Refugee partnership, costing around £35 each. Contributions would be gratefully received via the Church Office or Sunday collection, in envelopes marked "Santas Hampers". We would also welcome help in the upstairs lounge on **Friday 4th December**: setting out on tables at **10am** and packing with the youth from **6pm to around 8pm**. Any help would be a real encouragement to our tired team.

Upcoming concert: Violin recital by Matthew Bethel and Winnie Bethel on **Sunday 6th December** at 2pm. The programme includes Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Elgar and Debussy. There will be a collection towards church funds and Rennie Grove Peace Hospice.

The next **Breakfast Club** is on **Saturday 12th December**. This is the last Breakfast Club in 2026.

Holiday Club Shorts Christmas Party is now full. Please contact Bekki Hadley to add your child to the waiting list. If your child can no longer attend, please let Bekki know so their place can be offered to another child.

Bekki and Sally are hosting a film night on **Saturday 19th December** at 7pm to watch '**It's a Wonderful Life'** and have some festive snacks. Please come and join us! So we know the numbers coming, please sign up using the QR code.

Pam Willis would be grateful to receive used and unused stamps, especially the Christmas and international ones. The stamp box is kept in the welcoming area.

The Tearfund Quiz on 14th November has raised £723, with the Big Quiz night raising over £43,700 to date. There is still time to donate to this important charity, via the QR code to the St Luke's JustGiving page.

Josh Booth, Helen and Adrian's eldest son, is running the London Marathon in April 2027 on behalf of the **Scripture Union**. His JustGiving page, Josh Booth - Scripture Union, gives more information about why he's doing this and the work of the Scripture Union, and where you can donate if you would like to.

Collect for 1st Sunday of Advent
Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Let us pray: for all those affected by conflict, especially those facing hardship, displacement and loss in Gaza and Ukraine; for our communities, schools, charities and local services. Give wisdom, compassion and resilience to all who work for the well-being of others and help us to play our part in serving our neighbours.

We **give thanks** for the many answers to prayer this week. The next prayer list is **green.** Please take one home to pray over.

World Watch List: Egypt (42nd area of religious persecution).

Partners in Mission: give thanks for the Gelsthorpe family's return to Japan and for encouraging signs of growth in the church. Pray for wisdom in leadership, healing in relationships, open hearts to the Gospel, and God's guidance and blessing on the whole family.

Our church family in need:

Our wider family and friends in need:

It is with great sadness that we have heard that John D died peacefully on Thursday night. We give thanks for his love for the Lord and his life of service.

Those in mourning: Please pray for all we know mourning the loss of loved ones currently.