

# St. Luke's Newsletter

## 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### Environment Sunday



It's that time of year again! Hopefully it's the end of the frost season and planting time is well under way in our gardens. We can already see some wonderful displays around the village with the Brownies and Rainbows joining in and planting up the Children's Allotment, enhancing our local environment. A Big THANK YOU to all those who have already planted up tubs. Jenny and Trevor will be busy planting up the remaining tubs very soon.

Now we need YOUR help! Watering the plants needs to be done regularly. If you are able to commit to watering just one tub near your house it would be an enormous help. Please let Trevor know if you are able to 'take on' watering a tub – Phone 372327

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Last weekend, the strap of my wrist watch broke. No big deal, you might say. Of course, you'd be right, but I was surprised how much it affected me. Without the time on my wrist, I seemed - in some small way - to have lost control of my life. I found I was asking other people to tell me the time - the assistant on the checkout in Aldi, for example. Sad, or what?

At the previous Wednesday Bible Study meeting, we had been shown two pictures, one of the Tower of Babel, and a much more modern work, in black and white, of a gigantic super-store, on a number of levels. The seemingly hundreds of tiny stick-like customers all appeared to be seeking answers to their needs and problems in a mixed-up world.

The Tower of Babel, of course, tells the story of human pride, seeking to rise above God's control, and human beings were punished for this by the confusion of many languages being brought into the world, presumably so that people couldn't understand each other, as formerly they had been able to. That was a major loss of control - which was mirrored in the second picture, and of which I had a glimpse, whilst without my watch - though on a very minor scale.

What has this got to say about life today? I guess we'd all like to be in control of our lives - our families, our health, our future. Perhaps we wish we could change political situations in the world, or just in our own country, and influence decisions about finance, oil supply or food availability. In varying degrees, control appeals to us, but life is not like that. We are fortunate in the U.K. to enjoy many freedoms - freedom of religious belief, freedom of speech and of other behaviours. How different it is elsewhere, where you can be flogged for drinking alcohol or committing adultery. Some national leaders try to dictate what people think and say, and even where they live. Freedom of belief is often impossible.

As Christians, two things are clear from the Bible. First, in His love, God has allowed us many choices - and is always there to extricate us when we make seriously wrong decisions. Secondly - despite our longing to be "in control," - there is the eternal truth (as the old song tells us) that

*"God is still on the throne,  
and He will remember His own,  
His promise is true, He will not forget you,  
God is still on the throne."*

As we live with constant change, notably the increasing discussion and use of Artificial Intelligence, let us thank God for all He has given us, and daily commit our lives to Him and His love and power.

Every blessing, Noreen.

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**Environment Sunday** is marked on the Sunday nearest to World Environment Day, 5th June. So, in 2023 Environment Sunday is 4th June and this year our theme will be the Fashion Industry. A strange theme for Environment Sunday you may think – so come along (in your second-hand gear) on Sunday morning to find out more about the environmental costs of fast fashion and what we can do to help save our planet.

**June 4<sup>th</sup> is 'Second Hand Sunday'**

Simple D.I.Y. Breakfast from 9.30 in the church hall followed by the service in church looking at

**"What if God ran the Fashion Industry"**

*Please strut your stuff, flaunt your fashion wearing at least one second hand item (or 'pre-loved' if you prefer!)*

Special guest from the Salvation Army

**Fast Fashion**

I was astonished a few days ago to read of a woman complaining about the price of a T-shirt from Primark. She only wanted to wear it once so she didn't want to pay very much. Is this how people view their lives? I want so I'll have. It's only a T-shirt so what effect does it have on anyone else? Unfortunately, what we do as individuals affects other people in the world.

We have been aware of climate change for years now but it seems as if we treat it as everyone else's fault and has nothing to do with us. We have had the wake-up call but are managing to sleep through it. We need to act to save ourselves. We are all feeling the effects of climate emergency but it is not affecting us all equally. The world's poorest people have contributed least to the climate crisis, yet are suffering the full force of its impact. Our planet is in serious trouble but things could be different. The main solution is simple = we have to stop our emissions of greenhouse gasses.

Obvious actions stand out - flying less, driving less but how about buying fewer new clothes? The textile industry produces more greenhouse gases than aviation and shipping combined - it could be a more important change than we think.

David

**Bicycle Security Marking**

Staffordshire Police will be holding a **security marking event** on **Saturday 3rd June 2023 10am – 12pm** if you or anybody you know would like to attend to get your pedal cycle registered at **Tittensor Village Hall**. Registering on BikeRegister is free and means you could be reunited with your bike in the event of it being stolen. Your details are held on a secure online database which all UK Police Forces have access to. <https://orlo.uk/EYo0X>

**Coming up next week:**

- **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June Second Hand Sunday** following DIY breakfast from 9.30 in the church hall We will be streaming the service live this morning on YouTube and Facebook
- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June Auction & Social Morning** at the Village Hall 0830-1230 Contact Terry 07801 942274
- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June Tittensor Tots** in the Church Hall 9-11am. Contact Freda 372924
- **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June Bible Study** in the Church Hall **10am** Contact Noreen
- **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June Irene's Friendship Group** in the Church Hall 2-4pm. Contact Marj 372813
- **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June Thursday Morning Informal Prayer** in the Church Hall **10am** Contact Paul
- **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June Holy Communion at St. Luke's 9.30am**

**Vicar:** Rev John Beswick Pallister 01782 796036  
**Church Warden** Vacant. For enquiries contact Paul Graetz **Prayer Coordinator:** Win Growcott 01782 372714  
**Ministry team:** Rev Noreen Russell 01782 372992  
Paul Graetz 01782 372356 Freda Bishop 01782 372924  
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