# WEAR ST. LUKE PARISH MAGAZINE




**November**

**2026**

**50p**






As we fully leave behind the busy holiday months and enter into the more reflective season of autumn and winter, I cannot help but consider the past six months and the months ahead.

Many of you will have received or heard about the notification of the Bishop's visitation to our benefice of two churches, St Margaret's Topsham and St Luke's Countess Wear. Given its public circulation, I believe it is important that you also hear briefly from me.

I have raised substantial concerns about the visitation process and its report. Those concerns remain unresolved. My decision to respect confidentiality and avoid discussing individuals publicly should not be understood as agreement with everything that has been said or written.
This has been a prolonged and deeply distressing experience, with a significant impact. Although I remain a familiar public face in our churches and community, much of that experience has necessarily been carried privately.

I recognise that parishioners both in church, in the community and on the electoral roll may have questions and concerns. I ask that we make space for fair hearing, respect confidentiality, and avoid treating disputed accounts as established facts. These responsibilities matter to the wellbeing of everyone involved.

I remain grateful for the kindness, prayer and practical support I have received, and for the relationships built through more than eleven years of ministry here. I am seeking a fair resolution that respects the dignity and wellbeing of all concerned, including my family.

Revd Louise Grace

## NOVEMBER SERVICES AT ST. LUKE'S

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1st November** | **10am** | **Eucharist** |
| **8th November** | **10am** | **Eucharist Remembrance** |
| | **3pm** | **Forest Church** |
| **15th November** | **10am** | **Joint service at St Margaret's** |
| **22nd November** | **10am** | **Morning Worship** |
| **29th November** | **10am** | **Eucharist** |



## NOVEMBER READINGS AT ST. LUKE'S



| | |
|---|---|
| **1ST November** | **1 John 3. 1 – 3**<br>**Matthew 5. 1 – 12** |
| **8th November**<br>**Remembrance Sunday**<br>**With act of Remembrance** | **1 Thessalonians 4. 13 – 18**<br>**Matthew 25. 1 – 13** |
| **15th November** | **Joint service at St Margaret's** |
| **22nd November** | **Psalm 95. 1 – 7**<br>**Ephesians 1. 15 – 23**<br>**Matthew 25. 31 – 46** |
| **29th November** | **Psalm 80. (1 - 8)18 – 20**<br>**1 Corinthians 1. 3 – 9**<br>**Mark 13. 24 – 37** |



# ST. LUKE'S ALTAR FLOWERS



| NOVEMBER | | DECEMBER | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st November | Rosie Lomax | 6th December | ADVENT |
| 8th November | Rosie Lomax | 13th December | ADVENT |
| 15thNovember | St Margaret's | 20th December | ADVENT |
| 22nd November | Sandra Greedy | 27th December | Caryll Ingerslev |
| 29th November | ADVENT | | |



## NOVEMBER SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1ST November | 10am | Eucharist |
| | 6.30pm | Evensong |
| 8th November | 10am | Eucharist |
| 15th November | 8am | BCP Holy Communion |
| | 10am | Joint Service at St Margaret's |
| 22nd November | 10am | Family Friendly Holy Communion |
| | 6.30pm | Evensong |
| 29th November | 10am | Eucharist |
| | 3pm | Songs of Praise |





## MISSION COMMUNITY MID-WEEK SERVICES AND EVENTS

**Mondays:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2.30pm | Contemplative Prayer (St. Margaret's) (9th Nov) |
| 7pm | Compline (via Zoom) |

**Wednesdays:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 10am | Morning Worship (via Zoom) |
| 2.30 – 3.30pm | Coffee/tea and cake (St. Margaret's) |

**Fridays**

| | |
|---|---|
| 9am | Morning Prayer (St. Margaret's) |

## Coffee Morning

On a Tuesday morning between 10am and 12noon a coffee morning is held in St Luke's, Church Rooms, School Lane. You can join in a quiz, do word puzzles or play dominoes. But you can just sit and chat and have a drink and biscuits.

Come and join us, it's great fun and good company. It is all organised by church members who work very hard to look after us all.

Sheila Pacey

## Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

At this time of year, we start our knitting for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. We send knitted scarves, gloves and hats as Christmas gifts via Samaritan's Purse to needy children in Eastern Europe. We send other suitable small gifts as well such as stationery and small toys.

So please start knitting! – it should be fun now that the colder weather has arrived. In the past our knitting skills have been on show in the fabulous collection of warm hats, scarves and mitts we've been able to put together for this worthy cause. Let's see what we can do this year!



The **deadline** to bring your items to St Luke's Church is Sunday 8th November.

**Recommended items**: toys such as teddy bears, footballs, toy cars, skipping ropes, Lego, mouth organs, toothbrushes, combs, hairbrushes, flannels, hair clips, colouring books and pencils, woolly hats, gloves and scarves.

**Forbidden items**: soap, toothpaste, sweets or anything edible, liquids or gels, war-related items such as toy soldiers.

Jill Allen

## Tally Ho Lunch

14 people sat down for Sunday lunch on the 20th September at the Tally Ho. We had a lovely meal and good company. Thank you for organising it and thanks to the Tally Ho staff for looking after us so well.

Sheila Pacey





**Autumn Blessing**

The leaves turn gold, the mornings cool,
The swallows gather by the pool;
The apples redden on the tree,
And mist drifts softly o'er the lea.

The evenings draw their curtains tight,
As daylight fades to early night;
Yet in the church, warm candles glow,
A quiet welcome for those who go.

So let us pause amid the year,
Give thanks for all that autumn brings
For harvest, friendship, love and light,
And blessings hidden in the night.

For every season has its part,
A gentle lesson for the heart:
To gather in, to rest, to pray,
And trust God for another day.

Peter Ingerslev

**********

**The Envelopes – Finance in the Church of Ireland**

When you got a job in Ireland, you were immediately presented with the envelope for a monthly contribution to the Church. This was almost a rite of passage with no exceptions. It was collected on the last Friday of every month. The minister usually managed to fit in a visit during the week before.

He was a rather dour man with no sense of humour, and his visits were more to be endured than enjoyed and I am ashamed to say that if we saw him coming, we sometimes hid until he left.

These envelopes were looked upon, not with annoyance but sincere, good will, which gave us a prosperous Church and generous support to the sick and needy of the Parish.

A way of life which rather sadly no longer exists.

Verena Richardson

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## RAINBOW LIVING QUIZ NIGHT

Rainbow Living will be holding a Quiz Night on Saturday 28th November in St Luke's Church Rooms, School Lane, Exeter EX2 6LB starting at 7.00pm. Please book your table of 6 players (£30 per table) at **ticketsource.com/rainbow-living-sw** or call Ruth on 07557 507447.

## COUNTESS WEAR COMMUNITY CHOIR

We would like to invite you to our Christmas concert in St. Lukes Church starting at 7.00pm on Friday 4th December, Come and hear the new music we have been learning and we will also be singing our Christmas repertoire.

Enjoy with us an early Christmas evening with mulled wine. Admission is free and we will hope for generous donations!

On Monday 7th December the Community Choir have been invited to sing in Killerton House Chapel at 1.30 and 2.30 pm, The Chapel will be decorated for Christmas, and everyone is welcome to pop in or stay a while.

We have grown as a choir and we have 42 members. We would love some more men to balance us so please encourage any male singers you may know. We are very friendly!

Jo Shaw

# RED EARTH OPERA MAKES TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO ST LUKE'S

After the year of 2024, the Red Earth Opera made a welcome return to St Luke's. This year's program started with a rousing introduction by our own Peter Ingerslev, followed by a number of well-known arias and choruses from the golden age of opera and finished off with a slightly more modern piece by Ivor Novello. This took us to the interval where an extensive range of canapes and wine was served. These were provided free of charge by people at St Luke's to the great enjoyment of the audience. The second half was a performance of the opera Cavalleria Rusticana, a tale of love a revenge taking the audience through a rollercoaster of emotions culminating in the death of one of the main characters. Well, it is opera! There was copious applause at the end, and the audience really seemed to have had a good time. The professional soloists were on top form and the orchestra and chorus who are pretty much all Devon based performers, well making full use of the church's acoustics and organ.

These events take a lot of work to put on, and it is with great thanks to members of the church and particularly the Community Choir who helped by decorating the church, making the canapes by hand, serving the interval canapes and wine and the tidying up afterwards. They are too numerous to mention but it would not have happened without their help to ensure it all ran so smoothly.



The church was packed out with well over 100 tickets sold.

We don't have the final figures for funds raised yet, but in some respects that is less important than seeing the church as the centre of the community and showing that we are a great asset to Countess Wear.

John Collett

## Opera on Screen(s): a cultural experience to share here… and around the world

Opera on Screen(s): a cultural experience to share here and around the world. On the 6th November Exeter Twinning Circle and the University of Exeter Campus Cinema invites you to enjoy a free screening of Robinson Crusoé, an opera by Jacques Offenbach produced by the Opéra de Rennes. This screening is part of an initiative led by Rennes Métropole within the framework of the European Dialogues organised by Les Champs Libres. It brings together participating municipalities of Rennes Métropole and their partner and twin cities around the same cultural experience.

The 2026 edition brings together 17 partner cities across 13 countries: Germany, China, the United States, France, Ireland, Japan, Palestine, Poland, Romania, the United Kingdom, Türkiye, Ukraine and Vietnam.

Free and open to everyone, this screening is for opera lovers and curious newcomers alike.

Practical information • Date: 6th November • Time: 5:30 pm • Venue: University of Exeter Campus Cinema – Devonshire House, Stocker Road, Exeter, EX4 4PZ • Free admission

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## St David Singers Concert 17th December



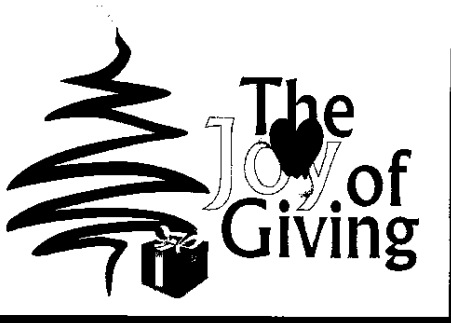
**Early date for your diary.** We are pleased to announce that the St. David Singers, led by musical director Stephen Tanner, have agreed to come back to St Luke's Church on Thursday 17th December at 7.30pm. Keep the date free and come and enjoy a fabulous evening of music. Light refreshments will be served during the interval. There will be a retiring collection so, if possible, please come with some cash to help towards Church funds!

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## MAGAZINE ARTICLES PLEASE

Poems, stories of your holidays, of your gardens, recipes or any articles that the readers of the magazine might find interesting or amusing, would be very much appreciated.

Please send your articles for the December/January magazine by the **21st November.** Please note this magazine will be a double edition for December 2026 and January 2027.

**Parish Magazine Editor – clerkwear@gmail.com**

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**MISSION COMMUNITY OF ST. LUKE'S, COUNTESS WEAR AND ST. MARGARET'S, TOPSHAM**

**VICAR: The Rev. Louise Grace:**
**vicartopshamwear@gmail.com**

**ASSOCIATE PRIEST: Rev Peter Ingerslev:**
**associatepriesttopshamwear@gmail.com**

**SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Katie Gray:**
**safeguardingtopshamwear@gmail.com**

**ROUGH SLEEPERS: Rev. Louise Grace:**
**vicartopshamwear@gmail.com**

## ST. LUKE'S

**CHURCHWARDEN: Sandra Greedy: Tel: 01392 271458**
**churchwardenwear@gmail.com**

**CHURCH & CHURCH ROOMS BOOKINGS: Sandra Greedy:**
**bookingswear@gmail.com**

**PCC SECRETARY: Ken Greedy: Tel: 07767 494163**
**clerkwear@gmail.com**

## ST. MARGARET'S

**CHURCHWARDEN: Helen Swaffield:**
**churchwardenstmargarets@gmail.com**

**BOOKINGS COORDINATOR: Caryll Ingerslev:**
**bookingstopsham@gmail.com**