



St Luke's Church

An open door
for open hearts and minds

St Luke's Newsletter

www.stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk



August 2024

Letter from Revd Annie

August means holiday time for many of us at St Luke's...

When I was younger the thing I most loved about holidays or time off was the opportunity to do something different. Swimming in the sea, building the best sandcastles, horse-riding holidays, going on an adventure – trying new things, seeing new places. Then, holidays were about delighting in seeing my own children try new things and the smiles and laughter of time together. Those were the days when I used to come back from holidays needing a rest!

Now it seems different, I am quite content to sit, sleep and relax into the things I know – and those things now include a trip to Canada to visit my son and his family. I still enjoy seeing different places, but not quite as many all in the same space of time.

Perhaps it is an age thing....or perhaps and I prefer this, it is a new stage of life!



Yet maybe it is about something else. Strictly speaking, it's difficult to find examples of believers going on 'holiday' in the Bible. Paul took trips, but the missionary journeys were hardly relaxing. Jesus got away for prayer and spiritual refreshment, but those were more like spiritual retreats than modern holidays. David once ignored his military duties in order to spend his afternoons relaxing, but that led to his committing adultery and murder—hardly a positive biblical instance of holiday!

So how we should we view it is this, the Bible provides a basis for times of rejuvenation. Firstly, God built cycles of rest into the order of the creation, marking one day each week to be spent away from work. Beyond that, annual festivals on the Jewish calendar provided for extended rest and recreation. The author of Ecclesiastes rightly called his readers to the pleasures of life: *“Go, eat your bread in joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do”* Ecclesiastes 9:7. The Lord has sanctioned recreation; there is no need to feel guilty for times focused on enjoyment—this is part of God's plan.

Rather than thinking of time away, perhaps we should reclaim the term 'holiday' (from 'holy day'). Maybe the emphasis should fall on spiritual reorientation and refreshment in order to tackle our work.

In the novel Moby Dick, Herman Melville illustrated the need for rest in service of effective work. Before the whalers realised this principle, the poor harpooner would have to row along with his colleagues in a boat pursuing the whale. But by the time they reached it, he was exhausted and ill-equipped to spear the beast with accuracy and strength. They finally decided he should ride while the others rowed, so that when the time came, he could do his job with good effect. Though he rested, it was as a means to an end and not as an end in itself.

Of course, I recognise that I am incredibly fortunate to be able to take time off and to be able to have a holiday, for many in this country and abroad are not so fortunate. So in my rest, I look for purpose.

Upon my return I (and I hope and pray you too), will be ready, equipped and keen to serve, love and live for Jesus and make Him known in Whyteleafe and beyond.

With every blessing as you rest *Revd Annie*

Contacts: Revd. Annie Kurk email: vicar@stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk
or contact the Parish Administrator Alison Pannett email: pa@stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk
www.stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk

Services at St Luke's in August & September 2024



Sunday 4th August

9.30am Bubble Church
10.30am All Age Holy Communion

Sunday 11th August

9.30am Holy Communion Service & Sunday School

Sunday 18th August

9.30am Café Church with Holy Communion

Sunday 25th August

9.30am Holy Communion Service & Sunday School



Sunday 1st September

9.30am Bubble Church
10.30am Holy Communion & Messy Church

Sunday 8th September

9.30am Holy Communion & Messy Church

Sunday 15th September

10am Battle of Britain Memorial Service

Sunday 22nd September

9.30am Café Church with Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd September

9.30am All Age Holy Communion

Root and Branch Club

Open to all, come and meet with us
to tend the church grounds.

Saturday Meetings in 2024
17th August and 14th September
10.00 am till lunch time

For more details please email Sara
sara.goatcher@btinternet.com



Children's Ministry



Now summer is finally on the way, we shall be continuing with Sunday School over the school holidays with fun in our churchyard exploring and finding how God can be seen in nature and our surroundings (weather permitting!).

We are also planning behind the scenes for the Autumn and Winter Terms for our Lions and Lambs club, as well as changing the format for Sunday School - see September's newsletter for more details.

Anne-Michelle, Childrens Lead

LADIES FELLOWSHIP at St Luke's

2nd and 4th Wednesday of the Month at 7.30pm

August 14 - Beautiful Scotland : Glenda Law

August 28 - Life in the Royal Navy : Tom McAlister

Annual Membership £20 or £2 per evening

Thank You

Thank You to all those who have signed up to the **Parish Giving Scheme** we launched in April.

We have had lots of positive feedback of how easy it was to sign up either over the phone or on-line.

Giving to the work of St Lukes is so important to ensure that your local Parish Church continues to grow and reach all those in our community of Whyteleafe.

If you would like more details about the scheme follow the **DONATE** link on our website or email Alison at pa@stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk

Caterham Churches Together Wednesday Morning Prayer 8.30am

During August there will be no Morning Prayer.