



St Luke's Church

An open door
for open hearts and minds

St Luke's Newsletter

www.stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk



July 2024

Letter from Revd Annie

I am sure it hasn't gone unnoticed that our recent Bible readings in Sunday services, from Mark's gospel, have been about how we all ought to be 'proclaiming the gospel' or gathering people into 'the Kingdom of God'.

We have heard many readings this month when Jesus has explained why he wants us to do that (out of generosity, sharing and selflessness). And yet for so many it remains a step too far, a challenge that is not even considered, and something for someone else to worry about. I read that in many churches across the land the whole topic of sharing our faith with others is not taken seriously and often not even preached about.

Many preachers and listeners feel overwhelmed with the enormity of the task. It's true that it does take courage, an understanding of the theological reasons and a desire to share the blessings of believing that you have with others.



The piece I read said that the older you get, the more scary it is to tell someone that you go to church on Sundays and to invite someone to come along with you. Is that true at St Luke's? To be fair, it was never easy for former generations either, possibly due to our culture which makes others suspicious of people who talk about Jesus. Does it make you feel like an extremist if you do? And there are the scandals that have rocked the Church which have exposed the hypocrisy of faith for some – an area we don't want to be associated with. Should we address the abuse of power first?

We have heard stories in the press about how some Christians have been in trouble at work because they have spoken openly about their faith to colleagues.

Most of us, if asked, would struggle to give an authentic current example of the amazing, life-changing impact our faith has made to our lives, probably because we are used to that feeling of unconditional love and forgiveness by now, and most non-Christians would not be able to identify such a change in the Christians they know because they haven't known us in any other way.

But then the 'newer' churches who have a culture of evangelism certainly attract more people. Maybe those who actively choose a Church of England church may do so precisely because they perceive much lower expectations in respect of faith sharing; it's an opportunity to attend church on a Sunday and lead respectable but not particularly overtly Christian lives through the week. Maybe we get demoralised if we don't see lots of people coming to faith so it knocks our confidence to believe that the gospel can transform lives.

Or maybe we have just been on the receiving end of some unkind, manipulative or even abusive evangelism ourselves.

Right now, there is lots to be positive about in the Church of England. God seems to be making us fitter for purpose, warming the spiritual temperature in many 'ordinary' churches and amongst many 'ordinary' people. Let's pray for the Holy Spirit to be on our case at St Luke's Church to help us show others that our faith matters and we have the confidence, courage and faith to speak about our faith naturally. God has a path for us to follow – let's walk it together...

Contact Revd. Annie Kurk email: vicar@stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk
or contact the Treasurer & Parish Administrator Alison Pannett email: pa@stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk

Services at St Luke's in July 2024

Sunday 7th July

9.30am Bubble Church
10.30am All Age Eucharist

**BUBBLE
CHURCH**

Sunday 16th July

9.30am Holy Communion Service & Sunday School

Sunday 23rd July

9.30am Café Church

Sunday 30th July

9.30am Holy Communion Service & Sunday School

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

Root and Branch Club

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



Saturday Meetings in 2024

20th July, 17th August, 14th Sept
10.00 am till lunch time

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

LADIES FELLOWSHIP at St Luke's

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

July 10 - Doctor at Sea : Dr. R. Cruthers

July 24 - Summer Dining at a local venue

Annual Membership £20 or £2 per evening

From 1st September there will be changes to our services at St Luke's Church

1st Sunday of the Month

9.30am Bubble Church
10.30am Holy Communion + Sunday School

2nd Sunday of the Month

9.30am Holy Communion + Sunday School

3rd Sunday of the Month

9.30am Café Church

4th Sunday of the Month

9.30am All Age Communion Service

5th Sunday of the Month

9.30am Service of the Word + Sunday School

Caterham Churches Together Wednesday Morning Prayer 8.30am

At 8.30am on Wednesday Morning all members of Caterham Churches are welcome to join the Caterham Churches Together Morning Prayer. In July this will be at The Westway Centre, 25 Chaldon Rd, CR3 5PG

St Luke's Diary

Bubble Church: 9.30am 1st Sunday of the month

Knitting Ninjas: Next Meetings: 11th July 9am – 12pm

Little Lukes: Fridays 9am – 11am Parent and Toddler Group

Lions and Lambs: Friday 3.10pm – 4.40pm
After school club for 4 - 11 year olds

Caterham Anglicans
present:

YOUTH NIGHT

AT THE

GAMES CAFE

FOR SECONDARY
SCHOOL AGES
June 5, July 3, Aug 7

LIMITED ROOM! BOOK
NOW

email
revjaimeesummers@gmail.com

1st Wednesday of
the month
6pm-7.30

THAT RETRO PLACE, GAMES
CAFE, HIGH STREET, CATERHAM
ON THE HILL

