



# St Luke's Newsletter

[www.stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk](http://www.stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk)

May 2025

**St Luke's Church**

An open door  
for open hearts and minds



## ***A Letter from Revd Annie***

'I lift my eyes up to the mountains, where does my help come from'

I recently conducted a funeral where the chosen Bible reading was Psalm 121. It's evidently a common choice for an occasion when you need help to getting through a difficult time. It certainly spoke to me about where I should fix my eyes during this difficult time of leaving St Luke's.

Psalms 120 to 134 all have the same title, 'A song of ascents' and many of them refer regularly to Jerusalem or Zion, which is on a hill – hence the idea that you 'go up' to Jerusalem. It is thought that this set of 15 Psalms would be sung on the way to the temple and that they were imported into the book of Psalms as an entire collection.

If you can, do read all of the Psalms of Ascents, if you have time. If not, read just Psalm 121 and as you do, think about the theme of pilgrimage.

It begins, 'I lift my eyes up to the mountains, where does my help come from' and so right at the beginning there are two possible implications. Some say that God lives in the hills and mountains and yet others say verse 1 is a question.

If this psalm was sung on the way to the temple in Jerusalem, the pilgrims would have had to pass through places where wild beasts or bandits would lie in wait...up in the hills. If this were the case then the pilgrims would lift up their eyes in the hope that God would send help.



All are welcome to come into the church to pray and/or light a candle to remember

At noon we shall observe a 2 minute silence

**8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**10am – 12pm**

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If the mountains refer to Mount Zion as the place where God dwells, then the pilgrims would certainly hope that help would come from them.

The question is whether the mountains represent danger or assurance of strength and help. It is possible that the writer of this Psalm might have feared the hills, when we might find strength in them. If we think about the mountains or hills that we know, even the hills around Whyteleafe, do we see them as places of danger or of reassurance? Some say the chalk quarry looks foreboding. Others see a majestic landmark.

The final verses of the Psalm are just brilliant! The God who helps, who makes sure your foot does not slip and who never sleeps, will watch over every journey you take – literally from now until eternity.

As we journey through our lives, perhaps singing our worship as we go, we can do so with God's blessing upon us, even through the tricky, unknown, scary times because, 'the Lord will keep you from all evil. He will keep your life.' So keep singing, keep looking up, even when you become 'vicar-less' and trust God on the journey.

## Services at St Luke's in May 2025

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am Bubble Church

10.30am Holy Communion

**BUBBLE  
CHURCH**

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am Holy Communion

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am Holy Communion Service

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May

9.30am All Age Holy Communion

## Root and Branch Club

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

### Next Meeting

10<sup>th</sup> May

10.00 am till lunch time

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



## Knitting Ninja's at St Luke's



**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

**9.30am till 12pm**

Come and chat, knit, crochet and craft. Bring your  
own project or we can supply wool and needles.

All are welcome. Refreshments provided.

## LADIES FELLOWSHIP at St Luke's

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month at 7.30pm

7<sup>th</sup> May Tales from my Suitcase: Sue Cover

21<sup>st</sup> May Leprosy Mission: Wendy Piccinini

Annual Membership £20 or £2 per evening

## Caterham Churches Together Wednesday Morning Prayer 8.30am

At 8.30am every Wednesday Morning  
all are welcome to join Caterham Churches Together  
in Morning Prayer.

In May, Morning Prayer will be held at  
St Pauls' Church, Woldingham, CR3 7EN

## Farewell to Revd Annie Kurk



You are cordially invited to say a  
fond farewell to our wonderful vicar  
Revd Annie Kurk

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025

4pm – 6pm



In the grounds of  
St Lukes Church  
Whyteleafe, CR3 0AA

They'll be cakes galore  
and drinks a plenty!!

Please RSVP by 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
to pa@stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk



## Bishop Martin's Diocesan Climate Pilgrimage



**Coming to a church near you!**

### Dates

June 8<sup>th</sup> St Peter and St Paul, Chaldon to St Mary's, Farleigh via St  
Luke, Whyteleafe (7.5 miles)

June 9<sup>th</sup> St Mary's, Farleigh to St Michael and All Angels, South  
Beddington via St Matthew's, Croydon (10.5 miles)

June 10<sup>th</sup> St Michael and All Angels, South Beddington to St  
Barnabas, Southfields via Christ Church, Colliers Wood  
(11 miles)

June 11<sup>th</sup> St Barnabas, Southfields to Holy Trinity and St Matthias,  
Tulse Hill via Immanuel and St Andrew, Streatham (10.5  
Miles)

June 12<sup>th</sup> Holy Trinity and St Matthias, Tulse Hill to St Alfege,  
Greenwich (10 miles)

June 13<sup>th</sup> St Alfege, Greenwich to Southwark Cathedral (10.5 miles)

People are encouraged to join for a day, part of a day or the whole  
week and each day we will be looking at parishes through the lens  
of climate breakdown and hoping to hear people's stories of their  
patches of God's creation.

Facilitated by the Chaldon Pilgrim Group

For more details see

<https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/whats-on/green-week-eco-pilgrimage/>