



St Luke's Church

An open door
for open hearts and minds

St Luke's Newsletter

www.stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk



November 2025

A Letter from Revd Helen

November sees us moving into a season of remembrance, a month in the church year sandwiched between Creationtide and Advent when we have space to reflect on those who have gone before us in our personal lives, in our faith lives, and in the public sphere.

In particular of course we remember those from our neighbourhood and from our families who fought for freedom from fascism.

Our streets and lapels sport the symbol which evolved out of the slaughter fields of WW1.

This is from the Imperial War Museum website:

Poppies were a common sight, especially on the Western Front. They flourished in the soil churned up by the fighting and shelling. The flower provided Canadian doctor John McCrae with inspiration for his poem 'In Flanders Fields', which he wrote whilst serving in Ypres in 1915. It was first published in Punch, having been rejected by The Spectator. In 1918, in response to McCrae's poem, American humanitarian Moina Michael wrote 'And now the Torch and Poppy Red, we wear in honour of our dead...'. She campaigned to make the poppy a symbol of remembrance of those who had died in the war.

Artificial poppies were first sold in Britain in 1921 to raise money for the Earl Haig Fund in support of ex-servicemen and the families of those who had died in the conflict. They were supplied by Anna Guérin, who had been manufacturing the flowers in France to raise money for war orphans. Selling poppies proved so popular that in 1922 the British Legion founded a factory - staffed by disabled ex-servicemen - to produce its own. It continues to do so today.

Other charities sell poppies in different colours, each with their own meaning but all to commemorate the losses of war. White poppies, for example, symbolise peace without violence and purple poppies are worn to honour animals killed in conflict.



I confess to struggling with the big plastic poppies that go up at this time of year because they have nothing of the fragility of a real poppy and for me that fragility is an integral part of the symbolism.

Poppies are a signifier of the fragility of life and the fragility of freedom; the plastic flowers cable tied to lampposts are the opposite, they will never decompose and they have none of the beauty I associate with the flower - the struggle for justice and the freedom hard won.

Of course, poppies do not blossom in the UK in November but, they blossomed beautifully in July in the patch of uncultivated farmland land bordering the church in Chaldon, in soil that had been left fallow. Now like the lives sacrificed, they are gone, but our memories and our struggles remain. Can you allow some fallow time in your life this month for memories and for fragile hopes?

Let's remember this month those who have shaped us in our personal lives and those who have shaped our society by protecting it from fascism and guard well our freedom and our common humanity.

Lest We Forget poppies grow all over the world including in Palestine where as I write there is a fragile peace.

Services at St Luke's in November 2025

Sunday 2nd November

9.30am Said Holy Communion Service

11am All Souls Memorial Service

Sunday 9th November

10.30am Remembrance Service

Sunday 16th November

9.30am Holy Communion Service

Sunday 23rd November

9.30am Holy Communion Service

Sunday 30th November

9.30am Holy Communion Service



**St Luke's Church
All Souls
Memorial Service
Sunday 2nd November
at 11am**

You are all welcome to attend.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP at St Luke's

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

12th Nov Trains - Sue Cover

26th Nov Tai' Chi – Danielle Brewster

Annual Membership £20 or £2 per evening

Remembrance Service



**Sunday
9th November
at 10.30am**

St Luke's Church
Whyteleafe

**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 November, Morning Prayer will be held at
Caterham Community Church, Caterham.



Knitting Ninja's at St Luke's

**Thursday 6th November
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.

Date for your Diary

Caterham Group Advent Study Day

'Women of the Nativity'

Sat December 13th 10.30 am to 4pm

Venue TBC

*women
of the Nativity*

Their stories, based on the book by
Paula Gooder.



Saturday 13 Dec

Based on book by
Paula Gooder and
facilitated by

Rev Jaimee, Rev Helen
and Rev Sara.

Tickets available via Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/women-of-the-nativity-caterham-group-advent-study-day-tickets-1920931049479>



**JUBILEE: THE JUSTICE,
PEACE AND INTEGRITY
OF CREATION
CONFERENCE**

Join us for a day focused on Social Action
and Social Justice with speakers and
workshop to inspire, challenge and
encourage. We will be coming together
to reflect on God's heart for Justice,
Peace and Integrity of Creation.

Register:

<https://JPICConference2025.eventbrite.co.uk>

**Saturday 8 November
2025**

10am- 4pm
(Doors open at 9.30am)



**St. John's Church,
Waterloo**

Workshops, speakers and info marketplace with
lunch provided.



For more information: jpicadminesouthwark.anglican.org