



St Luke's Church

An open door
for open hearts and minds

St Luke's Newsletter

www.stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk

October 2025



A Letter from Revd Helen

What are you putting in the basket?

'When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.'

Deuteronomy 26.v.1-2

As we celebrate a particularly abundant harvest and the experience of a 'mast' year when so much has been plentiful in our fields, hedgerows and woodland I want to reflect on reciprocity and do so in relation to our church life.

Our churches rely always on community and goodwill and this is in sharp focus at the moment as we experience a vacancy. The pressure is on everyone to give a little more so that we can continue to worship and work together. So much is happening that is good and enriching in our worship, in our community life, in our churchyard and all of this is the fruit of labour and of giving.

Some readers may not be aware that as a parish church we do not receive financial help from the Church of England; what we do receive is a parish priest, training opportunities, safeguarding, and the support that comes with a large institution.

Each year we are asked to make a contribution to the Diocese of Southwark towards the cost of having a parish priest, in Whyteleafe we pay just over half of the cost of a part time priest. This means that we are subsidised by the Diocese and therefore by other parishes who give over and above their required share.

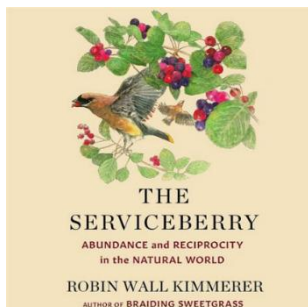
In addition, we are responsible for all the day to day running costs of our building and worship which costs approx. £500 per week.

My job is supposed to be part time and as you know we are currently advertising for a replacement for Rev Annie and when we make an appointment there will once again be 2 part time priests serving St Luke's and St Peter and St Paul.

As a part time priest, I cannot and do not run the church on my own and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Rev Sara for all the time and energy she gives freely to our church.

You can probably identify those who give time and energy to the church and of course, the more of us who join in the more we will flourish, the less we will burn out ourselves and the more likely we are to be able to justify to the Diocese having a parish priest

I hope that you feel when you come to church that you have found your way home, you have come into a land you wish to inhabit a place where you can be nourished as outlined in the verses from Deuteronomy.



Of course, the church is human and flawed but together I hope we do our best with God's grace to be a place of welcome, respite and imagining, please consider how you can help us to be a sustainable community.

In her book 'The Serviceberry' Robin Wall Kimmerer explores the ways in which the natural world operates through systems of reciprocity – let's make our church a place that mirrors that, a place where we acknowledge our blessings and give back in ways that enrich our community both financially and practically.

Take a moment to consider the basket mentioned in Deuteronomy, if you are already giving that basket will already be a part of your life and you will know who you are, if the basket is one you lay aside perhaps this is the moment to pop something in it in gratitude for those who keep our church open and welcoming to all.

Services at St Luke's in October 2025

Sunday 5th October

10.30am Harvest Festival followed by Bring and Share Lunch

Sunday 12th October

9.30am Holy Communion Service

Sunday 19th October

9.30am Holy Communion Service

Sunday 26th October

9.30am Holy Communion Service

LADIES FELLOWSHIP at St Luke's

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

8th Oct Clockwork, Steam & a Nice Cup of Tea with Alison Precious

22nd Oct Kimilili Update by Geraint Jenkins

Annual Membership £20 or £2 per evening

Root and Branch Club

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

Next Meeting

25th October

10.00 am till lunch time

Last Meeting of Year

22nd November

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



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

You are all welcome to attend, if you would like a name read out during the service to remember those that have died, please email them to

Alison: pa@stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk

Due to unforeseen circumstances the

St Luke's Quiz Night on 17th October

has been cancelled.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

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 October, Morning Prayer will be held at St Peter & St Paul, Chaldon.



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.



Welcome to An Evening of Eco Conversation

St. Lawrence's Church, Caterham
October 10th 7:30pm

Let's talk about sustainability, reducing waste, and protecting our planet for future generations. Whether you're a seasoned environmentalist or just starting your eco-journey, this event is for you.

Connect with like-minded individuals, share your ideas, learn something new and find out how we can build on successful local initiatives to give us hope for the future in the face of the climate emergency.

Refreshments available Tickets FREE on Eventbrite
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-evening-of-eco-conversation-tickets-1521157256829>

Together, we can make a difference

Parish office: 01883 348751



St Luke's Church Whyteleafe

Sunday 5th October
10.30am

Harvest Festival

All donations will be donated to the Whyteleafe Food Bank



Ideal donations are Teabags, Coffee, Biscuits, Canned Vegetables, Canned Meat and Fish, Sugar, Cereals, Tinned Fruit, UHT Milk, Deodorants, Pasta, Toothpaste and Shower Gel

Will be followed by a
Bring and Share Lunch
All Welcome

