



St Luke's Newsletter

BUMPER EDITION

December 2021 & January 2022



You're Invited...

This is the time of year when it seems like every day there is another Christmas event. There is so much going on at St Luke's, let alone our other commitments to our families and friends.

There are the school fairs, services and parties, maybe the office party, the Christmas carol services, and on and on. Perhaps you love it all. Or maybe you'd rather just stay home in front of the fire and not have to make conversation at one more get-together.

No matter how you feel about Christmas, you need to know that you have been invited to a very important celebration this Christmas that you don't want to miss. This invitation is not meant to be a burden; it is meant to relieve your burden. Jesus himself has invited you, and here is how the invitation reads:

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

This invitation is not inviting you to come to a place or to a party but to a person. Jesus is inviting you to come to him. It is easy to go to an event, especially on Zoom as most of us will this year, and have no meaningful interaction with others. But this is not the kind of party Jesus has in mind. He wants to give you his full attention. He will not be in a rush. He wants to enjoy you. He wants you to enjoy him. This invitation is for more than just a brief visit. He wants you to make your home in him, to truly enter in to all he is and all he has for you.

This invitation is addressed to all who are weary and carry heavy burdens. I have to admit that sometimes just thinking about Christmas makes me tired. It is not the buying and wrapping gifts that is so tiring to me, but the deciding what to give people. I find Christmas decorating frustrating because it just doesn't turn out looking like other people's houses do, and it is so much work to put up and then take down a few weeks later. (I know, 'bah humbug!') *continued overleaf*

Services at St Luke's Church in December/January

Please invite your friends and neighbours.

Sunday Services

9.30am Sunday Service

5 th Dec	Christingle Service	2 nd Jan	Epiphany All Age Indoor Service
12 th Dec	Advent 2 Communion Service	9 th Jan	Baptism of Christ Communion Service
19 th Dec	Advent 3 Café Church	16 th Jan	Café Church
26 th Dec	Service of the Word	23 rd Jan	Taize Communion Service
		30 th Jan	Service of the Word

Wednesday Service

8.30am Morning Prayer, Caterham Churches Together during December

Other Services including Christmas Day

Sun 12th Dec Beer & Carols From 4pm, Carols start at 5pm at Portcullis Club,
Victor Beamish Avenue, Kenley

Sun 19th Dec 7pm Carols By Candlelight

Fri 24th Dec 4pm Nativity Service (come dressed as a character in the nativity story)

Fri 24th Dec 11.30pm Midnight Communion Service

Sat 25th Dec 10 am Christmas Day Eucharist

Tuesday Conversation & Communion starting 18th January 2022



You're Invited...

As you think about the coming Christmas season, does it make you a little bit tired? Are you carrying heaven burdens this Christmas season? The burden of having a generous spirit but a small budget? The burden of overcommitment or unrealistic expectations? The burden of Christmas during Covid? This invitation to those who are weary and carry heavy burdens is for you.

Jesus wants to give you rest. This is not just a gift for those who are too boring to have anything better to do or for those with a particular personality type. This gift is for you. When Jesus spoke these words he had in his mind all of the burdens that had been added to the law by Jewish religious leaders. Over time, so many picky rules had been added to God's simple commandments, that the people were completely overwhelmed. There was no way they could live up to it.

Jesus wants to take away that burden and carry it for us. He takes the burden of all of our failed efforts to be good enough, and he gives to us in return his very own perfect goodness. Jesus knows just what you need most this Christmas. He knows that what you need is real rest—for your soul. Only Jesus can do that.

Jesus wants to teach you what he is all about. How are you going to learn of him? By leaning in to him and experiencing him. By refusing to settle for second-hand insights from other people who read the Bible and then tell you what it says. You learn of him by listening to him. Jesus speaks to us through his Word, the Bible. We do need more Bibles in our church! Will you open up your own Bible during this busy Christmas season so you can learn of Him?

You may want to start with the Christmas story in Luke 2 and, as you work your way through it, keep asking questions and searching for answers: Why did God choose the shepherds for the angels to talk to? When they said "on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased," who are the people God is pleased with? In what way is this message "good news" to all people?

This Christmas, hear Jesus saying to you, "Come away from what is stressful but insignificant. Say 'no' to what is empty so you can enter in to what is eternal, essential, meaningful, restful. Come to me."

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year

Rev'd Annie



**Wednesday 15th Dec
Christmas Gift Bags
9am to 11.30am.**

Help Required

Come and wrap and assemble bags for those having Christmas Day lunch at the Westway Centre, at St Luke's Church after Morning Prayer.

All welcome to come and help

**Luke's Larks Present
Welcome Back to Christmastide
Monday 6th December
at 7pm**



Join Luke's Larks for a Christmas Concert at St Luke's Church. Refreshments and Raffle:
Admission Free

Donations will go towards the upkeep
of St Luke's Church

Living in Love and Faith

Christian Teaching and Learning about
Human Identity, Sexuality and Marriage



We start the New Year with '**Living in Love and Faith**' – a Church of England Course created so that every parish has the opportunity to engage with scripture with a particular focus on issues around human sexuality. The Archbishop asks that all congregations follow this course and also submit their responses; please make this a priority so that the values of this congregation are reflected in that submission.

The course will be convened by Rev Sara on
**Tuesdays at 7pm at St Luke's, Whyteleafe
from January 18th – February 27th**

**Evening Prayer on Zoom
In December**

Zoom at 6.30pm on Tuesday,
Wednesday and Thursdays

No Evening Prayer from 24th Dec to 3rd Jan

In January

Zoom at 6.30pm on Wednesday and Thursdays

Zoom : <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82053753781>

Please email vicar@chaldonchurch.co.uk for
password

**Caterham Church Together
Wednesday 8.30am Morning Prayer**

In December
at St Luke's Church, Whyteleafe

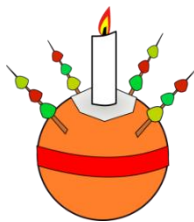
In January
At URC, Harestone Hill, Caterham

Zoom links will be on the website.

**Christingle Service
at St Luke's**

**Sunday 5th December
at 9.30am**

*"Come and Build a
Christingle with Us"*



In aid of the Childrens Society

**Sunday 12th December
Communion Service at 9.30am**

Please bring a gift or food
donation for the Whyteleafe
Hub to give to a local family in
need at Christmas.



**St Luke's Church
Whyteleafe**

**CAROLS
BY
CANDLELIGHT**

**Sunday 19th December
at 7pm**

All welcome please bring your
friends and family



St Luke's Church

All Age Nativity Service

Friday 24th Dec at 4pm

All are welcome to come and join in with our
Nativity Service.

Children may come dressed as characters from the Nativity.
If you need a costume we can lend you one for the service.

**Carols around
the Christmas Tree**

Friday 3rd Dec at 7pm

with Luke's Larks
from St Luke's Church, Whyteleafe

outside the Whyteleafe Tavern

Mince Pies and Mulled Wine will be served

Sponsored by Whyteleafe Village Council, AFC Whyteleafe,
The Whyteleafe Tavern, The Whyteleafe Community Hub
& The Whyteleafe Village Fete.



**St Luke's
Ladies Fellowship**

**Ladies Fellowship will not be
meeting at the church between
December and February but will be
back in March 2022**



Join us for Christmas at St Luke's

Sun 5th Dec 9.30am
Christingle Service – All age
Build your own Christingle!

Mon 6th Dec 7.00pm
Lukes Larks present
“Welcome Back Christmastide”

Sun 19th Dec 7.00pm
Carols By Candlelight

Fri 24th Dec 4.00pm
All Age Nativity Service

Fri 24th Dec 11.30pm
Midnight Communion Service

Sat 25th Dec 10.00am
Christmas Day Communion - All age

Sun 26th Dec 9.30am
Boxing Day Communion

Sun 2nd Jan 9.30am
Epiphany Service – All age

For more details see our website
www.stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk
St Luke's Church, Whyteleafe Hill, CR3 0AA



BEER & CAROLS AT THE PORTCULLIS

Sunday 12th December

**Everyone is welcome
to come and enjoy
carol singing with Luke's Larks**

Gates open at 4pm

Singing at 5pm

**Location RAFA Portcullis Club
Victor Beamish Avenue
CR3 5FX**



Drinks available from the bar

Baked potatoes, toasties & burgers from the van



St Luke's Church, Whyteleafe and The RAFA Portcullis Club