



# St Luke's Newsletter

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

**DECEMBER 23/JANUARY 24**



## Christmas Blessings from Revd Annie

*"And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh,  
God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,  
by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands.  
This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.  
He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame,  
by triumphing over them in him" (Colossians 2:13–15).*

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" is one of the most famous and most theologically rich Christmas carols in existence. It's hard to believe that the words and catchy tune of this carol have been a part of Christmas celebrations for 500 years!

Here are the lyrics:

*God rest ye merry, gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember, Christ, our Saviour  
Was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy*

*In Bethlehem, in Israel  
This blessed Babe was born  
And laid within a manger  
Upon this blessed morn  
The which His Mother Mary  
Did nothing take in scorn  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy*

We know little about where this song came from. Of all the carols still being sung today, this is one of the oldest. It dates back to before the 16th century. Some of you may know already that the song is mentioned in the classic by Charles Dickens, 'A Christmas Carol' which was written in 1843.

We're told in the first verse that Christ was born on Christmas Day to save us all from Satan's power. That's a powerful theological thought for all of us to consider during this season.

The Bible says it like this:

*"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8b).*

All throughout the Bible, we read about Jesus wrecking the devil's works. Every time he resisted temptation, healed an illness, or cast a demon out of a person, he made a mockery out of the devil. Of course, the ultimate example of this came at the cross, where Jesus' death and resurrection sealed the beginning of the destruction of evil for ever. So this Christmas, don't let the word 'gentlemen' in this carol put you off course when you think about the enormity of what God did for every single one of us when he sent his Son to be born of a woman on Christmas Day. It's time at Christmastide to concentrate on not letting anything dismay us because we know that Jesus has already defeated evil in this world and one day he will come again and the world will live in love – just how God designed it to be.

Come and join in with all our many acts of worship this season and let's sing hymns and carols with hope and gusto as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

Go therefore in peace, with comfort and joyful prayer, to have a blessed Christmas season and a fruitful new year. In the name of Christ. Amen

**St Luke's Church**  
**Whyteleafe Hill, CR3 0AA**

*St Luke's and  
The Whyteleafe Community Hub  
invite you all to*

**Welcome to  
Christmastide  
with refreshments**

**Wednesday  
13<sup>th</sup> December  
from 1.00pm**

**Enjoy Christmas Songs, Readings  
Poems and Carols**

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

## Join us for Christmas at St Luke's

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

**9.30am Bubble Church**

**10.30am All Age Christingle Service**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

**9.30am Holy Communion**

**& Sunday School**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**9.30am Café Church**

**7.00pm Carols By Candlelight**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**9.30am Holy Communion**

**4.00pm Nativity Service**

*'Children can come dressed as a nativity character'*

**11.30pm Midnight Mass Service**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00am Christmas Day**

**Holy Communion**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December**

**9.30am Service of the Word**

**9.30am**

## BUBBLE CHURCH

Bubble Church is a Sunday church service especially for babies, toddlers, and young families. It's a puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee and croissant fuelled, 30 minute kids and families adventure.

**10.30am**

## Christingle Service

Come and join us and  
build your own Christingle

Everyone is invited!

## Sunday Services 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 23

In aid of the  
Childrens Society



St Luke's Church  
Whyteleafe

## St Luke's Church Whyteleafe

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
at 7.00pm**

All welcome please bring your  
friends and family



**Caterham Group  
Advent Lectio Divina  
'Embracing the Darkness'  
Tuesdays 7.30pm – 9pm**

In this season of Advent, the 5 Anglican Parishes that form the newly constituted **Caterham Group of Churches** will be hosting a series of meditations entitled 'Embracing the Darkness'.

You are invited to venture out in the winter darkness, to visit each other's churches and share in this time of preparation before our Christmas celebrations.

In a faith that speaks so wonderfully of the Light that comes into the world through the birth of Jesus Christ, we may find ourselves hesitant or even perhaps fearful of acknowledging those times when our most overwhelming spiritual experience is that of darkness.

In these present times finding a glimmer of light to encourage and strengthen us, is something that may feel beyond our reach. Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) is the simple ancient practice of savouring God's word through engaging with short Bible passages.

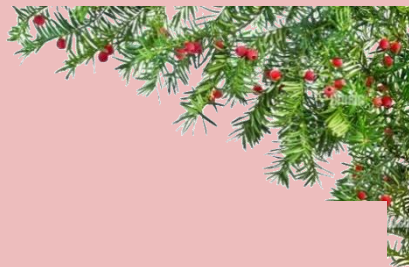
Through the practice of 'Lectio Divina' these Advent reflections will bring into focus the reality of our daily experiences and will afford us an opportunity for a moment of contemplation.

- Listed below are the dates and venues for each session.
- For further details please speak to Revd Helen or Revd Sara
- For car share or lifts please email [pa@chaldonchurch.co.uk](mailto:pa@chaldonchurch.co.uk)

1. Tues 28<sup>th</sup> November - **Wrestling in the Dark** – St Luke's Whyteleafe
2. Tues 5<sup>th</sup> December - **Trusting in the Dark** – St Lawrence's, Caterham
3. Tues 12<sup>th</sup> December - **Learning in the Dark** – St Peter & St Paul's, Chaldon
4. Tues 19<sup>th</sup> December - **Seeing in the Dark** – St John's, Caterham Valley



## Services at St Luke's in December 2023 and January 2024



### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

9.30am Bubble Church

10.30am Christingle

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am Holy Communion Service

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am Café Church

7.00pm Carols by Candlelight

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am Holy Communion Service

4pm Nativity Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December

10.00am Christmas Day Service

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December

9.30am Service of the Word

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January

9.30am Bubble Church

10.30am Epiphany All Age Service

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January

9.30am Holy Communion Service & Sunday School

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January

9.30am Café Church

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January

9.30am Holy Communion Service & Sunday School



## BEER & CAROLS AT THE PORTCULLIS Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

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

**Gates open at 5pm**

**Singing at 6pm**

**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

**Online Evening Prayer  
Thursdays at 6.30pm**

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88685317538?pwd=eUthLzFiMzk3Z2lON0tpREZrdEVjdz09>

### St Luke's Diary

#### Bubble Church:

9.30am 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month in the transept

#### Luke's Lounge:

Every Wednesday 1pm -3pm with The Whyteleafe Community Hub see Facebook and Website for events

Taking a break after the 13<sup>th</sup> Dec, back on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan.

#### Knitting Ninjas:

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month 9am – 12pm

#### Little Lukes:

Fridays 9am – 11am will be taking a break in the school holidays over Christmas (Last session before Christmas 15<sup>th</sup> Dec and back on the 5<sup>th</sup> Jan.

#### Lions and Lambs:

Friday 3pm – 4.30pm will be taking a break in the school holidays over Christmas. Last session before Christmas 15<sup>th</sup> Dec and back on the 12<sup>th</sup> Jan

### Caterham Churches Together Wednesday Morning Prayer 8.30am

In December it will be held at  
St Mary's Caterham  
and in January at  
St Luke's Whyteleafe

# Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

## Walk-In Clinics at St Lukes Whyteleafe

### Black or South Asian and over 25?

Then you are more at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

HEALTHIER YOU



## NHS COMMUNITY HEALTH CHECKS



For those aged 40 - 74 who are Surrey residents or registered to a GP in Surrey, or for those under 40 will receive a wellbeing check

The team can talk to you about:

- Blood pressure
- Body Mass Index
- Cholesterol and weight management
- Diabetes
- Local GP services
- Wellbeing and mental health



SCAN ME

St Lukes Church,  
Whyteleafe  
**Wednesday**  
**06/12/23**  
**11am till 3pm**  
**FREE**  
**Healthchecks**



To access this service, you must not currently be on medication for cholesterol, blood pressure, kidney disease or an existing heart condition, or previously had a heart attack, stroke or TIA. You must not have had an NHS Health Check in the last 5 years.

No ID or appointment needed. Please speak to the team if you have any questions, or email [abccic.equityhcc@nhs.net](mailto:abccic.equityhcc@nhs.net)



### Covid Vaccination Walk-In Clinics

No appointment needed.

Ages 65+ or those immunosuppressed or a carer, if you are pregnant or frontline health and social care worker.

1st Dose also available for 12years plus

Wednesday 6th December 10.30 am till 3pm

St Lukes Church, Whyteleafe Hill CR3 0AA