



St Luke's Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2020 Edition

Let us pray!

The Coronavirus pandemic isn't going away very quickly! Some of the temporary changes we have had to make to our services at St Luke's, let alone our lives, are starting to feel permanent. But gradually we are returning to some sort of rhythm in our worship.

What is very important is that the new rhythm fits in with the rhythm of the Holy Spirit and we can only do this by prayer and listening to God. After all, prayer is the key to enduring any crisis.

We can learn a lot from Daniel and his prayer life. As an old man when the time came closer for the Israelites to return to their homeland, Daniel knew his people were not ready. The Israelites still did not have a right relationship with God. This grieved Daniel, so he prayed.

In his prayer in Daniel 9, he gives us several tips about how to pray in a way that God answers during a crisis. And the first one is to let God speak to you before you speak to him.

You need to hear the voice of God. He will always make the first move in your life. He never expects you to do something he doesn't do first. The Bible says we love God because he first loved us. We serve him because he first served us. God initiates. Then, we respond.



So how do you listen to God? You read the Bible. We talk to God because he first talked with us through his Word. Daniel did this: *"It was the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede, the son of Ahasuerus, who became king of the Babylonians. During the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, learned from reading the word of the Lord, as revealed to Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years"* (Daniel 9:1-2).

Every first Wednesday of the month at 6pm I will be in church praying for St Luke's. I would love for you to join me if you can spare half an hour. The idea is that we take some time listening to God – so you might need to bring a Bible – and then we pray about what we think God might have put onto our hearts. I look forward to praying with you on Wednesday 2nd September at 6pm.

Rev Annie

Battle of Britain Commemoration Service



**Sunday 13th September
at 10.30am**

All are invited to our Open Air Service at the war graves in St Luke's Churchyard, to remember those who gave their lives in the Battle of Britain 80 years ago and pray for peace in our time. Wreaths may also be laid.
Bring your own chair! (and umbrella if it rains...).

Harvest Service Sunday 4th October 9.30am at St Luke's

If you would like to donate food:
As food donations are not being encouraged during this year of Coronavirus, please bring supermarket vouchers instead for Welcare.

If you would like to donate money:
If you would like to give to the The Farming Community Network please do so online at www.fcn.org.uk/#support who support farmers and families within the farming community through difficult times. There are more than one suicide a week from UK farmers at the present time.



St Luke's Services During September All are welcome

Every Sunday at 9.30am Communion Service

Wednesday 2nd September at 6pm Prayers for Whyteleafe

Just a reminder it is also now mandatory for those who can,
to wear a face covering in church.

A recorded service will still be available to you all weekly on YouTube.
Links can be found on our website www.stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk

Caterham Churches Together

September's Wednesday
Morning Prayer

8.30am at
St Paul's Church
Woldingham

*A suggested prayer for all preachers:
'Lord, fill my mouth with worthwhile
stuff, and nudge me when I've said
enough.'*

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT ZOOM PRAYERS

Throughout the past 6 months Evening Prayer and Night Prayer has been offered online via Zoom. This does not suit everyone but a small dedicated group have come to value the opportunity to worship together during the week.

In order to be able to continue to offer online prayers and to help others to access them the ministry team will be meeting on September 23rd to put together a calendar of prayer for the Autumn and Winter.

The first online prayers after 30th August will be on Friday 25th September at 6.30pm prayers for week beginning Sept 27th tbc

A calendar for online prayers will be issued by the end of September.



Mid Month St Luke's Zoom Quiz Night Saturday 19th September at 7pm

All proceeds to our St Luke's charities - £1 per person to join in. Tell your friends, bring a drink and nibbles etc...

Zoom Link will be on website nearer the time

Use of the Transept at St Luke's Church Announcement by the Churchwardens

Since the Covid-19 outbreak started earlier this year, because of the guidance provided by the Government and the Church of England, it has not been possible to allow groups to use our Transept for meetings or events.

Although some of the guidance conditions have eased in recent weeks, it is still important that we review the situation in the light of our own circumstances.

We recently met with the Vicar and the Church Administrator to discuss this, and for several reasons, we concluded that it is still not practical or possible to allow groups to safely use the premises. Matters such as provision of ventilation and heating together with frequency and depth of cleaning are major complicating factors as well as the need for access to toilet facilities, thus requiring additional cleaning.

We are sorry that the community is not able to benefit from this useful facility yet and we assure you that we will keep this under constant review and advise as soon as any changes are possible.

John Ritchie & Richard Goatcher Churchwardens

Courses from Southwark

Painting God

For the start of Advent, a reflection on art and spirituality that examines how artists have sought to make visible the God who is untouchable and invisible. We will look at pictures from the 1st century to the 21st, from different continents, and from the kitsch to the divine. It is led by Peter Graystone, who is Southwark Diocese's Lay Training Officer and author of *The Bare Bible: Uncovering the Bible for the First Time*.

Monday 30 November, 7.30-9.30pm, Zoom, free.

Ministry and Care Homes in Lockdown & Beyond

Restrictions on visitors to care homes during COVID-19 have made it impossible for churches to lead services or offer pastoral care in ways they have previously done. Tina English, from the charities Embracing Age and Care Home Friends, will update us on current practicalities, share her lockdown experience, and introduce discussion. This webinar for lay people and clergy organised by the Southwark and Ageing Working Group (SAGE) will give an opportunity to share challenges, questions and ideas.

Thursday 10 September, 10.00-11.15am, Zoom, free.

An Introduction to Ignatian Spirituality

The 16th-century theologian Ignatius of Loyola offered a spirituality for all - not an escape from the world but a radical, loving encounter with God in all things. Ignatian spirituality is rooted in the Gospel and experienced in daily life. These evenings are led by Antonia Lynn, who is Warden of the Community of Spiritual Directors at the London Centre for Spiritual Direction. This is a session in two parts, with a week between in which to practice exercises that Ignatius taught.

Monday 19 October and Monday 26 October, 7.30-9.30pm, Zoom, free.

To book your place and receive a password, for any of the above please email:

ministryandtraining@southwark.anglican.org

St Luke's adheres to the Southwark Diocese policies, procedures and guidelines for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults which is contained within their document 'A Safe Church' which can be seen in full on their website at: www.southwark.anglican.org/what/diocesan-policies-procedures. It is also published in the form of a manual, a copy of which is kept in the porch at the front of the church should you wish to view it. St Luke's Parish Safeguarding Officer is **Richard Peacock** 07947274189 richardjpeacock@gmail.com

Contact Rev. Annie Kurk on 07563 499260, email: vicar@stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk
or contact the Parish Administrator Alison Pannett on 020 8763 8504, email: pa@stlukeswhyteleafe.co.uk