

# ST. LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

The Parish of St Luke and Christ Church  
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MAY 2021 PARISH MAGAZINE ISSUE NO. 194

WWW.CHELSEAPARISH.ORG

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021

**“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love mercy,  
and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6 v. 8)**

Myanmar has been highlighted in the media over the past few months in the wake of the recent military coup. State Counsellor Aung Sann Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy won a landslide victory in the November elections, has been detained along with other civilian leaders signalling a threat to the very fabric of democracy and a violation of the rule of law.

Christian Aid has worked in Myanmar for over three decades supporting local partner organisations. Our approach has been to work in a conflict sensitive way to save lives, reduce risks, ensure strengthened preparedness and build resilience to bring about long term change and sustainability.

In the light of the deepening crisis in Myanmar, the Prophet Micah's words are an imperative, a call to the international community to speak out for justice and

peace for all those caught up in the current strife.

God does not ask us to understand the world's suffering but to heal it, nor to accept it but to diminish it. We need to strive for good now.

Access to basic healthcare and education, was scant and overstretched even before the Coronavirus arrived.



*Ting Swe and daughter  
Photo: Ramani Leathard*



*Peaceful protesters. Photo: Zinko Hein*

Today with the peaceful demonstrations, involving doctors, nurses, teachers, farmers, these basic services are just not available. Ting Swe, a 32 year old mother, lives in an internally displaced camp in Kachin State, Myanmar.

*Continued to page 2*

Through training supported by Christian Aid, she now works as a community health worker in the camp. She said "it is difficult to make a livelihood and support the family, our children need to stand on their own feet. .... we need peace and security. Peace means we need to be able to live safely and with dignity. Ting Swe's indomitable spirit and resilience is an inspiration to her community and indeed to us all.

My Sri Lankan roots remind me of an analogy which alludes to the beauty of the lotus flower which blossoms on the surface when the rain comes and the

sun shines. But when the monsoons fail and the earth is parched, the flower withers, but its roots remain until the next rains allow it to flourish and bloom again. **This Christian Aid Week (10-16 May) with your support in giving, acting and praying, we can provide hope, strengthen resilience and enable the lotus to blossom again.** Please give as generously as you can, either through the Christian Aid website or through the envelopes available in church. ☐

RAMANI LEATHARD

**In solidarity and in faith I offer this prayer for the people of Myanmar, from the forthcoming Christian Aid book *Rage & Hope: 75 Prayers for a Better World*:**

*God whose love knows no borders,  
Give us grace and courage to respond amidst strife and oppression.*

*Open our minds to engage with the pain borne by the peoples of Myanmar  
Open our eyes to see you in the troubled places of your world  
Open our arms to embrace our sisters and brothers enduring loss and hardship*

*We pray for our world, our humanity, our peace.  
In the pain of the tortured and in the loneliness of the refugee  
In the arrogance of the strong and in the security of the powerful  
Turn us again Lord, to drink the cup of salvation  
That we may die to self and live for you.*

*Help us to remember today Lord,  
That there is nothing we cannot face together in solidarity, prayer and action.  
May all your children regardless of ethnic identity, creed or gender.  
Find dignity and life in all its fullness – for we believe in Life Before Death.  
Amen*



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The time to choose is upon us. On 6 May London goes to the polls to decide on a new mayor. I must admit that the appearance of my poll card through my letterbox was one of the few signs I have noticed of this event. Chelsea is, after all, hardly a swing area. But whoever becomes Mayor will affect our lives in many subtle ways over the coming four years. Will the victor be Captain Binface, interplanetary space warrior? (Thankfully, no.) Could it be Shaun Bailey, the Conservative candidate? (Possibly.) Will Sadiq Khan gain a second term? (Probably.)

The Bible has little to say about elections. Its writings originate, after all, from times of empires and kingdoms. It speaks to life during times when the concept of choosing one's ruler would have been unimaginable to most. Indeed, where there is a decision to be made, the typical method is by casting lots.

There is a practical benefit to such an approach for settling disputes: as the Book of Proverbs (18.18) puts it, 'Casting the lot puts an end to disputes and decides between powerful contenders.'

But the practice of casting lots also expressed a trust that God was in control and could reveal truth through apparently random processes. For example, when Jonah flees by sea from God's instruction to go to the city of Nineveh and his ship is then caught in a storm, the sailors cast lots to see who is responsible for this 'calamity' – and Jonah is shown to be the cause of the storm. So overboard Jonah goes, to a surely certain doom – until, of course,



God rescues him in the belly of a great fish!

The Bible may have little expectation that we get to choose those who hold power over us. That ability to choose is a great development of our modern democracies, a choice offered far more universally than in the small ancient Greek experiments in democracy. But the Bible does contain extensive guidance for those in authority. Most memo-



rably, the Old Testament offers us stories of rulers who are rarely solely good or bad – stories that help us think through what it is like to exercise power. In King David we see godly rule undermined (in his lust for Bathsheba) by the abuse of power. King Solomon is proverbially associated with great wisdom, but also in the Bible's account built temples to false gods and thereby weakened his kingdom.

So whoever wins on 7 May, we will pray for him or her. To hold power is a great gift, but one to be exercised with fear and trembling. The needs of the people are great, and the personal temptations are many. Above all, we hope for someone who will care for all people in this city, fulfilling the Psalmist's instruction (Psalm 82.3) to 'Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.' □

# An Evening with the Melanesian Brothers

On 24th April each year, the Church of England commemorates the Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood (an Anglican religious order based in the Pacific Islands, predominantly located in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea.) This date marks the death of seven of the Melanesian Brothers who gave their lives working for peace and reconciliation during the ethnic-tensions in the Solomon Islands at the turn of the millennium. During the conflict the Brothers used their influence among the local community, as well as the example of their own multi-ethnic fellowship, to bring peace



among the warring factions. One practical action they took was to travel from village to village, collecting weapons from combatants and discarding them at sea using their canoes!

The Brother's central role in the peace-making efforts culminated in the Townsville Ceasefire in October 2000, and in recognition of this they were later awarded the United Nations Pacific Peace Prize in 2004. However, as the commemoration on 24th April acknowledges, their peace-making role was not without cost, as seven of the Brothers were captured, tortured, and killed by rebel leader Harold Keke.

In 2008, these seven martyred Brothers were honoured during the concluding Mass of the Lambeth Conference, at Canterbury Cathedral. Their names were added to the book of contemporary martyrs and placed, along with an icon, on the altar of the Chapel of Saints of Our Times. The icon remains in the Cathedral as a reminder of their witness to peace and of the global character of Anglicanism.

It was this recent history and their religious life to-

gether that inspired me to visit them in February 2020. During this time, I was able to share in their commitment to simple living and their sixfold-cycle of daily worship at the Mother House in Tabalia. Spending the beginning of the pandemic stranded with them, I experienced their incredible generosity and the peace of God that pervades their life together.

Since returning home, I've been keen not to forget this experience and to share the gifts that the Brothers bring to the wider Anglican communion. Katie Drew, Executive Officer for the Melanesian Mission UK, has been organising a series of "Coffee Mornings/Cocoa Evenings" (suitably named owing to the time differences!) with various parishes across the Church of England. The aim of these gatherings is to hear more about the Brothers' life of worship together, giving



an opportunity to learn from the church community in a very different Anglican context. So, as I write this, we are very much looking forward to an evening gathered together on Zoom on Tuesday 27th April with members of the Melanesian Brothers and members of our own parish. We hope that this will be a joyful evening, to grow in fellowship with members of our global communion. That as we hear from the Brothers on the other side of the world, our shared faith will be deepened, and we might come to know the truth of these words in our own life and context:



"The secret of these Islands is to live together as equals. Let the people know that you are not divided from them but united in Christ's love."

Bishop John Coleridge Patteson (Missionary and first Bishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia). □

SAMUEL RYLANDS

## Fratelli Tutti: a discussion group

Bishops in the Church of England sometimes write Pastoral Letters to their diocese on matters of importance. Popes write Encyclicals. They both fulfil the same purpose, but with a rather differently sized canvas. In October 2020, in the midst of the world-wide pandemic, Pope Francis wrote to the Roman Catholics throughout the world about the nature of neighbourliness and shared creation.

Unfortunately, as so often, style seemed to grab the headlines, rather than substance and there was much media coverage of the title of his work, which, as always in Encyclicals, is called by the initial words of the text, so this work came to be called 'Fratelli Tutti'. These are of course not the words of Pope Francis, but of St Francis of Assisi, as the text makes plain, but many jumped on these words as further proof that the Vatican is deliberately continuing to ignore, demean or exclude women. In this case, that certainly isn't the case, as the rest of the paragraph, and indeed the letter, makes plain. Those opening words:

*"FRATELLI TUTTI". With these words, Saint Francis of Assisi addressed his brothers and sisters and proposed to them a way of life marked by the flavour of the Gospel. Of the counsels Francis offered, I would like to select the one in which he calls for a love that transcends the barriers of geography and distance, and declares blessed all those who love their brother "as much when he is far away from him as when he is with him". In his simple and direct way, Saint Francis expressed the essence of a fraternal openness that allows us to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person, regardless of physical proximity, regardless of where he or she was born or lives.*

This letter, which reveals a lot about Pope Francis' thinking and theology, pleads for inclusion, a pattern of bringing the world in to the heart of decision-

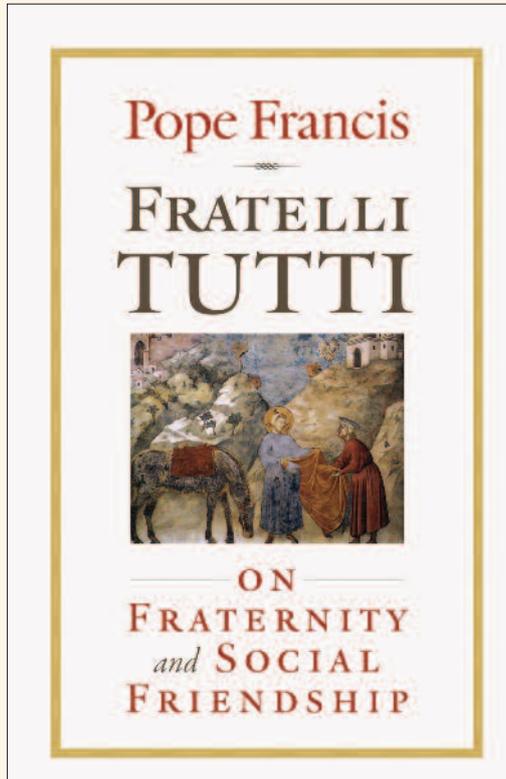
making in the Roman Catholic church. We have seen this in Francis' personal ministry as pope, in much of his option for simplicity of lifestyle, and we have seen it in his choice of senior leaders within the church, particularly in the College of Cardinals, by his choice of colleagues to include a much more diverse lived experience of being church. Obviously there is a long way to go and for the Roman Catholic church in England and Wales local issues include the choice of a new Bible, from which readings at mass are taken, which is clunky and non-inclusive, the issue of women ministering in the sanctuary with the current collapse in vocations to priesthood and whether the duty to attend mass will ever be re-established post-Covid.

But at heart this important letter is a big question mark to all Christians, Roman, Anglican, Protestant, Orthodox and others, in a world which in which

Covid has revealed divisions of a fundamental nature, around the core Christian question of 'What can it mean to love God and my neighbour in the 21st Century?' How do I love what I enjoy when I know others are excluded from it – be it in terms of our daily food, good health care or access to education? How do we balance population growth while the very earth we inhabit is losing species at an alarming rate? How do I relate to my brothers and sisters of other faiths and none, when faith allegiances seem so central to war and terror? How do we build a different world, post-Covid, in which we truly see each other as siblings, each carrying an equal imprint of God's creative love?

You could read the document for yourself at <https://bit.ly/3uKW5dd>. Or you could join in on Zoom with our parish Tuesday morning study group which will be considering this document for the next few weeks. For details, please contact the Parish Office. □

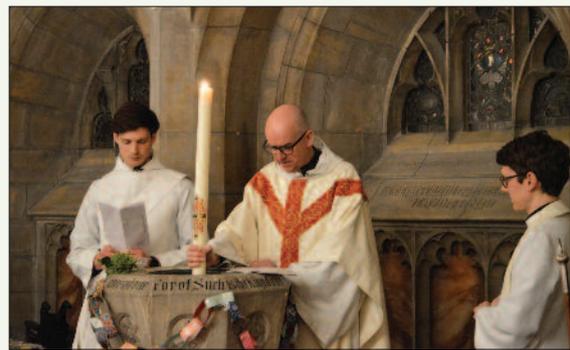
BRIAN LEATHARD



# Holy Week and Easter

Even with the various restrictions in place, it was wonderful to be able to mark Holy Week and Easter again in our parish. Here is a flavour of some of the events that took place, including (from top right): our Palm Sunday service (with 3 donkeys!); the Good Friday Veneration of the Cross; the Easter Vigil at Christ Church; Easter Day at Christ Church (including our marvellous Chains of Hope).

*Alleluia!*  
*Christ is risen!*



# My favourite Bible story

## Jesus calms a storm

When evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?' (Mark 4.35-41)

In 2013, a group from this parish went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Having visited and witnessed many places described in Biblical stories, an abiding outcome of

the journey for me is the extra resonance that these stories now evoke. Indeed, as we voyaged from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and from Jericho to Galilee, one pilgrim was invited to read aloud to the group a passage relevant to the particular location. When we took a fishing boat onto the Sea of Galilee, I was asked to read the passage in which Jesus calms a storm, and so the account of that miracle has a special meaning for me.

The story is recounted in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. One day, Jesus says to some unnamed disciples that they should sail with him to the far side of the lake. Jesus falls

asleep (on a cushion in the stern of the boat, according to Mark!), and a great storm arises. Fearful for their lives, the disciples wake Jesus, who rebukes the wind and the waves, and the squall abates. He then questions why the disciples were afraid, asking "Have you still no faith?"

So, what does this story tell us, other than that Jesus had excellent sea legs? We don't know which of the

disciples accompanied Jesus, but we can be fairly confident that they would have been seasoned sailors (after all, some of Jesus' followers were fishermen by trade); nevertheless, the storm was of sufficient severity to make them afraid that they would perish. We can also assume that Jesus was not caught unawares by the storm and that he knew it was coming when he proposed the voyage across the water.

God does not guarantee that life will be without tempests, trials or tribulations. Indeed, we know that all too well as we endure the ongoing pan-

demic. A life of Christian discipleship is not an assurance of 'plain sailing'. However, God does promise to be with us in the midst of trouble and, with faith and perseverance, we shall be delivered. Indeed, when we sing the hymn *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*, we implore Him to "Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, / O still, small voice of calm". Fear of elements beyond our control is a natural human emotion and biological response, but Jesus' ability to command the wind and the waves should give us the strength and courage that we need to weather any storm. □

GREG LIM



# CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

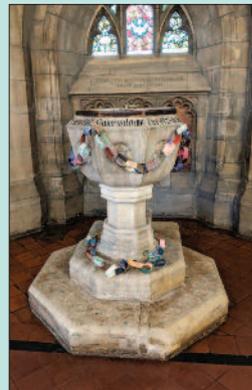
ANNA STAMENOVA



*“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” Acts 2:1,3-4*

After a long year of pandemic and separation from each other, we celebrated Easter together by opening the doors of our churches for public. And we will continue with those celebrations: On Ascension Day, the 40th day of Eastertide, we commemorate the ascension of Jesus into heaven after his resurrection. This reminds us of the glorious and triumphant return of Christ, who fills the universe with His love. With His ascension, Jesus completed the work of salvation. Then ten days later we celebrate the day of Pentecost, when we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, bringing us comfort and help and guidance and healing. Let us celebrate the new beginning of our lives as we slowly start to reconnect with people and overcome initial awkwardness. So, we can be confident in God's presence with us, always...

Thank you to the children and adults who took part in our Easter Egg painting zoom activity. We all en-



Also, we are very grateful to the children who beautifully decorated Christ Church with the chain of hopes and made the church very welcoming.



joyed showing off our creativity and painting skills, using different techniques.



We had lovely Easter day services, following by Easter Egg hunt in the gardens of both churches. Children said that this was the best day, full of fun, joy, smiles and lots of chocolates since 2019.



## Half Term children's activity

For primary school children only: Reception - Year 6  
On Wednesday 2nd June, we will have outdoor painting children's activities in the garden of St Luke's church. There will be morning session from 10am - 12pm and an afternoon session from 2pm-4pm.

If you like your child(ren) to take part please email me at: [annastamenova@chelseaparish.org](mailto:annastamenova@chelseaparish.org) as soon as possible as there are will be limited spaces, following Covid-19 guidelines. More details will follow in our weekly emails closer to the date. ☐

Thank you and let's celebrate God's goodness.  
Love, Anna

## Christ Church and Holy Trinity walk to New Zealand...and back again!

During the month of March, 240 families and members of our community 'virtually' travelled 50,000kms around the world in 30 days.

We walked, we ran, we cycled and we danced from Holy Trinity, Sloane Square to Christchurch, New Zealand....and then back again. The end goal was to raise £14,000 for Christ Church & Holy Trinity's Covid catch up plans and summer term enrichment programme and we had lots of fun in doing so.

Our Headteacher Avis Hawkins, said: "It was so exciting. The children and adults all got really involved. The children were very excited by the recording of the kilometres that they walked or cycled, and it was a healthy competition between parents and children. The children loved looking at the map to see how far they had walked and to see which parts of the world they had travelled to. It has been really good for geography as they were really studying the world map carefully. It started with such a small idea but it seemed to get people involved on lots of different levels. The children were understanding distance and the sense of contributing to a bigger cause."

We spread the word by regularly sharing photos of us all taking part. We received video messages of support from local heroes and across the world including one from a school in Christchurch New Zealand, whose Headteacher used to work at Christ Church! There was a lot of excitement surrounding the event and a tangible buzz around the school. Families got involved by adding songs to our Spotify playlist, local newspapers covered our story in print and online, one of our pupils went on the Chris Evans breakfast show on Virgin Radio to chat about our epic journey and we even had the BBC London News report in to the schools during it all.

At the end of term 300 pupils walked from Christ Church or Holy Trinity and back again to push us over the Finish Line a day early. It was a remarkable challenge in many ways. It kept us fit, allowed us all to do something collectively after so many months apart, and ultimately, we smashed our target for a very worthy cause. To date our total is £23,478 and that is not including gift aid. Thank you to everyone who donated their time, money, and effort in completing this exciting and competitive challenge for us all.  **KATIE ROSE**



# THE YOUTH GROUP

## Easter Celebrations



A big thank you to our youth group who helped to decorate the church for Easter Sunday! Everyone helped by planting flowers around the cross outside the front of St Luke's and hanging up the paper prayer chains inside the church, before we enjoyed some pizza together.



It was great to be physically gathered together again after such a long time spent apart, and made all the more special that this



coincided with Easter— the celebration of new beginnings!

## Youth Group and Youth in Church

We continued with our zoom gatherings prior to the Easter break with a Film Night, where we watched McFarland accompanied by plenty of popcorn and chocolate!

We also had our Youth in Church gathering, where we considered Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday where he was met by joyous crowds.

But we also reflected on how it was the same crowds who called for him to be crucified at the end of the week. This



prompted an interesting and important conversation about the challenges of not always following the crowd!

## Dates for the Summer Term

The dates of our Youth Group gatherings for the remainder of the summer term are Thursdays at 5pm as follows: 6th May, 20th May, 10th June, 24th June, 8th July, and 22nd July.

We are so pleased to be able to gather together again at St Luke's Vestry!

Our Youth in Church sessions will also be able to resume physically once a month on Sundays at 5pm as follows: 2nd May and 6th June. □

A further reminder of the dates for the Summer Programme: 26th July to 13th August, Monday- Friday. Ages 8-13 years old. More information will follow nearer the time, but to register interest and for please email: [samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org](mailto:samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org)

# FROM OUR REGISTERS

We pray for the soul of  
Joyce Mogridge

**Save the date!**  
**Our APCM will be**  
**online on Wednesday**  
**19 May at 7pm.**



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## CONTACT PARISH OFFICE : 020 7351 7365

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brianleathard@chelseaparish.org

**Associate Vicar: The Revd Dr Sam Hole**  
samhole@chelseaparish.org

**Curate: The Revd Samuel Rylands**  
samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org

**Operations Manager and Bursar: John McVeigh**  
johnmcveigh@chelseaparish.org

**General Enquiries**  
**Parish Administrator/ receptionist: Tracy Best**  
parishoffice@chelseaparish.org

**Property Administrator: Alicia Hilliard**  
(Direct Line: 020 7351 6133)  
hallbookings@chelseaparish.org

**Children's Administrator: Anna Stamenova**  
annastamenova@chelseaparish.org

*Enquiries re baptism, confirmation (adults and children), marriages, funerals and home communion visits please contact the clergy via the Parish Office. Also for the Planned Giving Schemes for both churches.*

**ST. LUKE'S**  
Sydney Street,  
London SW3 6NH



Churchwardens: Jamie Gibbs 07803 596 256  
Charles Combe 07747 796 124  
Director of Music: Jeremy Summerly 07956 801 223

**CHRIST CHURCH**  
Christchurch Street,  
London SW3 4AS



Churchwardens: Aidus McVeigh 020 7223 8591  
Nick Smith 07889 369 060  
Director of Music: Gareth Wilson 07939 378 759  
Organist: Samuel Ali

**Safeguarding Officers:**  
**(for any safeguarding issues in the Parish)**  
Guy Tobin (Mob: 07979 596 009)  
Lizzie Watson-Steele (Mob: 07855 455559)

Follow us on



## SERVICES CURRENTLY ONLINE

Our worship is currently taking place online with our church buildings closed.  
For details and latest updates, please see our website or contact the Parish Office.

## CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES

**Children's ministry Administrator Anna Stamenova:**  
Please contact Anna for any enquiries about children's groups, registrations and schools via the parish office, or [childrensadmin@chelseaparish.org](mailto:childrensadmin@chelseaparish.org).

**Children's Groups during Sunday Services** are currently suspended. Activity packs are available at the back of church.

**Youth Events for 11 +** please contact Samuel Rylands for more details: 020 7351 7365, [samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org](mailto:samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org)

**ABC Club During Term Time**  
Thursdays 1000-1130 (currently suspended)  
Parent, carer and toddler group.

**Uniformed Organisations All At St. Luke's Hall**  
**10th Chelsea (St. Luke's) Rainbows**

For girls Aged 5-7 meet Tuesday 1700-1800  
Contact: Lottie Holmes on 07981 891 788

**Brownies**

For girls 7-10. Meets on Tuesday evenings 1800-1930  
Contact: Gail Horn 0203 313 5901

**Guides**

For girls 10-14 years old. Meets on Tuesday evenings 1900-20.30

**9th Chelsea Scout Group - All at St. Luke's Hall**

For further info all contact Wolf or Chil  
[Wolf2872@gmail.com](mailto:Wolf2872@gmail.com)

**Beavers:** Boys and girls aged 6-8

Every Thursday 1730-1845

**Cubs:** Boys and girls aged 8-10 & a half

Every Thursday 1900-2030

**Scouts -** Boys and girls 10 & a half -14

Every Friday 1900-2100

**Explorers-** Boys and girls 14-18

Every Friday 1900-2100