

ST. LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

The Parish of St Luke and Christ Church
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ST LUKE'S 200



On 12 October 1820 the foundation stone of St Luke's was laid by its new Rector, the brother of the Duke of Wellington. Two hundred years later, St Luke's still stands – a landmark in Chelsea and a testimony to the thousands of people who have worshipped in that church. Enjoy these snippets of the life and worship of St Luke's over the last two hundred years, as we look forward with hope for the next two hundred!





In researching this month's front cover story on the 200th anniversary of St Luke's, it was a delight to visit the St Luke's archive room, hidden away high above the portico. This treasure trove is the kind of place loved by anyone with an interest in historical details (like me). More recent documents sit side-by-side with documents about the founding of St Luke's. There are even papers from the 1770s relating to Chelsea Old Church, which was the parish church of Chelsea until the construction of St Luke's. The documents and photos on our front page are some of the fruit of that rummaging.

That visit also reminds me of the significance of print for record keeping. The archive room contains neatly arranged boxes of the parish magazine, hardbound into books for each year since the 1950s. Our break in print production is by far the longest since then, and it is wonderful to return this month to a printed magazine.

Of course, a risk of the printed magazine is that it may carry out-of-date information. That is particularly true in our current uncertain times. We go to print a fortnight before publication date, so please check with the Parish Office that publicised events are going ahead as planned. ☐

Upcoming events in October-December

Your handy cut out and keep guide to special events (Covid-permitting) in the coming quarter!

OCTOBER

ABC: 9:30am and 10:30am on Thursdays, Christ Church.

NEW WEEKLY EUCHARIST:

12:30pm on Thursdays at St Luke's, beginning on Thursday 1 October.

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES:

each Thursday in October, beginning on 1 October, we will be showing a classic film, socially distanced, in the St Luke's vestry from 1:45pm.

CHILDRENS' SERVICE FOR

HARVEST: Sunday 4 October, 9:30am, Christ Church.

VISIT OF +SARAH: On Sunday 18 October the Bishop of London will preside and preach at St Luke's at 10:30am to mark 200 years since the laying of the foundations. No service at Christ Church.

NOVEMBER

CHILDRENS' SERVICE FOR

ALL SAINTS: Sunday 1 November, 9:30am, Christ Church.

REMEMBRANCE DAY:

Sunday 8 November, 10:30am, outside the west end of St Luke's

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE:

Sunday 29 November, 6:30pm, St Luke's (ticketed: details to come)



DECEMBER

CHILDRENS' SERVICE FOR

ADVENT: Sunday 6 December, 9:30am, Christ Church.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS:

Sunday 20 December, 4pm and 7pm, St Luke's (ticketed: details to come)

CRIB SERVICES:

Thursday 24 December, 4pm in both St Luke's and Christ Church

MIDNIGHT MASS:

Thursday 24 December, 11:30pm, St Luke's

CHRISTMAS DAY:

Friday 25 December, 10:30am at St Luke's, 11am at Christ Church



Stroll east along the South Bank, and as you near London Bridge the wonderful sight of Southwark Cathedral suddenly appears into view, its medieval tower dwarfed by the Shard that shines out behind it. And next door to the cathedral is an alternative nirvana, a foodies' heaven – Borough Market. The cathedral clergy have built good relationships with the market staff, both through their loyal patronage and by virtue of the extensive pastoral care provided in the wake of the 2017 terrorist attacks.

One of the results of this good relationship is evident on 1 August. Bread Ahead, the local bakery, produce a three foot long loaf that is given to the cathedral and blessed in a short service. The reason is that 1 August is Lammas Day, a feast dating back to Anglo-Saxon times that gave

thanks to God for the first fruits of the harvest. (While bread is of course the traditional fare, in a sign of modern priorities one of the nearby coffee grinders has also been known to give the first of a new batch for similar blessing, no doubt to the delight of cathedral staff.)

The English church year has a number of similar days centred on the agricultural year which continue to be marked in the countryside, but which have little resonance in Chelsea. There is Plough Sunday in January (marking the return to work after the Christmas festivities). There are also the Rogation Days before Ascension Day to pray for God's blessing on the crops.

Yet one festival still continues to excite our urban imaginations – the Harvest Festival, which we mark this year on Sunday 4 Oc-



tober. This is, for arable farmers, the occasion for a great sigh of relief that 'all is safely gathered in'. Like the exhausted labourers depicted in Pieter Brueghel's *The Harvesters* (below), they deserve their rest!

In our urban context the tinned peas and wholewheat pasta must stand in for the wheat sheafs and corn, but the meaning of what we do is much the same. We remember – as lockdown reminded us – the fragility of our food chains and food supply, and give thanks for those who work so hard to provide it for us. We acknowledge the passing of the seasons, and the rhythm of the year. And we give thanks for all we have received, knowing that all good things are a reflection of God who is the source of all goodness. It is bread of heaven indeed! ☐



Arrows and Circles

We are currently issuing a series of short online videos by the organist of St Luke's, Rupert Jeffcoat, in which he reflects on the resonances between music and faith. In this special piece to accompany that series, he considers how the relationship between linearity and circularity in music illuminates our experience of faith.

When you look at a keyboard you are seeing sonic territory mapped out – the notes range from the bottom to the top. But within the notes there are repetitions, with say the note D being repeated at regular intervals: so the collection of notes we use come round again and again, moving round rather like a circle.

It's no revelation perhaps to notice that within music collections of pitches have deep relationships: composers will often repeat patterns of notes - often higher to increase tension, or lower to induce relaxation. Pitches repeat over our sonic panorama, and one can make a parallel with time. Time's arrow may go one way, but within it there are little circles. Within our 70 year span, we have regular recurrences, such as anniversaries or that Monday morning blues (every Monday!). But time is also compressed in our liturgy.

The church's year maps onto the structure of the Eucharist. For instance, Advent recognises our need of God, and the first part of the service always contains a confession. The Angels'



hymn of Praise at Christmas (the Gloria) comes soon, signaling that the Word of God (which means Jesus) is among us. The showing forth (Epiphany) is the readings where we witness God's work. Lent is about self-examination, and Sermons and Prayers aid us in playing our part in God's work. Holy Communion acknowledges that Jesus died and rises to new life, and at the end we are sent out be Christ to others.

Time is a challenge to us, for while we cannot turn the clock back, at

each revolution of the wheel we have a chance to try again. New Year's Resolutions are part of that, but we could consider that each Sunday is a chance to be refreshed and live our life again. Music often employs variation form (where a theme's potential is explored

in diverse ways) and highlights how cyclical and linear approaches combine. Elgar's Enigma Variations – conducted by Elgar himself – only takes 27 minutes of your life, but in it you hear sound pictures of 15 different people yet all refracted through the same underlying notes.

You can listen on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/kaPtKoL-FsM>.

We, too, are similar to the arrow and circle we find in time and music: whilst staying the same person that God created, we are somehow to become different. □



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CHRIST CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

The last six months have called on the staff at Christ Church and Holy Trinity to be even more creative than usual! Home schooling... then home schooling and three year groups in bubbles then bubbles, home schooling and one day a week school... and a LOT of hand washing.

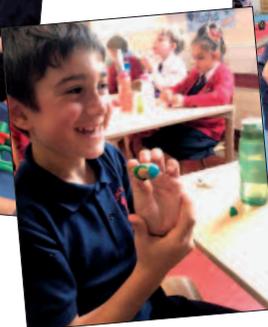
It has been a challenging and thought-provoking time with many highs and lows. We have had to be very mindful of every family's experience being different from the next one. We have got better at film editing, communication with parents and appreciating our school community amongst other things! We have done some things badly and some things very well. Our parents have supported us through this difficult time admirably.

Now we come back to school for the new term with new rules and regulations to understand but importantly all our children back in school. The relief we all feel in being able to be back together is immense, even if it is in a "new normal" way.

Our three priorities for this term are simple:

1. A safe school
2. Happy children
3. Children learning well

A very proud Head Teacher
AVIS HAWKINS



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VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL _____ ANNA STAMENOVA



“Look to the Lord and his strength
seek his face always.” | Chronicles 16:11

These words are part of a psalm by David who celebrated the return of the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem. It reminds us about God's faithfulness to His people in their struggles throughout history, advise them to always praise Him and “cry out” to Him. To “seek [God's] face” means we turn our hearts toward Him in even the dullest moments. Sometimes our prayers are answered differently than our asking, but God is faithful and look after us. Our Good Shepherd direct our paths and keeps us in His mercy, strength, and love. We should declare our dependence on Him and He will lead us through our uncertain future in the coming months.

Sunday School

Given the difficulty of holding Sunday School in a socially distanced fashion, we will continue weekly on-line provision for Sunday School in the coming months, but we will need physical church attendance for your child/ren to be able to register them. Please do continue sending me your drawings and other photos, as we love to feature them as much as possible in our videos and parish magazine. As a reminder, our services are the 8am and 10.30am at St Luke's, and 11am at Christ Church, as well as our new monthly 9.30am service at Christ Church. Please do feel welcome to join us at any of these services.

New children's service

We were delighted to introduce on 6 September our **NEW** monthly children's service at **9.30am** at Christ church. As it was the beginning of the school year part of the service was Blessing of the Backpacks. Father Brian and our new curate Samuel blessed the backpacks of 117 children to remind us that God is



with us wherever we go. It was a glimpse of happiness and joy as children and parents were very enthusiastic and positive to be back at church after very long absence during lockdown and summer holiday. For your diaries, future services will take place on the first Sunday of each month: **4 October, 1 November and 6 December** - though parents and children also remain very welcome to the other services at St Luke's and Christ Church on these dates.

ABC toddlers' group

During the first two weeks of September we had very special mornings in the greenery behind St. Luke's church for our youngest members and their parents. It was lovely to welcome and see people with smiling



faces to share stories over cup of coffee as the little ones happily help themselves with the biscuits.

Youth Group

With the school term beginning we're very excited to start our youth group fortnightly on Thursdays, 5-7pm. We have great team of helpers who are happy to support and guide the young people and provide a social space for them. This is for aged Year 8 and above to come and hang-out, relax and have fun! There will be food, games, activities and a chance to explore questions of life and faith. Our first session is on 17th September, 5pm at St Luke's Vestry. We are looking forward to welcome many young people as possible. For more information please email our new curate Samuel - samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org.

Thank you and keep God in your heart!
Love, Anna

FROM OUR REGISTERS

We welcome as members of the church through baptism: Florence Long

We congratulate on the occasion of their wedding: Rory Shaw and Angela Foyle



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Golden Charter

Thank you, Simon!

When he's not volunteering as a chalice assistant, PCC member, reader, intercessor or sidesman at St Luke's, Simon is professionally a man of Prudence, indeed, Director of Prudence at UK Finance, formerly The British Banking Association. And we in this parish have very good reason to recognise Simon's pru-



Fr Brian presents Simon with a gift at our APCM, in thanks for his service.

dence as he has guided our financial strategy and assets over so many years. Three times Simon has served as PCC Treasurer, as well as having been the Treasurer to the St Luke's Restoration Project in the 1980s and 1990s. We owe Simon an enormous thank you for his calm and quiet stewardship of our resources and more, for the way in which Simon has constantly reminded us that our resources are for using, not for hoarding. So whether it has been the Kids Summer programme, the improvements to the sound system or the staffing levels of the Parish Office, we are indebted to Simon's faith commitment to steward our gifts wisely for the missional work of the parish. With Simon quietly, prudentially even, in the background I am reminded of Psalm 16

*'The lot has fallen to me in a good place
And we have a goodly heritage'.*

Thank you, indeed, Simon and welcome to our new PCC Treasurer, Alex Banbury.

BRIAN LEATHARD

CONTACT PARISH OFFICE : 020 7351 7365

Rector: The Revd Prebendary Dr Brian Leathard
brianleathard@chelseaparish.org

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

Curate: Samuel Rylands
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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

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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)

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