

ST LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

The Parish of St Luke's & Christ Church
St Luke's Crypt
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OCTOBER 2021 PARISH MAGAZINE ISSUE NO. 198

WWW.CHELSEAPARISH.ORG

All Age Harvest Celebration, St Luke's, 3 October

Each year at the All Age Harvest Celebration, we sing the hymn, 'We plough the fields and scatter, the good seed on the land'. Not us personally, perhaps, but each autumn we continue to give thanks both for the food that nourishes us, and for those who steward our land and seas to enable us to enjoy it.

This year's All Age Harvest Celebration will take place on Sunday 3 October at 10.30am at St Luke's. As ever, we will gladly receive donations, as we give thanks for all we have been given.

We invite our congregations to bring items, which this year will go to the Vestry Foodbank Club at St Luke's. The foodbank weekly provides food and personal care items to over 100 families locally.

Items the foodbank is most in need of are: long-life milk or non-dairy equivalents, rice, pasta, tea, coffee, sugar, fruit juice, biscuits, jams and marmalade, cereal, oatmeal, bars of soap, shower gel, shampoo,

toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine care products, toilet rolls and tins of soup, meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, tomatoes and pulses of all kinds.

Donations of these items would be particularly appreciated, though, of course, all more traditional Harvest food donations will also be welcomed and passed on to support those in need in our local community. We, unfortunately, are unable to accept perishable goods.

Please bring any goods to the parish office or leave them at the back of the churches during the week running up to Harvest or bring them at the start of the service at St Luke's (10.30am) or Christ Church (11.00am) on Sunday 3 October.

In the words of another favourite Harvest hymn, 'Come, ye thankful people, come'; all are very welcome as we celebrate together.

SAM HOLE



Father Sam and the Vestry Foodbank Volunteers.

Exploring the Liturgy: The Greeting

Have you ever been sat in church and found yourself thinking, “what is actually going on here?” “What is worship all about?” Well, please don’t report me to the Bishop, but I’ve certainly had these thoughts myself from time to time! But I also think they’re good questions to be asking!

Across the next 9 months we will be running a series of articles in the parish magazine that are aimed at exploring the liturgy of our Sunday worship service. The idea is to provide an insight into the different parts of the service, what they’re for and why we do them.

So, in this first month’s article we are beginning with “The Greeting,” which is also described as “the Gathering” or “the Welcome.” Here the service begins:

*In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.*

*The Lord be with you
All and also with you.*

These words might be very familiar. Yet, we can easily miss the significance of these words, which declare why we are gathered. We are not primarily gathered in the name of building friendly community, or in the name of being good Christians, or even in the name of lovely music. Rather we, the church, are a community of people who gather in the name of God; Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

And we follow this assertion of gathering in the name of the Trinity with the further affirmation that when we gather, God is present with us: “The Lord be with you.” A reminder right at the start of our worship that God is with us. We do not simply gather in God’s name like a godly fan club or divine appreciation society, but we trust God to be with us, as the present force who is drawing us together.

When I was training at theological college, I had the wonderful experience of visiting Russia to learn about how priests are trained and formed in the Orthodox tradition. Whilst I was in Moscow, I visited the Tretyakov Gallery where I saw the Rublev Icon. (This icon will be familiar to those who attend Christ Church, as a similar version is painted behind the altar there.)



The icon depicts the three divine persons of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as three angels gathered around the table for a meal together. Gazing at the icon, you realise that there is an empty place on the viewer’s side of the table. The insinuation is that we are invited to take up this place and commune with the Trinity. In-

deed, our central act of worship, Holy Communion, is this invitation to the table of God where everyone has a place, because it is the radically welcoming God who is the host. In gathering in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit we are welcomed and invited into the life of God, to share in his self-giving and other-receiving life. It is as if the Triune God, whose very identity is one of unity through otherness and difference, makes room for us to share in his life.

Often a good marker for a healthy church is when you look around and realise that nowhere else would you find these people gathered together, except for their shared sense of having been welcomed and drawn-in to worship God. This is why a diverse church is a healthy church. Not because it’s good for “optics” or because it makes us feel progressive, but because a diverse church reflects the radical welcome and hospitality of God, who invites us all to gather around the table and share in his heavenly banquet.

So, at the beginning of the service as we greet one another and gather together, we realise that we have already been greeted and gathered in by the life of God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

SAMUEL RYLANDS

As I write this, I note that Christian walkers have set off on a pilgrimage to the COP26 global climate summit, taking place in Glasgow in November. Walking 10 miles each day, they hope to cover the 500 miles taking the opportunity to talk to people along the way - schools, churches, local mayors, trade unions, village councils - whoever will listen. It certainly made me wonder just how seriously I take the reality, the frightening reality, of amending my lifestyle to enable the world to go on turning!

If we believe that God made the world 'and it was very good', then, of course, we are committed to maintaining that goodness and restoring that goodness where it has been tarnished or lost. But to what extent am I prepared to change my lifestyle to achieve this? Is it really a matter of double glazing and home insulation or is it the sort of direct action of Extinction Rebellion that is now called for? Should I feel satisfied when I remember to turn off the tap while brushing my teeth or do I need to lobby for substantial change?

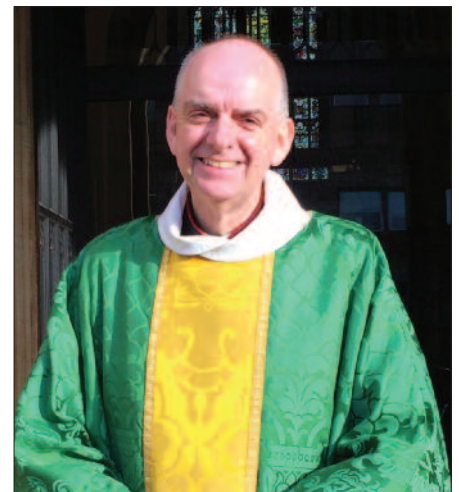
Perhaps the first step is to learn something of the truth. It's so easy to be bamboozled by scientific statistics that we are in danger of losing the plot. Our brothers and sisters in the more vulnerable parts of creation can certainly help us out here. We might bemoan the 'monsoon' rain of this summer, but we are not in the same position, for example, as our neighbours in the Solomon Islands or in Bangladesh whose land will be submerged by the sea within the next few years

unless some truly substantial change occurs.

Equally, what might we expect our parish life to contribute to the debate. What might our distinctive contribution be, not only to the debate, but to amendment of our common life as the Christian community here? The Church of England roots its response within the Five Marks of Mission core to our Christian vocation, namely that we 'safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the face of the earth'. A tall order, but, as others have said, every journey begins with the first step.

As a parish we have installed solar panels to part of the Christ Church roof, reducing our supply from and contributing supply to the grid. We have installed thermostats on water heaters at St Luke's. We have committed ourselves to no more plastic cutlery or crockery, once current supplies are consumed and to renewable energy supplies. We are working together with our school and the Melanesian Brothers to learn from and pray with each other. Yet, apart from Harvest, do we ever reflect on the seriousness of climate change in our worship?

But, above all, this has to be a task we view with integrity - it reaches across our personal and common life, our leisure and our career, our desires and our children and grandchildren's inheritance, our local and global relations. One thing we can all do, as the Glasgow summit draws close is to pray, and here is a suggestion to use, Pope Francis's 'Prayer for our earth'.



*All powerful God,
you are present in the universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that
exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with your peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not
prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each
thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognise that we are profoundly
united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle,
for justice, love and peace.*

All prayer, of course, needs translating from language into action so the church council would love to hear your ideas of how we might translate our desire to safeguard the integrity of creation, restoring the goodness of God's creation, right here in Chelsea.

Meet the Parish

This month we are launching a new column, entitled, 'Meet the Parish' and we hope you'll enjoy meeting Joan Holdsworth, who attends Christ Church, is a long-time Chelsea resident and freelance florist extraordinaire.

I was born in Harrow Middlesex.

And I now live on Christchurch Terrace.

If I didn't live here, I would like to live somewhere hotter!

I met my husband in Tite Street at a party he gatecrashed. My boyfriend at the time was a school friend of Leonard's. He lived there with his family. His Mother said Leonard just happened to be passing by.

My first job was a Saturday job in a local flower shop. I'm a freelance florist and do flowers for numerous events each year.

My proudest personal achievement was staying married to Leonard for 53 years and having two wonderful sons.

My proudest professional achievement is seeing my flowers make people happy, even on sad occasions.

In my fridge, you will always find wine and beer for visitors.

My favourite hymn is Dear Lord and Father of Mankind because I just love the words and music. My favourite song is Moon River. It's so romantic and takes me back to my ballroom dancing days.

The best holiday I ever had was That's very hard to say as I have had lots of wonderful holidays. Of particular note was flying to Jordon on Concorde and going into the desert on a steam train flanked by horsemen -- all very Lawrence of Arabia! The evening finished with a feast and a pianist playing in the middle of the desert.

The best gift I ever received was Gareth Wilson (Director of Music at Christ Church) and four musicians playing

at my window eight of my favourite songs on my 60th birthday. It was such a thoughtful present from Leonard. I wondered why he kept asking what I would choose if I was on Desert Island Discs.

I'd like to have my ashes scattered in Battersea Park. I just love it. I have taken my children and my grandchildren there and during lockdown it was wonderful to walk in.

At the moment, I'm reading Imperium by Robert Harris and I'm watching Grace and Frankie on Netflix.

I'm happiest spending time doing gardening in my small patio.

My favourite food is Italian.

One restaurant I could go back to forever is Frantoio at the end of King's Road. We have had great family parties there and the food is good.

On Sundays, I like to sometimes go to church, go out to lunch or go to one of my son's for dinner.

The place I can't wait to go back to is Rome. Every time I go I find something new, a hidden garden or fountain. Also, I have friends who live there.

I have a collection of My house is one large collection - paintings, trains, books and holiday mementos.

If I could own one famous piece of artwork, it would be a Henry Moore Sculpture because they are so soothing to touch.

The object dearest to my heart is my wedding ring.

My earliest memory is sitting on my mother's lap listening to Listen with Mother on the radio in our kitchen.

My favourite charity. I have three at the moment - Médecins Sans Frontières, Crisis and Glass Door.

If I were to be locked in a church overnight, I would want to be with someone with a sense of humour.

My biggest indulgence is going on holiday.



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London Prison Chaplaincies and Change for Good Charity



tributing through readings and music recitals.

I am also a trustee and volunteer for Change for Good, a mentoring charity with programmes based in Wandsworth and Wormwood Scrubs Prisons as well as support in the community across London. Two full-time staff, Josh Brettell and Stephen Wait, lead 30 volunteers. Project Manager Josh explains, "Our aim is to empower those leaving prison and resettling in London to transform their lives through mentoring, advocacy and peer support."

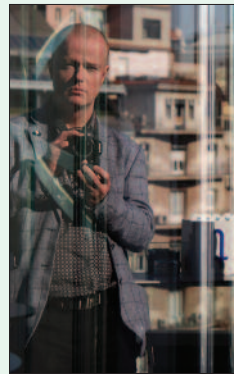
'Lockdown' is a word we all hear too much at the moment, but, of course, it is a prison term.

Prisoners have suffered disproportionately during the pandemic. For the last year or so, family visits were suspended and meeting for worship ceased. Fortunately, family visits have restarted in prisons across London and it is hoped that church services and Friday Muslim prayer will resume in the near future.

I started volunteering a few years ago at the chaplaincy of a men's prison in London. Pre-pandemic, Sunday morning services were held in the chapel. Something that really impressed me from the outset was the strength of faith many of the men demonstrated. And talent: poetry, rapping, drumming, singing and even a dance performance enlivened services. We also welcomed visiting church groups. My role was to help out wherever possible from reading Intercession Prayers to collecting visitors from the waiting area. The chaplains have adapted to current restraints and record services for prison radio each Sunday, with volunteers con-

Prisoners about to be released are introduced to volunteer mentors who support them on their challenging transition from prison life to the outside world. Josh and Stephen also run a weekly support group, Next Chapter, for ex-prisoners. I have heard many of the guys tell how the chaplains and Change for Good have helped them turn around their lives.

Prisons are the forgotten part of our society. But if you would like to make a difference, please pray for the great work of prison chaplaincies in London



and Change for Good. As an independent charity, Change for Good welcomes any donations to keep its lifeline going for ex-prisoners (changeforgood.info).

Stuart Blakley (pictured) attends St Luke's Sunday morning service. He blogs about design at Lavender's Blue lvbmag.com.

Text and photos by Stuart Blakley



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“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus”. | Thessalonians 5:16-18

Smile! It makes you feel beautiful and doesn't cost you anything and gives you positive feelings and comfort to people. It happens in a flash, and the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. It creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, is a huge help in building friendship and nature's best antidote in times of trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, has no meaning until it is given away from the goodness of your heart.

Lately we have lots to smile about - we started a new school year with the long-awaited Confirmation service and the start of Sunday School. And now we are looking forward to the All Age Harvest Celebration at St. Luke's on 3 October and the St. Luke's Patronal Festival on 17 October. We all coming back together to celebrate and worship God. Harvest Festival reminds us of all the good things God gives us and we want to share with others who are not so fortunate. In schools and in churches, people bring food from home to a Harvest Festival Service. Donations this year from our parish will go to the Vestry Foodbank at St Luke's.

When we show compassion and care, we show love. And we thank God, our Creator, for His blessings, the harvest, the crops, the fruit, the vegetables and so much more and for the farmers and others who make the harvest possible.

So, there is lots to smile about and that's why on 1 October we celebrate the World Smile Day, a relatively new holiday with a fascinating story. Keep smiling and give thanks to God for this amazing gift!

Sunday School

Just a reminder that there are few changes to the way Sunday School is run. The below guidelines will give parents the opportunity to stay in church to partake in the Sunday service, while, at the same time, allowing the Sunday School volunteers to easily work with and to teach the children about God's love and care through stories, craft and prayers.

- A crèche is available in the vestry in both churches for 0-2 year olds only.
- 2½-3 year olds are welcome to come to Sunday School, with one parent only.
- 4-11 year olds should go unaccompanied to Sunday School.

Half Term Children's Activities for Reception & Above

Monday 25 October

10.00am - 12.00pm: Police Day

Wednesday 27 October

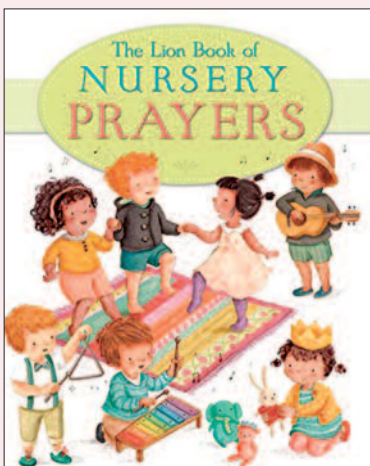
10.00am - 12.00pm: Art & Creation

ABC group for 0-3 year olds at Christ Church will continue during the half term as usual – Thursdays from 10.00am - 11.30am. Parents and carers are welcome.

Have an amazing and wonderful month and keep God in your heart.

Love, Anna

Bible Books for Children: The Lion Book of Nursery Prayers



It's been on my mind for a while to find more children's books that bring our Sunday worship into our daughters' busy daily routine in a fun and light way that they can connect with. The Lion Book of Nursery Prayers couldn't be more perfect as it has a collection of prayers for every aspect of a child's life - from morning to the end of the day; the seasons; wildlife and nature; the special celebrations throughout the year, and praying for our community, family, friends and home. Reading one of the night time prayers and having a quiet moment for us all to reflect and connect to God is such a lovely way to end each day. An absolute favourite on our bookshelf.

KATE KENNEDY



Willabee (left) and Theadora Kennedy

It's Back!

We are delighted to announce that our hugely popular, eagerly-anticipated, annual Promises Auction is back (after a two-year sabbatical) and this time with more guts and gusto than ever before.

We are thrilled to welcome all our parents, friends and family back into the Christ Church School Hall on **Thursday 7 October at 7.00pm** for an evening of tantalising food and wine before our enthusiastic and multi-talented auctioneer, Father Brian, commences the Promises Auction and leads us through our programme of events.

There will be a plethora of promises in the programme of lots, including all sorts of fun and fabulous creations as well as creative, bespoke and often exhilarating experiences for you to enjoy.



We are aiming high this year - we would like to raise £30,000 to go towards our Playground at Christ Church, which we need to resurface, but also towards a multitude of sports and play equipment for all the children to enjoy.

There will be games and entertainment throughout the evening from our Alumni Parents and some surprise features to be peppered into the night.

A crèche will be available for your children to be looked after by our members of staff - £5 cash on the night.

All in all, it is a guaranteed evening of fun and laughter and an absolute must for the diary.

Can I Submit a Lot for the Auction?

If you would like any further information or would like to enquire about sponsoring part of our evening or offering a lot into the catalogue, do please get in touch. The lots you offer can fall under the following six categories:

Food and Drink

Holidays

Events, Memberships and Exhibitions

A Helping Hand

Health, Beauty and Sport

Objects

Please could you send your donations and lot offers to krose@ccht.rbk.csch.uk, including details in your lot offer. We promise it will be an auction to remember!

KATIE ROSE

What the Clergy Have Been Reading and Watching

A regular feature in which we hear what a member of the clergy has been enjoying recently.

This month: Father Sam



Virtuous Moment:

Pamela Druckerman,
French Children Don't Throw Food.

Helpful childcare advice, with the revelation that – of course – French nurseries have a Menu Commission to decide on the children's daily four course lunch...

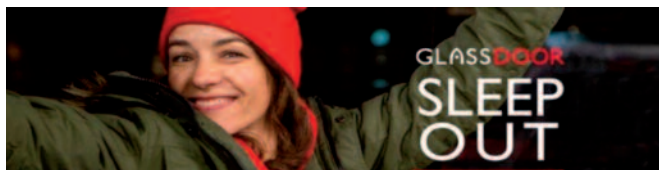
Guilty Pleasure:

Ghosts (BBC). Light-hearted and historical – the perfect combination!



Glass Door Sleep Out

Friday 1 October 2021



Glass Door's ninth annual Sleep Out will take place on Friday 1 October. It will operate as a hybrid event, with some people sleeping in Duke of York's Square; others taking part in teams across a number of different sites; or else participating from home.

Glass Door provides safe shelter, food and advice to people affected by homelessness. During the pandemic, it was one of the few homeless services that remained open and helped hundreds of people to find routes out of homelessness. Its open-access network of emergency winter night shelters and support services welcomes everyone as their guest, providing some much-needed stability before helping them make the necessary steps to move beyond homelessness through working with their caseworker support team. The parish of St Luke's and Christ Church has been a supporter of Glass Door's work in the community since it was established as the West London Churches Homelessness Concern, and, subject to Covid, the Friday night shelter at the Hall of Remembrance in the winter months.

With the furlough scheme ending and evictions beginning in the coming months, many people will be in need of shelter and support this winter. Glass Door plans to reopen both shelters and individual room ac-

commodation, with wrap-around support to help people move beyond homelessness. However, as with so much else, Glass Door will need to be prepared to respond to any changes in Coronavirus guidance and regulations in order to provide the best support possible to guests accessing their support in these challenging times. Glass Door will also be working to encourage vaccine take-up and access that will be so important in helping those who could be the most at risk to remain safe, when it might otherwise be impossible to isolate and might be difficult to access medical support.

The Sleep Out is key to Glass Door raising the funds needed to ensure that more individuals are able to access meals, shelter and support through Glass Door's network of church-based shelters. This year, our parish is aiming to raise £2,000 so please give generously.

A small team of people from St Luke's and Christ Church is taking part, sleeping in St Luke's Church as we did last year. If you would like to participate, please do speak to one of the clergy - we'd always love to have more people joining us!

If you would like to support the important work Glass Door does in our community, please visit <https://glassdoor.enthuse.com/pf/st-luke-s-and-christ-church-chelsea>

JANE ELLARD

Anna's Graduation

Congratulations to our Children's Worker, Anna, who recently graduated from her apprenticeship training with the Diocese of London and Ridley Hall in Cambridge. She is pictured (2nd from the right) at the graduation ceremony.



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Confirmation at St Luke's, 12 September

What a significantly memorable morning!

I would like to thank Father Brian, Father Sam, Father Samuel and not forgetting the most beautiful music, of course, which aptly set the scene for our confirmation.

I felt honoured to learn that The Rt Reverend Tim Thornton, Bishop at Lambeth, was to confirm us. During a poignant sermon, we were all asked to consider one thing; Who am I?

Not an easy question to ask ourselves! I can only offer this in regard to my confirmation:

We must all experience moments in our lives where we consider our faith and what it means to us. For me this moment happened very recently when my daughter was baptised. The vows her God parents and my wife and I took on her behalf, resonated. Her being in the world made me see in a new light; words on a page (Were given) became substance and spirit.

I realised that I must be able to say those words for myself. Being able to take ownership of those vows and affirm to all was deeply empowering and truly liberating.

Having received my first communion, I now feel that not only am I able to sense my faith more fully, so I am also more fully part of a community.

JASON SYMSON



Those confirmed were:

Imani-Hera, Caspar, Josephine, Heidi, Clara, Leo, Ella, Sophie, Cecily, Tabitha, Agatha, Willa, Phoebe, Jason, Melissa, Rocco, Victoria, Beatrix, Amélie

FROM OUR REGISTERS

We pray for the souls of:

Baby Lowri Sophia
 Nigel Powell
 Richard Young
 Mark Vickers
 Ian Wilson
 Rita Peters
 Marianne Astor
 David Martineau




Rachel Wilkins & Graham Harrison's wedding at St Luke's




The marriage at St Luke's of
 Jordon Connell & James Cracknell



Katie Greenall & James Henderson's wedding at
 Christ Church



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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: 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

For enquiries regarding 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.

Follow us on   

ST LUKE'S

Sydney Street,
London SW3 6NH



Churchwardens: Jamie Gibbs and Liz Brutus
Director of Music: Jeremy Summerly 07956 801 223
Organist: Rupert Jeffcoat

CHRIST CHURCH

Christchurch Street,
London SW3 4AS



Churchwardens: Jonathan and Louisa Price
Nick Smith
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)

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 Holy Communion	St Luke's
1030 Sung Eucharist	St Luke's
1100 Sung Eucharist	Christ Church
1500 Choral Evensong	St Luke's

MORNING PRAYER

Monday	0900	Christ Church
Tuesday - Friday	0900	St Luke's

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.

Children's Groups during Sunday Services
Sunday School at St Luke's (10.30am) and Christ Church (11.00am).
A crèche is available at both churches.

Youth Events for 11+ please contact Samuel Rylands for more details: 020 7351 7365, samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org

ABC Club During Term Time
Thursdays 1000-1130
Parent, carer and toddler group.

Uniformed organisations all at St Luke's Hall
The Rainbows contact is 10thchelsea.rainbows@gmail.com.
They meet at 5pm to 6pm.

Brownies contact is: 10thchelsea.brownies@gmail.com.
They meet at 6pm to 7.30pm

Guides for girls 10 years to 14 years

Rangers 14 years to 18 years
Their contact is 10thchelseaguides@gmail.com.
They meet at 6pm to 7.30pm on Tuesday evening in St Luke's Hall.
Contact is Wolf2872@gmail.com

Beavers are the youngest part of the Scout movement. For 6 to 8 year olds it gives them a taste of what it means to be a scout, preparing them for the move to becoming a cub when they turn eight. They meet between 5.00pm-6.30pm on Thursdays.

Cubs are for boys and girls aged 8 to 10½. They meet between 7.00pm-8.30pm on Thursday evenings.

Scouts are for boys and girls aged 10½ to 14. They meet between 7.00pm-9.00pm on Friday.

Explorers are for boys and girls aged 14 to 18. They meet between 7.00pm-9.00pm on Monday.
All in St Luke's Hall

PARTY VENUES FOR HIRE

The Hall of Remembrance, Flood Street, St Luke's Hall, St Luke's Street, and The Hut, Alpha Place. All are available to hire for children's parties, workshops, rehearsals and public or private meetings. All halls are light and airy, on the ground floor with high ceilings. For more information contact tel: 020 7351 6133.

OPEN FOR PRAYER

St Luke's is open for prayer from
0900-1530 Monday to Saturday