

ST LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

The Parish of St Luke's & Christ Church
St Luke's Crypt
Sydney Street
London
SW3 6NH
Tel: 020 7351 7365
parishoffice@chelseaparish.org

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WWW.CHELSEAPARISH.ORG

Shelter for those in need this winter



For the second winter in a row, Glass Door is running a single-room accommodation project in central London for those most in need of shelter and support. Plans to reopen church-based shelters had to be scrapped earlier this winter due to Covid, as the omicron variant and new self-isolation requirements made it impossible to open.

However, the charity has adapted. This year it is again providing people, who would otherwise be sleeping on the street, with their own rooms and three meals a day.

The project, which can welcome up to 56 guests every night and has a floor reserved for women, offers a range of other services beyond meals and a bed, says service development manager Megan Preston.

“Our guests benefit from onsite casework advice and health services,” she says. “This means they can access nurses, dentists, flu and Covid vaccinations, mental-health practitioners, drug and alcohol specialists, podiatrists and even haircuts within the building. We hope to deliver more activities focused on fostering wellbeing, social connection and skill development in coming months, if Covid risks decrease.”

The charity also continues to work with people experiencing homelessness, through its year-round casework advice service. Individuals, many of whom have complex needs, re-

ceive personal assistance to replace lost ID, give them access to healthcare and help them apply for benefits, get training and work and find appropriate longer-term housing. A specialist also supports people once they find housing to ensure they don't fall back into homelessness.

Since the opening of the single-accommodation project on November 22, 2021, five individuals have successfully moved on from the hostel into more permanent accommodation. One of the first was a 70-year-old man with limited mobility, who stayed at the hostel for a few nights before his caseworker helped expedite his move to a more permanent home.

To provide for these services, Glass Door successfully raised more than £220,000 through its Christmas Appeal and all funds donated will directly support these casework and accommodation programmes.

Since its creation, Glass Door has remained open to all in need, regardless of their ability to prove a local connection or their entitlement to government support. Homelessness is a complex issue, but the solutions don't have to be. For those seeking to help, Glass Door has compiled a list online of 10 ways to make a difference.

www.glassdoor.org.uk/top-ten-ways-to-make-a-difference.

MAUD GOZLAN

Meet the Parishioner

Liz Brutus: 'Health and wellbeing are burning issues'

When Britain went into lockdown in March 2020, St Luke's parishioner Liz Brutus had been working as a consultant in public health medicine for seven years, "basically promoting good health and reducing inequalities."

"At the beginning of the pandemic, when so little was known, it was horrendous," Liz says. "Very long hours, a lot of uncertainty – making big decisions with incomplete information. There was a very heavy sense of responsibility." She adds, "Though it was also quite exciting to be doing the thing you had almost trained for, but never thought would happen."

When Covid hit, Liz was public health service lead at Slough Borough Council. She quickly had to get to grips with the data coming through to advise the council chief executive what the numbers meant for Slough and how they should respond.

"It also became about educating the population about how they could keep themselves safe and prevent transmission."

Since then, she has worked for Southwark Council, where she oversaw its rapid lateral flow testing rollout, before moving to the health and wellbeing team at the London Mayor's Office. There she focuses on strategic health advice and introducing health considerations across policymaking.

"There are still a lot of eyes on Covid, of course, and I also try and weave in health considerations to economic development and tackling poverty. I try to have conversations about the health implications of what people do. It's almost an influencing job now."

She adds, "We call it, 'Health in all policies.' We want to infect the world with health and wellbeing." This includes promoting the health benefits of the London living wage, the idea of healthy high streets and the need for clean air.

"Health and wellbeing are big burning issues. Mental health particularly – the pandemic has really knobbled that," Liz says, adding ruefully, "I'm not worried I'll be out of a job in the next few years. I would like to be done out of a job, but that's not looking likely yet."

From a young age, Liz knew she wanted to help people, and was torn between the law and medicine. In her late teens, she realised that the latter was where her heart lay.

She studied at King's College London and then, in 1996, joined the army, where she spent more than six years – including two years in Germany and a six-month operational tour in Bosnia ("it was a relatively calm time, and was mostly peacekeeping"). It was during her time in the army that Liz qualified as a GP.

During the training course at Sandhurst, she met an army chaplain who would become her husband. Angus is now the minister at St Columba's on Pont Street, though she says, with a chuckle, there are several reasons she doesn't go, "I'm not Church of Scotland, and I don't want to be the minister's wife. I hope to slip into St Luke's incognito and just enjoy being a member of the congregation."

She grew up in the church before "going off on my way" to explore the world and then finding her way back. "Then it was about, 'What kind of church do I want to be part of?' It really was about that community, about sense of belonging and putting down roots. The worship has to be uplifting and I need intellectual stimulation and honesty. The nature and the quality of the sermons here mean a lot to me. St Luke's is a lovely combination of that."

After leaving the army in 2002, Liz wasn't sure if she wanted to continue in clinical practice, but enjoyed the leadership and management element of the role.

She studied for an MBA and after a "brief dalliance" working for a Johnson & Johnson company, "I realised I was public sector" and made the move into public health – though first she followed her heart and joined Médecins Sans Frontières, helping run a hospital in Somalia for six months.

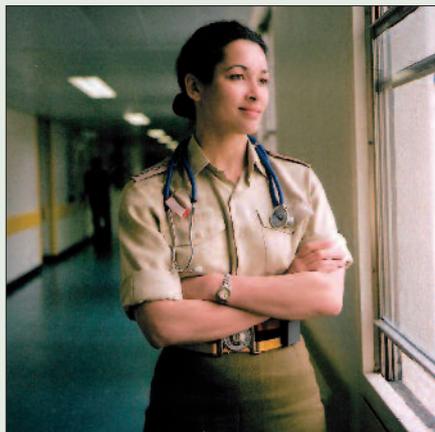
Back in the UK, she re-qualified as a consultant in public health medicine in 2013. She has moved around – "I get my excitement in changing job every few years" – in similar roles, working for Islington Council, then the Department of Work and Pensions, then Slough Borough Council, where she was when the pandemic hit.

Another part of her portfolio at City Hall is exploring how culture and creativity improves health and wellbeing. "It brings us back to why I love coming to St Luke's. It's aesthetically beautiful and the music is beautiful. I find my pulse and sense of tension reducing. That has to be a good thing."

NICK CLARK



Liz Brutus



In her army days

Hah! The turkey leftovers had hardly been consumed when the Easter Eggs arrived.

This period between Christmas and Easter - even when, like this year, Easter is late (17 April) - is very short and we squeeze the story of the compass of the life of Jesus of Nazareth from about 33 years into three or four months.

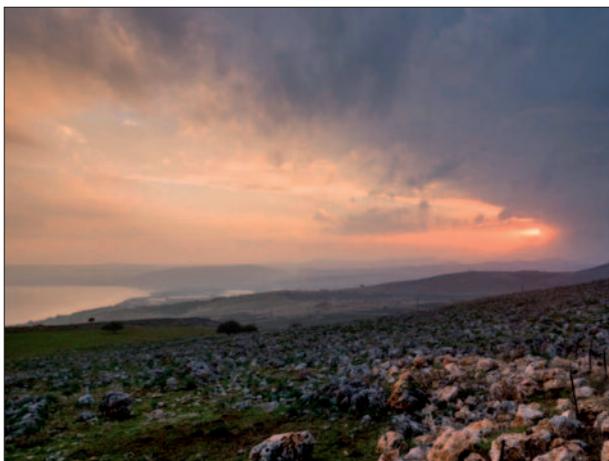
And yet, the details are few and far between. Matthew's Gospel reminds us that the Holy Family, after escaping as refugees to Egypt, eventually found their way to Nazareth. There are hints that Jesus was at home there, but, apart from the story of the visit to the Jerusalem temple when Jesus was about 12 years old, there is a total blank - these are the missing years.

Partly this is important because the Gospels are not meant to be biographies, not descriptions of the life of Jesus. Partly it shows that our scientific understanding of child development and psychology in the form that we think important today, just didn't exist in ancient times. These are indeed the missing years in our knowledge of Jesus of Nazareth.

And for me that's OK. I don't want to fill in the gaps. For me I don't think it would be particularly helpful to know whether Jesus had any talent as an apprentice carpenter,

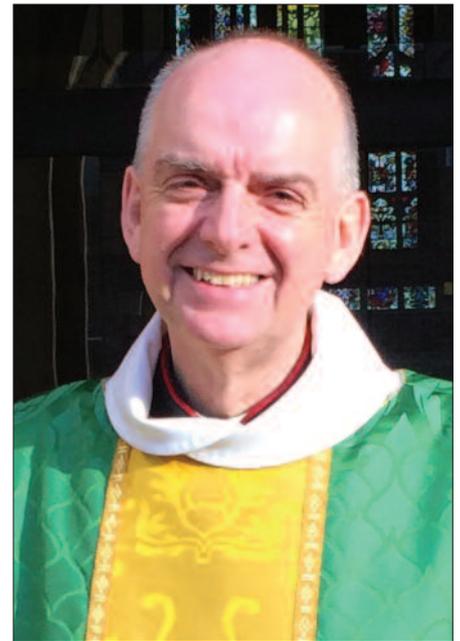
whether he had childhood friends or liked his grandmother's cooking. How would any of this detail change things? I don't need the photographic evidence which we all accumulate for our children and grandchildren, in order to be convinced of the humanity of Jesus.

Surely what is most important here is recognising both the uniqueness and the very ordinariness of Jesus of Nazareth. The birth narratives particularly describe this mixture. Donkey, journey to home city, no room at the inn all tell of a very ordinary situation, shared by the vast majority of Jesus' contemporaries where rights were rare and luxury even



rarer. And yet in this very ordinariness the extraordinary has occurred as witnessed by shepherds and Magi.

At the end of his earthly life, too, this mixture of ordinary and extraordinary prevails. In challenging the powers of the day to act justly, according to God's purposes, Jesus sets his face for confrontation. And it happens. This most ordinary man



from the sticks challenges the authorities which hold on to power with both tenacity and vulnerability. He, it seems, has nothing to lose, they everything.

And yet, that's not the end, for the divine image of God in Jesus Christ is not snuffed out like a candle. That image of God in both the Christmas and the Easter story is, as John's Gospel puts it, like light shining in the darkness and the darkness has never overcome it.

So these missing years, which we squeeze into these weeks between Jesus' birth and death, are certainly not empty, but rather full of the human interaction we all live out. In these years, never described, hardly referred to in the scriptures, lies the fullness of living in the ordinary with the extraordinary love of God forming all our thoughts, words and actions. Which, in my view, makes for a rather full life!

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” John 3:16

With the love of God, we started the new year with a wonderful Epiphany party and celebrated the arrival of the three kings. Thanks to everyone involved for their enthusiasm and support and making the day so memorable.



Children decorated biscuits



Epiphany party story telling



Epiphany celebration - children decorated biscuits and made wonderful crowns



Follow the star

We are looking forward to more events this month:

February 6 – Family service for Candlemas at Christ Church at 9.30am

February 14 and 16: Half term activities for children in reception and above. More information will be sent closer to the time.

Nurturing Your Child's Spirituality

How do I help my child be open to God? How do we pray together? How do we support them as they set about leading a Christian life?

What with nappies, tantrums and, later, maths homework, parenting can be challenging enough – but it is important to ask how can we help our children engage with the huge, existential questions about life in the world.

In early February, we are pleased to offer two sessions to help all those interested in exploring tips for nurturing a child's spirituality.

On Tuesday, February 1 at 8pm, Mary Hawes, national children's advisor for the Church of England, and Mariella Ardron, principal of Chelsea Academy, will lead a meet-

ing on Zoom. The session will explore how parents and other supportive adults might approach this profound responsibility with children from toddler to secondary school age.

The following week, on Tuesday, February 8, all are welcome to an open forum to discuss the issues raised by Mary and Mariella, supported by the parish clergy. This will take place in-person in St Luke's Vestry, with refreshments provided.

All are very welcome to attend either or both sessions. Please see the weekly email for more details or contact the Parish Office for the link to the Zoom meeting on February 1.

THE YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Over the past term, our Youth Group has continued to meet. Here are some of the highlights of what we've been up to:



We celebrated Bonfire Night with marshmallows and hot dogs.



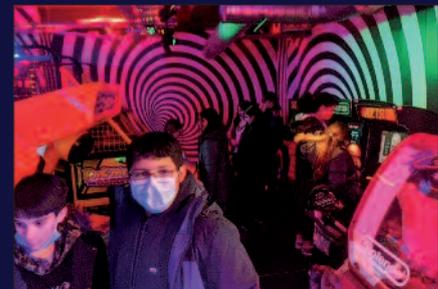
The Youth Group led our Climate Change Compline, a service marking the end of COP26 to pray over the issue of climate change.



There was a cinema trip to watch the latest James Bond film, No Time to Die.



We went bowling for our end of term Christmas Party.



After the bowling the young people had even more fun with the games.

The remaining dates for the Youth Group this term are:
February 10, February 24, March 10 and March 24.

We will also host an exam preparation week during the first week of the Easter Holidays (week commencing April 4). This is aimed at supporting young people who will be taking their GCSEs, AS, or A-Level exams this year, by offering professional tutoring and a study space. So, if you know a young person who would benefit from this provision, please do get in touch: samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org

Additionally, if this is something you feel that you might like to contribute towards, either financially or through teaching/tutoring, then we'd love to hear from you. And, as ever, please continue to keep the young people in your prayers as they continue to have fun together and grow in faith.



**BROMPTON
VETERINARY CLINIC**
90 Fulham Road
London SW3 6HR
Tel : 020 7225 2915

Kevin Clifford and his team have been providing a personal and caring service for the pets of Chelsea since 1993. The new clinic has been completely refurbished to offer spacious and comprehensive facilities for all your pets' needs. Do pop in and visit us!



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The Liturgy of the Word: Why Do We Listen to the Bible?

We continue our series exploring the various parts of our eucharistic liturgy

Comedian Milton Jones once joked, “The Bible should be read carefully. For instance, recently I found out that a lot of the Ten Commandments have the word ‘not’ in them. I wish I’d known that earlier!”

The Bible should indeed be read and listened to carefully, precisely because it is not a straightforward book. In fact, it is not actually a book, but a collection of books with an incredibly diverse range of genres: from codes of law to letters, hymns, poetry and genealogies, to collections of cultural wisdom and visionary political critiques, to name a few.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams writes, “The diversity of the Bible is as great as if you had within the same two covers, for example, Shakespeare’s sonnets, the law reports of 1910, the introduction of Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason, the letters of St Anselm and a fragment of The Canterbury Tales. All within the same two covers. And remember that the chronological span of the books of the Bible is even longer than that of the examples I have just given.”

And yet, this strange collection of books we call the Bible forms a central part of our worship together. Almost all the liturgy we say throughout the service is taken either directly or indirectly from different parts of the Bible. But we also dedicate space in our worship, “the Liturgy of the Word,” to hear directly from the Scriptures -- an Old Testament reading, a Psalm, a New Testament reading and a Gospel reading. So, why do we give such a central place to the Bible in our worship and Christian life together?

Simply put, in these strange words we expect to hear God speaking. The Bible communicates what God wants to tell us. It is the Word of God. Though, it is rarely as simple as picking a random page and know-

ing exactly what it is God might be communicating. Landing on Ezekiel 4:15, for example, (“Then he said to me, ‘See, I will let you have cow’s dung instead of human dung, on which you may prepare your bread.’”) it might leave you with more questions than answers...

But having more questions is no bad thing because the Bible is not, on the whole, a text where we go to extract information or facts. If this were the case, we would not need to return to it day after day, week after week, year after year. We might know the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection well, for instance, but this does not mean we no longer read those passages.

Instead, we continually return to the Bible because it is a place where we are addressed and confronted by God. In reading or listening to the Bible, we soon realise that the initiative is no longer ours but that the text itself is speaking to us, and not necessarily in ways we expect. Like an icon, the perspective is turned back to the reader, as we realise that we are not studying a static object, but are being met by God’s living Word, Jesus Christ.

Jesus is not just one part of the story, but the central weight around which the whole text orbits. To paraphrase Luther – like the baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling bands, the texts are infinitely precious, and unfolding them reveals more of Christ. Without Christ, however, they are rags. We make space for the Bible to speak to us in our worship together, so we can hear God’s living Word, Jesus Christ, confronting and comforting us.

This is the story of God’s love for his world and our response to that love, and it continually asks us: “Where are you in this story?”

SAMUEL RYLANDS



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FROM OUR REGISTERS

Charlotte Court's baptism at St Luke's



The wedding of Lauren Whelan & Courtney Rawlings at St Luke's in May 2021

The baptism of Tobin Grant at St Luke's



Charlotte Court's baptism at St Luke's

Choir at Canterbury Cathedral



Twice a year, St Luke's choir takes a weekend off from singing the services at St Luke's to sing elsewhere. We have been working our way round the cathedrals and major churches of England (with occasional trips further afield). And on Saturday and Sunday, February 12 and 13, we will be singing at Canterbury Cathedral. It's a spectacular building

and well worth a visit if you haven't been before, or even if you have.

The cathedral is a particularly good place to come and hear the choir sing because the traditional pilgrimage has been accelerated by the high speed train from St Pancras, which takes less than an hour, and by the motorway.

If you can't make it to Canterbury but would still like to see and hear the choir in action there, you'll be able to watch the services on the cathedral's youtube channel.

The services times are:

Saturday, February 12: Evensong at 5.30pm
Sunday, February 13: Sung Eucharist at 11am and Evensong at 5.30pm

DOUGLAS HALL

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

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S 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 annastamenova@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 6 pm on Tuesdays.

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

Guides for girls 10 years to 14 years and
Rangers 14 years to 18 years
Their contact is 10thchelseaguides@gmail.com.
They meet at 6pm to 7.30pm on Tuesdays.

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.

Contact for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers is wolf2872@gmail.com

All events take place 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