

# ST LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

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

JUNE 2021 PARISH MAGAZINE ISSUE NO. 195

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## SUPPORT THE EMERGENCY SERVICES AT ST LUKE'S ON SATURDAY 3RD JULY

In one of the most challenging and tragic years in living memory, those working in the emergency services have shown extraordinary courage and professionalism all across the UK.

We have seen it first hand in Chelsea, with the care they have shown across our community in the face of all the pressures of the past year.

To mark their service, we are hosting an Emergency Services Day at St Luke's on Saturday 3rd July, from midday to 3pm. We will open the church and grounds to our community to celebrate the ambulance, police and fire services and the lifeboats.

Members of the emergency services teams will be present with some of their high-tech equipment and vehicles. There will be a barbecue, raffle and a jazz band playing during the day.

This will replace our usual, larger, Summer Fair at St Luke's, due to the continued need to exercise distance and vigilance as we emerge from the pandemic. It should be a great day out. Do come and join us, say thank you to those who have been keeping us safe and enjoy the open air.

BRIAN LEATHARD

## From hymns to haircuts: St Luke's Choir in lockdown

As concert halls and performance spaces shut down around the country with the first lockdown last March, the choir of St Luke's found a way to keep going.

Just a month earlier, the choir's busy week had involved performing a joint concert with a Polish choir, two concerts and a service in three different Belgian cities, and Ash Wednesday Eucharist back in St Luke's.

Then the pandemic struck. But, chivvied along by Father Sam, Helly and I recorded a couple of items on the evening of March 20. Then Ruth and Will, accompanied by Rupert, recorded a good number of hymns the next morning.

That was the last any of us saw of the inside of St Luke's for some months, but the St Luke's choir continued, moving indoors and online. Split-screen videos became the order of the day, with people singing into their smartphones at home.

Initially it felt a special kind of hell, alleviated only by sharing stories at our weekly Zoom parties. At first, the Friday evening parties were predictable – choir members drinking and swapping lockdown tales. Then we started to eat dinner together online.

Soon there was the odd quiz and – in a surreal twist – haircuts began. October's annual choir dinner went ahead virtually, with people sent to

breakout rooms for different courses; the after-dinner speech was a PowerPoint presentation.

We missed out on our New York tour in July (which will be re-scheduled for 2022) and our Winchester tour three months ago, but we intend to honour our visit to St Edmundsbury this summer.

Moreover, we hope that we will be joined in Suffolk by the choirs of All Saints Fulham and St Matthew's Kensington Olympia. There will be a preview of this gathering at a Three Choirs' Evensong in St Luke's (at 5pm) on Sunday 11 July.

Regular Evensong resumes on Sunday afternoons at 3pm from Sunday 27 June. Please note that Evensong rehearsals start at 2pm and are open rehearsals. All are

welcome, but please do try and be reasonably quiet.

Why not make it your new-normal resolution to come to one of these rehearsals and wander round the church while we're singing? You might be surprised at how much the sound changes depending on where you are in church. (Like all congregations within the Church of England, the majority sit too far towards the back). But wherever you choose to sit, know this: we've missed our church and we've missed you.

*JEREMY SUMMERLY*



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## New challenges

Clerical collars, or 'dog collars' in the trade, make members of the clergy easily identifiable outside the church. The narrow white band is a sign of calling to ordained ministry, but it doesn't tell much more about its wearer, not even what rank they are.

Sam Rylands has been with us in this parish for almost a year. In 2020, he was ordained deacon and this month, on 19 June, he will be ordained priest. That doesn't mean he stops being a deacon; this ordination is in addition, and his dog collar will not change.

Throughout its history, the Church of England has kept its ancient threefold ministry of bishops, priests and deacons. When Sam comes to be ordained priest, he will kneel in front of the bishop who, with his fellow priests, will lay hands on his head.

So if the dog collar remains the same – though maybe freshly laundered for ordination – what will change? The short answer is everything and nothing.

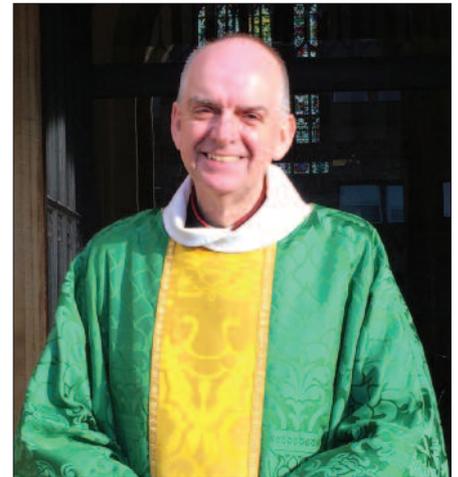
Everything, because Sam will be marked with the indelible inheritance of his role as a priest, and we'll see this particularly in his sacramental ministry. And nothing, because Sam isn't changing

into somebody else, but rather, God – through Sam's individual gifts and personality – ministers the church's sacraments.

More formally, the Church puts it like this, as declared by the Bishop in the service of Ordination.

*Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation. They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his family, to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever. Formed by the word, they are to call their hearers to repentance and to declare in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins.*

*With all God's people, they are to tell the story of God's love. They are to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to walk with them in the way of Christ, nurturing them in the faith. They are to unfold the Scriptures, to preach the word in season and out of season, and to de-*



*clare the mighty acts of God. They are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship, offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. They are to bless the people in God's name. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death. Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.*

So, plenty to keep you engaged with the life of this community as a first step in ordained ministry, Sam. We promise to offer you our love and support and prayers, knowing that behind your dog collar is a humble, engaging and inspiring friend, shortly to embark on life as a priest – as well as husband and father. God bless you, Sam, and us, as we share your ministry.

BRIAN LEATHARD

## RESTORATION

### An art restorer's journey through communist Poland

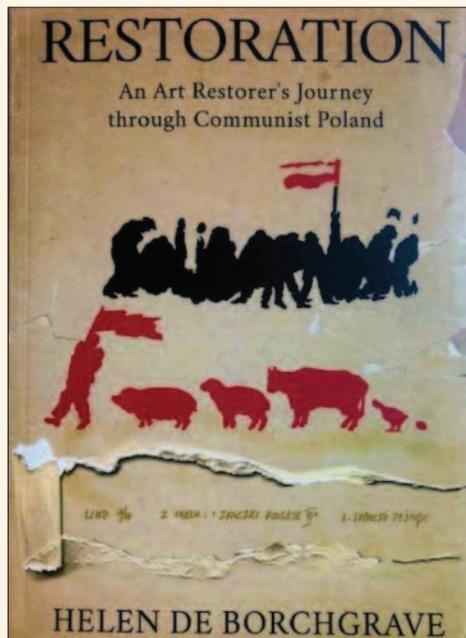
Months after his election in October 1978, Pope John Paul II, the first non-Italian pope for over 400 years, visited Poland. In Warsaw's Victory Square, more used to Soviet parades, a huge crowd massed to hear their beloved former Archbishop of Krakow speak. As the Pope prayed, something pivotal happened. Barriers of fear were broken and a sense of solidarity created. Even though the Pope mentioned neither politics nor economics during the nine days he travelled the country, he talked about a revolution of conscience. He challenged the crowds to strip away the illusion that they were degraded slaves to the system, and find their true selves that would empower them to resist evil.

Within months of the Pope's visit, Lech Walesa, a sacked electrical worker, became David, leading the Solidarity strike in Gdansk against the Goliath of the communist state. Realising the government was in free-fall as it faced economic disaster, he asked the state to send representatives to the shipyard to listen to a list of demands which had the support of most of the country. Just over a fortnight later, the authorities signed the Gdansk Agreement. For 15 months, the people tasted freedom, until martial law was imposed. Solidarity leaders were dragged from their beds to concentration camps, academics purged and priests persecuted.

A Christmas letter from a Polish friend describing the situation galvanised me to travel to Poland in March 1984. The country was recovering from the trauma of martial law, and lacked most things the West takes for granted. As well as much-needed provisions, I smuggled in forbidden books.

In Krakow, I met the conservators at Wawel Castle Museum, the former royal seat where, for 1,600 years, kings were crowned and buried. I was invited to return and during the spring of the following three years, I worked with them. I was the first conservator from the West since the Second World War.

In my memoir, I describe an impoverished yet cultured and resilient people struggling under communism. From an encounter with Leonardo da Vinci's Lady with an Ermine, to learning about Polish art, history and politics, befriending Poland's underground network of artists in their fight for human rights, to the Chernobyl disaster, I share the stories of the fascinating people I met, and became friends with over the years.



*Helen is a congregation member at St Luke's, and the author of A Journey into Christian Art (Lion 1999). Restoration is available on Amazon, and signed copies are available direct from the author – please contact the Parish Office to be put in touch.*

HELEN DE BORCHGRAVE



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# Being a deacon: an exit interview

*On Sunday 19th June at St Barnabas, Kensington, I will be ordained a priest, having been ordained a deacon in September. As Father Brian noted on page 3, I do not stop being a deacon once ordained a priest, because the diaconal calling to service is to remain the foundation of my priestly ministry too. Nonetheless, to reflect on my past nine months of being a deacon, I thought it would be fun to answer some typical 'exit interview' questions to give a flavour of my time in the parish so far...*

## **1. What is your primary reason for leaving?**

Alas, I'm not leaving. I'm still a deacon, even once I'm a priest, and you'll have me for another two years. Sorry about that...

## **2. What was most satisfying about your job?**

Being a deacon has given me space and time to learn from the pros (Father Brian and Father Sam), while figuring out the shape of my own calling. All while having the privilege of getting to know and serve the community here.

## **3. What was least satisfying about your job?**

~~Leaving the pub early enough~~ Getting the baby to sleep early enough, to be sufficiently awake for the 8am on Sunday.

## **4. Did your job's duties turn out to be as you expected?**

I can't say I was expecting to be behind a camera this much when I first considered ordination. Who would have thought my previous role at Hollister would come in handy here!?

## **5. Did you receive enough training to do your job effectively?**

Nobody taught me how to sing the Exsultet at Trinity College, Bristol, where I trained... Jeremy did his best, but at times it felt like Jose Mourinho was teaching a kid in playground how to kick a football.

## **6. Did this company help you to fulfil your career goals?**

Too soon to say. Ask me (well, my secretary) when I'm living at Lambeth Palace.

## **7. Were you happy with your pay, benefits and other incentives?**

I was disappointed to find my request for a Chelsea FC season ticket was missed off the last Parochial Church Council agenda.

## **8. What was the quality of the supervision you received?**

The big boss upstairs is pretty good when it comes to support and care. Though it's surprising how easy it is to forget he's there when needed (which is daily)!

## **9. What could your immediate supervisor do to improve his or her management style?**

Father Brian's not too bad either...

## **10. Based on your experience with us, what do you think it takes to succeed at this company?**

Prayer!

## **11. Did any company policies or events make your job more difficult?**

The 'company' of St Luke's and Christ Church has made the role of deacon an absolute joy, and I can't wait to continue serving this community as a priest. Though a domestic policy, which saw a recruitment drive in November, has certainly made things a stretch at times!

## **12. Would you consider working again for this company in the future?**

Oh, go on then...

**SAMUEL RYLANDS**



*“And because of the abundance of milk that they give, he will eat curds, for everyone who is left in the land will eat curds and honey.” Isaiah 7:22*

The Bible mentions milk more than 50 times in the Old Testament, and each time it refers to a spiritual blessing. It is interesting to know that Abraham was from a pastorate tribe who travelled with the growing seasons to allow animals to graze, making milk one of the main sources of nutrition – and often the only one.

Also, Isaiah prophesied about Jesus as a child and mentioned him eating curds (which is made from milk) and honey. All references to the meaning of

milk in the Bible, found in the New Testament, are symbolic (1 Corinthians 3:2, 9:7, Hebrews 5:12 to 13, 1 Peter 2:2). Each refers to the basics of Christian life. In biblical times, people could live on milk perhaps

for a few days, but eventually would need more substance. Just like how, as Christians, we need to feed ourselves with ever deeper understanding and knowledge of God.



On June 1, we celebrate World Milk Day. So far, 104 countries are taking part this year and the theme will focus on sustainability in the dairy sector, with messages around the environment, nutrition and socio-economics.

In 2001, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations established World Milk Day to recognise the importance of milk as a global food, and to celebrate the dairy



sector. Each year since, it has promoted the benefits of milk and dairy products around the world, including how dairy supports the livelihoods of a billion people.

<https://worldmilkday.org/our-campaign>

*Have a happy and blessed month!  
Love, Anna*

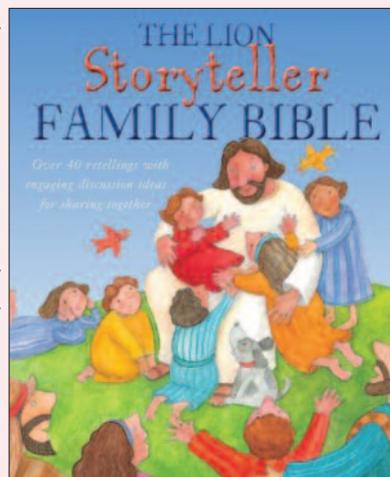
## Bible books for children

*This month we begin a new series on the children's page of the magazine. We will be looking at different books you can buy to help your children grow in faith.*

I am often asked what Bible to buy for children. The best one for children is the Good News Bible (GNB). There are lots of different editions available in this translation.

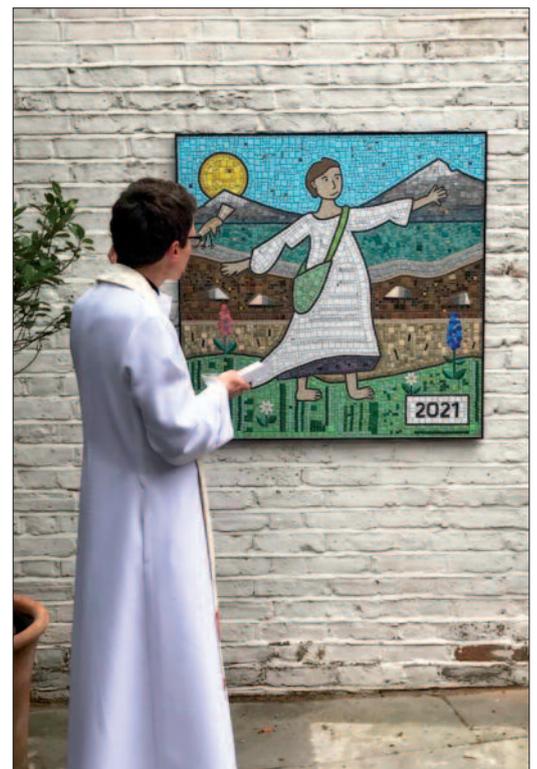
For younger children, it is good to have books that offer memorable Bible stories with pictures. Two good options are The Lion Storyteller Family Bible (ISBN: 9780745978420) and The Lion Children's Bible (ISBN: 9780745919393). Both are perfect for reading to your children. They might also make great gifts for any godchildren you have!

If you want to browse the books in person, the Church House Bookshop in Westminster is an excellent local place to go. You can also buy online from them. Please do support our local Christian bookshop if you can.



## Blessing of new mosaic at Christ Church school

A very special new mosaic has appeared beside the Year 4, 5 and 6 classrooms at Christ Church school. The school has chosen the Parable of the Sower as a story from the Bible that underpins its Christian ethos, and decided to have a mosaic made of the story. Professional artist Adam Stanley worked with Year 3 to draw images of the parable, and to design the mosaic based on the results. Father Sam then paid a visit to bless the mosaic during the Year 3 and 4 Special Mentions assembly. The mosaic is visible from the street, so look out for it when you next pass the school!



# THE YOUTH GROUP

## Youth Group– June Update

It's great that we've been able to gather together in person again at St Luke's vestry, both on our fortnightly Thursday and monthly Sunday sessions.

In May, we had a chance to reflect on the Parable of the Lost Sheep and to consider what it means for God to be like a shepherd who seeks us out whenever we wander off. It has been good to remind ourselves that we can never put ourselves beyond the reach of God's love, no matter how far we think we might have strayed!

Please do keep our young people in your prayers, especially with all the pressures of summer exams upcoming.

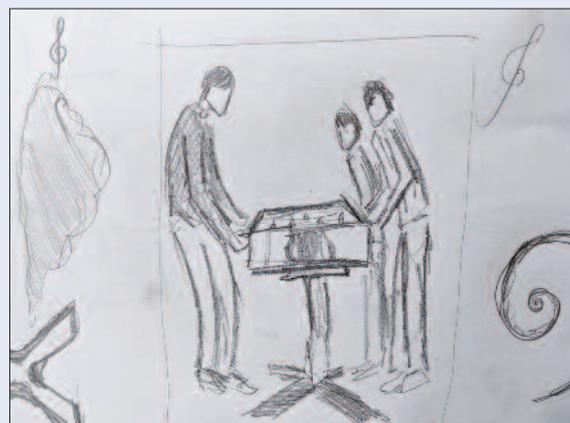
### Key Dates:

There are some key dates for the diary coming up:

Barbecue and garden games at All Saints Fulham, Sunday 3rd July at 5pm. This is a multi-church gathering for youth groups across the area and will be lots of fun!

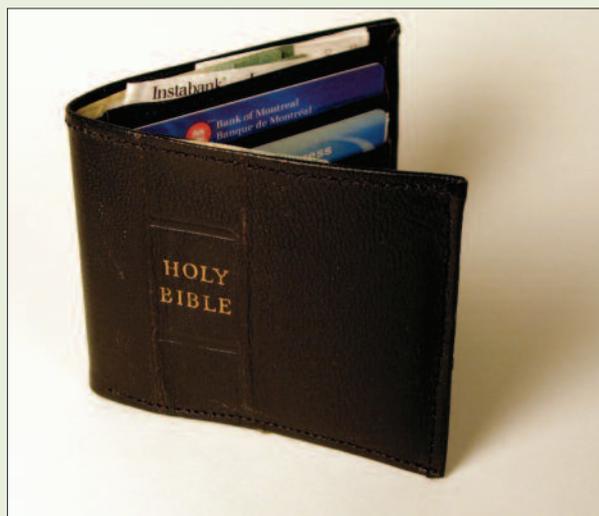
Summer Programme: 26th July to 13th August (Monday to Friday), ages 8 to 13 years old, with space for older young leaders to attend too.

For more information about these events or for any questions about our youth programme, please contact: [samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org](mailto:samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org)



## My favourite Bible story

*This is part of our ongoing series in which parishioners choose the stories from the Bible that really speak to them and have particular significance in their lives. This week Lizzie chooses a few of her family's favourites and poses a tricky question from her five-year-old daughter, Beatrice.*



*What riches are you carrying around in your pocket?*

Since having our children, we have taken great joy in re-discovering the Bible with them, through their eyes. We read the stories to them and their knowledge has also grown through school, church and Sunday school.

Bringing the stories to life is a delight, especially discussing them over Sunday lunch; it all adds to our days together. Oattie, who is seven, likes The Good Samaritan. Ever a helpful soul, I think this why she likes this story in particular.

My husband Jolyon references young David using

rocks from his slingshot against the giant Goliath as we sit down to my rather rock cake-like hot cross buns on Good Friday. I shouldn't have tried a new recipe!

The children make me re-examine my own understanding of the Bible with their questions: how did Jesus actually die on the cross? Was the stone at the entrance to the tomb heavy? They are proud of their knowledge too: Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus risen again. Jesus was from Nazareth, says Hector, so why was he heading to Jerusalem on a donkey? He presses on: "And how do we still know this now so many hundreds of years later?" The versions of the gospel passed down orally through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, I respond, which appeases him.

The children love being read to, and these are good tales – but, oh, the endless questions! We are thankful for our church and parish community, for the church year, for continuing to tell the stories, keeping them alive as well as answering these questions and establishing our young family on the path to discovering their faith.

With the end of lockdown, though, it's back over to Father Brian, Father Sam and Father Samuel for one question that we haven't been able to answer from our five-year-old daughter Beatrice: "Who are God's parents?"

LIZZIE WATSON-STEELE

Throughout May and June we are welcoming parishioners again to our Coffee on the Portico events.



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# A review of the last year: the Rector's report to the APCM 2021

*This is an abridged version of our Rector Brian's report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, held on 19 May 2021. The full version can be read online at <https://bit.ly/3eFpH6t>.*

Every survey of the past year has pointed out how this has been a year like no other. Indeed so. On the



other hand it has also been, in the life of our parish, a year like every other. These two contrasting truths are what has made this past year such a difficult one to review, but also such an important one to acknowledge.

Firstly then, a year like no other. With Lockdown 1 imminent, we made plans to stay in contact with the vulnerable, isolated and lonely, which resulted in the amazingly well-received outreach programme, with Julie and Tracy delivering up to 75 meals each Tuesday.

At this time, the House of Bishops decided that all public worship must cease in our parish churches.



There ensued for many in the Church of England a sense that we had perhaps vacated the very spot we needed to occupy. Weddings and baptisms were postponed, re-arranged and cancelled with sad repetitiveness. Funeral rites were restricted.

Above all, we missed each

other. We came to realise how we need each other and we affirmed that whatever comes next surely



can't just be the same as what was before. There seemed, amid all the loss, a sense of a new direction for the future.

Secondly, this was, of course, a year like every other. The church's year kept going, albeit, online. Parishioners donated money for meals to the isolated and help in keeping children connected while home-schooling. This generosity was also witnessed in setting up, along with Mutual Aid, the Foodbank Club in October. We're now serving 65 families each week, including over 100 children from the streets of our parish.

When we decided to go ahead with the summer programme, it proved invaluable, providing social contact and friendship to 80 youngsters in our parish.

Now we are facing the re-opening of our life amid the stunning blossom of this spring. Worship, which never stopped in its daily and weekly rhythm, is back physically, baptisms and marriages are pouring in!

We are in good heart in this community, via the love of God expressed in so many people and in so many ways through commitment, care and compassion over the past year. Thank you for the part you have played in making this a year unlike any other and yet a year like every year in which following in the steps of Jesus of Nazareth is our way, our truth and our life.

# FROM OUR REGISTERS

**We congratulate on the occasion of their wedding:**

Hayley Denning & Mark-Philipp Lesjak at Christ Church

Annabel Hume & Mark Crowther at St Luke's

Lauren Whelan & Courtney Rawlings at St Luke's

**We welcome as members of the church through baptism:**

Luke Sobhi Saleh Moussa at St Luke's



Luke Sobhi Saleh Moussa at St Luke's



Hayley Denning and Mark-Philipp Lesjak 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

*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.*

Follow us on   

## ST LUKE'S

Sydney Street,  
London SW3 6NH



Churchwardens: Jamie Gibbs 07803 596 256

Charles Combe 07747 796 124

Director of Music: Jeremy Summery 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)

## SUNDAY SERVICES

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

## 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](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  
Parent, carer and toddler group.

### Uniformed organisations all at St Luke's Hall

**The Rainbows** contact is [10thchelsea.rainbows@gmail.com](mailto:10thchelsea.rainbows@gmail.com).  
They meet at 5pm to 6pm.

**Brownies** contact is: [10thchelsea.brownies@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:10thchelseaguides@gmail.com).

They meet at 6pm to 7.30pm on Tuesday evening in St Luke's hall.

Contact is [Wolf2872@gmail.com](mailto: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