

ST. LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

The Parish of St Luke and Christ Church
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WWW.CHELSEAPARISH.ORG

NEW CREATIONS



I wonder what Jesus made during all those years when – we usually assume – he worked in his father Joseph's carpentry workshop? Perhaps it was fairly basic, straightforward pieces of woodwork for the townspeople of Nazareth. But I would like to think that Jesus did things a little differently, adding decoration here and there and changing the designs as he went. After all, this is the same Jesus who – as the second person of the Trinity – made the heavens and the earth. If our world, in all its wonderful variety, is a sign of God's own character, surely Jesus would have shown that same creativity?



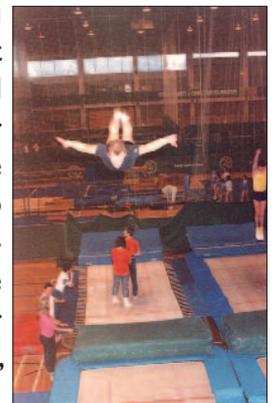
It is the significance of creativity in our world and in our lives of faith that we will explore this Lent, as we look towards Easter and the moment when Christ's resurrection heralded a 'new creation' (2 Cor 5.17). We are excited to welcome four congregation members, and one past clergy person, whose creativity is evident in striking – and sometimes surprising – ways! Over five weeks we will be hearing from Louise Diggle on art, Simon Hills on marmalade making, Sarah

Charman on her work as a dressmaker, Lily Rylands on jewellery making, and our previous Associate Vicar James Heard on his past life as an international trampolinist. Through interviews with them and Q&A, we will be asking questions such as: What is creativity? What is it like to be a creative person? What are the origins of creativity?



Design by
Stewart Parvin

What might it mean to be creative in our faith? We will be meeting over Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 8-9pm, beginning on Tuesday 23rd February. You are very welcome to join us for as many of our five sessions as you are able, especially if you have not attended one of our evening discussions before. We encourage you to join with a cup of tea or glass of wine – whatever helps to get your creative juices flowing! Watch out in our weekly emails for the Zoom link, or contact the Parish Office.



In addition, we are planning a large creative project to decorate our churches for Easter Day, Sunday 4 April. Look out for more details in the March magazine. □

SAM HOLE



So yet again we are in lockdown. It is sometimes difficult to find the light at the end of the tunnel, especially when going into our third National lockdown. But the never-failing support of the people around us are what make us continue. In the making of this month's magazine, we have been able to reflect on Christmas and look ahead to what hopefully will be brighter times our New Creations course, the opening of the foodbank and fun children's activities. Even though things have yet again had to be adapted to being online or otherwise, the need and want to do good has prevailed. Hopefully in this magazine we can show just a little glimpse of the good things that are happening, even in these more difficult moments. ☐

Midweek eucharist receives praise

Prior to this second lockdown, we introduced a new weekly Thursday lunchtime Eucharist. Jocelyn Davidson-Arnott, one of our regular attendees, describes how she had found this service to be particularly valuable:

“Prior to Covid I had attended the monthly Thursday Eucharist which preceded the parish lunch. The lunch was held in the vestry giving attendees a chance to meet other parishioners and the clergy, whilst enjoying the meal.

With the onset of Covid the churches were closed and there were new restrictions. Church became a weekly service online with familiar faces, consisting of prayers readings and hymns.

Once the restrictions were eased in July, I was pleased to see that Thursday Eucharist had re-started. Since July it has been weekly and taken place in the main body of the church, with coffee from the Café afterwards (although, thanks to Covid, sadly no lunch!).

Being on my own since lockdown, my life has changed. Gone are the many overseas holidays, and short breaks in England, and with no chance of my usual 10 weeks winter holiday in Trinidad and South America. My house, normally full of guests, is quiet.

Attending the service, gives me a sense of tranquillity and the time to reflect on the extraordinary times we find ourselves in. It gives me inner strength and the ability to consider those less fortunate than me. It strengthens my faith and spiritual well-being. With all the uncertainties of the future, I feel that my faith helps me to face life's uncertainties and I am not on my own.

It is not easy not knowing if you will catch the virus, or how long before it is your turn for the vaccine. The ability to partake in a service and meet behind a mask the clergy and other parishioners has been a huge help for my mental health.”

The Thursday 12:30pm Eucharist is currently suspended because of the new lockdown. However, we plan to restart it as soon as public worship resumes. Given the huge benefit it has clearly been to many parishioners, we will continue to hold this service weekly, and look forward to re-introducing the monthly lunch when restrictions allow. We hope it's not too long until we can meet again to worship, and when we can it would be wonderful to have many more join us at this service! ☐

Heroes for our time?

The idea in mid-January of a weekly ‘clap for heroes’ may not have taken off (many other factors aside, the cold and dark can hardly have helped), but the label of ‘heroes’ for some members of our society certainly has. Ask someone to name a ‘hero’ of the current crisis and they would likely identify doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff; or perhaps other workers such as supermarket staff and delivery drivers. But what kind of hero are we asking these people to be?

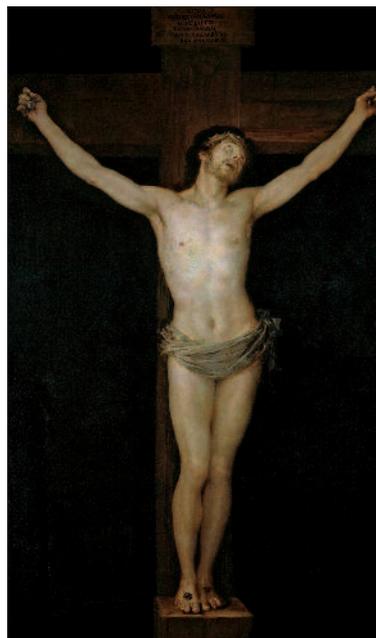
For the classical Greeks, heroes were the warriors of their myths and epics. Achilles, for instance, would prove the model for many later heroes. The son of a sea nymph and a king, and slayer of his enemy Hector outside the gates of Troy, he used his courage to serve his Greek people. For the Greeks, this was his heroism. The legend of the ‘Achilles heel’



– and what in superhero comics we have come to know as the idea that every hero has a fatal flaw – would only be introduced many centuries later by the Romans, who viewed it as a sign of the lack of true heroism shown by a figure who fought against the Trojans, legendary ancestors of the Greeks. The arrival of Christianity put,

however, a spin on this model of heroism. Could Jesus be called a ‘hero’ in the manner of these Greek models? The answer, given by early Christian thinkers such as Origen, was ‘no’. Christ was not just a great human; he was God. And he showed his virtue not through war and conquest, but through a victory of a different sort, through his suffering and death on the cross.

What kind of hero, then, are our doctors and nurses today? In some rhetoric they are our brave warriors in the battle against our common enemy – but the Greek



model is hardly a good fit for the selfless service we are seeking to celebrate. And yet the Christian model carries its own dangers. For one thing, the New Testament agrees that Christ suffered and died so that we don’t have to: his is not a model to be replicated.

And, most notably, who we choose to call heroes depends a



great deal on how we think of our society. Are those who have faced the greatest dangers in the last year our soldiers who we will reward with the highest prestige in society in the years to come? Or have we decided that our healthcare and supermarket workers are christlike heroes who can face suffering and death on behalf of us all?

There are many great deeds of care, compassion and service being performed across the world at the moment. Some will be told and celebrated in years to come; others will remain encounters known only to giver and recipient. Are these people heroes? Quite possibly. But the basis for this label is what matters: who are the heroes we want for our time? □

Image credits: Wikipedia

The First Food Bank Club launched in Chelsea

The first wave of the pandemic highlighted the shortage of food provision in the south and centre of the borough. Over the summer Father Brian, the parish team of St Luke and Christ Church Chelsea and Mutual Aid started discussing the opening of a Food Bank Club in recognition of the changing local need due to the financial impact of COVID.

We are now in our second period of national Lockdown with more residents than ever who have either been furloughed, made redundant, are experiencing hardship, many with financial commitments and facing dramatic changes in the way that they live. Unfortunately, this demand is likely to increase.

The St Luke's Mutual Aid Food Bank Club was launched on Tuesday 24th November and operates from the St Luke's Vestry every Tuesday from 12:00-14:00. The emphasis of the Food Bank Club is to



families, some have been made redundant, some have not received child payment from their spouses, and others are waiting for Universal Credit payments. Kensington and Chelsea has long been associated with being wealthy, but there has been a dramatic increase in the number of our neighbours who have claimed Universal Credit for the first time and at the Food Bank Club we see our numbers increase week on week.

The Food Bank Club would not be possible without the support and partnership of the team at the St Luke's and Christ Church Parish Office (notably John McVeigh and Tracy), Councillor Linda Wade, the coordinator Albina Gulevich, the Plan Z Heroes team that cover the collections and redistributions to Sir Thomas More Estate and Dad's House, Chris Wilkie and Sue Lupton and the remarkable 15 regular volunteers, who prepare the donations and help the distribution.

St Luke's Mutual Aid Food Bank Club is part of the Mutual Aid Kensington and Chelsea initiative that provides shopping support, advice, lunches with the emphasis on prevention of homelessness, food poverty and isolation. □

For further information:

<http://www.mutualaidkc.com/foodbank-club>

To register: kcma.referrals@gmail.com

To volunteer: <http://www.mutualaidkc.com/volunteer>

MUTUAL AID SUPPORT TEAM



provide good, healthy food like fresh fruit, vegetables, tinned and dried food for families and older residents. There is a voluntary donation of £5.00, but everyone is welcome.

The food is gratefully donated by City Harvest, Fare Share, Felix Project as well as massive support from local traders: Andrea's of Chelsea Green, Chegworth Farm, Earl's Court fruit stand, and neighbours all of whom have been very generous.

The residents who make up the membership of the Food Bank Club are varied. Some are low-income

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My favourite Bible story: Jesus, Mary and the cross

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. (John 19.25-27)

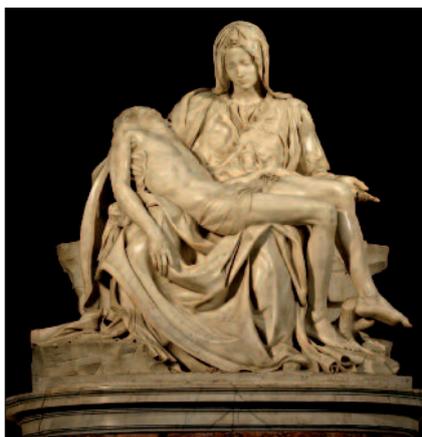
There are always stories within stories. Most dramas and novels rely on sub-plots to strengthen the main story that they tell and, of course, there is always a Bake Off contestant who misses the prize but captures the nation's heart. The same is true in the Bible - most significantly in that the gospels themselves are full of Jesus telling stories.

As Christians, our faith and our hope is built on the story of Jesus's crucifixion and his ultimate defeat of death. It is the hinge event in our history, but the central narrative is supported by several individual stories which themselves contribute significantly to our understanding of God's love and promise to us. The most significant one for me is that of Mary the mother of Jesus, who stands and watches as the child she turned her life upside down for is violently executed.

What must she have made of this? We know that she knew it was coming - the Magi's gift of myrrh, Simeon's foreboding prophecy - but could anyone ever truly reconcile themselves to such a fate for a child that they had risked so much for?

This is a passage from the Bible that we are used to hearing read out in church - it makes its way into Holy Week services every year. But in my experience it is often expounded upon in terms of what it says about Jesus as a son and as a friend, and much less regularly because of what it tells us about Mary. I suppose that is partly because it doesn't explicitly tell us anything about Mary - she is silent in the passage. But, even in a 'non-speaking role', the fact that she is present at

Jesus' crucifixion is significant - it demonstrates her life-long commitment to the undertaking she made to God by agreeing to become Jesus' mother.



The reason why this has always preoccupied me is that it demonstrates just how costly it can be to follow Jesus. For Mary, it meant risking public disgrace, giving birth surrounded by livestock in an unfamiliar city, spending time living as a refugee, and ultimately seeing the fruit of all that sacrifice die in ignominy. But that sounds hopeless, and I don't see it as hopeless, because it also tells us that when we commit to walk with God, He also commits to walk with us.

Two verses later in John's gospel Jesus dies, and his final human interaction is saved for the woman who has given everything of herself to him.

I appreciate that this is not a 'big-hitter' story to select as a favourite, and that it reveals uncomfortable truths about the Christian life that feel bittersweet to sit with. But, whilst it is unlikely that that any of us will be called to play as weighty a role in the building of God's kingdom as Mary was, I find immense comfort and strength in the knowledge that Jesus sees her and comforts her when her world must have seemed at its most confusing and hopeless.

I see these verses as a visceral expression of God's promise that whilst following him may not be easy, He will be the same 'yesterday, today, and forever' and that He will be with us to the end. □

REBECCA ROSE



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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

ANNA STAMENOVA



“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” Isaiah 60:1

With Christmas and Epiphany celebrations over we are looking forward to the last of the three events of the Christmas season – Candlemas, also known as The Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

In the Western world, 2nd February is also known as Groundhog Day, which signifies the coming of Spring and the period in the liturgical calendar of the start of the weeks leading up to Easter. It is the bridge between the end of the Christmas season and the preparations for the beginning of the Lent season. In the past, on that day of the year all the candles that were used in the church during the past year, were brought into church and a blessing was said over them - so it is the Festival Day of the Candles. Long ago when there were no electric lights some people thought candles gave protection against plague and illness and famine. For Christians, they were (and still are) a reminder of something even more important – the birth of baby Jesus, who brought the light to the world.

Epiphany Party

A huge thank you to you, your children and everyone who joined us to celebrate our first ever Zoom Epiphany at St Luke's Church Vestry. Thank you for your lovely comments about a very

successful celebration, filled with lot of smiles, happiness and fun.

Everyone was hugely enthusiastic and we all had a very memorable day. 62 children with their parents/careers were involved in making colourful crowns with Father Brian, Father Sam, Father Samuel, Yanna and I. There was lots of laughter as the children really enjoyed seeing each other and happily showing off their beautifully decorated crowns. We started the Epiphany with a prayer, 'travelled' together with the Three Wise Men to 'visit' baby Jesus at the crib, enjoyed the craft activities and eating delicious biscuits, then finished with an amazing Epiphany story.

Sunday School

With the churches closed for public worship in the coming weeks, Sunday School will be online, as a response to the latest Covid-19 restrictions. We want you to enjoy our online services, children's activities and feel safe and relaxed.

I'm looking forward to seeing you soon, maybe on zoom or even better in person, but until this becomes possible stay safe and well and let me know if you need any support or help during those difficult times. ☐

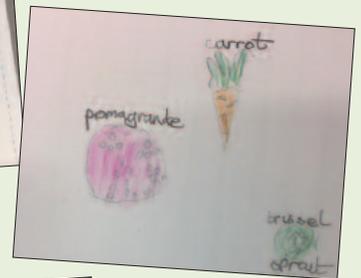
Love, Anna



Since moving to home working some of the students have been sending pictures of the work they're proud of. Some of the amazing pieces are shown below.



Year three have been learning about the foods that we eat and where they come from. They have been doing drawings of seasonal fruits and vegetables.



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Golden Charter



THE YOUTH GROUP

In recent times, as with everything else, we've had to move our youth gatherings online! The challenge is to keep these fun and engaging, and to provide a space where we can catch-up with one another, even though we are apart physically.



So, on 17th December we held our Christmas Party online. This included games and an interactive quiz, as well as a chance to hear how people were getting on with the challenges of facing Christmas in lockdown. All of this was enjoyed with a delivered takeaway!



We began our first youth group of 2021 with a Bake-Off challenge, as we joined together on zoom to make brownies! The results were a great success, with some very tasty looking brownies and only one smoke detector being set-off (it wasn't mine for once...!)



We also had a chance to share what people found valuable about the youth group during this time;

"The sense of community" –Tom

"I really enjoy playing quizzes and games including Kahoot! I'm hoping that in 2021 we are all able to meet in person and do more activities and games!" –Aveline

"I have enjoyed the community sense of youth group and being able to meet so many new people outside of school. I have also enjoyed so many of the fun activities that we have done here and also enjoyed how we are learning about Jesus, God and the Bible but in a fun, new and exciting way!" –Amelie

As well as what people were looking forward to in 2021:

"Going back to school and seeing my friends!" –Louis

"Seeing friends and going to theatres!" –Yanna

The remaining dates for the term are: 4th February, 18th February (Half-Term event!), 25th February, 11th March, and 25th March. We meet fortnightly online on Thursdays from 5.30-7pm, so if you would like to join us then please do get in touch for more information: samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org

We are also hoping to extend our youth provision for Sundays too. This will include something for our young people to engage with each Sunday, as well as a Youth Gathering once a month on zoom- so watch this space!

O come online, all ye faithful

While 2020 may have been a Christmas like no other, we did at least find a few opportunities at St Luke's and Christ Church to enjoy some Christmas cheer. In particular, our wonderful decorations within both our churches went up as usual. This year's new – and highly successful – addition was the Christmas tree beside Sydney Street outside St Luke's. Alongside the many passers-by who stopped each dark evening to enjoy the beautiful sight, we are aware it was hugely appreciated by those confined to their wards in the Royal Brompton. Our thanks to Sarah Phillips and the O'Keefes for their generosity and hard work.

Our churches may not have been filled with the usual array of carol services, but we were grateful that many people could go online and enjoy video services. Our own video Advent and Christmas services were well received; in addition, St Luke's

hosted video carol services for five charities whose services would normally take place in the church. We are glad that the donations received will help these charities to continue their excellent work.

Finally, small moments of cheer continued to abound. Our online Play and Pray



toddler group Christmas party was rather more riotous than the average office Christmas party; the Scouts' Christmas tree spoke of love in the world; the Christ Church school Christmas went ahead for Year 6 and Reception; and we heralded Christ's birth with our usual joy and beauty in our in-church Midnight Mass and

Christmas Day services. It has been a bleak midwinter indeed, but still we could proclaim: Glory to the newborn king. □

SAM HOLE

Innovative prayer spaces at Chelsea Academy



360 bags were given out bag and its contents

As part of their Advent programme, **Chelsea Academy**, have had a prayer space with a difference! Given the challenges of setting up a 'covid secure' physical space when all areas of the school are being used to capacity, an imaginative solution was for all Year 7 and 8 pupils to receive a 'prayer space in a bag!' Each prayer bag contained 4 objects which were a basis for activities to help pupils reflect on the past year, look forward and bring their thoughts to God in prayer. As well as the objects (a thank you box, heart, ribbon and tealight), the pupils received a card with a message from the Bishop of Kensington, Rt Rev Graham Tomlin, and guidance for each activity, so they can keep using the prayer bags at home after having been led through the activities in school.



Academy Chaplain Tim Richards

Coordinated by Joanna Jones (Kensington Area Bishop's Schools' Chaplain) and Tim Richards (Chaplain at Chelsea Academy), local churches Holy Trinity Brompton and St Luke's Sydney Street, who have links with the school, offered support with preparation and funding of the 360 bags. The HTB youth team also prepared a short, engaging film to introduce pupils to how and why we might pray. During these times when it is often not possible for visitors from churches to go into school, this was a brilliant way for the churches to support this initiative.

Chaplain Tim said,

'The prayer space bags are a fantastic resource; they enabled our students to reflect and think about the people in their lives who are truly important to them. The activities also enabled the students to pray for themselves, their loved ones and parts of the world which they care about.'

Thank you to Holy Trinity Brompton, St Luke's Church and Joanna Jones for organising and funding this incredible experience'.

The activities encouraged the students to reflect on and, if they wished, to articulate their thoughts, hopes and fears at the end of what has been a tough year. One pupil commented that the 'Hope Ribbon' helped her let go of some fears, whilst another said it made him feel really peaceful. Another shared her 'fear of being forgotten', which allowed the chaplain to reassure her of her value to her form and the school.

Despite the challenges of 2020, the 'Thank You Box' (where pupils wrote down something they were thankful for and put it in the box) was often the activity that came out as the favourite. One pupil commented that it reminded her not to take things for granted, whilst another expressed thanks for her sister who is 'always looking out for others although she is busy herself.' At the end of a busy term, the prayer bags allowed the pupils time and space to think, reflect and pray in a personal way. Many expressed appreciation for this opportunity; one said



A prayer

'I liked the heart activity because you could write what you felt and see it written down', whilst another commented 'The prayer bag made me reflect on things I don't normally think about.'



As pupils take the prayer bags home, we hope they and their loved ones will know that they can bring anything and everything to God in prayer. □

JOANNA JONES
Kensington Area Bishop's Schools' Chaplain

FROM OUR REGISTERS

We welcome as members of the church through baptism:

Felix Daubeney-Manners

We pray for the soul of

Ronald Peet, Marigo Pugh, Noel Simpson and David Coleridge

We would like to congratulate Penny and Tim Cooper on their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married at St Luke's 50 years ago on 19th December by the Rector Harold Loasby.



Parish Angels



What an uplifting and delightful sight, in the midst of the lock down last year, to see Julie from Café Portico and Tracy from the Parish Office,

bearing gifts of delicious meals and little treats to those of us unable to venture out and dependent on outside help. They provided a lifeline not only for the locked in but also the less familiar with on-line grocery shopping and struggling with the initial lack of food deliveries.

Their kindness also went beyond providing meals, offering in all sincerity to help with shopping for anything else needed. It was all the more heartening to hear just how many other families they undertook to assist, some, like ourselves, located well outside the parish.

We wish to say an enormous **THANK YOU** to

them for their time, thoughtfulness and overwhelming support. We felt loved and cared for at a time when isolation and lack of social contact left many feeling overlooked and forgotten. Dear Julie and Tracy, your 'coronas' shine ever so brightly in these dark days of the rampant virus!

With heartfelt thanks to you, **Parish Angels!** We wish you and your families every blessing and all happiness in 2021 and beyond. ☐

GRATEFUL PARISHIONERS



Julie and Tracy's weekly deliveries to our senior parishioners have been suspended given the current high infection rates. We are, however, keeping in touch with people in other ways, and our angels may well be out and about again at some point in the future.



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Curate: The Revd Samuel Rylands
samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org

Operations Manager and Bursar: John McVeigh
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parishoffice@chelseaparish.org

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

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

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

ST. LUKE'S

Sydney Street,
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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)

Follow us on



SERVICES CURRENTLY ONLINE

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

CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

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

Brownies

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

Guides

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

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

For further info all contact Wolf or Chil
Wolf2872@gmail.com

Beavers: Boys and girls aged 6-8

Every Thursday 1730-1845

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

Every Thursday 1900-2030

Scouts - Boys and girls 10 & a half -14

Every Friday 1900-2100

Explorers- Boys and girls 14-18

Every Friday 1900-2100