Welcome to St Luke’s
10.30am Sung Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher: Revd Prebendary Dr Brian Leathard

Duty Warden: Janet Gower

Sidespeople: Ken Gower, Allan Sanderson,
Geoffrey Nicholson, Brenda Hagerty

Intercessor: Miranda Savage

Communion Assistant: Ramani Leathard

Hymns: 9, 14, 16, 10

Byrd Mass for Four Voices
A tender root – Hannah McNaught

Organ Music:
Ave Maris Stella – Anon. French c1650
Canon - (op 56, no 6) - Robert Schumann
Ave maris stella - Flor Peeters

Director of Music: Jeremy Summerly  Organist: Rupert Jeffcoat  Verger: Sue Buchan
Welcome!
A warm welcome to St Luke’s, whether it is your first time here or you are a regular worshipper. Everyone is very welcome to receive Communion or a blessing. Please follow the directions of the sidespeople. If it would be easier for you to receive Communion in your pew, please speak to one of the sidespeople. Gluten-free wafers (square in shape) are also available; please ask the priest when you receive Communion. There is an induction loop system in the church for those who are hard of hearing. Hearing aids should be moved to the “T” position.

Sunday School Is Now on a Christmas Break
First 9.30am Family Service of 2023 takes place on 8 January at Christ Church. Sunday School begins on 15 January.

ABC Parent & Toddler Group
Christ Church, Thursdays from 10.00am-11.30am. Resumes on 5 January 2023.

Youth Group
St Luke’s Vestry every other Thursday from 5.00pm-7.00pm. Resumes 12 January 2023.

Week Day Services
Monday 19 December 9.00am Morning Prayer Christ Church
Tuesday 20 December 9.00am Morning Prayer St Luke’s
Wednesday 21 December 9.00am Morning Prayer St Luke’s
Thursday 22 December 9.00am Morning Prayer St Luke’s
Thursday 22 December 12.30pm Midweek Eucharist St Luke’s

Sunday Services in January
8.00am BCP Eucharist St Luke’s
10.30am Sung Eucharist St Luke’s
11.00am Sung Eucharist Christ Church
3.00pm Choral Evensong St Luke’s

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Our Social Media: @stlukesandchristchurchchelsea
The PCC of St Luke’s and Christ Church is a Registered Charity No 1133092
Advent Wreath Prayer
Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news; blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us your children, who long for your coming. Amen.

Collect
God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Isaiah 7.10-16
Read by R. Alexander Porter
A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
Psalm 80.1-8

1. Hear O thou Shepherd of Israel *
   thou that leadest Joseph | like a | sheep:
   shew thyself also *
   thou that | sittest up | on the | cherubims.
2. Before Ephraim Benjamin | and Ma | nasses:
   stir up thy | strength and | come and | help us.
3. Turn us a | gain O | God:
   shew the light of thy countenance | and we | shall be | whole.
4. O Lord | God of | hosts:
   how long wilt thou be angry | with thy | people that | prayeth?
5. Thou feedest them with the | bread of | tears:
   and givest them | plenteousness of | tears to | drink.
6. Thou hast made us a very strife | unto our | neighbours:
   and our | ene-mies | laugh us . to | scorn.
7. Turn us again thou | God of | hosts:
   shew the light of thy countenance | and we | shall be | whole.
8. Thou hast brought a vine | out of | Egypt:
   thou hast cast | out the | heathen and | planted it.

Second Reading: Romans 1.1-7

Read by Janet Gower

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the
gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in
the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended
from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with
power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead,
Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and
apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles
for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to
Jesus Christ, To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
Gospel Reading: Matthew 1.18-end
Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.
Notices

Nine Lessons & Carols
This evening at 6.30pm at St Luke’s.

CHRISTMAS EVE
Saturday 24 December
4.00pm Crib Service at both churches
11.30pm Parish Midnight Eucharist at St Luke’s

CHRISTMAS DAY
Sunday 25 December
8.00am Holy Communion at St Luke’s
10.30am Christmas Eucharist at St Luke’s
11.00am Christmas Eucharist at Christ Church

Videos or Photos For safeguarding our community, it is not permitted to take photographs or video recordings without consent. Please resist making any attempt to capture the atmosphere of our worship except in your hearts and minds. Taking photographs requires the express consent of the subject(s). Thank you for your understanding. Please note that services at St Luke’s are livestreamed.

Give Mary & Joseph a Home Sign up to host our nativity set as it moves round the parish, using the link included in the weekly Parish Office email.

Morning Prayer Resumes at St Luke’s Tuesdays-Thursdays at 9.00am as of 20 December. On Monday 19 December, morning prayer will be held at Christ Church.

Midweek Eucharist & Coffee Returns to St Luke’s at 12.30pm on Thursday 22 December with Coffee for Christmas from 11.00am in the vestry. There will be no Midweek Eucharist on 29 December. In the new year, the Midweek Eucharist will begin again on Thursday 5 January at 12.30pm at St Luke’s, preceded by coffee from 11.00am in the vestry.

Refreshments Please join us for coffee and a chat after today’s service.

Fr Samuel is preaching at Holy Trinity Sloane Square today.
Message from the Bishop of London,
The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE

“It is my privilege to let you know Downing Street has announced that His Majesty the King has accepted the nomination of the Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson (far right) as the next Bishop of Kensington. Currently, Emma is Bishop to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, based at Lambeth Palace. She has been a member of the 2022 Lambeth Conference Design Group, chairs the Church of England Minority Ethnic Vocations Advisory Group, is a member of the Commission for Theological Education in the Anglican Communion, and the Tearfund Theology Committee, and is Central Chaplain to the Worldwide Mother’s Union. She has also served as a suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Carlisle, and as Principal of Trinity College, Bristol, her alma mater.

Today’s Sermon is the last one in our Advent Sermon Series and is entitled, Walking for God.

St Luke’s Community Foodbank As Christmas approaches, we have been contacted by people wishing to support the foodbank held in St Luke’s vestry each Tuesday. Should you wish to make a monetary donation, please contact the Parish Office for further details.

Sabbatical Leave You may recall in the pre-Covid Era, in early 2020, Fr Brian was to have a period of sabbatical leave. Alas, the parish response to Covid and the subsequent lockdown required Fr Brian to forgo half the sabbatical. However, he is able to proceed with the remainder of the sabbatical in early 2023 and so will be away from the parish during January and February. He is delighted to have this opportunity, which comes round once every 10 years, and is very happy to leave matters in the hands of our excellent clergy, staff and wardens. All queries to the Parish Office as usual.

Café Portico will be closed as of Monday 19 December and will reopen on Tuesday 3 January.

St Luke’s will be open every morning until Christmas.
Epiphany Party
The first event for children in 2023 will be on Saturday 7 January from 10.30-12.00 at St Luke’s as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the arrival of the Three Kings. There will be stories, crafts, singing and many more activities and children are encouraged to dress up as kings. The event will finish with pizza for all. Please contact Anna ASAP if you plan to attend. In addition, Anna needs volunteers to help with the party, please let her know if you can assist her (annastamenova@chelseaparish.org).

St Nicholas Fair
The St Nicholas Fair held at Christ Church on Saturday 10 December made a profit of £4,838.32, which will be split equally between Christ Church School and Christ Church.

Thanks to all who helped make the fair such a wonderful success.

It’s not too late to make a donation to defray the costs of the fair. If you’d like to help in this way, you can send a cheque (made payable to Christ Church DCC) to the Parish Office. Alternatively, you can contact the Parish Office for bank transfer details.