ST LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

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WWW.CHELSEAPARISH.ORG

"And it was night."

At last – British Summer Time. The long dark nights of winter can become a distant memory for a while; six months of long, light evenings lie ahead. It is hardly surprising that we Northern Hemisphere dwellers chose to remember Christ's resurrection in this season of cosmic rebirth, as nature comes alive again with sights and sounds.

But each Holy Week, those short four words from John's gospel stick in my mind. Gathered together in the upper room, Jesus washes the disciples' feet. Shortly after, Judas leaves the group. He is on his way

to betray Jesus. It is at this point that John chooses to observe: 'And it was night' (John 13.30).

We don't often gather together to worship by night. On occasion – Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day – our evening services simply recognise the reality of the weekday work lives many of us lead. But there are two occasions in the year when we deliberately come together in a dark church. One is at Christmas – for Advent carols, Christmas carols, and then for Midnight Mass. The mood is hopeful: we focus our eyes on the light of the world that shines in the darkness.

The other occasion is Holy Week. In our night-time compline services, and then in the

ST LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH **HOLY WEEK &** EASTER 2023 Palm Sunday - 2 April Good Friday - 7 April 10.00am Children's Service 10.30am Sung Eucharist and Procession with Donkey from at St Luke's St Luke's to Christ Church 12.00pm-1.00pm Veneration of the Cross at Christ Church 2.00pm-3.00pm Passion of Our Lord at St Luke's 6.30pm Music and Readings for Holy Week at St Luke's Monday – 3 April 8.00am Eucharist at St Luke's Holy Saturday - 8 April 2.00pm 'All through the night': sacred and secular music for Holy Saturday 9.00pm Compline at St Luke's 8.00pm Vigil Service with Lighting of the New Fire Tuesday – 4 April 8.00am Eucharist at St Luke's 9.00pm Compline at St Luke's at Christ Church Easter Day - 9 April 8.00am Holy Communion Wednesday - 5 April 8.00am Eucharist at St Luke's 9.00pm Compline at St Luke's with Choir 10.30am Sung Eucharist at St Luke's 11.00am Sung Eucharist at Christ Church Maundy Thursday - 6 April 8.00pm Sung Eucharist wit Foot Washing and Vigil 3.00pm Choral Evensong at St Luke's at Christ Church

Triduum of Maundy
Thursday, Good Friday and
the Easter Vigil, we
deliberately gather by night.
The mood is foreboding:
we focus on the darkness
that seeks to snuff out that
light – the darkness
surrounding Christ, the
darkness in the world, the
darkness in ourselves.

I love the painting by Richard Bavin that features on our Holy Week images this year. Amidst a dark canvas our eye is drawn to the glowing crescent of light. But we surely only make sense of what we are seeing once we attune our eyes to the gloom, and recognise that we are in

Christ's dark tomb. And now the light makes sense: it is no crescent moon, nor a gap that is slowly closing. It is the stone that has been rolled away at Christ's resurrection. The new day has dawned, and life has returned.

So do join us over the coming days as we mark Holy Week together. Just at that time you might normally be settling down by the TV, put on your coat and head out. Join us as we contemplate our darkened world. And then join us — in the sunshine, we hope! — on Easter Day morning, as we celebrate the risen light of Christ. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Confirmation: passing on the baton

As a child, I always enjoyed PE, but was never very good at it. But come the summer term I enjoyed some of the athletics we did – not least imitating those heroes of the 1992 Olympics and racing in 4x100m team relay events.

The act of passing on the baton during a

relay race is one of those moments of high drama. Do it too slowly and the team wastes effort that has been expended so far; delay and the short window for the changeover may pass.

In similar fashion, confirmation is in part an act of 'passing on' the Christian baton. That's most visibly the case when children who have been baptised as an infant – often in this same parish – come as an adolescent to take on those vows that their



parents and godparents made on their behalf all those years ago. But even when an adult presents themselves for confirmation, there is a long backstory that has brought them to this moment in their journey of faith. The baton has been offered to them by

others; now they take it on for themselves.

On Sunday 23rd April we are delighted to welcome numerous adolescents and adults for confirmation. We in the congregation will be part crowd, cheering them on; part fellow runners eager to be inspired in our own faith by these new athletes. Join us in worship, as together we 'run the race' of faith, united in love of God.

SAM HOLE

Hidden Histories: St Luke's Garden



St Luke's church used to be skirted by burial grounds with rows and rows of tombstones. The



park you see today was created by Fanny Wilkinson (1855-1951): Britain's first professional female landscape gardener, who transformed over 75 disused or underused plots of land across London into green spaces. Originally from Manchester, in 1883 Wilkinson became the first female pupil of the School of Gardening at the Crystal Palace in Sydenham. For over 19 years, she was landscape gardener to the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, a charity formed in 1882 to give, 'to the people gardens, and to the children playgrounds'. A suffragette, she mixed



with reformers like Octavia Hill and Millicent Fawcett to campaign for increasing the city's green spaces to improve the physical and moral health of the urban poor. In 1881 Hill had successfully lobbied for the Metropolitan Open Spaces Act which allowed for disused burial grounds to pass to local authorities. It was this legislation that enabled Wilkinson to change St Luke's cemetery into the flower and blossom-filled public park you see today.

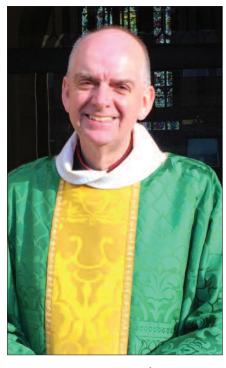
LOUISA PRICE

It is said that all human emotions are contained within Holy Week. We only need to scan the events of the week, which this year runs from Palm Sunday on 2nd April to Easter Day on 9th April, to see how significant this is. Cheers, jubilation, excitement, expectation on Palm Sunday; growing frustration and foreboding on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; relief at eating together on Thursday until these strange actions about washing each other's feet, and this bread and wine being his body, his blood, given for us, with warning about betrayal, compounded by human greed; overnight into Friday the violence of the arrest in the garden amid the exhaustion of Jesus' friends, the politicising and bullying of a sham trial; the weakness of leadership seeking an easy way out; the callous wastage of human life, the mockery of the crowd, the isolation of mourning Mary and John; the emptiness of waiting on Saturday, everything lost; and the strange new awakening to a hope almost too fragile to grasp on Easter morning, can it be true, that even death cannot bind the love of God?

We have an amazing opportunity to enter into this maelstrom of human emotion and experience as we travel together through Holy Week. To jump from Palm Sunday to Easter Day without exploring all that lies between denies the place of those painful, hurting experiences which will come our way in life. For if there is anything at all we know about faith it is that it does not insulate us against life's injuries, but rather, gives us a way to deal with those experiences.

At the heart of all this is the love of God for the world. Holy Week hints, whispers, shouts at us that God is not to be changed or limited by human actions or dealings. Our malevolence and greed does not make God act any differently. The cross is not in substitution for our foolishness and wrongfulness, but as a sign that this is God's way - self-emptying, not to be bound, always rising up like a spring of water through the fissures of our dull horizons.

It's not that Easter Day cancels out Good Friday, it's not like the cavalry coming over the



mountain to rescue the beleaguered, not at all. Much rather the whole of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Easter, is an example both to us and for us. An example to us, laying out the profound truth that God's love cannot be overcome or reigned in, but even more that, God's love is for us - for us to try, for us to live out, for us to put into practice and in that living out, through all the emotions we find in Holy Week, to know that God is not only with us, but changes us and his world by that attempt to live out love.

Join us as we move day by day throughout Holy Week - you'll be most welcome.

Goodbye,



How time flies! I arrived in St Luke's Street in July 2020, amid initial optimism that we were finally getting back to normal after the pandemic (not knowing at this stage we were only in the middle of it all!) Since then, a lot has changed. On a personal level, I've been ordained deacon and priest, Jos was born, and most significantly, Chelsea won the Champions League (I jest... slightly)! From a broader lens, we've had at least two more lockdowns, several

changes of Prime Minister, one change of monarch, as well as the start and continuing tragedy of the war in Ukraine. With so much having happened in a short space of time, it's difficult to fully take stock of my time in Chelsea. I'm sure it will take the rest of my life and ministry to truly understand how this time has shaped and formed me, and our family.

What I do know, however, is that I have loved my time here. What I have appreciated the most is the opportunity to undertake such variety of ministry. There have been the more extraordinary occasions from climbing high ropes with children from the local community on the Summer Programme, to introducing Rod Stewart onto the stage to perform at a Christmas Carol service. As well as the everyday privileges of worshipping together, praying with people and being with you all in the ups and downs of life. The church is not made of bricks and mortar but of people, and it is the relationships and friendships that Lily, Jos, and I have made that we will cherish most.

So, what I really want to say is THANK YOU to you all for making us feel so welcome here, and for sharing your lives with us. We will continue to keep you in our prayers, and please be praying for us as we make our not-too-distant move to Fulham.

SAMUEL RYLANDS



Father Samuel!























YOUTH & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. I Peter 1:3





It's almost Easter — a time for celebration, reflection, and joy. Easter is a joyful time of year. Easter is the day when Jesus rises against death. It is a celebration of the day of happiness for all of us, the day when positivity won over the challenges of life. From spending time with family to enjoying the spring weather, there's plenty to celebrate. Plus, there's usually plenty of chocolate and other sweet treats to enjoy. Full of happiness, colours and positivity and looking at marking a new beginning, Jesus Christ is always there to lead our life and help us walk the path of success and happiness, health, and harmony.

For many people, Easter is a religious observance that reflects on the promise of eternal life and a colourful celebration that ends the sobering season of Lent. As a major religious holiday, it's the perfect time to wish those who observe well.

The Bulgarian Orthodox Easter is celebrated over three days – from Great Friday to Great Sunday. On Great Saturday evening people go to a church service. At exactly midnight, the church bells start ringing and people greet each other with "Hristos voskrese" (Christ has risen) to which they reply



"Voistina voskrese" (Indeed, he has risen). Then the priest lights a candle and passes the flame to the crowds who share it with each other wishing for health and happiness. The

candles are silently brought home.

This tradition is still kept today. Every Easter at midnight the churches gather a crowd of people with candles and painted eggs, which are painted with a special edible paint and have egg fights. So people would knock the heads or bottoms off their eggs together and whoever comes out of this "fight" with an unbroken egg is the winner, as we did last year. It is believed that you'll have good health for the rest of the year.





For Christians worldwide,

the importance of Easter is praising and acknowledging Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, and His glorious assurances of eternal life for all who believe in Him.

May Jesus Christ shower his love and blessings on you and your family. May your life be full of happiness, harmony, and peace.

Here is something to look forward:

On Sunday 2 April is Palm Sunday. There will be a procession with the donkey from St Luke's to Christ Church. The service at St Luke's starts at the normal time of 10.30am with Sung Eucharist and then we will join the procession to Christ Church with the donkey and continue the Service with the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please come along and join us on this special day, so we can all follow in the steps of Jesus and prepare ourselves for the coming of the Holy Week.

On Good Friday 7 April at 10am there is a children's service at St. Luke's followed by hot cross buns. Please let me know if you are able to attend.

Wish you all to have a Blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter!

Love, Anna

Meet the Parishioner: Lloyd North

When Lloyd North was young, his parents would take him and his brother on a bus from their home in east London to Holland Park and the grand old department store Barkers of Kensington. "I remember saying to my dad, 'I want to live in Kensington, it's my favourite place."

Now, he has not only realised that dream, but he is a local councillor for the Campden ward in the borough of Kensington and Chelsea, a stone's throw from that old Barkers building, even if the store on Kensington

High Street closed more than a decade ago.

It was his community work that brought him to St Luke's, a relationship that started a few years ago when he helped set up the food bank based in the vestry that still runs today. "We set up in November 2020, in the first year of the lockdown. There were quite a few gaps in Kensington and Chelsea. And we found we could plug a gap, particularly when people had a problem leaving their homes at the time."

The foodbank was set up by volunteers and "we were kindly allowed to use the vestry as our base, which we have done since day one." That day 22 people came through the door and the volunteers reached 150 with deliveries.

It still operates from the church now - 12pm every Tuesday. "When the

lockdown finished we didn't know whether we were going to carry on," Lloyd says. "But we found there was a need in the community and we've had the kind support of local donors and local volunteers since.

"There are people we know who have been there every week that really rely on us. And it isn't just food but it's community spirit that has helped people take a step in the right direction." It has grown and offers services like free haircuts, health checks and advice on issues such as benefits.

Lloyd says, "The church has been a tremendous support. It's a collaborative effort from local volunteers, the local council, local donors, and the church has been the coordinator. They organise it. I've not been involved behind the scenes, it's more I've been an activist on the

As a local ward councillor, the foodbank has brought "There was one lady who was going to be made homeless and she had two children. The upshot is, with a

bit of help, we've managed to get her rehoused and the kids staying in their school. That only happened because she reached out through the foodbank."

Lloyd, who is semi-retired, was first elected in May last year. "It's highly rewarding because you can really make a difference. It can be an old lady who needed help in getting repairs done. Or it can be as big as changing local government policy."

> He talks about bringing forward a motion to remove graffiti and another to improve support for residents' associations. "You can make little changes and make big changes in people's lives."

Lloyd first got involved in politics when he was in the merchant navy "many years ago", when he stood as a local councillor in Portsmouth, but being at sea meant it was difficult to dedicate time to. He joined the navy just after the Falklands War in the early Eighties, "working on various ships, and finished up as a Fleet Training Officer in Portsmouth".

After 15 years in the navy, he worked in London as an estate agent - "I think that was the hardest work I'd ever done" - and then joined British Airways working as cabin crew. His last full-time job was events manager at Kew Gardens.

Then he retired to focus on

community work – including as a governor of a junior school, a police liaison, and different charitable projects including with the Landmark Trust, an organisation that restores historic buildings. It's an organisation close to his heart as his father was a builder who specialised in restoring historic buildings.

"So a history of working for the merchant navy to British Airways, to events manager at Kew Gardens. Then my ultimate job to retire to was to be a local councillor and make a difference. So I will be doing this for the next number of years, as long as I'm elected, until I finally retire into the sunset.

"I'm not in it for political reasons, I'm in it for community reasons; I would never want to get involved in national politics," he adds. "Kensington and Chelsea is the best borough in the whole of London to live in. One of the things I think that makes it amazing is the people. And that Lloyd case work in which he could help local people out. 20% of those who live here volunteer, that's a phenomenal amount."

NICK CLARK





Giving thanks for the

The funeral of Fleur de Villiers at Christ Church on March 8 marked our farewell to a parishioner who has been faithfully involved in the life of the church for many years. We asked you for your memories of Fleur. Here is just a selection of the overwhelming number we received.

We will dearly miss Fleur, keen surveyor of the Christ Church gallop (her well-termed and well-meant reflection on the young families racing into church with a minute to spare before kick off)! She watched us all raise our children, dispatching them to help with hymn numbers and dispensing service sheets. However early (or late!) we were as sidespeople, Fleur was always all ready at Church, duties already completed. Thank you for that and much more, Fleur. Lizzie and Jolyon Watson-Steele

Fleur was the powerhouse fundraiser behind the Christ Church organ and secured the triptych which hangs behind the altar. Our greatest musical supporter and encourager even in our earlier, more experimental years! Every funeral at Christ Church is difficult, but none more difficult than Fleur's. We'll miss her deeply.

Christ Church Choir







As I was learning to be the perfect sidesperson, Fleur would many a time 'scold me' about making noise when emptying the collection plate at the altar. Cloth first then coins. One service Fleur herself made this faux pas, dropping a few noisy coins, while we were at the altar. Her face was priceless. Especially as I asked her after service; was it due to the palatable sexual tension between us. She laughed so loud, then called me a pup. I miss her.

Aidus McVeigh



We have been part of the Christ Church community for 20 years and Fleur was always so welcoming and gave such wonderful advice and support towards our family. Fleur was always dressed so beautifully and always had time for others. Her involvement with the parish will be greatly missed.

Kirsty O'Keefe

life of Fleur de Villiers



Fleur lived in many worlds - a leading liberal journalist in apartheid South Africa; head of PR at de Beers and Anglo American; Chair of the International Institute of Strategic Studies, meeting US presidents and EU Commissioners. But we knew her primarily as a most devoted fellow parishioner. As a churchwarden her main legacy is the magnificent renovation of the Christ Church organ but she was a ubiquitous presence in church and served devotedly and with much forceful good sense on every level of church committee from the DCC to Diocesan Synod.

John Ellard

Fleur at Royal Ascot. A wonderful day with the Brunskills. The Gold Cup had two fancied horses, one English, one Irish. Fleur asked my advice. Having dithered, I chose the magnificent Irish one. Fleur backed it. Yet, I chose wrongly and was mortified. Fleur just laughed and said 'It was only a horse race'!

Susie Butterfield

When my daughter Georgina died during Lockdown 2020 Fleur was my faithful and constant support. We spent lot of time on the phone deciding the music to be played at the sad little funeral at Putney crematorium. I would have been utterly lost without her and will never forget her kindness. Georgina Paleologo

We first met Fleur in South Africa where she was a distinguished journalist. We became firm friends after we met again in England. Friendship was reinforced when we started attending Christ Church. There was much in common and we engaged in endless discussions on international relations and politics. Alun Evans

I know beneath that rather austere countenance beat a heart of pure gold. A woman not just of fine words of wisdom but one of kindhearted and decisive action. Fleur cared deeply for Christ Church not just the building but for the people of Christ Church, from the tiny tots to the clergy, young and old, anyone who loved God and was in any way associated with Christ Church. Valerie Brunskill

Dance Rellies big and small, past and present, remain exceedingly grateful to have known Fleur. With an impressive knack of being interesting to all generations, she was ever ready to share wisdom, stories, kindness, humour and warmth over the years. We'll always remember our Christmases with Fleur – this year she danced excellently with the rest of us.

Katie Dance and Jemima Rellie



I am happy I had the honour to meet Mrs Fleur. After reading her article on the Parish magazine, I congratulated her for the courage and kindness during the Apartheid time, I still remember her smile saying "I am flattered".

Angelica

Bustamante





"Tell me the old, old story...": Ruth

Over the next year we revisit a number of stories from the Old Testament. These are stories of peril, of gore, of romance, and of betrayal. We will likely have learned them as children, but rarely hear them told in our Sunday morning worship. What, we ask, might be the significance of these stories for us as adult Christians? How do they point us to the God revealed to us in Christ?

'Once upon a time'....we're used to this opening of stories, signifying a long time ago and far away, yet implying also that the distant origins of the tale may still contain real nuggets of truth and relevance for us, however different our lives.

The Book of Ruth, in the Old Testament, begins with something similar, 'In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land'....it sets the story at a great distance, maybe close to 2500 years

ago in a very different world, but I would say it has great relevance to today.

It is a short story, captured in the biblical account in four brief chapters. It is quite stylised, balanced and has clearly been worked and reworked. It's a tale of hope and loss and overcoming, thematically rather like so many other biblical tales. But, for the scriptures relatively unusually, the central characters are women. Ruth herself is the heroine (but a lot has to be said to for Boaz) as well as Naomi, Ruth's mother and Orpah, her sister.

Famine strikes, so Naomi and Elimelech, her husband, take their two sons and leave Bethlehem to look for food and work in Moab. They are refugees. Over time, Elimelech dies, Naomi is left alone with her two sons, who each marry Moabite wives, Ruth and Orpah and 'after 10 years' mother and daughters-in-law are all left widowed. Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem to re-settle in her own land and the Moabite sisters-in-law volunteer to accompany her. On the journey Naomi encourages them to go back to their



Philip Hermogenes Calderon, Ruth and Naomi

home to be among their own people. Orpah does return, with Naomi's thanks and blessing, but Ruth refuses and utters the beautiful words:

Where you go, I will go, where you stay I will stay, your people shall be my people and your God, my God'.

So together they return to Bethlehem amid quite a stir. The story moves on a pace with Ruth gleaning grain form the edges of the

harvested fields, with Boaz, a distant relative of Naomi's husband, protecting her and, in traditional form, acting as next of kin. Boaz, clearly smitten by Ruth, agrees with the elders of the city to purchase the land for Ruth, and they eventually marry. The fruit of that marriage is Obed, whose son is Jesse, the father of David, the great, yet flawed, king.

One might, with 21st century hindsight, wish to critique the patriarchal context of the story, but that, I think, is to miss the point. Here we have a story about faithfulness, fidelity, or as we might more readily say, solidarity. Solidarity between women, between generations, between refugees and host communities, between strangers living in acceptance of their difference. But we also have the solidarity of God with his creation- and the solidarity of that creation living in harmony with God's purposes. Matthew even traces Jesus' own descent through this story of Ruth, the foreign woman, reminding us that the love of God knows no boundaries. A truth we need to hear again in our world of earthquakes, war and refugees fleeing from fear and want.

BRIAN LEATHARD



AT ST LUKE'S CHURCH, SYDNEY STREET



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FROM OUR REGISTERS





The baptism of Jaden Price at Christ Church - with his mother Keorapetse and Father Samuel

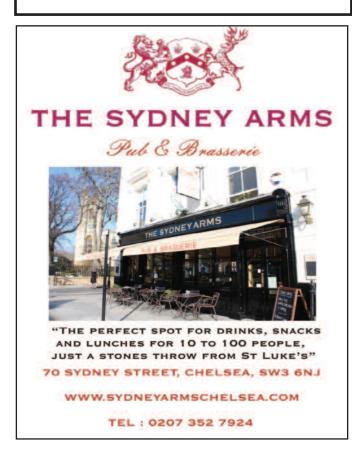
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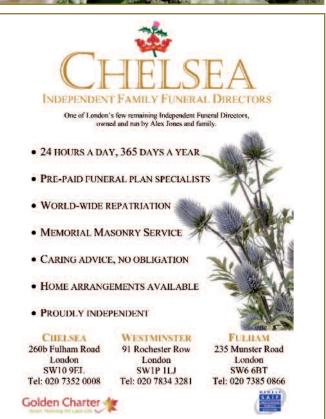
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brianleathard@chelseaparish.org

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samhole@chelseaparish.org

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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

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Liz Brutus and Barbara Schwepcke Jeremy Summerly j.summerly@icloud.com 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)

Duncan Kennedy (Mob: 07548705667) Lizzie Watson-Steele (Mob: 0785545559)

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

St Luke's St Luke's Christ Church

WEEKDAY SERVICES

0900 Monday Morning Prayer at Christ Church 0900 Tuesday-Thursday Morning Prayer at St Luke's 1230 Thursday Holy Communion at 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 13 + please contact Samuel Rylands for more details: 020 7351 7365, samuelrylands@chelseaparish.org

ABC Club During Term Time

Thursdays 1000-1130, at Christ Church 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

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

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

The PCC of St Luke's and Christ Church is a Registered Charity, No 1133092



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