ST LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

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

JUNE 2023 PARISH MAGAZINE ISSUE NO. 215

WWW.CHELSEAPARISH.ORG

Set Fair for the Summer Fair



Last year our Summer Programme provided support, community and fun over 3 weeks for 130 local children aged 8-13. It is a vital part of our parish outreach, and a huge support for many parents in the area who otherwise struggle to afford childcare or to provide engaging structure for their children over the summer holidays. Our Summer Fair is a central part of our parish fundraising to pay for this huge enterprise.



So we look forward to seeing you and your friends on Saturday 10 June. And as you buy your second-hand books, play the tombola, quaff Pimm's and enjoy the music, celebrate the good cause that all your money will be going to.

But before then... we need help to make the fair its usual roaring success. We need your help! Can you support us in one or more of these ways?

ST LUKE'S SUMMER FAIR SATURDAY 10 JUNE, 12-3pm Give

We need: bric-a-brac, good quality accessories, jewellery, children's clothes & toys, books, home produce & bottles for the tombola.

Please bring to the parish office on Monday-Friday between 9.30am and 4.00pm, or leave at the back of church.

Donate

Can you help to cover some of our costs, to maximise our support for the Summer Programme? We welcome all financial donations. This year we are looking for specific financial donations to cover:

Marquee (£800) Publicity (£400) Tea Cups ride (£700) Raffle prizes (£700) Food & beverage supplies (£700) If you would like to help in this way and wish to write a cheque, please make it payable to 'St Luke's DCC'.



on the day or during the week leading up to the fair - please contact the parish office if you are able to help.

Youth Trip to Taizé



A fantastic opportunity for young people in school years 10 to 13! Youth Ministry in Communion are heading

back to Taizé this autumn half-term (21 October - 28 October). You might recall a previous magazine article by Fr Samuel which shared the highlights of last year's trip when 8 young people from the parish went – this time it's going to be even bigger (and better!).

Taizé in France is an extraordinary place – quite different from anywhere else. It combines a monastic



community with the feel of a huge youth camp! It is a place that celebrates diversity in many aspects and welcomes those who are Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, believers of other religions, and those of no faith. Taizé is a place for searching, listening and thinking about what it means to be a human being, and how we can bring justice, peace and hope to our world.

This is no ordinary youth camp! Each day we will gather with the community; take part in a workshop with one of the brothers, followed by discussion in



small groups; and volunteer to help around the community. Between meals there's free time for fun, games and even down time. In the evenings many head to 'Oyak' where, over drinks and snacks, there is singing, games and all kinds of spontaneous entertainment.

If you're interested, speak to Anna or email YMIC: ymic@standrewsfulham.com The cost is £250. Bursaries are available.

Hidden Histories: The 'Midwife to Civil Legal Aid'

The carved oak screens that sit in the chancel, behind the choir at Christ Church are a delight: look closely at the detailing and you will notice mermaids, woodland animals and other creatures nestled amongst the carved leaves. These screens are also memorials, and the north chancel commemorates a son and father; the latter of whom Sir Albert Edward Alexander holds a special place in the story of the British legal system.



Napier, by Walter Stoneman, 1945. Copyright National Portrait Gallery, London.

Sir Albert Edward Alexander Napier (1881-1973) was a British Civil Servant serving the Lord Chancellor's Office and Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. He was

secretary of the Rushcliffe Committee which investigated the need for legal support in the UK and was subsequently tasked with enacting the proposed system, earning him the moniker of the 'midwife to civil legal aid'.

Napier married Gladys White in 1917 and they had a son and daughter.



One of the chancel memorials in Christ Church

Tragically their son, George Robert Edward Napier, was killed in action in WW2 when he was 21 years old. He is remembered alongside his father on the chancel panel.

LOUISA PRICE

_____ BRIAN LEATHARD

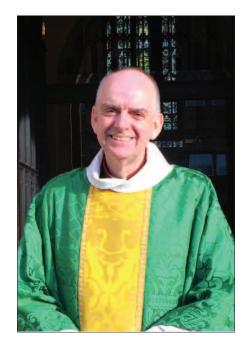
FROM THE CLERGY _____

We are so incredibly fortunate to have such stunning music provided in our two churches every week. Just go elsewhere to church and you will realise how much the music we take for granted contributes to our sense of worship, to shaping the church's year, influencing our mood, engaging with the liturgy. Music is inherent to worship in almost every religious tradition. We pour out emotion, respond to stimuli, engage with each other in something beyond ourselves through music.

While we know that participating in great music-making stretches and inspires humans, it also needs to be worked at. Our musicians rehearse and rehearse, they spend years engaging with technicalities and sensitivities which most of us could never dream of. But it all has to start somewhere - where, what, who was the spark of any of your great passions?

To this end we want to step out in a new venture, creating a Children's Choir of exception to participate in worship across our parish, sowing seeds that will blossom who knows where. We have received a legacy which we will be able to use over the next three years to engage a very particular person to develop from the parish and beyond, children who want to learn to sing in the church context and grow their personal development, musical experience and knowledge in doing so.

This new venture, in conjunction with our adult choirs, is going to require a truly amazing skill-set



in its leader. To this end you will find below the advertisement appearing now in the Church Times. Please do get this message out and about amongst any contacts you may have. We'd love to hear from just the right person, and love to hear the music which that right person will produce.

St Luke's and Christ Church, Chelsea

Director of Children's Choir

ST LUKE'S & Christ Church Chelsea

We are seeking to appoint to this new post an able musician and vocal trainer who is passionate about getting children to sing choral music. The development of a children's choir has enthusiastic support from the adult choir and the congregation. This choir will be developed to sing repertoire within the Anglican choral tradition for worship within our churches.

Salary:£42,000 per annum, pro-rata 0.4Applications close:Friday 16 June, 5pmInterviews:Thursday 29 June

Further information and application details available from: The Rev'd Dr Sam Hole, Associate Vicar. samhole@chelseaparish.org

Informal enquiries are welcomed via the contact information above.

This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Rector's Report

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting the Rector is required to present a report on the past year. We reprint here Father Brian's review, delivered at May's APCM, of all that took place in 2022.

'Is it over?' seemed to be the question behind so much of what we struggled with in our planning of worship, mission, and pastoral care in 2022. Gradually, confidence returned after the worst impact of Covid, although, it must be said that caution and uncertainty has impacted many in our community as they seek to move forward in faith and witness. One very obvious example of this but parishes across the Diocese, to sustain the presence of clergy now and into the future. We have been privileged to offer this level of support.

In 2022, along with our hugely successful Summer Programme, reaching 130 local youngsters across three weeks, we were able to introduce an Easter holiday programme of support called StepUp, in which teenagers facing public examinations had the opportunity to study together alongside tutors in a range of subjects. Particularly for those who struggled with no quiet place to learn at home, or



The Summer Programme just after arriving back from Southend

is the use of the common cup. Throughout 2022, as the chalice was reintroduced at the eucharist as a sign of our unity in Christ, the number of communicants receiving from the chalice has slowly increased and by the end of the year almost two thirds of communicants received in this manner. Throughout the year, masks and sanitiser remained available for use in church. the need for skilled support in their learning, as well as for those who do not flourish in isolation, this proved enormously positive. Later in the year our flourishing youth group participated in Youth Ministry in Communion events locally and travelled with others for a half-term pilgrimage to Taizé, an ecumenical religious community in France.

The Parish Church Council met regularly throughout

Children's work too has been revitalised. ABC each

the year and considered a wide range of topics. Some items were information sharing, some reporting, some required detailed discussion and decisions, not least impacting our use of resources. Our contribution to the Common Fund, rightly, one of the largest in the Episcopal Area, is our largest spend but enables not only our parish,



Harvest Festival 2022

for the Year 2022



2nd Anniversary of St Luke's Foodbank

Thursday morning at Christ Church is strong and our informal eucharistic worship for families at 9.30am on the first Sunday of the month has seen huge growth, with up to 90 adults and 100 children present at this informal 30-minute eucharist. On the first Thursday of each month, at the weekday eucharist at St Luke's we have also introduced the opportunity of healing prayer and anointing, which communicants report as beneficial to their sense of wellbeing.

The Foodbank Club, every Tuesday morning at St Luke's Vestry, continues its vital work, serving up to 60 individual guests but who represent somewhere in the region of 200 beneficiaries. Our volunteers, from the



Sikhs visit the PIFFER Chapel

church community and beyond, enable this to happen with care, dignity and kindness and our thanks too to local donors and contributors. We have also been delighted to offer space and warmth to a group run weekly by our Neighbourhood Community Support Officers, allowing older residents a chance to overcome isolation.

Looking forward from 2022 we are very conscious of the 200th Anniversary of St Luke's as the new

Parish Church of Chelsea in 1824 and have begun planning an exciting programme marking this. Equally we



St Luke's Tea Party

have committed for three years to use some of the legacy money donated to the PIFFER Chapel, in memory of the Punjab Frontier Force marking the presence of regiments around St Luke's Abbottabad, Pakistan, prior to independence, by returning some of the accrued interest on that fund to that St Luke's, for their work with children and young girls and peacebuilding, in a scheme designed for us by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Anglican Communion Fund.

Another distinctive year in the life of St Luke's and Christ Church, Chelsea, two churches, one parish, putting heart and soul into Chelsea. My thanks, as always, extends to my colleagues, lay and clergy, their families and our volunteers for their support and expertise in making this, and so much more, a daily reality.

BRIAN LEATHARD

Exhibition Review: Saint Francis

St Francis of Assisi died 800 years ago, yet his influence has permeated the world ever since. This moving exhibition explores how St Francis has been perceived and represented over the centuries, and his relevance today: his love of God and spiritual radicalism, his commitment to the poor and marginalised, his striving for peace among enemies, and his communion with nature and animals. The works on show range from 13th century panel paintings, sculpture and manuscripts through to contemporary work.

St Francis lived the typical life of a wealthy young knight but war, imprisonment and illness caused him to reassess his life. A mystical experience of Christ and his encounter with a leper changed him. Abandoning wealth and worldliness, Francis embraced a life of



Francisco de Zurbarán, St Francis in Meditation, (1635-9)

poverty dedicated to Christ. Before long he had attracted a small band of brothers: twelve like-minded penitents, owning nothing but their rough habit and carrying a book of prayer. Their faith was reflected in their lives as they went around preaching Christ's Gospel. After their informal rule of life was approved by Pope Innocent III in Rome, the order of the Friars Minor swiftly expanded. By the time of his early death in 1226, the Franciscan movement was establishing friaries and ever-larger Franciscan churches which required pictorial decoration.

Wherever the Friars settled, a visual culture emerged, including England. Within a century of his death as many as 20,000 images of St Francis, excluding those in illuminated manuscripts, (like the Chronica Maiora II from c. 1250 now in The Parker Library, Cambridge), were created by great artists ranging from Giotto to Stanley Spencer who wanted to paint both his likeness and the legends that surrounded his life.

The show opens with an early statue by Antony Gormley, Untitled (for Francis), 1985, with eye-shaped



Sassetta Scenes from the Life of Saint Francis, from the Borgo San Sepolcro Altarpiece, (1437-44)

of Assisi at the National Gallery

holes to reflect the stigmata that the Saint received in 1224, two years before his death.

An exhibition of Gormley's nude sculptures, moulded from his body, caused offence to the women of San Gimignano a few years ago. Francis must have caused



Frans Pourbus the Younger, Saint Francis Receiving the Stigmata, (1620)

even more anguish when he removed his clothes in front of the bishop, his parents and townsfolk to express his desire to lead a radical new life in the steps of his Lord.

The physicality of this image is contrasted by a remarkably spiritual painting of St Francis in Meditation, 1635-9, by Francisco de Zurbarán, which became an icon of 17th century art. The Saint kneels in a dimly-lit cell, in a silent trance, his up-turned eyes shadowed by his cowl, his fingers loosely interlaced around the skull he cradles to his chest. The realism of the brown fabric and threadbare sleeve heightens the illusion that the life-size saint is with us, yet spiritually elsewhere. The Friars of Santa Croce in Florence have lent a piece of the rough habit that Francis wore in contrast to his father's fine silks. Sassetta's Scenes from the Life of Saint Francis from the Borgo San Sepolcro Altarpiece, 1437-44, form one of the most eloquent 'visual biographies' of the Saint. You can wander round this circular gallery and relive his story in seven narrative scenes, including St Francis meeting with the Sultan of Egypt during the Fifth Crusade when mutual respect was established.

During the Counter Reformation artists focusing on the mystical Francis are represented by El Greco, Caravaggio, Murillo and Frans Pourbus the Younger. The latter shows the saint kneeling at La Verna where, asking for grace from God to feel Christ's passion in his soul and body, he received the stigmata.

St Francis's love of the environment blazed forth in music and poetry. Birdsong rings out in the section on the Natural World, reflecting the Pre-Raphaelite Frank Cadogan Cowper's 1904 painting Saint Francis of Assisi and the Heavenly Melody.

St Francis of Assisi is at the National Gallery until 30 July. Admission is free. Illustrations 1-3 © The National Gallery, London; Illustration 4 © Courtesy of the owner (Private Collection).

HELEN DE BORCHGRAVE



Frank Cadogan Cowper, Saint Francis of Assisi and the Heavenly Melody, (1904)

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows". James 1:17

S.T.E.P. Up

After the success of last year, we again hosted S.T.E.P Up (Studying, Tutoring, and Exam Preparation) sessions for young people aged 15+ during the Easter holidays. With the very generous support of parishioners and a grant from RBKC, we were able to provide places free of charge (including lunch and afternoon refreshments) and hire professional tutors to support the students in their studies. We had 12 young people who enjoyed the tutoring and were very grateful to be given this very special opportunity. We all wish them well in the upcoming exams.





Youth Group for Year 7 and Above Anyone aged 11+ is very welcome to attend and bring

a friend. There are games, activities, crafts, a time of prayer and delicious food. Our next meetings are on 8 and 22 June at St Luke's Vestry from 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

Summer Programme 24 July to 11 August 2023

The Summer Programme will again run across three consecutive weeks in July and August, and we are planning a spectacular range of activities. The

programme will bring together children from the local community, from different schools and from different backgrounds to have fun, make new

have fun, make new friends and grow in confidence.



The earliest sign up for the Summer Programme will be on 10 June during our Summer Fair and Emergency Services Day, which takes place from 12.00 noon to 3.00pm at St. Luke's Church. The sign-up forms will be given out on the day, so if you would like your child/ren to take a part, please find me and get a form. I'm looking forward to seeing you on the day and hope you'll have a lovely time. The Summer Fair and Emergency Services Day will again be raising funds for the St Luke's Summer Programme.

ABC and Sunday School

Both continue their usual schedule through the month of June.

Have a happy month of June and think about the good things in our lives and remember the ultimate giver of good gifts is God. God is good!

Love, Anna







8

"Tell me the old, old story...": David and Goliath

We continue our series in which 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?

Talking to clergy colleagues recently I was surprised no, dismayed - to hear that chaplains at the Fine Art Colleges are now being used to teach undergraduates how to interpret works of art from the biblical perspective. Of course, in a country where only a small minority of 18-25 year olds identify as Christian, it is, in one sense, understandable that people don't know, or haven't had exposure to the bible stories

which are not only core to faith but to western culture, language and imagination.

We might think that the story of David and Goliath is well known, broadly understood and could be identified as having its roots in the Old Testament - but that can no longer be assumed.

So how would you interpret this story to those who have no knowledge of it or where it comes from or leads to?

We find it in I Samuel, Chapter 17. The background is that the people

of Israel had nagged Samuel for a king, so that they would be like the neighbouring peoples. Saul was duly anointed king over Israel, but failed to follow God's instructions given through Samuel and spent much of his remaining days in constant battle with other local kingdoms, which is interpreted as being evidence of his faithlessness. 'And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel'. So Samuel sets off to anoint another king for Israel amidst the sons of Jesse, in Bethlehem. Seven sons are paraded before Samuel, but all are rejected, despite their handsome stature 'for the Lord looks on the heart'. Somewhat deflated Samuel asks whether there are any more sons and is told that the youngest is out tending the sheep. David, that youngest son, returns home and is anointed in the presence of his family (remember loseph too how the other brothers were jealous). David is then sought out by King Saul, suffering one of his black dog days, so that he can be soothed by David's playing of the lyre (a mini harp).

David's father, Jesse, instructs this his eighth and youngest son, to take some food to his brothers who



Caravaggio, M. (1599) David and Goliath (oil on canvas) Madrid: Museo del Prado.

were away fighting in the local skirmishes in which the army of Saul were terrified of this Goliath, the Champion of Gath. David's elder brothers tell him in blunt terms to get back to looking after the sheep, but David, who has made inroads into the King's court and whose cheeses have pleased the army commander, lurks amidst the soldiers and offers to fight the giant Philistine. After much derision King Saul gives David his

> armour, but rejecting all the regal trappings, David goes out to face Goliath with his sling shot and bag of stones, which he has used in defending his family's sheep.

Goliath is struck in the forehead and dies, while David parades Goliath's head for all to see and is rewarded by being placed over the army and adored by the people. We hear that the women sang 'Saul has killed his thousands and David his tens of thousands'.

The story then continues with this passive-aggressive relationship between David and Saul, the intimate

relationship between David and Jonathan 'who loved him as his own soul' as well as the complicated developments around Uriah being killed in battle so that David might take Bathsheeba as his wife.

All of this is part of the saga-like narrative of the people of God attempting to live faithfully, yet failing; to follow, yet stumbling, and, of course, it is written and edited from the perspective of those who see in David a great hero of history.

To treat the episode as but an example of the success of the underdog is to deny the narrative its complex twists and turns, and thereby to deny it its humanity in a flawed world as part of the struggle of faithful living. So perhaps even for us who would recognise a painting of David and Goliath and know this episode in the story, it is still pertinent to turn back to the scriptures and re-read I Samuel Chapter 15 to the end of Chapter 24. Half an hour's read, but what a complex time - rather like 2023 in so many ways!

BRIAN LEATHARD

Faith Confirmed

We were delighted to hold a joint parish service on 23 April to celebrate the confirmation of 18 young people and adults. Our thanks to Bishop Martin Wharton for presiding, and to all who joined us.



A Feast Fit for the King

What a feast we enjoyed on 7 May! A special evensong with coronation music was followed by a sumptuous tea generously provided by Auriens, our local Later Living Residence. Thanks to all who attended and stayed to enjoy our time together.



Scan the QR code to enjoy the St Luke's choir singing Zadok the Priest from that service!



FROM OUR REGISTERS



Amalia England's baptism at Christ Church - with her parents Miranda & Adam

Did you know you can download this Magazine, our weekly sermons, and the weekly newsletter from our parish website? Go to www.chelseaparish.org and search for what you want to find.'



stlukesandchristchurchchelsea

Lighting St Luke's for Tourette's Action



As darkness falls on Wednesday 7 June St Luke's will be lit up green to mark Tourette's Awareness Day. The campaign to 'Turn it Green!' is organised by the charity Tourette's Action. This is the leading

support and research charity for people with Tourette Syndrome and their families.

Tourette Syndrome (TS) is a very misunderstood condition. It is an inherited neurological condition affecting one school child in every hundred and more than 300,000 children and adults in the UK. The key feature is tics – involuntary and uncontrollable sounds and movements. Up to 85% of people with TS will also experience co-occurring conditions which might include ADHD, OCD and Anxiety.



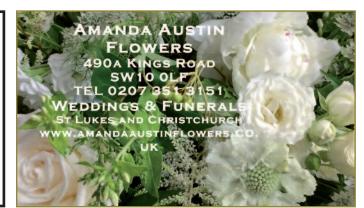
The event is being organised by congregation members the O'Keefe family. Lola O'Keefe, and her parents Chris and Kirsty, have hugely valued the support of Tourette's Action and want to help others understand the condition and know where to find help and support.

Watch out on social media for pictures of the event. Scan the QR code below to find out more about the work of Tourette's Action. And if you would like to speak with the O'Keefe's and learn about their work in Chelsea supporting other families affected by Tourette Syndrome, email

Tourettesactionchelsea@gmail.com.



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



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 Baxter McRolston (begins I July) baxtermcrolston@chelseaparish.org

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

General Enquiries Parish Administrator/Receptionist: Tracy Best parishoffice@chelseaparish.org

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

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

For enquiries regarding baptism, confirmation (adults and children), marriages, funerals and home communion visits, please contact the clergy via the Parish Office. Also for the Planned Giving Schemes for both churches. ST LUKE'S

Sydney Street, London SW3 6NH

Churchwarden: Director of Music: Organist:

CHRIST CHURCH

Christchurch Street, London SW3 4AS

Churchwardens:

Jonathan and Louisa Price Nick Smith Gareth Wilson 07939 378 759 Samuel Ali

Director of Music: Organist:

Safeguarding Officers: (for any safeguarding issues in the Parish) Duncan Kennedy (Mob: 07548705667) Lizzie Watson-Steele (Mob: 07855455559)

Liz Brutus

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

WEEKDAY SERVICES

0900MondayMorning Prayer at Christ Church0900Tuesday-ThursdayMorning Prayer at St Luke's1230ThursdayHoly 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 I3 + please contact please contact Anna Stamenova for more details: 020 7351 7365, annastamenova@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.

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.

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.

Squirrels are the newest and youngest part of the Scout movement for 4 to 6 year olds, it gives them a taste of what it means to be a scout, preparing them for the move to becoming a Beaver when they turn 6, they meet from 4.15pm-5.15pm on Thursdays.

Beavers are for boys and girls aged 6 to 8. They meet from 5.15pm until 6.45pm on Thursdays.

Cubs are for boys and girls aged 8 to 10¹/₂. They meet between 7.00pm-8.30pm on Thursday evenings.

Scouts are for boys and girls aged 10½ to 14. They meet between 7.00pm-9.00pm on Friday.

Explorers are for boys and girls aged 14 to 18. They meet between 7.00pm-9.00pm on Monday.

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

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



This magazine has been printed on recycled paper.



Jeremy Summerly j.summerly@icloud.com