

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

DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024 PARISH MAGAZINE ISSUE NO. 220

WWW.CHELSEAPARISH.ORG

Telling the Story Again and Again of the Birth of Jesus Christ

Exactly 200 years ago the new parish church of Chelsea, St Luke's, was almost complete. It had taken four years to build and at Christmas 1823 was having the final touches put to it. So, we stand in a long tradition of this parish church being open to telling the story again and again of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Unlike some of our larger churches, Christ Church, has a village feel to it, a family scale, surrounded by the everyday things of life - houses, our school, a pub. It was, of course amongst the ordinary people, the ordinary buildings of Bethlehem that the extraordinary was to happen 2,000 years ago.

Thousands and thousands of people will have come to our churches over the intervening 200 years to sing and hear, to enjoy Christmas fare and friendship. So welcome one and all.

The amazing fact, of course, is that while we meet each

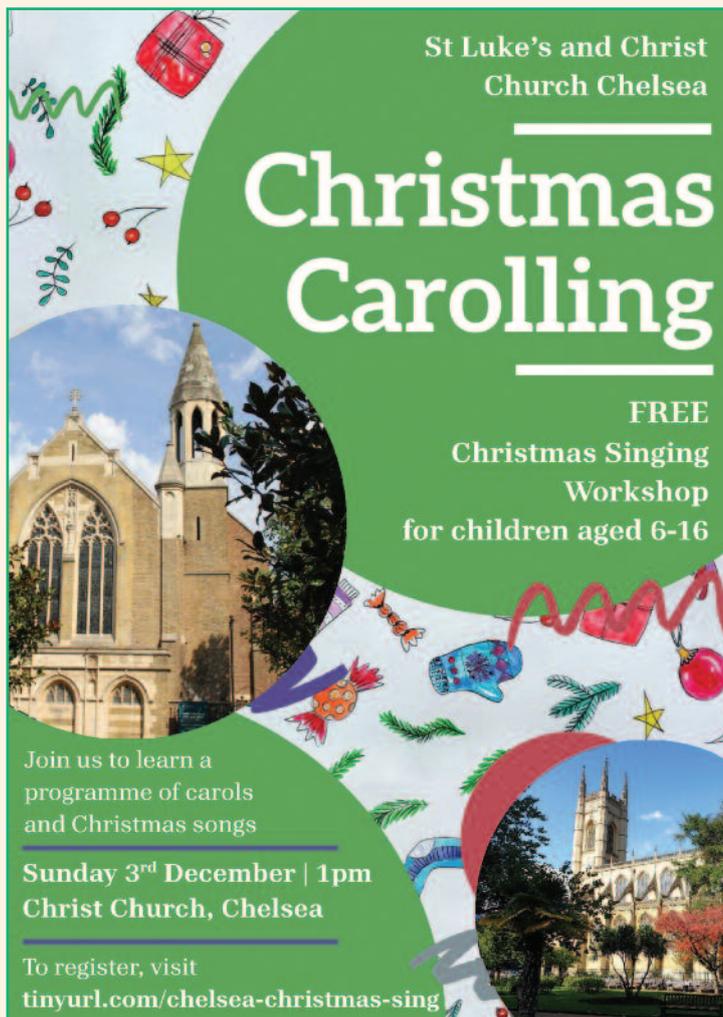


year at this season with all its pre-Christmas excitement, what we celebrate at Christmas is not just seasonal but for every day, and has been proclaimed not just for 200 years but for over 2,000 years, that God, having created all that there is, doesn't interrupt its workings, but from within it, from the everyday, raises up a possibility of human life being different, more reflective of the divine life. Yes, God uses the ordinary things of the day - a teenager, a stable, shepherds, to allow the extraordinary to bubble up to the surface and to provide a new vision of what human life and love could be like.

Christmas Services in our parish are listed on the back page of the magazine and of course, you are very welcome to participate in them, being present with us or joining us on our livestream at www.youtube.com/c/stlukesandchristchurchchelsea

BRIAN LEATHARD

Children's Choir Update



St Luke's and Christ Church Chelsea

Christmas Carolling

FREE Christmas Singing Workshop for children aged 6-16

Join us to learn a programme of carols and Christmas songs

Sunday 3rd December | 1pm
Christ Church, Chelsea

To register, visit tinyurl.com/chelsea-christmas-sing

Auditions have begun for our new Children's Choir, which is launching in January 2024! The choir is for 8-13 year-olds and open to all. We have seen lots of talented children apply in our November audition round, so should have an exciting group ready to sing in the new year. If you or anyone you know is interested in applying to join the choir in January, please email Polina at childrenschoir@chelseaparish.org.

Sign-ups are now open for our Christmas Singing Workshop on Sunday 3 December from 1.00pm-3.30pm at Christ Church. The workshop is open to children aged 6-16 and free to attend. We will learn a short programme of carols and Christmas songs to perform to friends and family in an informal concert at 3.15pm that will be part of the workshop. To register, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/chelsea-christmas-sing>

There has been some interest in early years singing provision for children who are currently too young for the main choir. If you have a child younger than 8 who is interested in singing, please get in touch at childrenschoir@chelseaparish.org

POLINA SOSNINA

Hidden Histories: Sir and Lady Dilke's Ewer

In inventorying the contents of St Luke's and Christ Church (thank you to the volunteers who have helped with this!) I have been struck by the array of objects in our churches given in memory of loved ones, from bookshelves to pavement stones.

These sometimes overlooked items can be gateways to fascinating stories of remarkable individuals. One such object is this silver ewer in regular use at St Luke's, engraved with the names 'Charles and Emily Dilke'.

Sir Charles Wentworth Dilke, 2nd Baronet (1843-1911), was a Chelsea MP and a keen supporter of the labour and feminist movements of the period. He was considered one of the most brilliant radical statesmen of his time and many believed he would be the next Prime Minister. In 1885, he became embroiled in the high-profile divorce suit of Virginia

and Thomas Crawford (MP) and his political career never recovered. His wife, Emilia Francis Strong, later Lady Dilke (1840-1904) was a brilliant writer and art historian who, like her husband, advocated for social reform. She was involved in the women's trade union movement and helped establish the first Women's Trade Union League in 1874.



Portrait of the Dilkes, copyright the National Portrait Gallery, London

LOUISA PRICE

Christ Church School Praised In SIAMS Report

At the start of October, Christ Church School received a two-day visit from a SIAMS inspector. The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools' (SIAMS) framework is the way that church schools are checked and supported in the quality of their Christian ethos and teaching of RE. These are areas that Ofsted do not inspect. Under the SIAMS framework, church schools are inspected every five years.

We were delighted to see the school praised highly in the inspector's judgement. The inspector described a 'rich and innovative curriculum which is skillfully shaped to enable all pupils



A special music assembly Christ Church had when blessing the mosaic, made by our Year 3 class, of our School Vision - the Parable of the Sower.



Christian Visionaries (2 pupils from each class) putting together their Clergy Question box for the whole school.

to grow and develop spiritually'. She stated that 'cohesive and supportive relationships mean that pupils and staff feel valued and nurtured'. She spoke of 'exceptional links with local churches', with the connection with Christ Church forming 'the bedrock of the school community', and pupils seeing the church as a 'focal point'.

Well done Christ Church school!

Our congratulations to Avis, and to all the staff at the school, for this excellent result.

Journey with Mary and Joseph

This Advent season, we are continuing with the journey of our Posada! Posada is an Advent tradition that comes from Mexico. During this time, the Nativity scene is brought from house to house every evening, recalling the long journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem. This journey we make with the Nativity helps us mark the time of anticipation during the Advent season so we can be ready for the celebrations of Christmas Day.



We have two Nativity sets for our Posada and invite parishioners of all generations to get involved and share the story of the journey to Bethlehem this Advent season. The Posada figures will leave from each church after the morning Eucharist service on Advent Sunday, 3 December. They will return to the crib services in both churches on Christmas Eve.

During the days in between, the Posada travels from home to home within the parish. We leave the coordinating of this to you and offer encouragement by saying that special moments of parish life and community happen when people who would not normally interact come together over a cup of tea and the Posada. Invite the person passing on the Posada round to your home and have them show you how to set it up! Maybe share a meal together. We hope that every generation within our parish will come together for the journey to Bethlehem.



Sign up now to host Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus on their journey this Advent season! Scan this QR code now.



An ABC of the CofE: Dioceses

We continue our series introducing some of the significant structures and concepts of the Church of England.

42: The 'Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe and Everything'. Douglas Adams's joke in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* may have become a popular cult reference. But now ponder the fact that the Church of England is formed of 42 dioceses. Are these, in fact, the Answer to the Ultimate Questions?

Well, maybe. From the perspective of the pews, the diocese can easily seem like a distant entity – rearing its head when the Parish Share is due, and taking visible form only when the Bishop comes to visit. A parish such as St Luke's and Christ Church is most worshippers' main day-to-day experience of the church.

But even in the very beginnings of Christianity, with the letters of Saint Paul, we see churches finding ways to work and worship together. In the 4th century, the church adopted the language of late Roman administration, and created administrative areas called dioceses, each under the authority of a bishop.

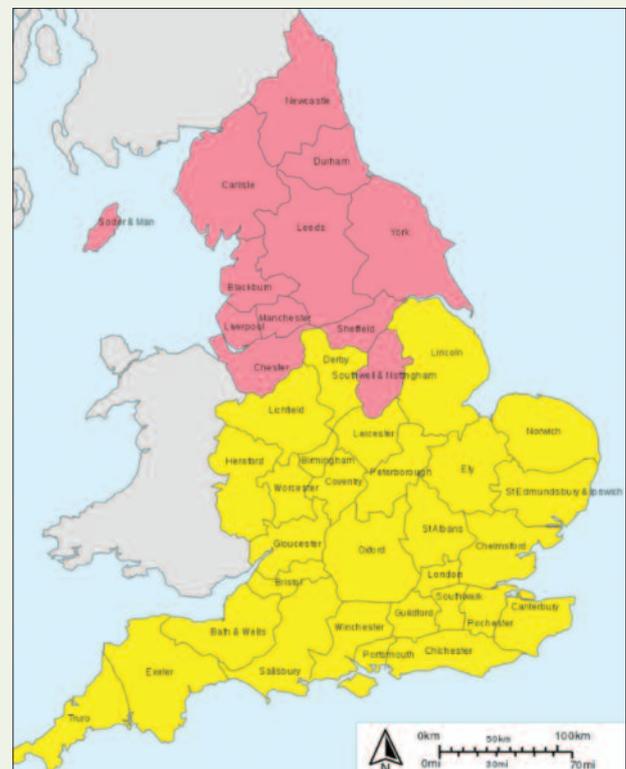
When Augustine of Canterbury brought Christianity to England in 597, one of his first acts was to found a diocese at Canterbury. And many of the dioceses that were founded in England in the following two centuries – Rochester, London and York among them – still exist today. But they have been joined by many other dioceses. About half of the 42 dioceses in existence today – Liverpool, Southwark, Sheffield and Leicester among them – were formed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the result of the Church of England's attempts to reorient itself to the realities of modern British industrial society. And one of the dioceses is not even in England at all – the Diocese in Europe is made up of numerous Anglican chaplaincies in Europe, Morocco, Turkey, and Russia.

Today, there are various decisions of the Church of England that are made at a national level, through bodies such as General Synod, the House of Bishops, and Archbishops' Council. But a great deal of power

continues to rest with dioceses – and, in particular, with their bishops. This is particularly noteworthy given the current challenges the Church of England is facing with declining numbers of worshippers. Across the country, bishops are adopting different schemes to try to make the church sustainable for the coming decades – with (to put it mildly) varying levels of success.

But dioceses also continue to exercise much of the necessary work of church administration. They provide support to parishes in matters such as children's work, safeguarding, and fundraising. They bear responsibility for the maintenance of clergy housing. They form links with other dioceses in the Anglican Communion for fellowship and mutual support. They deliver training to curates, and other forms of training and support to clergy at different stages of their ministry. Like so much administration, when it is going well it passes by unnoticed. But when it is neglected, the effect on parishes and clergy is notable.

SAM HOLE



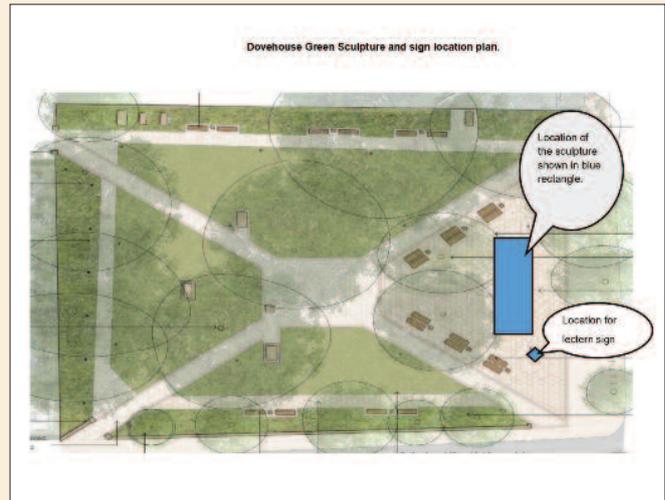
A map of the current dioceses of the Church of England. The Province of Canterbury is shown in yellow, and the Province of York in red. Credit: Wikipedia.

Paolozzi's Oscar Wilde Statue for Dovehouse Green

Some of you may have seen the display at the back of St. Luke's recently giving some interesting facts about Sir Eduardo Paolozzi and Oscar Wilde. The statue is progressing well at the Pangolin Foundry in Stroud and has been "signed off" for the next stage of development, which is to make a wax mould from the model that should take us through to the new year and the pouring of the metal in February/March. This will be followed by the polishing and finishing patina before the proposed installation - all being well - in May 2024.

Images of the model are below. The sculpture will measure approximately 2 metres in height, 2.3 metres in length and 2 metres in depth. It will stand on a plinth 25 centimetres in height of polished concrete resembling stone.

VICKY JACOBSEN



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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

ANNA STAMENOVA



“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.” – Luke 2:10

The tidings of great joy we bring you here look both backwards to our half term children's activities and forwards to Christmas and to the birth of Jesus on Christmas day and making His presence known in the world at our Epiphany party.



We had an amazing half term. During the Arts & Crafts Day, children and adults enjoyed candle-making and biscuit-decorating for All Saint's Day.



Also we visited the Victoria and Albert Museum, where children enjoyed a workshop led by designer Matthew David Andrews. They explored and expressed their diva style through fashion by creating dresses and making fashion items.

Upcoming Children's Events

All children and parents/carers are very welcome to attend all of these events!

Tuesday 24 December- 4.00pm

Children's Crib Service at both churches. Children are invited to dress as shepherds, angels, or sheep. Please save your king outfits for the Epiphany Party!



Saturday 6 January – 10.30pm -12noon

Epiphany party at St. Luke's. Please join us as we travel with the Three Wise men to visit the baby Jesus in his crib. Children are encouraged to dress up as kings. As usual, we will have crafts, cookery, and music activities as we reflect on the Epiphany story, finishing with a very short service in which we lay gifts at the manger - followed by delicious pizza! Please let me as soon as you know you are coming, so we can have enough supplies.



ABC Toddlers' Group for 0-3 Year Olds

We meet every Thursday at Christ Church from 10am - 11.30am. Parent/carers are welcome. No booking needed. Donation is £3 per child!

I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. God bless you! Thank you!

Love, Anna

At Taizé People Are Seeking a Simpler Life with God

For October half term this year, Father Baxter and I got to take some of our youth to Taizé, a monastery and pilgrimage site in France! We did this through our partnership with Youth Ministry in Communion, so we joined young people from other churches in Kensington. Sixteen of us got on a coach and drove through the night to get to be a part of what they're doing there.



Our group!



The Church

If Taizé is new to you, it is a community that was founded by Brother Roger in the 1940s. His vision was to create a place of peace, where Protestants and Catholics alike could worship together. The music there has become famous - the songs are short, repetitive chants that are written in hundreds of languages. They are worth a Google search.



This game has been named Taizé Twister and is played on the benches where we share our meals.

The community has flourished over the years and is now a pilgrimage site for young people from all over the world. During our time there, there were about 2,000 teenagers from all over Europe. We were the only

group from the UK though, so our young people stood out with their accents!

During the week, we worshiped together, participated in Bible studies, took part in work crews, ate meals together, and had a really fun time. Stepping into the full

rhythm of Taizé means being in a work crew, so our young people cleaned bathrooms and kitchens, did the washing up and more. The leaders had a fantastic time witnessing this!



Some of our young people reenacting the Wedding of Cana in their Bible study

At the end of the week, we had the opportunity to meet with Brother Paolo, who's been a part of the community since the 1970s. He asked us to all share something that stood out for us during the week, or a favourite part. I was surprised to hear that the silence was a highlight to a number of our young people. Three times a day, the whole community sits in silence. The week is filled with so much, so it really touched me that silence would stand above the rest for them.



Working hard!

A leader asked Brother Paolo if the community has thought about becoming more modern in order to appeal to more young people and I loved his answer. He essentially said no; people crave a kind of simplicity when it comes to worshipping and connecting with God. They don't need smoke machines and flashy videos to attract young people, they're doing just fine as they are. I loved his frankness. He's right, the community was overflowing with people seeking out a simpler life with God, even if it was just for a week.



Everyone had a candle during this service, and watching the light grow in the room was a highlight of the week for me.



Stained glass in the church.

MADY MCDANIEL

Turkey's First Orthodox Church Built in Post



Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch, cuts the opening ribbon for the church

I was thrilled to be invited as a guest of Gabriel Malas of the Syrian Orthodox Church (with monasteries and churches in the Tur Abdin region of Turkey) to the prestigious opening of the first church to be built in Turkey since Ottoman times. The new St Ephrem Cathedral's land was given to the Syrian Orthodox Church by President Erdogan 10 years ago and he put the first spade in the ground for the foundations. It took three years to build and cost over US\$5 million.

The earthquake in Turkey earlier this year delayed the dedication which finally took place on 8 October, attended by many ecumenical church dignitaries from far and wide and also the Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, The Speaker of Turkey's Parliament, Numan Kurtulmuş, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, Sahak II, Head of the Armenian Patriarchate of Turkey and Mor Philoxenos Yusuf Çetin, Patriarchal Vicar of the Syriac Orthodox Church and Metropolitan Bishop of Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir.

On Saturday 9 October, I flew from London Gatwick with Gabriel Malas and met the Archbishop of Canterbury's representative, South-Indian born, the Venerable Dr Leslie Nathaniel, who had flown in from his base in Germany. Gabriel's cousin Thomas Ozdemir met us in Istanbul and drove us to the Crowne Plaza Hotel, where Gabriel had generously given us accommodation. At 5.00am the following morning, Archbishop Evangelou arrived from Limassol,

Cyprus, where he had been conducting a wedding. Thereafter he was constantly at my side, as I found walking long distances on slippery marble floors to the restaurants challenging.

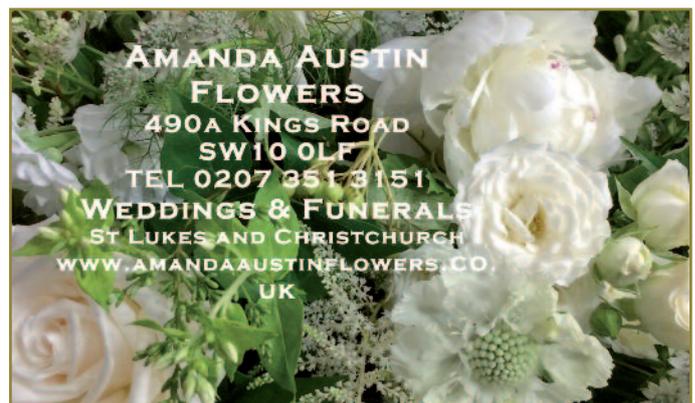
After an early lunch on Sunday, Thomas drove a robed Archbishop, the Venerable Dr Leslie Nathaniel, and me to the new cathedral where we were had a security search and were given badges with our seat numbers. We were then escorted to our seats - the Archbishop and the Venerable Dr Leslie Nathaniel in the front row, mine in the 7th row where we each found a bag containing a seal (paper-weight) of the church, a book on the origins of the Syriac Church in Turkish and English and a box of chocolates!

The event opened with songs in Aramaic sung by a charming choir of young ladies and four children. This was followed by quite a long speech in Turkish before the entrance of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, surrounded by photographers, to loud clapping. He took his seat in the front row next to His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Philoxenos, our host for the event. He then addressed the crowd (in Turkish) from the rostrum, praising the three Abrahamic faiths and including a promise to give the cathedral more land on which to build an elementary and a secondary school and a graveyard. Much clapping followed. When he finished, Archbishop Philoxenos went to the rostrum to thank him (in Turkish).



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-Republic Era Opened by President Erdogan

A long line of dignitaries then went up on the stage and a long green ribbon was stretched from end to end in front of them. All participants were given a pair of scissors and at the given moment, they all cut the ribbon. The cathedral was formally declared open. We then moved to the ground floor to see the actual cathedral built of honey-coloured stone with its wonderful chandeliers. It holds 750 worshippers. After a good look round we were approached by Syriac Assyrian TV and interviewed, in English, including me, for the following day's coverage!

Archbishop Philoxenos graciously invited Gabriel Malas and me to share his car to return to his residence (about 45 minutes' drive) where he had laid on a lavish and delicious three-course supper for 50 men at three long tables. We five women were put together at the end of one table! Thomas Ozdemir eventually took us all back to the hotel.

On Monday, Archbishop Evangelou and I met representatives of Setur to confirm the arrangements for the six-day tour to commemorate the 1,700 years of the Nicene Creed, which I am organising for May 2025. For those who would like details, please contact Tracy at the Parish Office and I will send more information.

Archbishop Evangelou and I flew back to Heathrow on



Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch, with President Erdogan.

Tuesday. It was an unique experience and one for which I will be always grateful for having attended.

SERENA FASS



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Contact: Lucy Hustler

Address: St. Luke's Church Hall, St. Luke's Street, London SW3 3RP Tel: 020 7352 8784

Website: www.ringrosechelsea.co.uk

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
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

Youth and Community Worker: Mady McDaniel
madymcdaniel@chelseaparish.org

Children's Choir Director: Polina Sosnina
childrenschoir@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:

Liz Brutus
Jeremy Summerly j.summerly@icloud.com
Rupert Jeffcoat

CHRIST CHURCH

Christchurch Street,
London SW3 4AS



Churchwardens:
Director of Music:
Organist:

Jonathan and Louisa Price
Gareth Wilson 07939 378 759
Samuel Ali

Safeguarding Officers:

(for any safeguarding issues in the Parish)

Duncan Kennedy (Mob: 07548705667)
Lizzie Watson-Steele (Mob: 07855455559)

Follow us on



SUNDAY SERVICES

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

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 is for 11+ on every other Thursday. For more information contact Madymcdaniel@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 for 4 – 7 years old contact is 10thchelsea.rainbows@gmail.com. They meet at 5pm to 6 pm on Tuesdays.

Brownies for 7 – 10 years old contact is 10thchelseabrownies@gmail.com. They meet at 6pm to 7.30pm on Tuesdays.

Guides for girls 10 years to 14 years and **Rangers** 14 years to 18 years
Their contact is 10thchelseabrownies@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 10½. They meet between 7.00pm-8.30pm on Thursday evenings.

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

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

Contact for Squirrels, 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

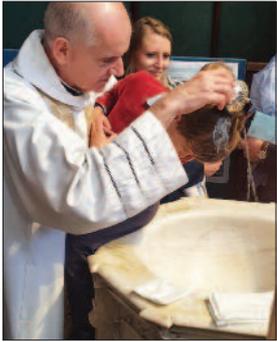
St Luke's is open for prayer from
0900-1530 Monday to Saturday

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



This magazine has been printed on recycled paper.

FROM OUR REGISTERS



Alexander Hardy's Baptism at St Luke's in October



Felix Hopkinson's baptism at St Luke's



Wren Hodgson's Baptism at St Luke's - with his parents and big brother Bertie



Georgia MacNeal & Piers Jamieson wedding at Christ Church in September



The Marriage of Donald Cunningham & Alexandra Chauvin at St Luke's in October

Philip W.J. STOPFORD
(b. 1977)
Sacred Choral Music

Grace Davidson, Soprano
Choir of St Luke's, Chelsea • Chelsea Camerata
Rupert Jeffcoat, Organ
Jeremy Summerly

CD Launch – St Luke's Choir
Thursday 25 January 2024, 7.00 pm
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Golden Charter

Advent Calendar

Tickets for the charity carol services/concerts are available directly from the charity – their links can be found in our calendar on our website. The shaded events are the church Christmas services and are unticketed. All are welcome!

Charity Carol Services/ Concerts

DECEMBER 4

MONDAY
19.00

Asthma UK & Lung UK
Carol Service
at St Luke's

DECEMBER 5

TUESDAY
18.30

Royal Brompton
Hospital
Carol Service
at St Luke's

DECEMBER 7

THURSDAY
19.00

Battersea Dogs & Cats
Carol Concert
at St Luke's

DECEMBER 8

FRIDAY
19.00

Battersea Dogs & Cats
Carol Concert
at St Luke's

DECEMBER 9

SATURDAY
17.30

Operation Smile
Carol Service
at St Luke's

DECEMBER 11

MONDAY
19.30

Charlie Waller
Carol Service
at St Luke's

DECEMBER 12

TUESDAY
19.00

Nordoff Robbins
Carol Service
at St Luke's

DECEMBER 14

THURSDAY
19.00

Cystic Fibrosis
Carol Service
at St Luke's

DECEMBER 18

MONDAY
19.00

Caring Spaces
Carol Service
at St Luke's

Church Services

DECEMBER 10

SUNDAY
17.30

Nine Lessons & Carols
Service at
Christ Church

DECEMBER 12

TUESDAY
18.30

Carols on Chelsea
Green (outdoor)

DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY
08.00

Holy Communion
at St Luke's

10.30

Christmas Eucharist
at St Luke's

11.00

Christmas Eucharist
at Christ Church

DECEMBER 17

SUNDAY
6.30pm

Nine Lessons & Carols
Service
at St Luke's

DECEMBER 24

SUNDAY
Christmas Eve

16.00 Crib Services
at both St Luke's &
Christ Church
23.30 Parish Midnight
Eucharist at St Luke's