

ST LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

The Parish of St Luke's & Christ Church
St Luke's Crypt
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WWW.CHELSEAPARISH.ORG

The Children's Choir Makes Its Debut at St Luke's and Christ Church

Our Children's Choir launched in January with 12 children meeting for the first time to start their journey into the Anglican Choral tradition. The term kicked off with two rehearsals before the choir had a team-building session led by our youth worker, Mady, which helped our budding choristers get to know



each other and learn important skills for working together. After observing a service at St Luke's at the end of January, the children sang their first full service on Sunday 11 February while St Luke's Choir was away in Winchester. It was a big responsibility to sing for a full service after only four rehearsals, but the Children's Choir rose to the occasion and did a brilliant job supporting the worship at the 10.30am service. They sang David Thorne's Mass of St Thomas and Be thou my vision by Bob Chilcott.

Another first came on Sunday 10 March, when the Children's Choir sang for the 11.00am service at Christ Church for Mothering Sunday. The Children's Choir sang with the Christ Church Choir, giving our young choristers their first opportunity to sing choral music with altos, tenors and basses, performing James MacMillan's St Anne Mass together. As well as singing together for the mass, psalm and hymns, the Children's Choir sang Ave Maria by Simon Lindley on their own at the end of communion – this was their first time singing in two parts and they did it

beautifully! It was wonderful for our choristers to sing to a full church on an important Sunday in the church's calendar. They also enjoyed helping the Sunday School hand out daffodils at the end of the service.

The choristers' final service of the term was Stations of the Cross at St Luke's on

Good Friday. This service, designed for the children and youth in our two churches, helped integrate the Children's Choir into our wider children's ministry led by Anna, Baxter and Mady. It was a thoughtful and moving service with which to end the term.

In the Summer Term, the Children's Choir will continue to contribute to the worship at both churches and will sing at the Christ Church Dedication Festival in June. We have new choristers joining the choir after the Easter break and look forward to welcoming them into the group as it continues to go from strength to strength.

Our chorister recruitment is still ongoing! If you know any children in school years 3-8 who enjoy singing, please encourage them to sign up for an audition. You can sign up via this link <http://tinyurl.com/SLCCChildrensChoir> or email Polina Sosnina at childrenschoir@chelseaparish.org for more information.

POLINA SOSNINA

Planned Giving

Our treasurer's job to plan our churches' budgets is made so much easier if parishioners commit to give regularly by direct debit. But how should parishioners plan to give?

Please do think about where the church (and its schools) sit in your personal financial budget and plan to commit to helping reduce the shortfall by making a regular commitment to give.

Our parish costs have continued to rise as we have provided an increasing range of activities for children and young people, more fellowship meetings for the more mature and an increasing number of interesting and challenging services and discussion groups.

The problem is that our reserves were seriously

depleted during the pandemic. The church halls - built on the back of the generosity of previous generations - have tided us over but those reserves will run out in a couple of years' time. We must plan to ensure that our parish's finances are sustainable on a standalone basis - if not we'll have to do less.

How much you give is a matter for you. But the Church of England recommends that its members plan to give 5% of their net income – after tax and mortgage repayments, but before other costs – to their local church.

And, of course, you can plan for your continuing support, (when you have passed to a better place), by leaving a gift in your will to our parish.

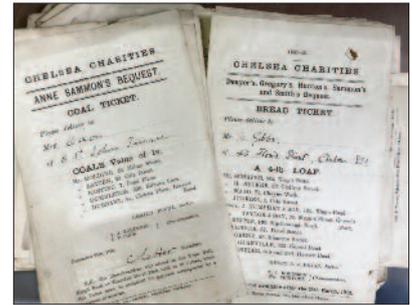
Hidden Stories: A Last Will and Testament, Set in Stone

One former St Luke's parishioner, Elizabeth Smith (or perhaps her descendants) took the unusual decision to inscribe a portion of her Last Will and Testament on her memorial stone, which is on the south wall of St Luke's church. Elizabeth lived on Manor Terrace (where the Chelsea Town Hall now stands) and died in 1829 when she was 49 years old. She bequeathed to the church £500 worth of stock with detailed instructions for its distribution, including paying for church sermons, supporting charity school children and buying bread for poor persons of the parish.



From the 1500s, there were many charitable donations to the church for the care of the poor. Often these were distributed through bread, coal or meat tickets by

the church, to be redeemed at local shops. Like many other parishes, Chelsea struggled to manage what were often fairly complicated bequests and sadly funds were regularly lost, not through dishonesty but disorder. This may have explained why Elizabeth, or her family, chose to record her bequest on the church walls. Various reviews of the charities were undertaken from the mid-1800s until the remaining funds were amalgamated in 1936 into the Non-Ecclesiastical charities of Chelsea, and six other Ecclesiastical charities. These still operate today.



LOUISA PRICE



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With great gratitude for what Fr Sam has brought to the life of our parish, we waved goodbye to him, Emily and Felicity on Easter Day. 'Godspeed' is our wish for them as they begin a new life in Durham, where Emily has a lectureship and Sam takes up chaplaincy at University College and a Research Fellowship in the Theology Faculty.

Easter, of course, is a good time to move on, for it naturally speaks of new beginnings, things changed, yet somehow the same. Easter affirms that our world of time and space is mysteriously transformed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - transformed

because our assumptions are shattered, our perspective radically altered by the fact that selfless love can never be nailed down, not to a cross or to any other human attempt to limit or contain it, Rowan Williams says.

'When we say that Jesus is risen, we mean that there is no sense in which he belongs to the past; his life is never over'.

This is exactly what the first disciples found so hard to come to terms with. For them it did seem game over. Hopes and dreams were shattered by Jesus of Nazareth's arrest, trial, and execution. They felt the pain of loss - both mourning for their

friend, but also their loss of purpose and drive and participation in something life-changing. The future seemed bleak. But when we re-examine the stories in the Gospels about the resurrected Jesus we can see that for those friends and followers of Jesus, it took time to come to terms with this presence of the risen Christ, who kept appearing in the most unexpected places - on the road, to strangers, at meals,



back in Galilee where some of the disciples had retreated to their former lives. A slow dawning needed time for them to realise that they were not constrained by past events. Gradually, step by step, they grew into the realisation that there simply is no time, no place where Christ is not to be found.

We struggle with this just as they did. Yet it remains our vision and our hope. Resurrection didn't erase crucifixion, Easter Alleluias never blot out the world's betrayals, condemnings and killings whether in today's Holy Land or in our own lives. The resurrection of Christ affirms that every moment is precious, there is no such things as wasted time or opportunity. In every moment and every opportunity the Risen Christ is present for healing, inclusion, reconciliation, offering us his way, participation in his life, as we take his crucified and resurrected body into ourselves in bread and wine.



Maunder Thursday: From darkness to light

A Significant Birthday and a Personal Pilgrimage

Leave the dramatic hillfort town of Jaisalmer westwards towards the Pakistani border and after about 40km, when you have reached the tiny hamlet of Kanoi, turn right. Slowly following a dirt road northwards, avoiding potholes and sacred cows, you will eventually reach a point where you will rub your eyes because you cannot believe what is in front of you: the most unusual stone



building, shaped like an oval, with light and ventilation shafts just below the sloping, perforated balustrade which hide the solar panels on the roof – it is like a spaceship has landed in the Thar Desert! No, this is no mirage, but the first of three buildings which will eventually make up the GYAAN Center (GYAAN means

'knowledge') and it houses the **Rajkumari Ratnavati School for Girls**.

I had come to the school on a rather personal pilgrimage: I wanted to spend my significant birthday where my mother had celebrated hers 35 years earlier. My trip was going to be more than just a glorious touristic adventure. I wanted to give something back – as Luke 12:48 teaches us: To whom much is given, much will be required. My mother and I had been the first in our family both to have gone to university or to become Dr Schwepcke, so we decided together that we wanted to support this extraordinary educational initiative for girls and had decided to sponsor the first classroom and its furniture.

For many years we had been friends with Michael Daube, the head of CITTA, the charity that had built the school. He had explained the vision behind it: 'In rural Jaisalmer, girls face India's most extreme social, economic, and geographic disadvantages in



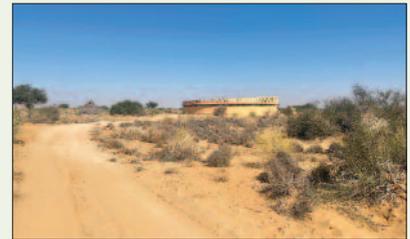
receiving an education. Education provides girls access to pursue economic freedom and autonomy. The value of education is not the norm in this region, where female

infanticide and child marriage remain prominent. The GYAAN Center is a three-phase education project that aims to become a foundation where girls and women gain the tools to thrive in an environment that protects and celebrates the vibrant local culture of Rajasthan.



Education is the key element for women's welfare and achieving equality and prosperity in their families and in Indian society.'

On my significant birthday I wanted to help to make this vision a reality. I had planned to teach English as a foreign language. But when I arrived, I realised that I could be much more useful as the first **CITTA-Auntie**, because I realised that these very special girls were not only first-time learners but in many cases, they were the first learners in their family. The teachers needed the support that I personally had been fortunate enough to receive from my mother and great aunt (who took the place of my grandmother who I unfortunately never met). So, I quickly turned my TEFL-lesson plan into special tutorial Phonics sessions, teaching the girls early sounds and blending them,



encouraging them to become independent readers and hopefully thereby opening up a whole new world beyond the Thar Desert. I devised fun activities to encourage the girls' creativity, and played games with them which reinforced the learned letters and words. Using wipe-clean books some of the girls tutored one-to-one made huge strides in improving their handwriting skills. Leaving in a couple of days I realise that there is so much more to do. So here is my appeal: PLEASE become a CITTA-Auntie! If you want to find out more, please contact the Parish Office and they will put you in touch with me.

BARBARA SCHWEPCKE

An ABC of the CofE: Music

We continue our series introducing significant parts of the life of the Church of England.

The reasons for singing in church are as much practical as spiritual. Singing carries better than speech in a large building. Singing brings both solemnity and joy to church. And it is easier for people to sing words at the same time than it is to speak them. A strong hymn tune with a regular metre allows congregations to present words with fervour (particularly at Christmas – for some people the only time they attend church during the course of a year). Also, it's easier to sing for a long time than it is to speak loudly or shout – football crowds, for instance, understand this well. Most importantly, singing is good for you. One of the many horrors of lockdown was that people who had been used to singing together regularly (even people who hadn't put themselves down as particularly adept or committed singers) were denied the chance. Singing together is beneficial, both physically and mentally.

And what of the organ? The 'King of Instruments', as described by Mozart, is essentially an orchestra in a box; admittedly quite a large and mechanically complicated box, but a box nevertheless. If I were to book an orchestra to play on a Sunday morning that emulated the force and variety of sounds that the organs in both of our churches can produce, then the bill would be several thousands of pounds per service (I can feel Samuel Ali and Rupert Jeffcoat asking for a pay-rise as they read this).

We are fortunate in the liberal catholic branch of the Church of England that we can, more or less, perform any music from any period as long as the text is appropriate to the liturgical calendar. Just taking the output of St Luke's Choir during the course of a year, we will sing medieval plainchant (every week), Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20th-century music, as well as a lot of music from our own century, much of it written specially for us (commissions from Oliver Tarney and Matthew Martin are in the pipeline as part of the St Luke's bicentenary celebrations) and the choir has just released a Naxos CD of some of the unrecorded sacred music of Philip Stopford. (We will hold our CD launch, with profound apologies for its postponement, on Friday 12 April at 7.00pm at St Luke's). While much of our choral output is in either English or Latin (and I've worked both in a Roman Catholic church where only Latin was allowed, and in a CofE church where only English was allowed), we also sing in French, German, medieval Spanish, Old Church Slavonic, Icelandic, and Zulu. And that's not to mention the occasional foray into folk and Gospel.

I love our choral offerings in Chelsea, but nothing gives me greater pleasure than to hear our congregations belting out a hymn. Singing is good for you: ask your GP and the Rector; they'll both tell you so. St Augustine was a fan of singing too: 'He who sings prays twice'.

JEREMY SUMMERLY



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YOUTH & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

ABC Toddler's Group Christ Church, Chelsea, supports and builds up ABC "Cristo Rey" Toddler's Group in Loja, Ecuador.



Last year, we started to work and build a connection with the church in Tierras Coloradas, in Loja, Ecuador. The area in which the church is located is very poor and there are lots of young mums with children who needed our help and support.



Diana Castillo, is a native of Ecuador and was a full-time nanny who lived and worked in London since 2016. She had been coming to our ABC group at Christ Church for the

past 4 years, and, in October, decided to return to Ecuador for good to start a new adventure – an ABC Toddler's Group in Loja.

In January, with our help, she was able to open "Christo Rey", where children come to play and

enjoy time together twice a week. "A free place where children under 4 years old, including babies, can educate themselves and learn by playing," advertises "Christo Rey's" poster. While the children are playing, their mums and/or carers can relax and enjoy refreshments and the company of others.

How does your donation help? £1 out of each £3 donation

per session at Christ Church is used to support ABC "Christo Rey" and makes a huge difference in a



toddlers' life in a far away land! Diana was able to buy toys from the local shops, which provided a great boost for the local economy.



"I'm very happy and grateful to see my daughter Rebeca sharing and interacting with other children, learning, and educating herself through play. That is great for a child's development, also, for me as a mother, to be able to enjoy and see the happiness of my child. We are all very grateful to you all in Christ Church for your donations, for the games and toys we have now, which are significant contributions to the development of the children. Thank you so much for making this possible for us."
Maria, Rebeca's mum.

"I'm very grateful for this group as my son is very demanding at home, so this is a very good opportunity for him to learn what it means to share with other children and people and all above to listen to me. Thank you all in Chelsea and to you Diana for organising this group for us in Loja."
Kati, Mateo's mum.

And I wish to say a huge heartfelt thank you to the ABC Toddlers' Group's parents/carers in Chelsea for your donations as they made a world of difference to the life of children in Loja! The plan is to spread more joy in the future as we aim to fund and open additional ABC toddlers' groups in the area.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Lots of Love, Anna

Hidden Treasures

For this edition of our Hidden Treasures, I would like to highlight the oasis that is the St Katherine's Foundation; particularly its tucked-away location, interesting history, and its use as a resource for visitors today. Before I get stuck in, it's worth mentioning that the Foundation is a special place for me personally. Located just minutes from my former address in East London, it was a place that I would regularly frequent to benefit from their extensive spiritual programme (such as daily offices and spiritual direction), as well as being the site where myself and 50+ other ordinands spent time on retreat in the days leading up to our diaconal ordination last summer.

The site itself is an interesting one. Nestled in the heart of Limehouse, it is surrounded by the busyness of East London: busy roads, a DLR station, and urban sprawl. Before entering, one can be forgiven for thinking that such an environment is counterintuitive for its design as a centre of silence, prayer, and retreat. When you walk in however, you are met with the distinct feeling that you have stepped out of that world and have entered into a place of peace and calm. The sounds of London may certainly be there, but they are juxtaposed with the tranquillity of its inner garden and surrounding chapel, quiet rooms, dining hall, and fountains, all of which are hidden gems in and of themselves. Sitting inside of a wider precinct, the Foundation shares its space with its own cafe in a Yurt (the only one in London), as well as a fabulous outside area with a stage for live music which they often hire out. More broadly, the site is surrounded by charming East London treasures, including the ancient church of St Dunstan and All Saints Stepney (my former church!), the Limehouse Basin, and a number of charming riverside pubs, such as The Grapes (owned by Sir Ian McKellen - Gandalf's staff sits behind the bar!).

The history of St Katherine's is as eclectic as the site it now occupies. Over 900 years old, the Foundation was first established by Queen Matilda in 1147, setting the precedent for all subsequent Masters of the community to be appointed by the Queens of these isles. Originally occupying land beside the Tower of London, the Foundation was relocated to Regent's Park in 1825 to make way for the docks that would come to bear its name. Although no remnants of the original exist today, a visit to St Katherine's docks tells of the person of St

Katherine herself, the Foundation, and the history of East London in that locale (particularly in the underpasses that connect the Tower, Docks, and Royal Mint). The Foundation returned to East London in 1948 at the behest of the people of Tower Hamlets, who wished that this ancient community would once more reside in the East after its (apparently rather sleepy) existence in the West.

Today the Foundation provides welcome respite for visitors in a number of ways. The most accessible is in the form of the aforementioned Yurt Cafe and wider precinct, but pilgrims to this Hidden Treasure can also venture into the site itself, either by visiting to look around (check there

isn't anything going on first) but also by booking into one of their quiet days or open reflective days, often accompanied by a speaker. These are particularly suitable for those who would otherwise struggle to attend a longer retreat owing to distance, family commitments, or work reasons. Unlike other retreat centres which are often supported by religious communities, St Katherine's relies on a committed team of staff and volunteers who support the Foundation both in its secular and spiritual outputs; you will often see the people at morning prayer taking a shift in the Yurt, as well as the Master leading worship before grabbing a coffee and welcoming guests. It is well worth a visit whatever you find there!

BAXTER MCROLSTON



*St Katherine's Foundation Chapel
Photo Credit: Baxter McRolston*

Youth Club Happenings

In the new year, we re-started our youth club with some exciting new changes, meeting weekly being the biggest one. This has worked immensely well and has provided so much opportunity for attention and depth of conversation with our younger and older teenagers. We've been going strong with weekly meetings and imagining the future of youth club at St Luke's and Christ Church. Here are some updates of what we've been up to!

Guess the game!

In February, our young people were able to attend a gathering of youth clubs from across London for an evening of fun, games, food, and worship. Almost 80 young people gathered

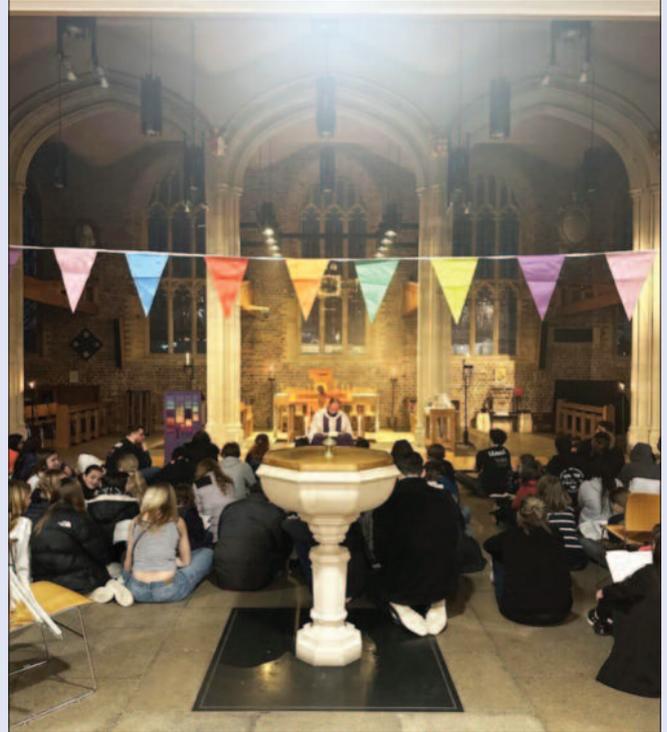


together, and it was truly so fun. Fr Baxter and I both got to join in. It was such a treat and so encouraging to see so many young people gather for games and then sit in worship together. I got to help with communion and bless the young people that came and received. What a gift!

Worshipping together

As I write this, we are in the middle of finishing our planning for our yearly tutoring program, STEP-UP. This takes place during the Easter holidays, April 2-5, and is a week of supplemental education for our young people who are

approaching their GCSE or A Level exams. I am sure you have either read about it in last month's magazine or in our weekly pew sheet, and I am so



thankful for all the encouragement we have received whilst prepping for this week of learning. Depending on when you lovely people receive this edition of our magazine, we will be in the midst of learning or will have finished up the week. I ask for prayers of wisdom if we are learning, or prayers of thanks if we have finished! We cannot put on events like this for our young people or community without the generosity of our parishioners - whether you have given to us financially, with your time, or with your prayers, thank you so much! We are all in this together.

We are looking for volunteers for our youth club! If you are a young adult, a new parent, an empty nester, or an older adult, please consider coming by and joining us for an evening! Our teenagers are pretty incredible kids. Don't let them intimidate you, they are all bark and no bite! It is such a privilege to be able to work with them during such a formative time in their lives. Please reach out to me if you'd like to hear more. My details are on the contact page in the magazine. Speak soon and God bless!

MADY MCDANIEL

Guides



We are delighted that Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are again having regular meetings in St Luke's Hall on Tuesday evenings. There are still places available in each group so please see timings, age groups and contact details on page 10.

If, in general, you would like more information about girl guiding, please go to girlguiding.org.uk Girl guiding is a place where you can explore the things you love and do things you have never done before. It's a wonderful way to enrich and expand your horizons.

At each unit meeting we work in groups with the girls and follow a programme that enables them to earn their skill building badges. In addition, we play games and explore and do a variety of interesting things.

And sometimes we even have foreign visitors. Recently, two leaders from Vancouver, a bustling west coast seaport in British Columbia, came to our meeting to tell us about girl



guiding in Canada. Living in such a beautiful city means the Vancouver group is very committed to looking after the environment. During their visit, we played games that they play in their unit and talked about the things they do. We were very kindly given cards, badges and stickers from the Vancouver Brownies. And just as girl guiding promises, all enjoyed making new friends, having fun and learning new skills.

ALICIA GEORGE-HILLIARD

The Choir of Girton CD

The Choir of Girton College, Cambridge, conducted by Christ Church Director of Music, Gareth Wilson, released a CD of Music for Holy Week & Easter by Marc'Antonio Ingegneri (1535/36-92) on Friday 15th March. Girton Choir are joined by the Historic Brass ensemble The Western Wyndes as they trace a journey from Maundy Thursday through Good Friday to the Easter Vigil and Easter Day.

You can watch Gareth introduce the album using this QR code:



And you can order it to buy or download using this QR code:



A Triumphant Lent Series

This year we had an incredible Lent series by 4 very talented speakers, giving us an insight into the history of St Luke's given we are commemorating its 200th anniversary. A huge thank you to each of the speakers and everyone who came.



CONTACT PARISH OFFICE : 020 7351 7365

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brianleathard@chelseaparish.org

Associate Vicar: The Revd Dr Sam Hole
samhole@chelseaparish.org

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Children's Administrator: Anna Stamenova
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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

Sunday School takes place in term time during the Sunday services at St Luke's (10.30am) and Christ Church (11.00am). On the first Sunday of the month, Sunday School pauses at both churches as we gather for a **Family Service** (9.30am) at Christ Church. A crèche is available during all services.

ABC Club for parents, carers and toddlers, takes place on Thursdays from 10.00am-11.30am at Christ Church.

To find out more, contact Anna Stamenova, the parish Children's Administrator: annastamenova@chelseaparish.org

Youth

Youth Events for ages 11+ take place every Thursday. For more information contact Mady McDaniel, the parish Youth and Community Worker: madymcdaniel@chelseaparish.org

Uniformed Organisations

10th Chelsea Girl Guiding

Rainbows for 4 – 7-year-old girls. 4.30pm to 5.30pm on Tuesdays. 10thchelsearainbows@gmail.com

Brownies for 7 – 10-year-old girls. 6.00pm to 7.30pm on Tuesdays. 10thchelseabrownies@gmail.com

Guides for 10 – 14-year-old girls. 6.00pm to 7.30pm on Tuesdays. 10thchelseaguides@gmail.com

9th Chelsea Scouts

Squirrels are a new group for the youngest part of the Scout movement for 4 – 6-year-old boys and girls. It gives them a taste of what it means to be a Scout. 5.00pm to 6.00pm on Thursdays.

Beavers for 6 – 8-year-old boys and girls. 5.00pm to 6.00pm on Thursdays.

Cubs for 8 – 10½ year old boys and girls. 7.00pm to 8.30pm on Thursdays.

Scouts for 10½ – 14-year-old boys and girls. 7.00pm to 9.00pm on Fridays.

Explorers for 14 – 18-year-old boys and girls. 7.00pm to 9.00pm on Mondays.

To contact the 9th Chelsea Scouts (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) please email 9thchelseascouts@gmail.com

All Uniformed Organisation events take place in St Luke's Hall

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

FROM OUR REGISTERS

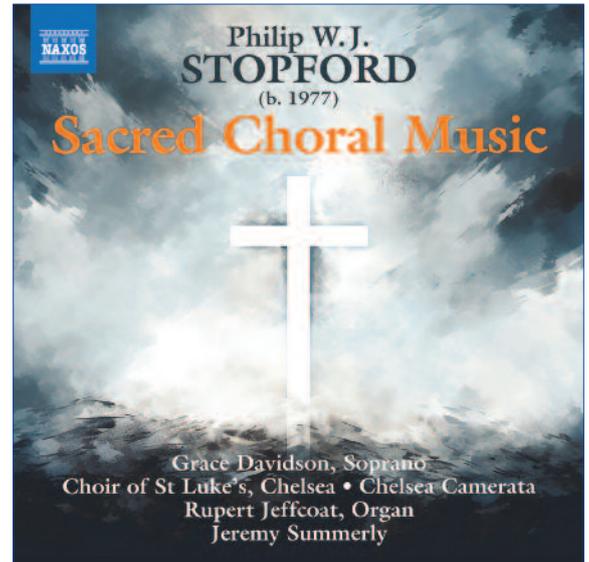


The baptism of Aurelia Taylor-Smith at St Luke's - with her parents Naomi & Max



Xanthe Rood's baptism at Christ Church - with parents Juliet & Simon and her brothers Albert & Edmund

CD Launch – St Luke's Choir



After a postponement, the launch of the St Luke's Choir's CD has been rescheduled! Please find the details below: Friday 12 April at 7.00pm at St Luke's. RSVP to parishoffice@chelseaparish.org

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Golden Charter 



And finally...



Being licensed at Christ Church

Hollywood likes to linger on the scene of final parting, the final conversations before two characters go their separate ways. The Bible doesn't usually do melodrama in quite the same way – although Jesus' words to his disciples over the Last Supper, and Judas' exit into the night, surely come close.



Baptisms

Anyway, the nature of deadlines is such that I have to write this final goodbye before my actual leaving. I presume that my final weeks, and the farewell party, will have been low on melodrama and betrayal, and high on thanksgiving for

everyone whose wisdom and company I've enjoyed over the last 4½ years. And I am hugely grateful for your generous well-wishing in sending me off.

There's, of course, so much of any job that goes unphotographed. The pastoral conversations; funerals and memorial services; school governor responsibilities at Chelsea Academy; the Food Bank;



So many children!



Lent Talks



With the parish retreat at Douai Abbey

sermon writing; magazine editing; preparation of weekly Sunday School resources; smaller group gatherings such as Working Faith; ...not to mention the 50 video services put together when we were unable to gather in person.



Weddings galore

I've also enjoyed a number of wider responsibilities that I've taken on, notably teaching theology at St Augustine's College, and meeting with individuals considering ordination. And I've been hugely fortunate to participate over the last two years in the Trinity Leadership Fellowship programme through Trinity Church Wall Street, which has brought me into contact with Christian ministers from around the world.

But given the modern motto, 'photos or it didn't happen', here, as I depart, are some of my favourite photos of my wonderful time in Chelsea.

SAM HOLE

