

# ST LUKE'S & CHRIST CHURCH CHELSEA

The Parish of St Luke's & Christ Church  
St Luke's Crypt  
Sydney Street  
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SW3 6NH  
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JULY / AUGUST 2024 PARISH MAGAZINE ISSUE NO. 226

WWW.CHELSEAPARISH.ORG

## Size Matters!

As you can see, we had a great Summer Fair on Saturday 8 June to which well over 1,000 people came. From bouncy castle to bric-a-brac, traditional teas and the bar, emergency services and band, with bunting galore and just a few drops of rain, we celebrated the presence of this church in the midst of this community.

The Deputy Mayor toured the stalls and braved the Tea Cup ride and so many local residents and visitors were able to relax and have family fun in a safe and enjoyable way in their church grounds.

Thank you to all who contributed to the day - in planning, donating, staffing stalls, setting up and clearing away. Without each one of you the day would have been diminished. And I think our Lord would have rather enjoyed it, for the Gospels show us a faith worked out in an incarnate way - all sorts of people included in celebrating, no one turned away, everyone included in the feast of life. Now that is Good News!



# Thank You - The Summer Fair 2024

The Summer Fair would not have been possible were it not for all the people that helped on or before the day. To the stall volunteers, all the donors and to those who gave their time, thank you, we couldn't have done it without you!

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The Builders Arms

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The Pie Man

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The Surprise Pub

The Sydney Arms

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Tom Kerridge

Wild Tavern

## The Story Behind The Photo

In December 1956, I ran away from a marriage proposal and visited my mother in Kenya who was living there with my stepfather. After 6 weeks, I was asked if I was going home or getting a job! So here I am at Nairobi airport as a ground hostess for East African Airways.

I wanted to learn about all aspects of the business, so originally I met all the passengers, as Nairobi was then the main transfer hub to other destinations in Africa. I would welcome them, arrange the transfers to their hotels and then weigh them in for their following flights.

I met some fascinating people including the Shah of Persia, Jomo Kenyatta (the then President of Kenya) and Joan Crawford, amongst many others.

I was quite mischievous at that time, and I had a little Renault 500. One of the ground engineers, created a pair of wings, saying 'Fly Cilla' and stuck them on the back of my car. One evening, when no one was around I was dared to drive around Nairobi terminal in the car!

I had always wanted to travel more and one evening a captain came to ask me if I wanted to fly to Aden with a replacement crew. I thought I was there to give the crew of five coffee and tea. But, having landed in Aden, I then went out to Karachi with the passengers.

Three months later, I applied for a position at British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) in the UK. Fortunately, one of the interviewers was a family friend from Nairobi and I managed to get through the interview with my second language being Swahili! I loved working for BOAC and travelled throughout the world from Tokyo to New York and from Lima to Hawaii amongst many other destinations. I spent five fabulous years with them until I married Ian in 1964.



CILLA FRAZER



## Anything But Ordinary!

How do you measure time? Or, to phrase the question better, in what ways do you tend to measure time?

On one level, we are all bound to the minutes and hours on a clock. But, beyond this, I think it's interesting how we imagine time as periods in our lives: home time, personal time, family time, time to go to school or to work, time to worship, or time to unwind, are just some examples I can think of.

Next to the clock, we also have calendars, where we measure time in weeks and months, fitting (relatively) neatly into a calendar year. Just as we might construct our own ways of managing time in our own personal lives, so too has the Church imagined ways of measuring time for us as the Faithful to navigate the year and to recognise certain periods that are particularly special.



One of these special times bears a rather unfortunate name: 'Ordinary Time', the long stretch of apparently monotonous 'Sundays after Trinity', when the church is awash with green vestments and altar frontals for almost half the year, a stark difference to its sister half of the year which includes All-Hallowstide, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Passiontide, Easter, Ascensiontide, and Pentecost (offering a veritable rainbow of liturgical colours and variety of themes for the faithful to navigate).

While Ordinary Time is comparatively less variable, it is, nevertheless, a vital period in the Church's navigation of time, not least in its opportunity to bring to focus shorter (but equally important) moments in its life as it navigates the great wheel of the year.

Ordinary Time makes space for our attention to focus on the witness of the saints and the traditions that surround their feast days in addition to the life of Christ, whose birth, ministry, life, death, and new life, are more deliberately illustrated in some of the seasons I mentioned earlier (on the other side of the liturgical year).

One example of these saints-days-with-traditions are the feasts of Petertide and Michaelmas, around which ordinations are commonly celebrated.



Another example are the various saints days whose feasts fall on the quarter and cross-quarter days which align with the agrarian cycle and the movement of the earth around the sun, such as St. John's day on the 24th of June, close to the summer solstice on the 21st.

Beyond the saints days, the Church is also able to use this time to create opportunities for local events for the communities they serve, such as our Summer Fair at the beginning of June and our Summer Programme in August.

Ordinary Time always falls over the summer, which (however tepid as of this writing) should give us a time to relax somewhat, either in the form of taking holidays or finishing up school for the year. However we choose to navigate this long stretch of time, it's worth doing so in the spirit of recalibration and grounding that this great season provides.



For a long time, I have loved this corner of London for the superlative British Red Cross charity shop on Old Church Street (which has supplied me with knitwear for several winters now), John Sandoe Books, and finding solace in the Peter Jones café on dreary winter afternoons.

I had also known about St Luke's and Christ Church from my friends Mother Emma Smith and Fr Jack Dunn (a fellow canon with me in Chichester) and I also had the pleasure of working with Jeremy Summerly when I was a chaplain in Oxford. Based on their extremely positive reports of the parish over the years, it's with real enthusiasm that I'm joining you this summer as your new associate vicar.

I come to you from Chichester having never lived in London. Chichester seems to have a fair few people who have lived in Chelsea themselves at some point (albeit often during a period when you walked down the King's Road barefoot smoking something illegal). I come to you after five years as a residentiary canon, first as Chancellor, and, more recently, as Precentor. As such, I have variously had responsibility in the cathedral for schools, learning and engagement, the care of visitors and pilgrims, liturgy and music and, with others, sharing in the pastoral care of our congregation. I've also loved being chaplain to our choir school and being a governor of the University of

Chichester and am very much looking forward to working with Christ Church Primary School and the Chelsea Academy in this new role.

Prior to the cathedral, I was, for three years, the director of ordinands for the Diocese of Chichester, living in Brighton. It was a role which was largely about working with individuals exploring their vocation in life, but it also sent me out across Sussex promoting ordained ministry. Both as a canon and Diocesan Director of Ordinands I have learnt a vast amount in eight years – not always easily, not least during the pandemic – about God, ministry, and what it means to hold 'treasure in clay jars' (2 Corinthians 4.7).

I often asked candidates for ministry about what it is that brings them most joy in their day-to-day lives as



a means of exploring what it is that God might be calling them to. Asking that question of myself recently, it became clear to me that this was in fact pastoral care and teaching. As such, while being a canon has brought many exciting opportunities, it has

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# Dan Inman!



also required a large amount of committee work, trustee roles and paperwork. While contemporary parish life is not immune from this, of course, I did nonetheless feel that the next step for me was not more of the same (or worse) but, in fact, a return to the heart of pastoral ministry in the Church, namely the parish.

Having been to school in Hampshire and read Theology at Oxford, I trained at Cuddesdon, undertook my training in the very lively rural parish of Deddington with the Barfords in north Oxfordshire with a selfless incumbent, and, subsequently, returned to The Queen's College as its chaplain and a junior research fellow for three years.

I'm a church historian by training so I have also done bits and pieces of lecturing, writing and teaching along the way, and, more recently, have enjoyed leading retreats and writing about spirituality. In particular, Chichester has given me a real love for exploring the relationship between faith and the arts (the cathedral is famous for it in the twentieth

century) and while there I've had the joy of working with three liturgical artists in establishing the ecumenical Chichester Workshop for Liturgical Art ([www.chichesterworkshop.org](http://www.chichesterworkshop.org)) which seeks to renew the tradition of traditional liturgical art in British church life. I hope I can share some of this with you, and, to support that aspect of my vocation, I'm undertaking a (very) part-time MA at the Warburg Institute over the next three years to deepen my knowledge of Renaissance art, in particular; August is going to be largely being spent recovering my A-level Latin.

The heart of Christian ministry, for me, finds some recognition in Prospero's question to Miranda in *The Tempest*: 'What seest thou else?' (1.2.61). It's about learning to enlarge our vision of life in the presence of Christ, in our joy and grief, in the sunlit uplands of life and in the shadow of death. To do so is the amazing privilege of being a parish priest and perceiving, with those entrusted to my care, that 'something else' which is often nothing less than a glimpse of 'Heaven in ordinary'. I hope I can serve you well in this respect and look forward to getting to know you all, and the parish more generally, this coming autumn.

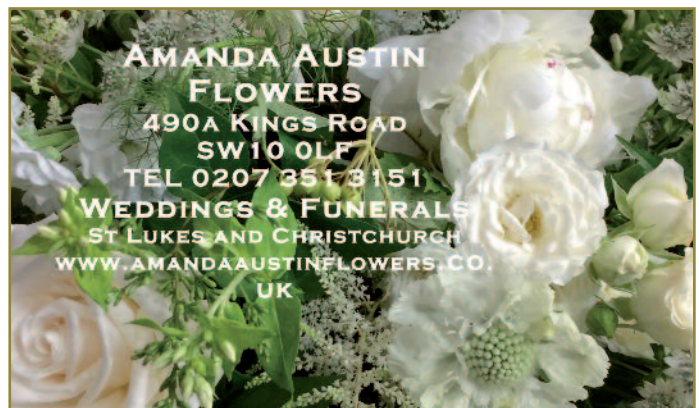


FR DAN



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## Ginny Thomas Reflects on Her Career and Time at St Luke's and Christ Church

My association with St Luke's and Christ Church began before I was appointed honorary curate in 2000. The Revd Christopher Kevill-Davies had kindly agreed to sponsor me while I was preparing for ordination after I had completed my Masters of Divinity at Yale. As is customary in serving for my title, I served as deacon in my first year and was priested in 2001. I was then able to fully participate in serving the congregation and parish.

Some activities that gave me particular pleasure included being part of the Bible study group that met at Vickie McNair's, visiting parishioners - both on the Sutton Estate and further afield - and introducing and leading a regular play and worship morning for pre-school children.

Morning and Evening Prayer, which were said regularly in the PIFFA chapel, came to have special resonance when we visited our daughter in Pakistan in 2022. During our visit, we were able to visit St Luke's church in Abbottabad where there are many memorials to the British presence.

In the autumn 2004, I took up a position at St Mary The Boltons, initially for three months before being appointed as priest-in-charge and subsequently as vicar. I spent 10 happy years there serving the congregation and parish. In addition to daily clergy responsibilities, highlights included pilgrimages to Lindisfarne, Spain, and Waldsassen in Bavaria. The latter was in connection with the handblown glass for the striking Craigie Aitchison memorial window.

I had planned to retire in 2012 when my husband, Patrick, retired but stayed on to see the dedication of the Craigie window in 2013. But a chance (?) meeting with the Bishop of Dorchester in the Oxford diocese

led me to apply for the position of vicar of the Tew Benefice, near Chipping Norton, to which I was appointed in the summer of 2014. The benefice consisted of three churches: St Michael and All Angels, Great Tew; St John the Evangelist, Little Tew, and St Nicholas, Heythrop.

Each parish had its own identity but through joint services and activities we were able to come together as a community. The services included an Advent carol

service in the Norman chapel (once belonging to a priory on the site) in Heythrop but little used due to the absence of heat and light. Another service saw an animal blessing that included lamas, monkeys, skunks and a giant tortoise from 'Amazing Animals' in Heythrop. At Little Tew, the children in the Benefice came together to take part in Easter and Christmas stories on Good Friday and Christmas Eve.

A major project at St Michael's and All Angels was the building of an extension to house a vestry, small kitchen, storage space and loos. Thanks to the generous support of Nicholas Johnson, the owner of the Great Tew estate, and many others the vestry was completed in 2020.

With the vestry nearing completion, the time had finally come to retire after 20 years of ministry. Patrick and I moved to Headington, Oxford, where we are happily settled and now worship at St Andrew's, Old Headington, where we were married 54 years ago.

I always enjoy visiting St Luke's and catching up with the clergy and administrative staff. It is a great privilege to be invited to preach during St Luke's 200th anniversary year and I look forward to seeing you at St Luke's on Sunday 8 September.

GINNY THOMAS





# Writing Chelsea Project for St Luke's 200th

From Charles Kingsley to Charles Dickens, Chelsea has long been home to great writers and social thinkers. After a year of searching and sorting in the St Luke's archive, we have uncovered a wealth of amusing and moving written text in our church records.

It is clear that our parish has a rich and interesting literary heritage so to celebrate this, and as part of the St Luke's 200th anniversary events, we are



*Jane Baillie Carlyle (née Welsh) by Robert Scott Tait. albumen print, April 1855. Given by Christopher Geoffrey Woolner, 1975. Copyright of the national portrait gallery.*

*Jane Carlyle (1801 – 1866) wrote often of her life in Chelsea and visits to St Luke's and the rectory.*

launching the Writing Chelsea Project. From September, we will be running a series of writing workshops about inspiring writing and writers who demonstrate that great prose – captivating storytelling, moving text and brilliant description – takes many forms.

Sixty Year 6 students from Holy Trinity and Christ Church Primary Schools and five Year 9s from Chelsea Academy are taking part, plus we will gather a group of five adults to participate. Two writers from our congregations – Emma Darwin and Tom Mogford – are guest speakers. Peter



ST LUKE'S 200  
PARISH CHURCH OF CHELSEA 1824 – 2024

Harrington Rare Books have invited the Chelsea Academy students and adult group on guided visits of their Fulham Road shop, and they will send specialists with treasures from their collection to visit the primary school students in their

classrooms. Finally, The Charles Dickens Museum and the National Trust's Carlyle's House, are hosting all participants for tours of the writers' houses.

The project will culminate with an evening at St Luke's on the 10th of October when, through readings from novels, newspaper articles and letters as well as contributions from the workshops' participants, we will paint a vibrant picture of our parish life in the last 200 years.

The project has been made possible through the generous support of the Peter Harrington Foundation.



*Copyright: The Charles Dickens Museum.*

*48 Doughty Street, where Charles and Catherine Dickens moved to a year after their marriage at St Luke's, now the The Charles Dickens Museum.*

The workshops will run for four weeks from 9 September. If you are interested in participating in the workshops or making any other contribution, please contact our Church Youth and Community Worker, Mady McDaniel (MadyMcDaniel@chelseaparish.org) for further information.

LOUISA PRICE

## On Ordination: Thanksgivings and Blessings

On the 11th of June 2023, I bid my former community of Westcott House farewell and arrived in London to prepare myself to be made deacon and to begin my curacy with you in Chelsea. Exactly one year later, I found myself sitting in the pews of St Mary Abbots Kensington to rehearse my priesting service,



where my Kensington-area colleagues and I were bid to contemplate the change about to be conferred upon us by the bishop.

Chief among the changes from deacon-to-priest is to preside at the Eucharist (Holy Communion) and to offer blessing upon God's people, both of which I was able to do for the first time over the following weekend. It was a monumental privilege; the result of



years of study, prayer, and discernment... and words cannot accurately contain the feelings that come with such an occasion. 'Immense' is probably the closest adjective I can muster!

Eucharist and blessing. No matter how novel these are for me as a new priest to perform, they are charisms that I am intimately familiar with beyond

their specific manifestations of Holy Communion or in the pronouncement of the Trinitarian formula of 'Father, Son, and Holy Spirit' when making the sign of the Cross.

'Eucharist' means thanksgiving, and I have a lot to be thankful for. To the clergy who have guided me and set themselves as examples for me to emulate. To the people of the churches I have been a part of in London, Cambridge, Aberdeen, and Brighton. To the teachers (on earth and in heaven) who have encouraged me to explore the mystery of faith in academic and personal capacities. And to my friends, family, and loved ones, chief among them Jimmy, whose support (and often patience!) has kept me steady as growth has demanded changes in circumstance and character. Each of you (and there are too many to name individually) have been a blessing in my life; I am reminded of the words of the great priest and poet John Donne

(sometime Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral), who famously stated that 'no man is an island'.

As much as this priesting has meant to me as an individual, it has been borne out of an immense love and nurturing grace in the people I have been blessed to have

known, in whose image I have come to know the God that we call Father, Mother, Saviour, Friend, Comforter, Spirit. You have made him known to me; I pray that in my priestly ministry I will faithfully make him known to you in both thanksgiving and blessing, in Eucharist and in faith, in friendship and love, until my days are spent, and I am called home. In short, and from the words that close our worship: Thanks be to God!



BAXTER MCROLSTON



# YOUTH & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



*“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”  
Isaiah 55:12*

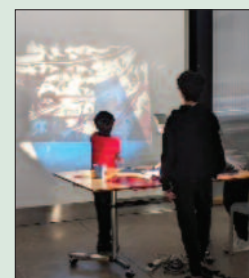
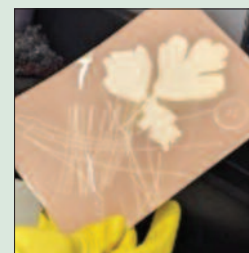
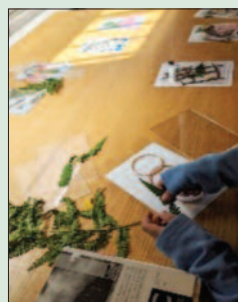
Sunday School children of both churches were very excited and worked very hard this last year to learn about God's love for us and for others, Jesus's Ascension, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon us and more. They made beautiful crafts and talked about their learning and experiences at the end of the sessions.

The Bible stories in the Sunday School are presented in language understandable by children and they are often engaged in the story telling. Their listening

Thank you to the leaders and helpers and parents and carers for their huge help, devotion and time in making Sunday School an enjoyable place for children to learn about God's love and working together as a team.

## Children's Activities During the Half Term

On Wednesday 29 May, we went to a workshop at the V&A Museum that experimented with new photography techniques. The workshop was led by artists Chahine Fellahi and Kaïs Aïouch from the Kimiā Collective.



skills are improving as fewer parents are now coming to the Sunday School, which is more beneficial for the children and at the same time provides parent/carers a quiet time for themselves attending the church service.

During the Summer Fair, children decorated special paving stones for our Eco-Corridor, which is located behind St Luke's church. The paving stones will be there forever, so, in years to come, those who decorated the paving stones can come and visit their handiwork. In addition, each paving stone will be registered in the archives so when the church is 400 years old, there will be a record of each tile for visitors to refer to.

Children played with images using materials, tools, and skills from early photography to the modern day. They created images and expressed themselves by telling a story about themselves with one technique or using layered-up different techniques, made their own camera and created photographs without even using a camera! The children had an amazing time and very joyful day.

I wish you a cheerful and delightful summer and see you in September!

God be with you!

Love, Anna

## 200 Stepping Stones

When we first thought about the appropriate way to commemorate the 200th anniversary of St Luke's it became clear that we should honour the past, find a sustainable way to finance the present, as well as look forward to the future. I took on the third challenge and tried to come up with 200 ways to make our parish sustainable for the next 200 years.

Guided by Fr Brian's inspirational address to the APCM, when he appealed to us to focus on the health of our community, I would like to propose



that the Eco-Corridor, one of 200th anniversary projects, fulfils this aspiration in three ways: firstly by integrating at least 200 medicinal plants into this strip of land at the east side of St Luke's Garden which is currently a wasteland we hope to heal the body; secondly by choosing at least 200 plants that attract pollinators we can make our small contribution towards healing the planet by supporting biodiversity in the middle of our great city; and finally by involving at least 200 parish members in this joint effort we pray to heal the soul of our community.

The first step towards this joint community effort was realised at this year's Summer Fair, when, thanks to the great efforts of Anna Stamenova, the Sunday School children were offered the opportunity to decorate paving stones with colourful mosaic crystals. The children who wanted to take the creations home were, of course, able to do so. But those who decided that the paving stones should become part of the 200th anniversary project could choose the location where their stones will be set firmly in the path, which will wind its way through the Eco-Corridor.

If you missed your chance at the Summer Fair, don't worry - there are 200 stepping stones, each beautifully different and each full of joy and colour, that can be "adopted" (for a fee). The number on their side corresponds to a page in a book, where whoever adopts the stone can write something, be that a commemorative note to the past or a message to the future. Or possibly only: Thank You, St Luke's, for 200 years!



BARBARA SCHWEPCKE



# FROM OUR REGISTERS



Charlotte Quinn's baptism at Christ Church - with parents Isobel & Jonathan



Leonardo Giannella's Baptism at St Luke's



Leonardo Verdicchi with family and friends at his Baptism in Christ Church



Sarah Wilson & Joe Thompson's wedding at St Luke's. Photo by Inna from andyourstory.com




Mila D'Aubney's baptism at St Luke's with big sister Sienna and parents Jade & Arron

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# CONTACT PARISH OFFICE : 020 7351 7365

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**Associate Vicar:**

**Curate:** The Revd Baxter McRolston  
baxtermcrolston@chelseaparish.org

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

**General Enquiries**

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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,  
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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:10thchelsearainbows@gmail.com)

**Brownies** for 7 – 10-year-old girls. 6.00pm to 7.30pm on Tuesdays. [10thchelseabrownies@gmail.com](mailto:10thchelseabrownies@gmail.com)

**Guides** for 10 – 14-year-old girls. 6.00pm to 7.30pm on Tuesdays. [10thchelseaguides@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

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



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