



Celebrating another 200th: Art and Faith this Lent

In the same year that St Luke's was consecrated, further east another new institution – no less significant in London's history - was being established.

1823 saw the purchase by the nation of a collection of paintings belonging to the financier and collector John Julius Angerstein. This group of mainly Italian works, including Sebastiano del Piombo's *The Raising of Lazarus*, formed the beginnings of The National Gallery – opened in May 1824 at 100 Pall Mall where it resided until the construction of its Trafalgar Square home in 1838. Unlike the nationalisation of royal and princely collections in Florence (the Uffizi) or the Bavarian royal collection in Munich (the Alte Pinakothek), The National Gallery sought to establish a truly national collection that was available to all for free – a magnificent objective sustained to this day. As the Gallery celebrates its bicentenary with us, it seemed like a good time to shape our Lent course around some of its greatest paintings and to use its rich collection to help us think more deeply about our own faith.

We might reasonably ask what art has to do with Christian faith? After all, the Second Commandment is very clear that no human handiwork can make representation of God and, indeed, throughout Christian history there have been those who have objected strongly to Christian art in churches on this basis – think

of the whitewashing and damage to statuary and visual art during the Protestant reign of King Edward VI (1547-53), for example.

One theologian who explored this question helpfully is Gregory of Palamas, a Byzantine theologian and archbishop of the fourteenth century. He defended the use of imagery, and icons in particular, by drawing a distinction between God's essence and his 'energies'. While God's essence is unknowable and incomprehensible to humans, he argued that God's energies, or actions, are revealed to us in creation and made supremely visible to us in the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. Thus, Christian art and icons are not representations of God's essence (thus subject to the judgment of the Second Commandment) and they are certainly not to be worshipped. Rather, they are windows into the divine energies which, beyond the Sacraments, reassure us that we are always surrounded by the heavenly company and the deeper reality of God's sustaining presence in Christ. Painting, icons, woodwork, beautiful vestments and, by extension, our choral music are all ways in which, by God's grace, we are transported into the forecourts of Heaven itself.

Our celebration and indeed patronage of Christian art is all the more important in our own highly visual age (think of Instagram and TikTok) – it is nothing less than a means by which God's beauty and goodness are made visible. The National Gallery has embraced the role of faith in its own collection impressively since Neil MacGregor was its director at the turn of the century and, even if you can't join us on one of our tours in Lent, try and find half an hour this spring to sit in front of one of the collection's greatest works of Christian art. May it be for you a window into Heaven itself.

FR DANIEL INMAN

Use this link to view 'The Raising of Lazarus' Painting:
<https://tinyurl.com/24hwkwar>

A Fresh LOOK!

As you may have noticed we have taken the decision to re-design the parish magazine!

With the celebration of the 200th anniversary of St Luke's and the moving to an online magazine, we thought a fresh look was in order. We are also hoping to get some fresh ideas for articles and writers!

So, if you think you may have something to share like a famous family recipe, a story behind an interesting photograph, a book/ film review, or anything you think people may enjoy reading please do not hesitate to get in touch with **Millie at milliekirkland@chelseaparish.org**

Everyone has an interesting story, and we would love to share some of them!

Snowdrops at Candlemas

Snowdrops are also known as Candlemas Bells. They are known to symbolise hope, and new beginnings, surviving the harsh cold days and bringing the promise of Spring.

Historically snowdrops were gathered at Candlemas and used as decoration in churches in England before the reformation which brought about the Church of England in the 1530s.

Candlemas, celebrated on 2nd February, is also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ and the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary. Snowdrops became a symbol of purity and were therefore representative of this popular Christian festival. It was deemed bad luck to pick snowdrops before the day of Candlemas; if this was done it was believed to represent parting or mourning instead of hope and purity.

Keep an eye out in St Luke's garden, as we often have many pop up!



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What is the bestselling Christian book of all time?

Perhaps to no one's surprise it is none other than the Holy Bible, which (according to the *Guinness Book of World Records* in 2021) was estimated to have sold upwards of five billion copies since the first printed Bible was produced in Mainz (in now-modern Germany) in 1454, more commonly called the 'Gutenberg Bible' after the inventor of the mechanism which allowed for its more-efficient creation.



But what is the second bestselling Christian book of all time? We keen Anglicans may hasten to assume it is our own 1664 *Book of Common Prayer* (which is certainly a good guess) but in reality, it ranks in third place after a text older than both the BCP and the Gutenberg Bible (in publishing terms): *The Imitation of Christ* (1424-1427). Popularly attributed to Thomas à Kempis (b. 1379/80), *The Imitation* draws from a rich tradition of devotion to Christ as revealed in Holy Scripture, seeking to encourage Christian believers to respond to the wisdom contained therein through practical means in their daily lives. À Kempis himself is critical of those who would otherwise understand the message of the Bible but fail to implement it, challenging the reader: 'if you know the whole Bible by heart and the teachings of all the philosophers, what good would that be without the grace and love of God'? We hear this sentiment echoed on

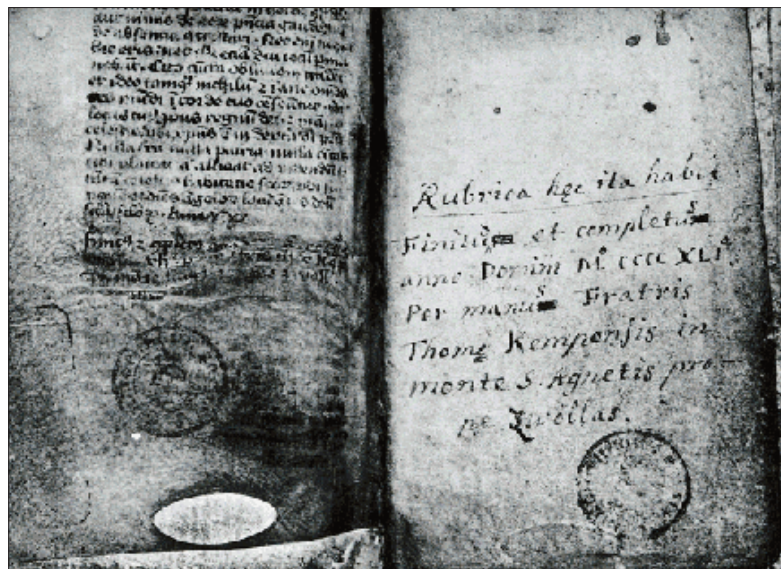
the Second Sunday in Advent during the Collect, which beseeches God to aid us in our learning of the Holy Scriptures so that 'we may inwardly digest them'; a delicious phrase that evokes memory of Jesus bidding his

followers to take and eat of his own body and blood that we may become nourished from the inside spiritually and thus outwardly nourish those who surround us, imitating Christ's self-giving work of charity, love, and mercy. Imitating Christ in this way is vital for the wellbeing of our souls and the communities we occupy. We were reminded of this in stark detail last month following the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 47th president of the United States, where (during the National Prayer Service at the

Mariann focused on mercy as the chief quality of God for the President to imitate, for it speaks to the management of power and the difficulty in using it as a means of treating those whom we deem to be 'other', especially when election platforms in the West now frequently fall prey to an 'us' versus 'them' mentality.

The invitation to imitate Christ's mercy is a profoundly uncomfortable one for us to imitate as Christians, in whichever office or walk of life we tread. It demands us to acknowledge our own power, if not personally then by virtue of the time and space we occupy as people of the West in the 21st century, an age that beyond all others has the most access to not only the Bible by virtue of advanced industry and literacy, but also to the earth's resources and each other. Today, we must inwardly digest our own power

so that we outwardly show mercy to all those whom we encounter, for ultimately (in the last days, and in the words of Thomas à Kempis), "we shall not be asked what we have read but what we have done."



Thomas à Kempis's 1441 autograph manuscript of *De Imitatione Christi*. Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Brussel

Washington National Cathedral) bishop Mariann Edgar Budde bid President Trump "in the name of our God, to have mercy..." upon the people of his nation and the entire world. It is poignant that Bishop

Lent Course 2025: Meeting God in Mark

This year's Lent Course is an exploration of an often rather overlooked gospel - the Gospel according to St Mark - using a little book by Rowan Williams and paintings from The National Gallery (in its bicentennial year).

The course features three evening sessions, led by Fr Daniel, shaped around the book 'Meeting God in Mark' by Rowan Williams (SPCK, 2014). Alongside these evening sessions, there is a 45-minute Passiontide guided tour of a selection of paintings at The National Gallery led by Fr Daniel - offered both in an early afternoon and early evening slot. *Please contact the Parish Office to sign up.*

Books will be available to buy from the Parish Office.

11 March, 7.30-9pm

Session 1: The Beginning of the Gospel

18 March, 7.30-9pm

Session 2: Telling Secrets

1 April, 2pm: National Gallery Tour 1

(meeting at the Getty entrance on Trafalgar Square), followed by tea at the Crypt of St Martin in the Fields

4 April, 6pm: National Gallery Tour 2

(meeting at the Getty entrance on Trafalgar Square), followed by an early evening drink at a nearby hostelry!

8 April, 7.30pm

Session 3: A lifelong passion



Raphael, The 'Mond' Crucifixion (c.1502-04)

NG200
200 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY

HIDDEN HISTORIES

LOUISA PRICE

Multi-talented musicians and a bit of Desert Island Discs at Christ Church

There is a memorial in Christ Church that is often overlooked. It is on the south windows of the nave (the main body of the church) and one needs to wait until the light is just right to properly appreciate it.

It is a diamond shaped etching in glass of a fragment of a Bach suite for solo cello, and the first movement of Schubert's Quintet in C major for two cellos, with a yew tree behind to symbolise everlasting resurrection. It was made by the musician and glass artist, Simon Whistler (1940-2005) in memory of a fellow musician Sheridan Russell (1900-1991).

Russell came from a London based, musical family (his father was a professional singer and opera director who co-founded the Boston Opera Company, his grandfather was also a singer and composer). He was an acclaimed cellist and was also partially deaf. He trained as a doctor and worked for British Intelligence during the Second World War. If this was not enough for one extraordinary life, Russell also founded the charity 'Paintings in Hospitals' which still runs to this day, and he was Head Almoner at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (Almoners are a type of social worker based in hospitals and Russell was apparently the first male Almoner in the UK). We are lucky enough to have a recording of his voice and a sense of his musical tastes, through his time as a guest on the BBC's Desert Island Discs in 1970.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p009nfrk#p009nfrk>

Winter Chili Beef Stew with Cucumber and Avocado Salad

This is a great dish to prepare in advance or cook and reheat the following day!

For the Winter Chili Beef Stew

Ingredients:

1 Kilo beef shin or braising steak cut into chunky cubes
2tbs goose fat
1 bell pepper, chopped
3-4 seeded chillies, diced (leave seeds in if you like it hotter)
2 cans diced tomatoes
285ml beef stock
1 large onion chopped in large chunks
1 tbsp Worcestershire Sauce
250g button mushrooms
Half bottle good red wine (I use Chianti)
2 tbsp tomato sauce
2 tbsp flour
Black pepper and salt to taste.

Method:

Heat a large casserole pan and add 1 tbsp goose fat. Coat the beef with seasoned flour, fry until golden brown, about 3-5 minutes, then turn over and fry the other side until the meat is browned all over, adding more fat if necessary.

Do this in 2-3 batches, transferring the meat to a colander set over a bowl when browned. Heat the oven to 150C/ fan 130C/ Gas 2

Fry the onions for around 5 minutes then add red wine to the pan, deglaze the bits at the bottom of the pan, bring the wine to a boil and add the beef, and the rest of ingredients (except mushrooms). Put into the pre-heated oven for about 2 ½ hours. Take out of the oven, stir and add mushrooms, check seasoning. Cook for a further 20 minutes. (If cooking in advance, add mushrooms when reheating.) Serve with good bread and the prepared salad.

For the Cucumber Avocado Salad

Ingredients:

3 medium cucumbers, cubed
2 avocados, cubed
¼ cup chopped fresh coriander
Salt and pepper to taste
Juice of 1 lime

Method:

In a large bowl combine cucumbers, avocados, and coriander. Stir in salt and pepper. Squeeze lime over the top, and toss. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

JOHN MCVEIGH





"Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage. They opened their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh" Matthew 2:2, 11b

The story of the Epiphany illustrates God's fulfilment of prophecies which preceded the birth of Christ. They also show how important it is to follow Christ at any cost. The Wise men left their homes and travelled a long way to find and worship Jesus. We should be willing to do whatever is necessary to follow, as well.

The first event for the year was our children and family



Epiphany party. A huge thank you to all the children, parents and families and everyone who joined us to celebrate Epiphany at St Luke's. It was lovely to have so many people joining in all the activities. Rowan, mum of Rafael and Zain said: "Our little Kings and Queens started their journey singing and rejoicing with percussion instruments to O Star of Wonder Star of Night played beautifully by Father Dan on the piano." Next, we visited Father Baxter to learn more about the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh brought to Baby Jesus, even lighting some frankincense in the Chapel together. On to the biscuit decorating activity, our little Kings and Queens were getting hungry! Finally, a crown decorating activity to adorn our heads as we processed together with The Three Kings to the crib of Baby Jesus."



We had a joyful and exciting morning followed by pizza for all, with lots of smiling, happy faces and everyone had a very memorable day.

With Christmas and Epiphany celebrations over we are looking forward to the last of the three events of the Christmas season – Candlemas, also known as The Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

Thank you and keep Jesus in your heart!
Love, Anna

Step Up 2025

Monday 7th April – Friday 11th April 2025
STEP-UP (Studying, Tutoring, Exam Prep)
is a tutoring and revision programme for the young people of our parish who are aged 15 or older.

We hire a number of professional tutors in the subjects our teenagers need help in, so we are sure they are getting the assistance they need most.

The hope for this is that we will provide a quiet and helpful space for our young people to revise and give them a confidence boost when their summer exams begin. We want the young people of this parish to thrive in all aspects of their lives, and this is just one way we can do that.

If anyone might be able to make a monetary donation towards tutors etc that would be hugely appreciated. This is completely free for our young people to attend, and it is open for all of our students, but especially ones who may not have access to private tutoring. In previous years, this program has been made possible by incredibly generous parishioners. We are so grateful for the donations, and I ask that you consider donating this year so we can make the programme as helpful as possible. Any amount that you can give is so appreciated! If you are able, please reach out to **Fr Baxter at baxtermcrolston@chelseaparish.org or John in the Parish Office at johnmcveigh@chelseaparish.org**

Junior Choir: Looking back on our first year

In January 2024, twelve choristers met for the first time to form the Junior Choir of St Luke’s and Christ Church. Meeting weekly on Tuesdays after school to rehearse, the choir launched straight into preparing for services, with their first Eucharist on Sunday 11th February 2024.



The Junior Choir’s first rehearsal in St Luke’s Vestry, January 2024

Their first term culminated in the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, where they performed There is a green hill far away by Bob Chilcott and Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Since then, they have grown in confidence and contributed to key events in the church calendar, including the Christ Church Dedication Festival and the 200th Anniversary Service at St. Luke’s. They have tackled challenging choral repertoire, including Lift up



A group of our choristers pictured after their Christmas Concert performance, December 2024

your heads by William Mathias and O how amiable are thy dwellings by Ralph Vaughan Williams, as well as music for treble voices, such as How lovely are thy dwellings fair by Eric Thiman.

On Friday 6th December 2024, the choir performed their first ever Christmas Concert. It was an ambitious programme, and a challenge to sing a 40 minute programme without the support of our adult choirs, but the Junior Choir rose to the occasion and delivered a great performance for their friends and families.

The choristers are looking forward to continuing their contribution to the worship at our two churches in 2025. We are always happy to welcome new singers! If you know any children in school years 3-8 who enjoy music, please encourage them to sign up for an audition by emailing **Polina Sosnina at childrenschoir@chelseaparish.org**.

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A Connection to The Guides' Church – Mardan, Pakistan

Bishop Humphrey Peters, a Protestant Bishop in Pakistan wrote the following:

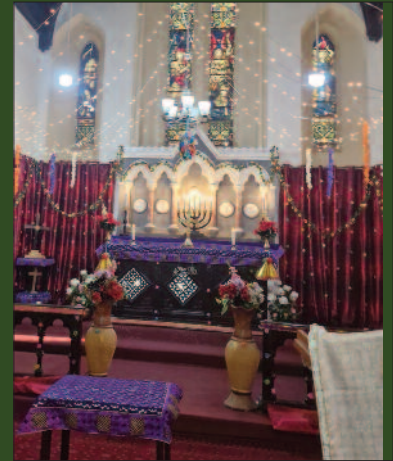
'There is a small connection between The Guides' chapel and St Luke's Chelsea in London. The Guides' Chapel is situated in an Army area but is part of our Diocese. It serves a small congregation of Christian soldiers and their families who come to worship here. The situation on the border with Afghanistan is challenging, and most of the men are stationed there. The local priest in charge asked me to spend time with the Christian Soldiers' families before Christmas, so we visited, which was somewhat encouraging for them.'



Outside the church is a board that says: 'The Guides' Church, dedicated to St Alban is unique in two respects; it is the only church in Pakistan which has graves in the churchyard, and the beautiful avenues of trees leading up to it make it resemble many English country churches. And no other regiment of the British army has its own free-standing church.

After the death of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Hutchinson near Rustam in 1886 in action, funds were raised to build this chapel as part of his

memorial. The foundation stone was laid by Lady Hutchinson on 24th March 1887. After independence in 1947, the Guides' Church was bequeathed to the National Church.

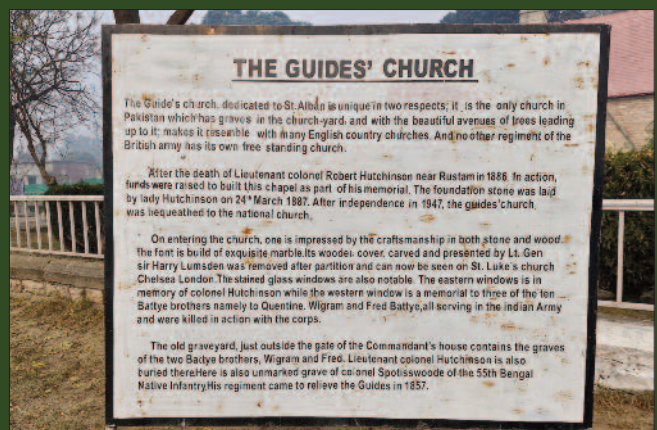


On entering the church, one is impressed by the craftsmanship in both stone and wood. The font is built of exquisite marble. Its wooden cover, carved and presented by Lt. Gen Sir Harry Lumsden, was removed after partition and can now be seen at St Luke's Church in



Chelsea. The stained-glass windows are also notable: the eastern window is a memorial to three of the ten Battye brothers, namely Quentine, Wigram and Fred Battye, who served in the Indian Army and were killed in action with the corps.

The old graveyard, just outside the gate of the Commandant's house, contains the graves of two Battye brothers, Wigram and Fred. Lieutenant Colonel Hutchinson is also buried there. There is also the unmarked grave of Colonel Spottswoode of the 55th Bengal Native Infantry. His regiment came to relieve the Guides in 1857.



Electoral Roll Renewal

Every church in the Church of England has a list or “electoral roll” of all people who have been baptised, are aged 16 or over, and who either live in the parish or have been attending the church for more than six months.

The total number of people on the Electoral Roll is forwarded to the Diocese of London, who are in overall charge of church finance and governance for the area. The size of our parish (measured by the Electoral Roll) can affect how many clergy are sent to work here, the number of representatives we can have on wider church bodies, and some fundraising applications. Being on the roll does not involve any further commitment from your side, or any obligations, but it does count for us, and means we have clearer records and are better able to assess which areas of the church are growing and which need more work.

Renewal of the electoral roll takes place every six years, which fall this year. In a year of renewal, no names are carried over from the old roll and everyone must make a new application to be included on the

new roll. In a couple of weeks please keep an eye out for the link to the sign up form, or printed copies will be available at the back of either St Luke’s or Christ Church – please fill it in and return to the parish office either by hand, by post or putting in the boxes at the back of each church. Please identify on the form which church you regularly attend, as although we are one parish, our constitution states the roll should be kept in two parts, one part for each of the churches.

By enrolling you become a voting member of the Church of England and so help to ensure that all the synodical councils of the Church, the PCC, deanery synod, diocesan synod and the General Synod are fully representative of its members.

A Notice of Preparation of New Roll will be displayed from no later than February 23 and the new roll will be displayed in the churches from May 1 until the APCM; only corrections can be made at this point, no names are to be added or removed until after the Annual Meeting where numbers of those included on the Roll has to be reported at the APCM. This year, the APCM will be held on May 14 at 19:00 in St Luke’s Hall, St Luke’s Street, with supper. Please RSVP to parishoffice@chelseaparish.org if you would like to attend the meeting.





CHELSEA ACADEMY FOUNDATION



Volunteering at St Luke's Summer Fair 2024

Chelsea Academy Foundation (Charity Number 1120784) supports Chelsea Academy on Lots Road, our local secondary school sponsored by RBKC and the Church of England. As a Christian school, central to the Academy's and the Foundation's community are the principles and values that are at the heart of the Christian faith.

The Foundation provides funding, volunteers and community engagement opportunities that focus on delivering programmes that

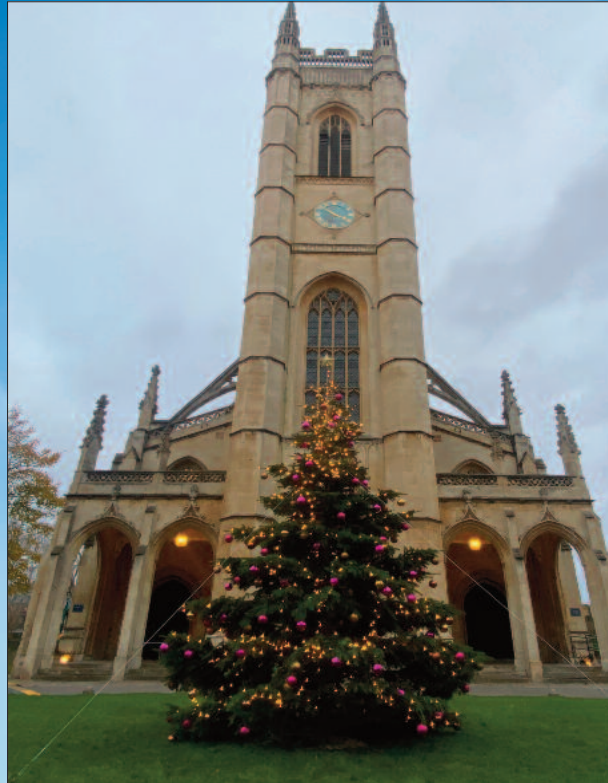
- broaden students' horizons
- narrow the social mobility gap and
- encourage students to flourish at Chelsea Academy and in the future.

To learn more about the Chelsea Academy Foundation or Chelsea Academy, please visit our webpage at <https://chelsea-academy.org/chelsea-academy-foundation/> To read our latest newsletter, please scan this QR code:



Thank you for your support!

Between St Luke's and Christ Church, the 2024 Christmas Season saw over 30 Christmas Carol Services or Carol Concerts! A huge number of charity services raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for incredible causes. A huge thank you to everyone who helped, donated or even just attended a service! Please find some images from the Christmas period below.



FROM OUR REGISTERS



Alessia Ahn's baptism at St Luke's



Oona Pilkington's baptism at Christ Church - with parents Davina & Fred and big sister Sylvie.jpg



The wedding of Sasha Sassoon & John Ireland at St Luke's



The baptism of Arabella Ishoy Graham at St Luke's



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Meet The Clergy



Rector:
The Revd Prebendary Dr Brian Leathard
brianleathard@chelseaparish.org



Associate Vicar:
The Revd Dr Dan Inman
danielinman@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

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



Churchwardens: Liz Brutus and Sophie Wilson
Director of Music: Jeremy Summerly j.summerly@icloud.com
Organist: Rupert Jeffcoat

CHRIST CHURCH

Christchurch Street,
London SW3 4AS



Churchwardens: Jonathan and Louisa Price
Director of Music: Gareth Wilson 07939 378 759
Organist: Joe McHardy

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

Services

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

Open for Prayer

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

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.

Youth & Childrens 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 Baxter McRolston at Baxtermcrolston@chelseaparish.org

We also have several uniformed groups supported by the Church. If you would like to find out more about these please scan this QR code:



Upcoming Events

- 04 March 2025** – Pancake Party in St Luke's Vestry
- 05 March 2025** – Ash Wednesday (Easter Services will follow in the next magazine)
- 11 March 2025** – Lent Talk Session 1: The Beginning of the Gospel
- 18 March 2025** – Lent Talk Session 2: Telling Secrets
- 30 March 2025** – Mothering Sunday
- 01 April 2025** – National Gallery Tour 1
- 04 April 2025** – National Gallery Tour 2
- 07 April 2025** – Step Up Tutoring Begins
- 08 April 2025** – Lent Talk Session 3: A Lifelong Passion
- 13 April 2025** – Palm Sunday