



Lutherans Up North

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

9 Alma Road, Headingley LS6 2AH

We celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday at 10.30 am.

Please join us.

Calendar

March – May 2017

March

- 3 Women's World Day of Prayer, St. Columba's URC, 2.00 pm
 - 5 First Sunday in Lent, Pastor Mark
 - 6 House Trust Annual General Meeting, 7.00 pm
 - 12 Second Sunday in Lent, Pastor Libby
 - 19 Third Sunday in Lent, Pastor Mark
 - 22 Meeting of Northern Pastors, 11.00 am
 - 26 Mothering Sunday, Pastor Libby
- Don't forget - Clocks go forward an hour*

April

- 2 Fifth Sunday in Lent, Pastor Libby
Pot Luck Lunch followed by St. Luke's Annual General Meeting
- 9 Palm Sunday, Pastor Libby
- 10 Unity Service at St. Luke's, 7.00pm led by Pastor Libby
(Churches Together in Headingley)
- 16 Easter Sunday, Pastor Mark
- 22 Lutheran Church in Great Britain Annual Synod, London
- 23 Second Sunday of Easter, Pastor Libby,
- 30 Third Sunday of Easter, Pastor Libby

May

- 7 Fourth Sunday of Easter, Pastor Libby
- 13 Parish Pot Luck Dinner and Quiz, 7.00pm
- 14 Leeds Half Marathon – There will be no service today
- 20 Fulneck Reformation Day Celebration
- 21 Sixth Sunday of Easter, Pastor Mark
- 28 Ascension Holy Communion, Pastor Libby

Contact details:

Pastor Libby Toomsalu: 01274 615 365
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Pastor Mark Hardy: 0779 552 2229
Deacon Seija Frears: 01904 705 238

Chair of the Congregation: Katrina Kay: 0790 8191 595
Organist: Nev Mosey: 01132 632 578
Church Warden: Eon Michaelides: 01132 759 042

***Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers,
for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels
without knowing it.***

Hebrews 13:2

Or there again, the stranger might just be a 'Mystery Worshipper' from the 'Ship of Fools.' One of the great things about belonging to a small church is that just about everybody knows everybody else, and there's a great feeling of fellowship and community, but this can also be daunting for any stranger who crosses the threshold and finds themselves in the midst of such a close-knit group. Are people so involved with each other that a newcomer might not feel welcome or find it hard to join in?

Thankfully, '*Shepherd in the Field*' didn't seem to have this experience when she came to St. Luke's on New Year's Day – in fact she rallied round to help out and felt that we specially wanted her to feel welcome:

"I helped out by moving the trays into the room and helping myself. Everyone chatted with me. I'm fairly sure that most of them stayed for coffee only because I was a visitor to be welcomed." You can read all about her experience below:

3104: St Luke's, Headingley, England

Mystery Worshipper: Shepherd in the Field.

The church: St Luke's, Headingley, West Yorkshire, England.

Denomination: Lutheran Church in Great Britain.

The building: Church House is a large, detached, solid-looking, dark stone building (very Leeds). Next to it is the chapel where services are held, which was converted from an outbuilding in 1983. Whilst the exterior is roughly in keeping with the main building, inside it is light, airy and beautifully decorated.

The church: Holy Communion services are held in English (weekly), Polish (monthly, first Sunday), and German (monthly, second Sunday), so the community is varied. Few of the church members are

local and each congregation is small.

The neighbourhood: Headingley is a suburb of Leeds, to the northwest of city centre. Headingley Stadium is home to the Yorkshire County Cricket Club as well as the Leeds Rhinos rugby league and Leeds Carnegie rugby union clubs, but this particular part of Headingley is nowhere near the stadium. Rather, it is dominated by the Arndale Centre shops and student accommodation. (There are twenty-three Arndale Centres throughout the United Kingdom; they were the first American-style shopping malls to be built here.) Jacqueline Hill, the last known victim of Peter Sutcliffe, the "Yorkshire Ripper," lived in Lupton Flats (one of the student accommodations) and was attacked near the church in 1980. As a student at Leeds in the 1980s myself, I always avoided this road. Pity – I missed out on discovering a gorgeous little chapel.

The cast: The Revd Libby Toomsalu, pastor, presided and preached. A gentleman named Nev played the organ. Nev has been the organist at St Luke's for 50 years (clearly man and boy, as he looks nowhere near old enough!).

The date & time: New Year's Day, 1 January 2017, 10.30am.

What was the name of the service?

New Year Holy Communion.

How full was the building?

The chapel is small, with a capacity of 50 at a push. There were six adults (including Nev) and two small children in attendance.

Did anyone welcome you personally?

I was welcomed with a smile and a "Hello, would you like a book?" as I entered. Everyone shook my hand and smiled as we exchanged the peace.

Was your pew comfortable?

I'm not a fan of chairs in church as a rule, but boy was mine comfy! Wooden with blue upholstery. My main problem was knowing when to use said chair. Sitting for hymns? Standing for prayers? Is that the

Lutheran way? I guess so!

How would you describe the pre-service atmosphere?

Although I arrived half an hour before the service, I wasn't able to enter the chapel until the previous service (Holy Communion in Polish) had finished, so there was no time for an atmosphere to develop. For the few minutes before the service started, people were fairly quiet.

What were the exact opening words of the service?

"Welcome" followed by a short apology for the late start to the service.

What books did the congregation use during the service?

A leaflet was provided for the liturgy, along with a separate sheet with the readings, psalm and the day's prayer on it. The hymn book used was *Hymns Old & New, Revised and Enlarged*.

What musical instruments were played?

Hymns and sung responses were accompanied by an electric organ. The sung responses were all set to the same tune, which was a relief, so that by the time we reached the eucharistic prayers I was able to have a stab at joining in.

Did anything distract you?

The stained glass window behind the altar is beautiful, and I found myself gazing at it frequently before guiltily bringing myself back to the service. I mentioned the window to Pastor Libby, who told me that it was made by a previous pastor's wife. Libby also told me that she loves it too and there are "so many things to find in it when you look." I wonder if she saw me staring.

Was the worship stiff-upper-lip, happy clappy, or what?

The worship was both liturgical and informal. Although there were only two children present, they were both asked to come up to the front and receive some New Year chocolate, which they both did

willingly. They both seemed clearly used to being in church. The older boy (about five) also took the collection bag around to all of us and then up to the altar. He handled it like a pro.

Exactly how long was the sermon?

6 minutes.

On a scale of 1-10, how good was the preacher?

8 – Pastor Libby looked and sounded as if she enjoyed preaching, which is too often an unexpected bonus.

In a nutshell, what was the sermon about?

The text used was from Luke 2 (the birth of Jesus and the shepherds' visitation). She started with a reference to the 1960s pop group The Spinners and ended with a reminder that, like the shepherds, we should be glorifying and praising God for all the things that we have heard and seen.

Which part of the service was like being in heaven?

When there are only six singers in the congregation it's hard for the singing to be heavenly, but I'm sure God was humming along and smiling with us as we attempted "While Shepherds Watched" to the Methodist hymn tune *Cranbrook* (better known as the Yorkshire folk song "On Ilkla Moor Baht 'at"). Fifty per cent of us had clearly attempted it before; I'm not sure that the other fifty per cent will attempt it again. Regardless, there was much smiling and you can't beat a good tune.

And which part was like being in... er... the other place?

The "hellish" things about the service were entirely due to my own limitations; I don't like sitting and standing at the "wrong" times as it disturbs my Anglican equilibrium.

What happened when you hung around after the service looking lost?

After the service everyone had a job to do, whether it was putting books away or taking the Christmas tree down. Thus, there was only the pastor to look lost to on the way out. She invited me to stay for coffee and took me to the main building, where eventually all of us were gathered. Pastor Libby has worked at a Church of England school as well as for a Methodist organisation and now (in her

retirement) for the Lutheran Church. I joked that she needed to "settle down and pick one," which led to several of us commenting that actually we don't need to pick one – we pick God, and he us.

How would you describe the after-service coffee?

The coffee and tea were prepared in jugs placed on trays, along with assorted biscuits, on a serving hatch across the corridor from the kitchen. This hatch opened onto the lounge, where I had been left on my own until the others had finished their post-service jobs. This was fine and I helped out by moving the trays into the room and helping myself. Everyone chatted with me. I'm fairly sure that most of them stayed for coffee only because I was a visitor to be welcomed.

How would you feel about making this church your regular (where 10 = ecstatic, 0 = terminal)?

8 – If the chapel were in my home town, then yes, I would go along sometimes and support this little group. They're all aware that their congregation is small and unlikely to grow, but I admire them for their tenacity.

Did the service make you feel glad to be a Christian?

A resounding yes!

What one thing will you remember about all this in seven days' time?

Two things: (1) The stained glass window; and (2) we don't need to pick. I'm not Lutheran, but for Christians "that which unites us is far greater than that which divides us."

The Mystery Worshipper, which produced this report, is run by shipoffools.com, the online magazine of Christian unrest. Mystery Worshippers are volunteers who visit churches of all denominations worldwide, leaving a calling card in the collection plate and posting a

first-timer's impression of services on Ship of Fools. For further reports, visit the Mystery Worshipper at: shipoffools.com.

St. Luke's AGM 2017

will take place on **Sunday April 2nd**. There will be a potluck lunch at 12 o' clock in the social room, followed by the AGM. Do please try to join us on that day.

**Churches Together in Headingley Unity Service for Holy Week
Monday April 10th, 7.00 pm at St. Luke's**

Once again, St. Luke's will be hosting the annual CTH Lent service and welcoming friends old and new to worship with us. The service, led by Pastor Libby, will be followed by refreshments in the social room, when there will be an opportunity to socialise and get to know each other better. Please join us if you can, and let Pastor Libby know if you can help with making tea/coffee after the service. Many thanks.

Easter Sunday, April 16th

Weather permitting, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt in the church garden after the service. Please join us – young and young in heart are welcome!

The **Lutheran Church in Great Britain Annual Synod** will take place at the International Students' Centre in London on Saturday April 22nd. Annette Higgins will be attending Synod as St. Luke's appointed representative.

Baptism

Some of you may have met Grey Kilas when he's been at church with his mum, Kari and dad, Grey. They will all be joined by family from far and wide on May 6th to joyfully celebrate Grey's baptism. Please come along to the service at 2.00 pm to welcome them

Parish Dinner and Quiz Night

After the wonderful success of the potluck dinner to celebrate Nev's 50 years as our organist, it has been suggested that we organise all future Parish Dinners in this way so that the burden of preparing a complete 3 course meal doesn't fall on just one or two people. There would no longer be a charge for the meal, but donations could still be made.

Pastor Libby will put up a notice so that you can let us know if you are preparing a starter, main course or dessert and whether it is a vegetarian and/or gluten free option.

It was also suggested that our tenants should be invited to take part.

The next "Pot Luck Dinner" will be held on Saturday May 13th at 7.0 pm and will include a quiz!

Church Closures

Roads around the church will be closed on **Sunday May 4th** for the Leeds Half marathon, and **Sunday June 11th** for the Columbia Threadneedle World Triathlon, and there will be no service on these days.



"My Heart Strangely Warmed"

Saturday 20th May 2017 From 10.00am to 5.15pm

at the Moravian Church and School, Fulneck, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 8NT

The Lutheran, Moravian and Methodist Churches are pleased to invite you to join us for a day of music, workshops, academic discussion and worship.

The theme of the day has a special focus on music, particularly hymnody. Congregational singing has been an important part of most churches as a vehicle to develop spirituality, convey theology, and of course as a deep and moving form of communal worship. People of all or no faith are invited to join us to explore these and other developments and influences through plenary lectures, interactive workshops, and academic papers.

Pastor Libby has application forms for tickets, which cost £10.00

Please contact her, if you require a form.

More details will be available in spring 2017 when you will be able to express your preference regarding which workshops and papers you wish to attend.

Saturday, October 21st

at St. Columba's URC, Headingley

All our 'local' congregations from Leeds, Bradford and Manchester will be celebrating a special Eucharist Service at St. Columba's URC.

Bishop Emeritus Walter will preside and Bishop Martin will preach. More details will be available shortly.

Sunday, October 29th

Pastors Mark and Libby will be celebrating Reformation Sunday with a Eucharist Service at 10.30 am. Everyone will be welcome, so please bring your friends to celebrate with us. There will be refreshments in the social room after the service.

