

## LUTHERANS UP NORTH

**December 2016 – February 2017**

**St. Luke's Lutheran Church**

*9 Alma Road Headingley LS6 2AH*

*Pastor Libby Toomsalu: 01274*

*615 365*

*0778 099 7532*

*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*

### **Advent and Christmas at St Luke's**

**3.00 pm on Saturday November 26<sup>th</sup> Finnish Carol Service**

*followed by refreshments in the Social Room*

**10.30 am on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Blessing the Christmas Tree*

**4.00 pm on Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup>**

*The Light in the Darkness: A Candlelight Service*

**10.30 am on Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>**

*Christmas Holy Communion*

## WINTER CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

- 3<sup>rd</sup> 7.00 pm Saturday evening, Pot Luck Dinner to celebrate Nev's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as our organist
- 4<sup>th</sup> Advent 1 Holy Communion, Pastor Libby, 10.30 am
- 11<sup>th</sup> Advent 2 Holy Communion, Pastor Libby, 10.30 am
- 18<sup>th</sup> Advent 3 Holy Communion, Pastor Mark, 10.30 am
- 24<sup>th</sup> The Light in the Darkness: A Candlelight Service with the distribution of Christingles, 4.00 pm, Pastor Libby
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Holy Communion, Pastor Libby, 10.30 am

### JANUARY

- 1<sup>st</sup> New Year Holy Communion, Pastor Libby, 10.30 am
- 8<sup>th</sup> Epiphany Sunday Holy Community, Pastor Libby, 10.30 am
- 15<sup>th</sup> Baptism of our Lord Holy Communion, Pastor Mark, 10.30 am
- 18<sup>th</sup> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Holy Communion, Pastor Libby, 10.30 am  
Christian Unity Service, Headingley Methodist Church, time to be announced
- 23<sup>rd</sup> House Trust meeting, 7.00 pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion, Pastor Mark, 10.30 am

### FEBRUARY

- 5<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion, Pastor Libby, 10.30 am
- 12<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion, Pastor Libby, 10.30 am
- 19<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion, Pastor Mark, 10.30 am
- 26<sup>th</sup> Service of the Word, Deacon Seija, 10.30 am

I will be on holiday from February 24<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Thanks to Deacon Seija for leading worship on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

***And is it true ....***

***That God was man in Palestine and lives today in Bread and Wine.***

One of the earliest books I can remember reading (given to me by my mum, of course) was “A Child’s Garden of Verses” by Robert Louis Stevenson, and I’ve had a fondness for poetry ever since. I’ve a particularly soft spot for John Betjeman. (Poet Laureate, 1972 – 1984) and own several recordings of him reading his own poems, including this Christmas offering.

***Christmas***

*The bells of waiting Advent ring,  
The Tortoise stove is lit again  
And lamp-oil light across the night  
Has caught the streaks of winter rain  
In many a stained-glass window sheen  
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.*

*The holly in the windy hedge  
And round the Manor House the yew  
Will soon be stripped to deck the  
ledge,  
The altar, font and arch and pew,  
So that the villagers can say  
'The church looks nice'  
on Christmas Day.*

*Provincial Public Houses blaze,  
Corporation tramcars clang,  
On lighted tenements I gaze,  
Where paper decorations hang,  
And bunting in the red Town Hall  
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.*

*And London shops on Christmas Eve  
Are strung with silver bells and flowers  
As hurrying clerks the City leave  
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,  
And marbled clouds go scudding by  
The many-steepled London sky.*

*And girls in slacks remember Dad,  
And oafish louts remember Mum,  
And sleepless children's hearts  
are glad.  
And Christmas-morning bells  
say 'Come!'  
Even to shining ones who dwell  
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.*

*And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,  
A Baby in an ox's stall ?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me ?*

*And is it true ? For if it is,  
No loving fingers tying strings  
Around those tissued fripperies,  
The sweet and silly Christmas things,  
Bath salts and inexpensive scent  
And hideous tie so kindly meant,*

*No love that in a family dwells,  
No carolling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare -  
That God was man in Palestine*

*And lives today in Bread and Wine.*

This year we will be celebrating the Nativity of our Lord with St. John’s understanding of the incarnation - the Word made flesh; and as we listen to his words, like Betjeman, we may wonder that God took on our human form and came to live on earth.

Over the years it has been a source of awe for Christians everywhere, as Bishop William Walsham How reflected in his hymn:

***It is a thing most wonderful, almost too wonderful to be,  
that God's own Son should come from heaven,  
and die to save a child like me.***

Or as American astronaut, Hale Irwin, put it when he returned to the earth after standing on the moon: *“The most significant achievement of our age is not that man stood on the moon, but rather that God in Christ stood upon this earth.”*

This miracle of Christmas isn’t something I can explain, but for me, it is the heart of God’s message - that loving us so much he wanted to come close and experience our lives - to be one with us and to die for us, and for me, the only response can be gratitude and praise for his presence in our lives.

*Pastor Libby*



Thanks to **Deacon Seija** for this photograph taken on Remembrance Sunday at St Luke’s.

## ***Coming Events***

As you know, Nev has been our organist at St. Luke's for 50 years, and we'd like to celebrate with a Pot Luck Dinner on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 7.00 pm. If you can join us, please sign the list outside the church office and let us know if you will be bringing a savoury or a sweet dish. If you're not able to get into church before the 3<sup>rd</sup>, just let Pastor Libby know by email or phone.

Many thanks!

***Carol Singing*** with our friends from Churches Together in Headingley will take place at the Arndale Centre on ***Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup>*** from 11.00 – 12.00. As usual, the money raised will be donated to Wheatfields Hospice. Please come along and support this if you can.



***Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve*** will be illuminated by Christingles to remind us that Jesus came as the Light of the World. Although not an actual Christingle service, the collection will be donated to the Children's Society

Come and make some positive resolutions for 2017 at our ***New Year Day's Service*** on ***January 1<sup>st</sup>***.

***Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*** begins on ***January 18<sup>th</sup>***.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January – Coffee Morning at St Michaels 10 – 12, cakes provided by Headingley St Columba.

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 3.00 pm – United Service at Headingley Methodist

Three ecumenical get-togethers have been arranged:

- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January – South Parade 10.15am
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January – St. Chad's Small Hall 7.15pm
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Headingley St. Columba 1.45pm

There will be a coffee morning at St. Michael's on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>, and the **Christian Unity Service** will take Place at Headingley Methodist Church on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## ***Reformation 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations***

**May 20<sup>th</sup> 2017** Fulneck: Methodist, Moravian and Lutheran day.

"My Heart was strangely warmed" – Hymnology in the life of the church.

Bishop Walter is involved in planning the worship for the day

**October 21<sup>st</sup>**: Joint Celebration with German congregations at the United Reform Church

Bishop Walter and Pastor Olaf are planning this service.

## ***Church House Trust***

Once again, I would like to thank Peter Sandeman, ably and efficiently supported by Sue Moore, Annette Higgins, Brigitte McCartney, Cornelia Scott, and Joan White for all they do for our house and church. The hours they spend "behind the scenes" keeping everything in good order, paying all the utility bills, keeping up to date with council and government policies, and helping to support tenants is greatly appreciated.

The most recent upgrades have been made to Room 4, which has been redecorated, a new carpet laid (on top of a new plywood floor lining) and new bedroom furniture installed.

Of course, when there are empty rooms in the house, it is difficult for the Trust to meet all its commitments and to carry on with renovation work, and as you will have guessed from the posters around the house and in 'Lutherans Up North' there have been some problems with lettings recently. However, thanks to our "occasional chef", Mario, seeing these and spreading the word, all the rooms are now occupied

and we hope all our Italian guests, Denise, Claudia and Ester, will enjoy their stay with us.

### **Women's World Day of Prayer 2017**

The WWDP service will take place at St. Columba's United Reform Church on Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 at 2.00 pm. Refreshments will be served after the service.

The theme of the service, which has been prepared by the Christian women of the Philippines is "Am I being unfair to you?", based on Matthew, chapter 20, verses 1 – 16. This is Jesus' story of the landowner who hired worker at different times of the day, but paid them the same wage. Those who had worked all day felt hard done by as they hoped for more than those who had worked less hours.

*Please come and join us at the service, and tell other people about it.*

**"It's not fair"** cries the child

Who can't have his way.

*"It's not fair" cries the world –  
Its cry every day.*

*"It's not fair" we all say*

*When things don't go right.*

*"It's not fair" for the oppressed  
Who the stand up and fight.*

*"It's not fair if we miss out,  
On luxury treats."*

*"It's not fair" cry the hungry,  
With nothing to eat.*

*"It's not fair there's no pay rise,  
I'm just missing out."*

*"It's not fair"  
plead the unemployed  
"We're going without."*

*"It's not fair. Our home is small,  
And we aimed to go higher."*

*"It's not fair"  
plead the homeless,  
"Just a roof to keep us drier."*

*"It's not fair" calls the criminal,  
"I have been caught."  
It's not fair for the victims  
When havoc's been wrought.*

*It wasn't fair for Jesus  
to die on the cross.  
It wasn't fair for God  
to suffer such a loss.  
But through His redemption  
He saved us from death.  
And He hears our "Not fairs"  
With His last dying breath.  
He there for the downtrodden,*

*Hungry, oppressed.  
His justice and mercy*

*Will see them all blessed.*

**Helen Mason**

### **Carbon**

You may have  
the carpark  
panels he has



### **Footprints**

noticed Albert Mitchell's 'electric car' in  
recently, but not be aware of the solar  
fitted on his house roof.

A committed supporter of sustainable energy, Albert has been looking into what our churches are saying and doing about this and related topics.

He'd like to get us all thinking about this, and to start us off, he has suggested the following item from the Lutheran World Federation website:

<https://www.lutheranworld.org/news/displaced-climate-change>

Albert comments, "The root of the problem is burning fossil fuels around the world. It's the poor that suffer the pain and we can help with prayer

### **A Christmas Poem from Andrea**

#### **Come**

Come mystics from beyond the boundaries,  
come eager shepherds aching for the dawn!  
Such brave and bright-eyed lass awaits your company;  
a carpenter who keeps his own philosophy.  
And aching hearts throughout the centuries,  
whose courage almost fails,  
whom disappointment has assailed:  
let's all of us together kneel on straw,  
come with simple urgency,  
lose our vision of security.  
Now there are new boundaries to draw.

***Andrea Mitchell ©2016***

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