

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



9 Alma Road, Headingley LS6 2AH

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stlukeslutheranchurch.org.uk

We celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday at 10.30 am.

Please join us.

Pastor Libby Toomsalu: 01274 615 365

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 Micha elides: 01132 759 042

Advent and Christmas at St. Luke's

November

- 28th Finnish Carol Service, **3.00pm**
with Deacon Seija
- 29th Advent Sunday (LBW), with Pastor Libby

December

- 6th Advent 2, with Pastor Libby
- 12th Carol singing, Arndale Centre,
10.30 - 11.30am – Churches Together in
Headingley
- 13th Advent 3, with Pastor Libby
Please stay and help put up the Christmas
tree after the service.
- 20th Advent 4, with Pastor Mark
- 24th Christmas Eve Communion
and Carol Service, **6.00 pm**,
with Pastor Libby
- 25th Christmas Day Holy Communion, **9.00 am**,
with Pastor Mark
- 27th Holy Communion with Carols,
with Pastor Libby

Please put these dates and times into your diary.

Traditionally, we spend time celebrating with family and friends at this time of year, and I hope you will be able to come and join us in some of these events. Our service on Sunday 27th will tell the story of the Nativity in the words of carols and poetry. Coffee and Christmas nibbles will be served after the service.

From Pastor Libby

During Lent, I read a book by Janet Morley, called "The Heart's Time", and thanks to Sarah Owens of St. Anne's congregation, I discovered another of her books, "Haphazard by Starlight", which is a collection of poems and commentaries, to be read during Advent.

The blurb on the back cover starts by saying, "Advent is celebrated when the year is getting darker and colder, moving into the dormancy of winter. Before we can greet the coming of the light, we need to engage with some themes that are challenging and occasionally fearful." As I've looked out onto the garden this past week, and thought about ups and downs of the past year, I've sometimes been "feeling my age" a bit, worried about things I can't seem to do so easily. So I was delighted to find a poem by Kathleen Raine included in the collection that gave me a new perspective on the aging process.

It begins:

"Now I am old and free from time
How spacious life,
Unbeginning and unending sky
where the wind blows
The ever-moving clouds
and clouds of starlings on the wing,
Chaffinch and apple-leaf across my garden lawn,
Winter paradise"

And the commentary reminds us that Luke's telling of the nativity story gives a special place to "people of a certain age", who have spent their whole lives watching and waiting for God. It then goes on to say that we have choices of how to spend time in our later years which might include "energetically" continuing with the same work and activities we have always pursued until ill health prevents this, or perhaps make a move to becoming more contemplative.

In the poem, age is not a constriction, but is a time "free from time" – life without timetables and deadlines – a "spacious time" when we can look around, notice the landscape and appreciate the changing seasons. Time which becomes more precious as we grow older. The final question we are asked is, "As you get older, are there any ways in which you feel that your life has become more spacious?"

So as I enjoy my winter garden, with the various birds coming to the feeders and the different plants that add to my own "winter paradise", I'm grateful for time to enjoy my improving mobility and sight, without so many of the external working pressures I've previously experienced.

I hope that over the coming weeks that you will also find time in all the busyness of "getting ready" for Christmas with all its shopping and cooking etc., to enjoy the winter season, journeying through the dark days, and walking "haphazard by starlight into the kingdom of heaven."

And may you, and all those you love and care for, have a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Pastor Libby

Parish Dinners

Parish dinners have not been planned for the winter months, November – February, but I would be grateful for volunteers to organise the dinners for March, May, July, September and October. Many thanks for your continued support for these fun social events.

LCiGB Women's Retreat



Women from London, Leeds and the midlands travelled to Launde Abbey on a wet, windy and very cold Friday, and several others joined us for the day on Saturday and Sunday.

The theme for the weekend, organised by Sarah Owen, from St. Anne's congregation, was 'Discovering the Annunciation through Art and Poetry'. We looked at a variety of paintings around the annunciation, and discussed them with gusto. Sarah also read some lovely poems and commentaries in regard to them. These were very interesting and thought provoking. We had time to be creative with drawing, painting, pottery and writing poetry. In the evening we enjoyed some social time together with a quiz, conversation and nibbles.

On Sunday morning we discussed future dates and plans, deciding to always meet on the first weekend in December, so that the date could be in everyone's diary to help with forward planning. The morning Eucharist Service was led by Pastor Wendy Sherer, who also attends St. Anne's. We gathered for the traditional group photograph before lunch, and then made our separate ways home.

Livija Upmalis

From Churches Together in Headingley Winter Project in Headingley

This winter, several churches in Leeds are going to respond to a request. It is to set up a week's night shelter for destitute refugees and asylum seekers. These are people who would otherwise spend the week cold, hungry and without shelter on the streets. As more churches join in, the winter months are covered.

Each church welcomes about 8 individually referred men, and offers them a friendly welcome, an evening meal, a warm bed and breakfast. WYDAN, West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Network, is organising the project, using the experience of Bradford INN churches, who have been running a similar scheme for homeless people since 2010.

How does this affect us? I'm really pleased to say All Hallows and St. Chad's PCCs have agreed they should be involved. They will offer a week in January, using part of the Parish Centre. Now, I'm asking if you would like to be part of the Project. What might it mean?

Do you like cooking? Could you offer an evening meal, or help with breakfast? Or could you donate some food for someone else to cook? Do you like welcoming guests and making them feel at home? They need you there to be friendly and interact with our guests.

Would you be willing to stay in the Parish Centres overnight, to be on hand in case of need? They need two people to stay each night.

Could you offer some money to help with the Project? WYDAN needs to buy beds and bedding. Each set costs about £75, and is taken on from church to church each week. Any amount would help. There are several other ways helping, but these give you an idea.

They would be really pleased if people from Headingley could join us in this Project. Several churches are working together in this way.

Pastor Libby has contact details if you feel called to help with this project – please contact her for names and contact numbers.

Women's World Day of Prayer 2016

The service for the Women's World Day of Prayer has been prepared by the Christian women of Cuba. The theme is 'Receive children. Receive me.'

The local service will take place at South Parade Baptist Church, Headingley, on March 4th at 2.15 pm. Refreshments will be served after the service. **Everyone** is welcome to attend.

Livija Upmalis

Receive children. Receive me.

Jesus, you saw in everyone, a child of God;
in the woman shunned,
drawing water in the heat of the day,
in the man hated by his peers for the work he did,
in the blind man, blamed for his disability,
in the leper, ostracised because of his illness,
in the woman stoned for her misdemeanours...
You saw people's vulnerability,
their loneliness and fear
and offered welcome, acceptance,
forgiveness and love.
Help us not to follow the crowd,
but to see others as you do;
not to judge by appearances,
but to be able to look below the surface,
not to walk by and avert our eyes,
but to stop and take notice,
not to make excuses, but to seek opportunities
for loving action.
May we recognise God's children
in the people we meet
and follow your example of life-changing love.

New Year Calendar

January

- 3rd New Year Holy Communion,
with Pastor Libby
- 10th Baptism of our Lord, with Pastor Libby
- 12th House Trust meeting, 7.00 pm
- 17th Epiphany 2, with Pastor Mark
- 24th Epiphany 3 (LBW), with Pastor Libby
- 31st Epiphany 4, with Pastor Mark

February

- 7th Transfiguration, with Pastor Libby
- 10th Ash Wednesday
- 14th Lent 1, with Pastor Libby
- 21st Lent 2, with Pastor Mark
- 28th Lent 3 (LBW), with Pastor Libby