

ROUNDAABOUT

EASTER 2019



WELCOME!

Welcome to the latest Easter edition of Roundabout, the newsletter from St Luke's Church in College Road.

You can find information about our links with the local community, details of our services, and important dates for your diary. We hope you enjoy reading it. Revd Patrick Wheaton

“GIVE ST LUKE’S A TRY” SAY MADDIE, IMRAN & LEO



Like so many folks do when they move to a new town, we had done the rounds of the local churches before we came upon the parish that was right for us. We had never really felt a strong enough connection or that any of these communities spoke to us – both as individuals and as a couple – in the way we felt St Luke's did when we decided to give Sunday Communion there a go one weekend.

Having recently moved away from London and our church family there, we weren't sure if we would discover quite the same balance and close-knit sense of community as we had found in the old borough. With one of us having been raised as Catholic and the other having only recently

been formally initiated into the Church of England a few years prior, we knew it might take some time to find the parish that was right for us, given our slightly different upbringings.

But we could see St Luke's as the kind of community where everyone treats you like family, a community in which we might raise a family of our own. And so, almost three years later we find ourselves waking up on a Sunday morning (this time with a little tyke!) still looking forward to another message from Fr Patrick, a message that we know will bear relevance to this day and age, and catching up with people we consider to be like old friends.

Though there are many paths to faith we have found a common home in St Luke's – everyone is so very friendly, faithful and warm. We'd encourage anyone 'on the fence' to try us out!

THAT'S A LOG NOW



The local residents may have observed the felling of the mighty beech tree outside the church recently. Sadly it was diseased and a hazard. Some have said it is sad to see it go and others have said it gives them more light in their front rooms and fewer leaves to pick up in Autumn.



MUSIC @ ST LUKE'S

We recently fielded an enquiry at St Luke's asking if our church organ was for sale. It may delight many of you to know this was politely declined. Hymns remain part of our worship at St Luke's, however a great bunch of musicians also help us sing together in a variety of contemporary and other styles. No professional choirs and directors of music here. Just some ordinary but talented folk offering their gifts to God and his people. We're confident that whatever your musical tastes or expectations you'll find a home at St Luke's.

Louise (vocals, electric bass, flute, keyboards & organ): Louise's first love is baroque music and the harpsichord, but she's happy to turn her hand to pretty much any instrument or style, short of the sax and Acid Jazz!



Stephen (vocals, flute, acoustic guitar): Normally to be found in the radiotherapy department at Cheltenham hospital (medical physics section), in his spare time Stephen likes to sing & play guitar (and occasionally tootle on the fiddle).

Hazel (violin): Violinist on Sunday, Hazel enjoys spending her weekdays in her garden, or keeping up with family and friends.

Stephen (vocals, drums): Unfortunately he wasn't able to provide us with either biography or photograph at this time. But we found this nice picture of him online and on a Sunday he's with us, laying down some phat beetz.



Mark (electric guitar): Mark is a technology entrepreneur who works in computer security and currently lives in San Francisco. He doesn't play in the band very much at the moment. In fact, I'm not sure why we've included his bio here :)

Jonathan (keyboards & organ): Aeronautical engineer by day, church organist and pianist by Sunday.



Christine (acoustic guitar): Christine enjoys doing crafts, gardening, family history and exploring nature; and she runs a Brownie unit.



Tony (electric guitar): A retired engineer, Tony describes himself as a guitarist with ambition.



IMAGINE FOR SCHOOLS AT SAINT JOHN'S PRIMARY

The mental health of our children is a rising concern within the community. Causes can be validly debated but given Jesus' promise that he came to bring life to the full, we also want to be those who respond with action. St Luke's is delighted to support the work of 'Imagine for Schools' at Saint John's. Together we want to see every child and young person realise their worth and become everything they were created to be. Shell Perris introduces the project below.

"Imagine For Schools are so excited about working with the pupils, staff and families at Saint John's CE Primary School. We are going to be delivering pupil workshops and staff training based around themes of Resilience, Identity and Growth Mindset. One of the key principles we will be introducing is "Peak to Peak", looking at

how we can build resilience, learn from failure and mistakes and create a culture where challenge is embraced.

In July we will also be delivering our "Masterpiece" workshop, written in partnership with iSingPOP. iSingPOP is a primary school music project that brings together schools, church and community.

This workshop is all about 'discovering more about who we are' and explores 5 bible-based teaching points: 1) I am loved, 2) I am a masterpiece, 3) I have a purpose, 4) I am meant to shine, and 5) I am free to be me. The teaching points, alongside a brand-new catchy iSingPOP song called "Wonderfully Made" create a fun, unique and interactive workshop that teaches of the love of God in a relevant and meaningful way.

Imagine For Schools is an inspirational programme for both children and staff. It is thought provoking and provides a great platform to develop a Growth Mindset approach to learning.

For more information about Imagine For Schools visit www.imagineforschools.co.uk.





EASTER MESSAGE

BY REVD PATRICK WHEATON

In his book 'Thinking Out Loud' the England footballer Rio Ferdinand speaks openly about the experience of losing his wife, Rebecca, to cancer. She grew close to the nursing staff that cared for her, with one exception, the counsellor.

A young woman poked her head in. "Can I come in?" She smiled, all bright and breezy. She was a counsellor, she explained, and had come to talk to us about therapeutic support available to families in our situation. Rebecca took against her on sight.

"Tell me this," Rebecca asked her coldly. "Have you ever lost someone close to you?" "Well, no, I can't say I have," the young woman replied. "But I have trained." Without another word, Rebecca shifted onto her side to face the wall, and after a few awkward minutes the counsellor backed sheepishly out of the room. "Don't let her anywhere near my kids," Rebecca told me flatly, once she had gone. "What the hell does she know? She's never had to live through anything like this. What a pointless waste of time."

Only through experience can we truly empathise with the suffering of others.

Easter is a message of good news and hope. It builds to the resurrection of Jesus and promise of new life. It builds through the reality of suffering. Jesus declared 'I am the resurrection and the life' and also promised 'I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full.' These words are all the more powerful because Jesus can empathise with our deepest sufferings. The Bible describes Jesus as a 'man of sorrows.' He was rejected, beaten, humiliated, deserted, impoverished and killed. As he contemplated his death, Jesus said 'my soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.' In being human he shares our pains. We can come to Jesus with all our frailties and hurts.

Yet, the message is not a stoical proverb akin to 'no pain, no gain.' Jesus is not the motivational gym instructor calling us to push through the barrier to new heights. In Jesus' pain is the comfort that he can relate to ours. Then, in Jesus' gain is the certainty that he can offer us the rewards he won for us.

Suffering can have purpose. It enables us to empathise with others and so better comfort, counsel and support. Jesus' suffering is not just an example, it is also the road to his victory that is magnificent and complete. Jesus suffered and died, but also conquered and rose again.

The promise of Easter is not that Jesus will remove all our suffering now. It is that he can draw alongside with total empathy. And in so doing, increase our certainty, confidence and trust in the hope that he offers us of new life. This new life is both because of him, and also found in knowing him. It is something he offers to us, not something we can win for ourselves.

Our prayer at St Luke's is that this Easter you do not feel you must hide from points of pain, whether hardship, illness, grief, anxiety or distress. Rather that you might know both the loving comfort of Jesus who knows our pain, and the joy and delight in Jesus who conquered all suffering. His victory offering us both peace and life.



WORKING WITH THE HOMELESS @ YMCA CHELTENHAM



YMCA Cheltenham continues to go from strength to strength, seizing opportunities to increase our work with young people and the homeless. We also continue to build upon our other commitments, providing opportunities to improve health and fitness for all at our Sports Centre in Arle Road and support for those who have various struggles in life through our supported housing projects.

We have seen an increase in our work with young people through the establishment of Y Kids After School Club on Thursdays where the kids have fun, make new friends and learn new things, all led by our YMCA Cheltenham Activity Leaders. This is complemented by our Y Kids Saturday Club where children are introduced to a range of sports and games, teaching them a variety of skills and techniques, as well as providing the opportunity to develop their team work, communication and confidence. All these sessions are inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values.



We've also been blessed by the active presence of our 'interns', Jasmin and Kyle in our budget accommodation at 6 Vittoria Walk. Number 6, is proving a great place to mature, grow and learn through the interaction with so many diverse people. One's Christian faith is certainly exercised when meeting and looking after guests one moment and the next, meeting and looking after vulnerable people from the streets!

The YMCA's Severe Weather Emergency Protocol swep provision offers a warm and safe place to stay for those facing harsh conditions whilst sleeping rough, is running throughout the winter and is now drawing to an end for this year. This winter has benefitted more people than was ever expected. The number of people sleeping rough far exceeded official figures, and we got to see and meet those men and women who have no home. This was our first time to engage in this specific work and we believe it was a great success, with the YMCA finding longer term supported accommodation for some of our guests.

We're looking forward to continuing our partnership with P3 (a charity and social enterprise caring for individuals who sleep rough, aiming to get them into secure and safe accommodation as quickly as possible.



CHELTENHAM CHRISTIAN ARTS FESTIVAL

Cheltenham Christian Arts Festival aims to bring the towns churches together in celebration of their artistic Christian heritage. Through all the contemporary and traditional arts we invite the community in Gloucestershire to share in the vibrancy, the joy and the colour of God-given creative expression.

The full range of events and activities can be found online at www.christianartsfestival.org/

Tickets can be booked online at <http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/christianartsfestival>

St Luke's is hosting 3 events, details of which can be found below.

COME, DRAW, EXPLORE WITH SARAH GRIFFITHS AND ELEANOR LEE

An exhibition of drawings **3 - 11 May, Sunday - Friday: 12 noon - 4pm, Saturdays: 10am - 4pm St Luke's Church**

Friday 3 May, 6 - 9pm, Opening event with music

Two artists reflect on life, history and heritage in new and existing works exploring drawing as a medium, churches as a site of heritage and community, and the exhibition space itself: come and explore, and get drawing too - materials provided.

Tickets: FREE TO ATTEND

JONATHAN VEIRA

Jonathan has universal critical acclaim from many comic baritone roles.

His Hymn's Project (CD) introduces glorious memorable new tunes to some wonderful old hymns, breathing new life into the stunning words. Opportunities for you to sing along and love it! His riotous anecdotes alongside his Christian faith make this an enthralling evening.

Tickets: £10.50



CATH AND DAI WOOLRIDGE

Join husband and wife duo for an evening of creativity through scripture, stories and spoken word. Cath heads up worship ministry 'Sound of Wales' and oozes Welshness, song, shabby chic and Jesus. Dai is passionate about scripture through grit, rhyme, wordplay and humour. Enjoy the art exhibition at the same time.

Tickets: £8.50



EASTER @ ST LUKE'S

Palm Sunday Sunday 14th April	10am	Morning Worship
Good Friday Friday 19th April	10am	Morning Worship
Easter Sunday 21st April	8am 10am	Easter Family Communion

Our Regular Sunday Programme

At St Luke's you will find traditional and more innovative services, old favourites and modern music, the organ and the drum kit. We're trying to give everybody a chance to worship God in a genuine way. Our normal monthly service pattern is:

8am		Holy Communion
10am	1st Sunday	SundayOne*
	2nd Sunday	Holy Communion
	3rd Sunday	Morning Worship
	4th Sunday	Holy Communion
	5th Sunday	Morning Worship

Children's and youth groups meet during the services every Sunday except the 1st.

* A less formal service for all ages and those less familiar with church

CONTACT DETAILS

Email: info@stlukes-church.org.uk

Address: St Luke's Church, St Luke's Rd, Cheltenham GL53 7JJ.

Church Office: 01242 241910.

Website : www.stlukes-church.org.uk

Twitter: @stlukeschelt

