

**I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life." (1 Timothy 1:16)**

Perhaps the most famous and dramatic conversion to Christianity in history is that of St. Paul. He was going to Damascus to continue his programme of arrests in order to silence the growing Christian movement, when Jesus suddenly appeared to him in a bright light from heaven and spoke to him.

The result for a Paul (or Saul as he was known at that point) was a dramatic change of direction in life. Rather than trying to silence the message about Jesus he became one of Christ's most passionate and outspoken evangelists.

The way Paul was converted was unique. No two people come to Christ in the same way. Yet, there is a lot we can learn from this event. Let's just consider two points, that arise from the fact that before his conversion, Paul had been involved in a violent and abusive programme to silence the followers of Christ.

The first thing, to say is that this wicked behaviour was what made him 'the worst of sinners.' However, it did not disqualify him from receiving God's grace. Rather, the fact that Jesus could call someone so wicked and so anti-Christ powerfully demonstrates how amazing his grace is. No-one is beyond salvation.

Secondly, on Sunday I spoke about the fact that we live in an increasingly contested culture. However, there are different ways to 'fight' for the truth. Before Jesus called him, Paul used oppression and bullying to silence those he disagreed with. Afterwards, he used the power of persuasion and a life of perseverance through persecution and suffering. It is not just that Christians are called to contend for a different truth, but that in following the crucified and resurrected Jesus, we do so in a way that follows his example.

*Paul Worledge*

## **This Sunday's Services on livestream:**

[Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022](#)

Click the above link to access the livestream for this week's service. You can also use the link to watch the service at a later time.

## **Weekly Calendar**

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

**Family Service** (St. Luke's Church), Acts 9:1-19 - 11:00am-12:00pm

**Youth Initiative** (St. Luke's Church), 5:00pm-7:30pm

**Christianity Explored** (Dorothy Drive), 5:30pm-7:00pm

### **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*No Daily Prayer – Bank Holiday!*

**Christianity Explored** (Margate Road), 7:30-9:00pm

### **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Daily Prayer** (St. George's Church) - 9:30-10:00am

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Christianity Explored** (Lyndhurst Road), 2:00-3:30pm

## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>

**Daily Prayer** (at St. Luke's Church) - 9:30-10:00am

**Cafe4All** (St. Luke's Church), Coffee and Chat for all - 10:00-11:30am.

**Christianity Explored** (South Eastern Road), 7:30-9:00pm

**Christianity Explored** (Winterstoke Crescent), 7:30pm-9:00pm

## Friday 6<sup>th</sup>

**Play and Praise** (St. Luke's Church Hall) – 10:00-11:30am

## Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>

**Churches Together Prayer Breakfast** (St. Mark's Church) - 9:00-10:00am

## Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>

**Family Service** (St. Luke's Church), Acts 9:32-43 - 11:00am-12:00pm

**Youth Initiative** (St. Luke's Church), 5:00pm-7:30pm

**Christianity Explored** (Dorothy Drive), 5:30pm-7:00pm

## Dick and Caroline Seed visit – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 10:30am

A reminder that Dick and Caroline Seed will be visiting us for a get together over coffee on the morning of Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May. This is a great chance to meet and hear about their work in encouraging Theological Education (training Bible teachers) in Africa.

## Prayer Requests

Be assured I will do my best to check that people are happy for the requests to be shared before including them. Please pray for...

- Nicky Galer after the death of her mum, Jean recently.
- Joy Smithers who is now home, but not feeling too good.
- Willow's friend Stavs fell and broke her arm & leg. She is in lot of pain.
- David Perkins with a broken ankle.
- Michelle (Terry De Vere's wife) starting chemotherapy.
- David Gill whose cancer has now spread to his throat.
- Mitch Styles that he will receive the help he needs.
- Ken Tipler that the pain from his bone cancer can be kept under control.

Please also continue to pray for: Flo Baldock, Jean Hann, Shirley Crabb, Joy Smithers, Nathan Court, Pauline Emptage, Collette Judge, Barb (Gloria's daughter's friend), Rita Ryan.

## Church of England Evangelical Council (CEEC) Mailing

The CEEC exists to help encourage and speak for evangelicals in the Church of England. St. Luke's has always sat within the evangelical tradition of the Church of England with its emphasis on God's grace, the authority of the Bible and that salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone.

CEEC is keen to keep all people in local churches up to speed on significant issues and will be sending an e-bulletin every four to six weeks with short updates on national C of E matters. Click here: [to sign up for the bulletin.](#)

## Annual Meeting, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 12:30pm

It is now only three weeks until our Annual Meeting, which this year we will be holding on a Sunday in church after the service. Everyone is welcome to attend, whether you are on the electoral roll or not (if you are not on the electoral roll, then you won't be able to vote). It is a great chance to reflect

together on what God has been doing amongst us over the last year and share some of the hopes, challenges and **vision for St. Luke's** in the coming year.

We will also be **electing** two new church wardens and three other people to join the Parochial Church Council, which acts as the main governing body and trustees of St. Luke's. Please be praying for the right people to be elected and do talk to Paul if you want to consider standing or suggest anyone to be asked to stand.

After the meeting we will join together for **lunch in the church**. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of church for people to offer to bring contributions for the lunch. We can also put a video on for the children in the vestry if parents want to attend, but their children are too young to join in the Annual Meeting.

## Can You Trust the Gospels?

**Tuesdays, 7:30pm, Salvation Army, High Street, with Robin Plant**

*A Churches Together in Ramsgate Course*

Almost everything we know about Jesus comes from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. But how can we be sure that what they tell us is reliable? Where did they get their information from? And why should we prefer these four Gospels to others that never made it into the Bible?

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| 10 <sup>th</sup> May | What in the (ancient) world is a Gospel?  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> May | Chinese whispers or eyewitness testimony? |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> May | Have the texts been tampered with?        |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> May | The Fab Four: What makes them special?    |

## Gather, Women's Drop-In, starts Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May

12:30 – 2:30pm, St. Luke's Church, Women Only.

Gather is a safe place for women to find hope and community. You are invited to join us at our drop-in, a relaxing and peaceful space, where you can join in activities such as crafts or be pampered; connect over a cup of tea and a piece of cake; or simply get the chance reflect.

This is being run by Thanet Youth with a Mission. See the [website](#) for more information.

## Book to see the vicar:

If you would like to arrange to see Paul the vicar about anything, then please use this following link to book an appointment: <https://calendly.com/worledge/meet-with-paul>

## Links to Share:

### Last Sunday's Sermon:

[Freeing the Word of Life \(Acts 5:17-42\)](#)

We live in a world of competing ideas. If we are to fulfil Jesus's call to make new disciples then we need to be confident in the gospel and courageous in sharing our faith. How can we manage that? The story of the early church in Acts is a great place to look.

## **Courage and sacrifice: stories of humanity from Ukraine**

First-hand accounts from people affected by the conflict in Ukraine, and updates from Tear Fund partners in the region. [Read more...](#)

## **Dear Richard Coles, whither the Church of England?**

In this blog from Ian Paul is a letter written to Richard Coles after a recent article in the Times from Richard. The tone of the article, I think is a good illustration of how to argue gently and respectfully on some of the contested issues in the church today. [Read more...](#)

## **A couple of resources to help Grow your children in the faith**

- [Bible Apps for Kids](#) this app for phones or tablets, enables children to watch, read and listen to a number of Bible stories. It also includes some interactive activities to help the children engage more fully.
- [Life Kids](#) is a YouTube channel with a number of cartoon videos of Bible stories.

Finally, let's keep rejoicing, because Christ is risen and share the good news with courage.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Worledge  
(Vicar, St. Luke's Ramsgate)