

**"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God
is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)**

At the start of the Bible, there is a bold claim made. It says God looked at the world he had created including humanity and it was 'very good' (Genesis 1:31). Whilst we can celebrate many things in our world that do indeed seem to be very good: the wonder of the stars, the beauty of nature and the joy of loving relationships, there is much in our experience of the world that seems to fundamentally contradict the idea that the world is 'very good': the worsening climate, extinction of species, many broken and dysfunctional relationships and of course illness and death.

If God is a good God, that created a good world, we are left with a question: "What has gone wrong?" The answer comes in Genesis 3, which we will be looking at in church this Sunday. It is a passage that describes, both the moment when things first went wrong (cf. Romans 5:12), but also the ongoing way that we continue to go wrong by rejecting God's good, generous and rightful rule in our lives and the world.

Yet that is the start of the story. At its heart the Bible shows us what God has done and is doing to put things right. Central to God's solution is of course Jesus Christ.

Planned Giving Sunday – This Sunday!

If you have agreed to receive a letter about the church's finances, then you should have received it by now! We recognise that everyone is in a different position financially and perhaps more so in our strange times. However, please do pray about how generous towards the work of St. Luke's you can be at this time and bring your envelopes for the collection this Sunday.

[Livestream Sunday 7th 11am](#)

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

Weekly Calendar

Friday 5th

Play and Praise (St. Luke's Hall, please use the side door off the driveway), Our parent and toddler group. 10:00-11:30am.

Saturday 6th

Churches Together Prayer Breakfast (Hardres Street United Church) - 9:00-10:00am

Sunday 7th

Family Service (St. Luke's Church), Gen. 3:1-19, **What's gone wrong?**
- 11:00am-12:00pm

Youth Meeting (198, Margate Road), for 11-18 year olds - 5:00-6:00pm

Monday 8th

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

Tuesday 9th

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

Thursday 11th

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.

Friday 12th

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

Saturday 13th

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

Sunday 14th

Remembrance Day Service (St. Luke's Church)

- Genesis 4:1-16, **Cain and Abel** – 10:55am-12:00pm

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...

- COP26 climate change conference for a successful conclusion.
- St. Luke's finances that people can respond generously to the appeal this Sunday and we can pay our costs.
- Ken Tipler that the pain caused by his bone cancer can be kept under control.
- Katrina (Norah's daughter), who has cancer which will be treated with radiotherapy. Please pray that all will go well with the treatment.
- Bob Knight to have a good recovery after his pacemaker was fitted on Monday.

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

Latest Updates:

Christmas Unwrapped

Each year we invite Year 6 pupils from four local schools to a 90-minute presentation about the Christian story behind Christmas. This is an interactive and fun event and always well appreciated. This year we are expecting over 120 children to come to St. Luke's. There will be just under 60 on **Tuesday 30th November (10:30am-12noon)** and just under 70 on **Friday 3rd December (10:30am-12:00pm)**.

We particularly need volunteers on one or both of these dates to join us and help the children to make mince pies (or decorate biscuits). If you can help with this, then please let Paul (01843 592562, vicar@stlukesramsgate.org) know as soon as possible.

PCC Briefing

On Monday the PCC met and had a good discussion about a number of key issues. The major issues discussed and decisions made were:

- Plans for the Christmas Services and how to publicise them.
- Deciding to host a one man show performance of Mark's gospel at the end of January called, *I am Mark*.
- Hearing of the latest plans for developing Growth Communities after the *More than Sunday* sessions with St. George's and Christ Church. You can read more about this [in this document](#).
- Discussing whether to change the parishes policy on "Marriage after Divorce." It was decided that we would begin to allow this after a couple had worked through the questions suggested by the Church of England and a discussed them with the vicar. If and only if the vicar then feels it is appropriate would the marriage go ahead.

Joint Sunday Service, Sunday 28th November, Advent Sunday

This will be a joint service with St. George's and Christ Church **at St. Luke's at 11am**. It will include an All Age element and activities for children as well as a chance to share with other churches. Please support this with your prayers and attendance.

Christmas with Cantate, Saturday 11th December, 7pm

Cantate, a fantastic ensemble of singers, will be performing at St. Luke's again. Do put the date in your diary and invite friends and family along. Donations gratefully received and mainly in aid of St. Luke's, with a proportion going to the choir.

Thanet Churches Open Christmas:

This year has been a difficult time for so many and we, Thanet Churches Open Christmas, have been evaluating if we could run an Open Christmas event safely and within the capacity of our team. Due to many factors we have decided not to run an event in 2021, but to have a 'sabbath year' to rest and evaluate as we look forwards.

We understand that there are many who were really looking forward to being together to celebrate; although Open Christmas isn't running, we hope that COVID-19 cases numbers will remain low enough to allow church services on Christmas Eve/Day. We wanted to especially thank those who have supported this event over the years and as we look towards 2022.

Links to Share:

Last Sunday's Sermon:

Last Sunday's Sermon is available on YouTube, as a Podcast or a transcript:

[What's in a name? \(Genesis 2:15-25\)](#)

In this talk, Claire takes us through Genesis 2 and helps us to see the importance of our relationships with God, with one another and with Creation.

The God of the Mundane, book Review

[This book review](#) emphasises how important our ordinary everyday lives are in the purposes of God. The article itself is worth a read and it might inspire you to buy the book!

My Bible

Many of us are still affected by Covid and lockdown. [This short testimony](#) from Bible society shares how one person coped with the pressures of lockdown.

Finally, let's remember that Jesus is God's ultimate solution to what has gone wrong with the world.

Yours in Christ,

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