

**The people were waiting expectantly  
and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah  
(Luke 3:15)**

We are only just over a week into the New Year. I wonder what we are expecting from this year ahead? What are our expectations of God this year? What are our expectations for ourselves growing in our own faith? And what are our expectations for growing God's kingdom and our part in it?

The Jewish people were waiting for a promised Messiah. They were expectant; they knew God was going to act. Of that they seemed to be certain. They were seeing John preaching and baptising and wondered - 'Is this Him? Are we finally going to see God's promised Messiah?'

John is clear in his response that it wasn't him because there was someone more powerful coming onto the scene. A few verses later Jesus is baptised and God is clear 'You are my Son'. Jesus, the Son of God, the promised Messiah.

God fulfilled his promises through Jesus to act in the world and continues to do so through the power of His Holy Spirit. We can be expectant of our God in this year ahead. In our prayers let us ask God to help us be expectant of encountering Him more and more in our lives, to grow in our faith, to grow in unity as His church, and to see others come to faith in Jesus, through God's work in the world through His Holy Spirit.

*Claire Coleman*

**[This Sunday our service is at 11am.](#)**

Click the above links to access the livestream for the services. You can also use the link to watch the service at a later time.

Our children's and young people's groups on a Sunday: Sunday Club, Pathfinders and Sparklers will all be starting up again after their Christmas break. If you want to check out the latest on our Covid precautions, please [see here](#).

## **Weekly Calendar**

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Family Service** (St. Luke's Church), Luke 3:15-22 – **Seeing His Glory**  
- 11:00am-12:00pm

### **Monday 10<sup>th</sup>**

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

**PCC** (on Zoom) – 7:30-9:00pm

### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>**

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

## **Thursday 13<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.

## **Friday 14<sup>th</sup>**

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

## **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>**

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

## **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Family Communion Service** (St. Luke's Church), Genesis 11:27-12:9 –

**Abraham: Man of Faith** - 11:00am-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...

- Give thanks for all the positive Christmas services we had.
- Jean Hann who has been transferred to Darent Valley Hospital for further treatment.
- Norah and family after the death of her daughter, Katrina.
- John Galer. Give thanks that he is now back at his home with Nicky. Pray for a good continuing recovery.
- Ken Tipler that the pain caused by his bone cancer can be kept under control.

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

## **I am Mark – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm**

Join us for this amazing opportunity to hear Mark's gospel performed by one man. This is not a church service, but a chance to hear the Bible spoken in its pure form by a professional actor. There will be a chance to ask questions of the performer afterwards.

If you are a Christian, then this is a unique way to experience Scripture as you listen to the whole sweep of Mark's gospel in one go. It will help to bring your faith alive.

If you are not a Christian, then come and listen to the Christian story in an entertaining, thought-provoking and completely non-threatening way.

Please put this date in your diaries and pray about who you might invite to come along. Tickets will be available soon.

If you are interested in helping with publicity or providing refreshments or stewarding on the night, then please let us know.

## **Summer Ventures for young people**

Over the years many children from St. Luke's have attended one or more summer holidays on a Christian venture. These are a great opportunity for youngsters to meet Christians from other parts of the country and grow in their faith in the context of a fun holiday full of activities.

Find out more by picking up one of the booklets at the back of church or checking out the [website](#).

## Update from Dick and Caroline Seed

Dick and Caroline Seed are mission partners through Church Mission Society who are based in South Africa and are working to train those who teacher pastors across Africa and around the world. Catch up on their latest news [here](#).

## Bible Reading idea for 2022:

[The Way of Wisdom](#), Timothy Keller

Why not consider ordering this book as a scheme to use for your studies on 2022. Keller takes you through various themes in the Wisdom literature of the Bible to give insights and guidance to help us live more wisely today.

Each day has a short Bible reading, some reflection, a question to consider and a prayer to pray. Short bites, that over a year could really grow your faith.

You can order the book direct using the link above, alternatively if you let me know in the next week that you want a copy, I can order some online and give you a hard copy in a week or two.

## Helpful Links:

### Prayer ideas for the home:

If you are looking for ways to engage your children in prayer, then check out [this printable page](#) from Canterbury Diocese for 5 great ideas.

### 3 Big Questions that change every teenager

If you are a parent or grandparent of a teenager or have children who will be a teenager one day or if you are interested in how we as a church can connect better with young people, then this recorded webinar is well worth a watch. It is an hour long, but I found myself drawn in to watching the whole thing. [Watch the video](#).

### Bible Project New App now available

Many people find understanding the Bible difficult and do not understand how it all fits together. The Bible Project have launched a new app for your phone to help you explore the Bible, its connections, themes and structures. Why not give it a try? [Get the app here](#).

Finally, let's have high expectations of what Jesus might do with us in 2022.

Yours in Christ,

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