

**Jesus said,
"While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
(John 9:5)**

I've recently started playing serious chess again. In a recent game, I was quite pleased with myself for being able to see a few moves ahead and to find a winning move. However, when I looked back over the game with a computer chess program, it showed me what I hadn't seen: two earlier opportunities to make a winning move.

What we see and don't see makes a big difference to the choices we make. In this Sunday's reading, Jesus helps a man born blind to literally see again. However, what becomes more important to the encounter is that this blind man comes to see who Jesus is, whilst the 'clever religious people' of Jesus's day fail to see his identity. Have we come to see who Jesus really is?

Please read on to see all that is going on at St. Luke's, including the Youth Led Service - Exploration, this Sunday at 5pm, the ongoing More than Sunday sessions, an update on our Harvest collection from last Sunday, information about St. Luke's financial state and much more...

[Livestream Sunday 11am](#)

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

Weekly Calendar

Friday 8th

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 9th

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

Sunday 10th

Family Service (11am, St. Luke's Church) – **Faith to see?** John 9:1-25

Youth Led Service – Exploration (5:00-6:00pm, St. Luke's Church)

Monday 11th

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

More than Sunday (St. Luke's Church) – 7:30-9:00pm

Tuesday 12th

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

More than Sunday (St. Luke's Church) – 10:30am-12:00pm

Thursday 14th

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

Cafe4All - St. Luke's Church, All Welcome for a coffee and chat. 10:00-11:30am.

Friday 15th

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 16th

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

Sunday 17th

Family Service (11am, St. Luke's Church) – **Faith for life?** John 11:1-44

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...

- Beth's Dad, Ian. Give thanks that Ian is now out of hospital and pray for a good recovery.
- Danny, a friend of Charlie's has been discharged from hospital and is now at home recovering. Danny is making good progress. Continued prayers for healing for his skin grafts.
- Katrina (Norah's daughter), who has a lesion on the brain. Having to wait for another scan to see if it is treatable.
- Lexi (Alison's granddaughter), whose operation has been postponed again. Also, for her parents recovering from Covid.

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:

Youth Led Service – Exploration – This Sunday

At St. Luke's church this Sunday evening, 10th October, from 5-6pm, we want to spend time exploring how we can grow faith and friendship in our secondary school aged children. We have an idea of starting a youth led service with a social event for them before or after and want to explore this together.

We would love secondary school aged children, parents and others who care about growing faith and friendship in this age group to come along and be a part of the conversation. There will be a time of worship, learning from the faith of Timothy (a young man the apostle Paul meets on one of his missionary journeys in Acts 16), an opportunity to brainstorm ideas, to discuss these ideas and pray together about how this can happen. It would be great to see as many young people as possible as we explore this with God together.

More than Sunday:

We had a really good first meeting on Monday night and a similarly good repeat on Tuesday morning. There were members there from all three churches: St. Luke's, St. George's and Christ Church. We looked at the story of Joseph and the story of God's people in the Old Testament, then we shared with each other the stories of the three churches.

In response, Tonya has written the following prayer:

Dear Lord, we thank you that we can pray to you anytime day or night and that you are always there listening to us. We thank you for the More than Sunday session Monday night where members of the 3 churches came together. We thank you for everyone being so honest about what is going on in their churches. We thank you for bringing our church families together and the feeling of our church family growing was such a blessing to witness. Amen.

Whether you made it last week or not, please do join us on Monday evening or Tuesday morning this week as we turn to look at the question of 'Our discipleship.'

Harvest Collection – Update

Last week's Harvest Collection for Tearfund's [Recover Together](#) appeal raised £254.20 through the collection in the service. We are waiting to hear how much has been donated through contactless donations and online. It is not too late to give to the Harvest Appeal. You can either use a 'Mission of the Month' envelope in church and put it in the collection box or use St. Luke's [online donation platform](#). Please make sure in the section: 'any details or reference' you say that the money is for the 'Harvest Appeal'.

Tearfund's: The Big Quiz Night, Saturday 20th November

Each year Tearfund hold a nationwide quiz night to raise funds for its excellent work. You can read more about this year's quiz [here](#). It would be great if someone or a small group from St. Luke's would take on running the quiz this year. If you are interested, then there is a 45-minute webinar this coming Thursday (14th October) at 6pm, which you could attend to see what is involved and get some ideas. [Register here](#) for the webinar (and let me know you are planning to go).

Update from Dick and Caroline Seed:

It has been a while since we were able to send an update, but we thank you for continuing to pray for us and for the work of TEDS. Here is some prayer news.

We last wrote to tell you that the August online training for Egypt had been cancelled. Unfortunately, we were not able to reschedule it as online training. Instead, Alexandria School of Theology has invited us to come in person in August 2022.

We thank the Lord for undertaking for us this September as we taught an intensive course for postgraduate students at George Whitefield College. It required several months of preparation, with us both working long hours to get ready, but it all went well in the end. We are now marking the first assignments.

The week after the GWC intensive, Caroline gave a series of lectures for St Paul's University, Kenya and St John's University, Tanzania on theological research. The lectures were offered online as a series of webinars for PhD candidates and their supervisors. The attendance was good, and the feedback was encouraging. It seems that some had lost confidence in the theological nature of theological research but went away encouraged. Please pray for the theology faculty in both universities as they work with the students.

This week, Dick is running a follow up series of online curriculum development training sessions for Berea Bible College in Kenya as they continue to write the new curriculum for a training programme for South Sudanese refugees in Kenya. This is the third week in the TEDS curriculum development series. The previous two weeks were run in June and July.

We have recently concluded discussions with George Whitefield College on bringing TEDS more closely into the college administration. As a result, we are expecting a part-time associate to join us soon and we have received a grant from OCA to upgrade our computer equipment to continue the online teaching. More about that as it develops.

We are hoping that South Africa will soon be off the UK "red list" and that we will be able to come to the UK on home leave between March and May 2022 (without having to pay hotel costs). South Africa is currently in a low Covid period with reduced lockdown restrictions. There are hopes that increased tourism will help revive the ailing local economy if travel restrictions are removed.

With grateful thanks for continuing in prayer with us.

Caroline and Dick Seed

Financial Update:

We are now $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through 2021, so we have a fairly good picture of where we are with finances. If we have no new significant gifts, then our projected income for 2021 is £52,000.

Our original budget was £80,000. However, we reckon that we will underspend by about £3,000 and St. George's are giving us over £5,000 as their contribution to the shared ministry for the second half of 2021. So, the money needed for 2021 is £72,000.

This leaves us with a shortfall of £14,000, which we pray will be met by some extra giving in the coming months. In the next few weeks, those who have indicated that they are happy to do so will receive a letter asking them to think about their giving to St. Luke's this year and in 2022. You can check on [iKnow](#), whether you have agreed to receive this letter or not and even change your selection.

If you would like to make a donation now, you can do so by [clicking here](#).

Links to Share:

Last Sunday's Sermon:

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

[Feeding on Jesus \(John 6:1-15\)](#)

John's version of the feeding of 5,000 is subtly different to the accounts in the other gospels. What is he trying to teach us?

An Interesting Blog:

[COP26 and the Planet.](#)

Here is another piece outlining the need to act over climate change and some of the campaigning that Christians are engaging in at present.

Praying for COP26:

Our Diocese are organising some different ways to pray for COP26:

- Sign up to receive daily emails which follow the themes of the COP26 programme, each containing an image, a prayer and a suggestion of three ways you can act to care for creation. [Sign up here](#).

- Join Archdeacon Andrew and Lyndall Bywater for an hour of prayer together on Zoom, 7:30-8:30pm on Tuesday 26th October, just before COP26 begins. [Register here](#).
- Join us for 15 minutes of prayer at 12 Noon each day on Zoom, from Monday 1st to Friday 12th November. Please use this [Zoom Link](#).

Finally, let's remember to rejoice all the more in what God gives to us – including each other.

Yours in Christ,

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