

'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free (Luke 4:18)

Jesus reads these words from the prophet Isaiah. He is in the synagogue, in his hometown. After he has read these words, he tells those gathered in v21 that 'today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.' These words are Jesus' mission statement. He's making it clear about what he has come to do and with whose authority.

Jesus came to give freedom which comes through the forgiveness of sins and opens up receiving God's favour, his blessing, being part of God's family beyond the Jewish faith, this forgiveness was on offer through Jesus for the whole earth.

Looking at our world today we see high needs of freedom and forgiveness. The good news of Jesus' love for the whole earth is needed. And as Christians we are to 'be imitators of Christ' (Ephesians 5:1) 'his ambassadors in the world' (2 Corinthians 5:20), making his mission known and continuing to share the Christian hope of love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

On a global scale, with the war in Ukraine, that may seem impossible, beyond our individual ability. But with God's Holy Spirit we too have God's authority and power to pray for the needs of our world and be involved where we can – let's be people of prayer and action as we seek to continue to share the good news of Jesus' love, forgiveness and reconciliation in the world.

Claire Coleman

This Sunday's Services on livestream: [Sunday Service - 13th March 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

Saturday 12th

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

Sunday 13th

Family Service (St. Luke's Church), Luke 4:14-30 - 11:00am-12:00pm

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

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

Monday 14th

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

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

Tuesday 15th

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

Wednesday 16th

Christianity Explored (Dumpton Park Road), 2:00pm-3:30pm

Thursday 17th

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), 7:30pm-9:00pm

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

Friday 18th

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

Saturday 19th

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

Sunday 20th

Family Service (St. Luke's Church), Luke 5:1-11 - 11:00am-12:00pm

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

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

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...

- Peace in the Ukraine and the end of aggression by Russia.
- Shirley Crabb - give thanks that she had her hip operation on is now home again. Pray for a good recovery.
- Joy Smithers. Thanks that after a short stay in hospital she is back home again. Pray for an improvement in health.
- Gloria and family after the death of her brother Harry. Pray for the funeral this Tuesday.
- Flo Baldock for effective treatment for a stomach ulcer.
- Jean Hann in Darent Valley Hospital. Give thanks for progress.
- Ken Tipler that the pain can be kept under control. Give thanks that his pain has eased.

Please also continue to pray for: Nathan Court, Pauline Emptage, Collette Judge, Barb (Gloria's daughter's friend), Rita Ryan.

Youth initiative – Starting this Sunday (13th)

This Sunday is the first of our Sunday youth evenings for Secondary School aged children and those in Year 6. In term time we will be meeting in St. Luke's Church from 5-7:30pm.

The first part of the evening will be a homegroup style meeting where for this term we will be studying Mark's gospel using the Christianity explored youth material. We will also use this time to plan the termly youth led service, having time for prayer and worship too.

Then from around 6:30 we will make and eat tea together and then finish our time with group games and activities.

Christianity Explored – Not too late to join!

Three out of five of our Christianity Explored groups have got off to a good start and the other two are starting this week (Sunday 5:30pm and Wednesday 2pm). It's not too late to join any group and a great way to learn more about Jesus and get to know other people at a deeper level. If you are interested in joining, please fill in [this form](#) as soon as possible.

I am Mark

Thank you to all those who helped make 'I am Mark' last Saturday such a great success. We hosted 99 audience members to watch a phenomenal and captivating dramatic performance of Mark's gospel by one man (Stefan Smart) and his chair! If you want to stay in touch with what Stefan is up to then you can check out this website: <https://sleek.bio/iammark>

Gather – A Women's Drop In

Plans are progressing for Lucy and a team from YWAM to set up a Women's Drop-In, called Gather, operating out of St. Luke's. They plan to have a volunteer information event in St. Luke's on **Friday 25th March, 12:30-2:30pm**. If you think you would like to be part of the drop-in team (you need to be female) or to support the project in prayer or some other way, then please pick up one of the leaflets from church or turn up to the Volunteer event.

Easter Cracked

On **Tuesday 22nd March, morning and afternoon and Friday 25th March in the morning**, we will be welcoming Year 6 pupils from 4 local schools to experience a 90-minute programme called Easter Cracked. This is an interactive programme that engages the youngsters with the Biblical Easter story and what it means today. We need some volunteers to help, especially with making Easter Egg nests. We need the most volunteers on the Tuesday morning and some on Tuesday afternoon and Friday morning. If you can help out please let Paul know as soon as possible.

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:

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

[Resisting Temptation \(Luke 4:1-13\)](#)

Giving in to temptation leads to disaster. It is a tragedy common to us all. Yet Jesus never gives in to temptation. How does he do it? How can we become more like him?

Hope in a Broken World

This blog reflects on the fact that for many of us in the West, our sense of ongoing security has been shattered by recent events. The writer reflects on lessons that can be learnt from the experience of Christians in South Africa, where life has generally been less secure in the recent past. [Read the blog...](#)

Is the future Post-Christian or Post-Secular?

The secularization thesis was the theory that the world is destined to get less religious as prosperity grows across the world. The thesis is looking increasingly like a myth. The world is becoming far more religious and Christianity remains the largest worldview globally. As we face war, plague and economic hardship, many are turning to a spirituality many had assumed was destined to die out.

How should the church relate to this moment? Nate Morgan Locke, Paul Feesey and Glen Scrivener discuss in [this podcast](#).

Finally, as we start Lent, let's commit ourselves to the Jesus who comes to set us free.

Yours in Christ,

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