

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

There is a well-known proverb: “Birds of a feather, flock together.” At one level this is an observation of nature. After all, have you ever seen a flock of birds containing both sparrows and seagulls?

Yet, the proverb is really about human relationships. People like to hang out with others like themselves, those of a similar age, in the same family or with similar interests or beliefs. We don't easily mix with people that are different to us. Even modern social media connects us with people who are similar to ourselves, creating echo chambers, where we tend to hear our own views reinforced. The result is that divisions form within society and often they lead to hatred or fear of those who are different to us.

One of the great divisions in the ancient world was between Jew and Gentile. The Jewish people saw themselves as God's special chosen people. They were holy, but everyone else, the Gentiles, were seen as unclean. So much so, that a Jew was not to mix with them for fear of becoming unclean themselves. Gentiles could become Jews, although this involved ceremonial washing and circumcision, before they would be accepted and welcomed.

The early church started off as a Jewish movement. It was natural to see Jesus as a Jewish Saviour for the Jewish people. Yet, Jesus's vision was greater than that. He had come as Saviour of the whole world. In Acts God makes it clear to Peter, that the Gentiles were also to be welcomed and accepted as part of Christ's family, when they repented and believed the Good News.

Similarly, today, we need to make sure that we welcome everyone and especially those who are not like us.

Paul Worledge

This Sunday's Services on livestream:

[Sunday 15th May](#)

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.

This Sunday is a Welcome Sunday

We are going to make this Sunday at St. Luke's a special Welcome Sunday. This is partly to welcome any from Christ Church, who want to join us, because they had their last regular service in their church last week. It is also to welcome anyone else who is new or to welcome back anyone who perhaps wants to try coming back to church now the number of Covid cases are falling rapidly.

So, to make it a special 'Welcome Sunday', everyone will receive a *Welcome Leaflet* when they arrive letting them know how things work at St. Luke's. We will also ask people to put on a sticker with their name on it, to make it easier to say hello to new people and Pauline is baking a special *Welcome Cake* for us to share together after the service.

We are also reintroducing, 'Welcome Packs' for new people with lots of extra information about what is going on at St. Luke's. This is for those coming for the first time, but if you are fairly new yourself and there are some left over at the end of the service, please feel free to take one.

Any suggestions for improving the welcome leaflet or the way we do our welcome would be... welcomed!

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 15th

Family Communion (St. Luke's Church), Acts 11:1-18 - 11:00am-12:00pm

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

Monday 16th

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

Tuesday 17th

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

Can You Trust the Gospels? (Salvation Army, Ramsgate High Street)
- 7:30-9:00pm

Thursday 19th

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

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

Friday 20th

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

Gather, Women's Drop-In (St. Luke's Church) - 12:30-2:30am

Saturday 21st

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

Sunday 22nd

Family Service (St. Luke's Church), Acts 16:6-15 - 11:00am-12:00pm

Annual Meeting & Lunch (St. Luke's Church), 12:30pm-2:30pm

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

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...

- Everyone to feel especially welcome this week and especially those joining us for the first time.
- Those starting their GCSEs this coming week.
- Baby Hope as she has a few appointments/tests with her cardio team over the coming weeks for her heart defect.
- Nicky Galer and family. Her mum's funeral is this Thursday.
- 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, David Perkins.

Annual Meeting and Church Lunch – Sunday 22nd May

After the service next Sunday (at about 12:30pm), we will have St. Luke's Annual Meeting in church. Everyone is welcome to attend, but only those on the electoral roll can vote.

This is a great opportunity to gather together, give thanks for what God has been doing among us in the last difficult year and reflect on where he is calling us next.

We will also be electing two new Church Wardens, and at least three members to the PCC. If you would like to stand there are forms for nomination available at the back of church.

After the meeting we will join together for a Bring and Share lunch in church. Please **sign the list of food items** at the back of church to say what you are going to bring.

Platinum Jubilee – Sunday 5th June

There will be a celebration service for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 5th June at **11am in St. George's church**. This will be a joint service between St. Luke's and St. George's and be for all ages.

After the service, at around 12pm, we will have a balloon release, with prayers of thanks for the queen outside the front of the church. Then there will be a treasure hunt, barbecue and cake in the church grounds from 12-2pm.

Any offers of help with preparing for any aspect of the event are welcome. In particular, we are looking for people to offer to make cakes and anyone who can **lend us a BBQ** (especially if it is gas powered) and / or **offer to cook on a BBQ**. Please let Paul know asap.

Can You Trust the Gospels? – Tuesday

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

A Churches Together in Ramsgate Course

This week: *Chinese whispers or eyewitness testimony?*

[Watch last week's talk...](#) (The talk starts 15 minutes and 30 seconds into the Livestream).

Thanet Light Orchestra – Date for your diary

Thanet Light Orchestra rehearse in St. Luke's church on Thursday evenings. They will be putting on a concert to raise money for church funds **on Saturday 16th July at 7pm**. Do put the date in your diary and think of anyone who would enjoy such a concert to invite along.

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:

[See and Believe \(Acts 9:32-43\)](#)

We long that people would see Jesus and come to believe in him. How does that happen? Acts shows us disciples who are constantly pointing people to Jesus. In this talk Claire Coleman shows how two disciples, Peter and Dorcas, point others to Jesus.

Building the Medieval Church – 25th June

Margaret Bolton writes:

Originally scheduled two years ago - but postponed due to covid - I'm delighted to be able to report that my talk "Building the Medieval Church" will go ahead on Saturday 25th June at St Laurence Church, Ramsgate starting at 3pm.

It is a fully illustrated talk in two parts. the first will look at how and why churches were planted in the middle ages and at how the buildings developed. There will then be a half hour or so refreshment break during which people can explore the church if they wish. St Laurence is around 900 years old and has some excellent medieval carvings. The second part will look at the people involved in the building process, where they came from, how the materials were sourced and brought to site, the way in which the work was done and what it all cost.

Although I'm clearly going to be talking about St Laurence, most of what I will be saying will be applicable to any medieval church, especially to those also built by St Augustine's Abbey - which includes Westbere, Chislet, Tenterden, Mongeham and St Paul at Canterbury.

The objective of the event is to raise funds so there will be an admission charge - most likely £5. Tickets will be available nearer the time from the Parish Office or on the day - though we encourage pre-booking to help with catering.

Update from Compassion

Check out this video which describes how Compassion have continued to support their Sponsored children through the Pandemic. [Watch the video...](#)

Finally, let's continue to pray that we can welcome every kind of person into our church family and especially those not like us.

Yours in Christ,

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