

**The LORD said to Abram, "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:3)**

Truth matters. If you believe that, then do you know why it matters? Perhaps recent events have helped to highlight why it is so important. Let me suggest three different types of truth and why they matter.

Firstly, there is scientific truth. Politicians needed to know the truth about the Omicron virus. How transmissible was it? How much would it overcome the vaccines we have been using? How seriously ill would people become if they caught it? Without knowing true answers to these questions, they could not make the right decisions about restrictions.

Secondly, truth matters when it comes to justice. What was the truth about Number 10 lockdown parties? What is the truth about Prince Andrew's relationship with Virginia Giuffre? Justice can only be done if we know the truth.

Thirdly, truth matters when it comes to trust or faith. When people make promises to us, we need to know whether they will be kept or not. We need to know if the promises are true. When we have elections, we need to know whether the promises being made by the politicians are true. In life we need to know whether the promises others make to us will be kept.

The Bible is all about truth, but perhaps this third aspect of truth is its main focus. As the history of the Bible unfolds it shows us how God's great promises to Abraham are fulfilled over many generations. God's promises do prove true. They can be trusted. Like Abraham we can put our faith in him.

Paul Worledge

### **[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 are running as normal on Sunday. If you want to check out the latest on our Covid precautions, please [see here](#).

## **Weekly Calendar**

### **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 –  
**Promises! Promises!** - 11:00am-12:00pm

### **Monday 17<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Prayer Meeting** (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity) (at Hardres Street) - 9:00-9:30am

## Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>

**Prayer Meeting** (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity) (at Hardres Street) - 9:00-9:30am

## Thursday 20<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 21<sup>st</sup>

**Prayer Meeting** (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity) (at Hardres Street) - 9:00-9:30am

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

## Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Prayer Breakfast** (Churches Together) (at Salvation Army) - 9:00-10:00am

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Family Service** (St. Luke's Church), Genesis 13:1-18 - **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 that St. Luke's broke even financially in 2021.
- Friends and family of Jean Simmons who died last Saturday.
- Lexi (Alison's granddaughter) for a good recovery after a successful operation on Thursday.
- 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.

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This runs from Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January this year. There will be prayer meetings at Hardres Street United church on weekdays from 9:00am and these will replace our Daily Prayer meetings (apart from on Thursday). There is also a Churches Together Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> at Salvation Army on the High Street.

The theme for this year is: "We saw his star in the East" and the material was prepared by the churches of the Middle East.

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## Youth Led Services – Pizza and Reflection

It seems like a lot has happened since our youth-led service in December. It was a great opportunity to worship God in a relaxed environment- the youth involved did a great job at bringing their ideas together.

In order to develop this further we are going to gather the youth again at Claire's house for pizza and reflection on how they thought the service went and how we can develop our youth work in 2022.

So, any youth aged over 11 are invited to meet on Sunday 23rd January 5-7pm at the curate's house (198 Margate Road).

For the youth that are coming, can you let Claire or Tonya know if there are any food allergies or dislikes.

## Do you want to arrange to see the vicar?

If you want to arrange to see Paul our vicar, then you can arrange a meeting using Calendly:

<https://calendly.com/worledge/meet-with-paul>

## Update on St. Luke's Finances

At our PCC on Monday we reviewed the church's finances and set a budget for 2022. The good news is that we managed to break even in 2021. This is partly because we spent less than normal due to Covid, but also because of the great generosity of a number of members of the congregation. We are grateful to God for both.

The budget we have set for 2022 is lower than in previous years, because St. George's are now also contributing to the Parish Share and administration costs. It also includes plans to invest more in church equipment and building maintenance. However, there is still a challenge to meet the costs. We estimate that we need an extra £15,000 in donations and one off gifts on top of planned giving, church collections and other income to meet our costs this year.

## Dick and Caroline Seed Update

The latest prayer letter from Dick and Caroline Seed is available on the World Mission desk in church or by checking out this link: [Prayer Letter](#).

## Helpful Links:

### **Cultural Review of 2021**

Check out this blog that reviews some of the key cultural events from last year and gives a Christian perspective on them: [Cultural Review](#)

### **A Year of Living Generously**

Can we change the story on generosity? Is God's generosity more than a stick to beat people with - urging them to do more, give more? Check out this Diocesan initiative for ways of improving your attitude of generosity in 2022: [Find out More.](#)

Finally, let's remember that truth matters and God's promises can be trusted.

Yours in Christ,

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