

**"Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." (Genesis 9:16)**

The rainbow symbol is very popular these days! During the pandemic it was particularly used as a symbol for our NHS as we sought to thank them for all they were doing in the face of the Pandemic. Let's not forget our health workers now as they continue to struggle with the pressures of an underfunded NHS still reeling from the effects of the Pandemic and the backlog in treatment it caused!

In the Bible the rainbow is firmly linked with the story of Noah. The world was wicked, so God sent a flood on the world. Yet, God also hatched a plan for salvation from this devastating judgement. Noah was a righteous man who 'walked faithfully with God' and God used Noah to bring salvation to his family and to the animals in the world.

After the salvation was complete, God assures them that he will never destroy all life on earth. He forms 'a covenant' with a symbol attached: the rainbow. A covenant is a special promise that binds together two people or groups in a special relationship. Marriage is a covenant, where two people promise to be committed to each other for the rest of their lives and wedding rings are a symbol of this covenant.

When Jesus died, he said his death was creating a new covenant. A promise between God and those who trust and follow Jesus, that their sins will be forgiven, and they will receive eternal life. Baptism and Holy Communion are the symbols of this 'New Covenant'. A permanent reminder of God's commitment to us who become part of his son's family.

## **[Livestream Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>, 11am](#)**

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

## **Weekly Calendar**

### **Friday 19<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Baptism Service** (St. Luke's Church),

- Genesis 6:9-22; 7:24-8:5, **Noah** - 11:00am-12:00pm

**Youth Meeting** (198, Margate Road), for 11-18 year olds - 5:00-6:00pm

### **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

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

**Joint Prayer Meeting** (St. Luke's Church) – 7:30-9:00pm

### **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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

**Joint Prayer Meeting** (St. Luke's Church) – 10:30-12:00pm

## Thursday 25<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.

**Bishop Rose in conversation** (All Saints, Birchington) – 6:30pm

## Friday 26<sup>th</sup>

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

## Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>

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

## Advent Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>

**Joint Service** (St. Luke's Church), Luke 21:25-36 – Jesus's Return

- 11:00am-12:00pm

**Youth Meeting** (198, Margate Road), for 11-18 year olds - 5:00-6:00pm

## 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...

- David Gill is having a stent put in his heart today (Friday 19<sup>th</sup>).
- John Galer after a stroke on holiday last week. Pray for a continuing good and full recovery and that he and Nicky will be able to return to the UK soon.
- Ken Tipler that the pain caused by his bone cancer can be kept under control.
- Katrina (Norah's daughter), who has cancer which will be treated with radiotherapy. Please pray that all will go well with the treatment.

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.

## Key Events this Week:

### Joint Prayer Meetings, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Following on from the successful, *More than Sunday*, sessions where we gathered people from St. Luke's, St. George's and Christ Church together, we are going to have a joint prayer gathering on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> in the evening and repeated on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> in the morning. This will be a chance to hear from and pray for one another as we work to build our life together.

### Bishop Rose in Conversation, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November

An opportunity to meet Bishop Rose and hear her in conversation and to ask questions. This evening will mark the end of the day when Bishop Rose is visiting Thanet Deanery. **6:30pm All Saint's Church, Birchington.**

Paul our vicar will be asking the questions. **Do send him any questions that you think it would be good to ask the bishop.**

### Joint Sunday Service, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November, Advent Sunday

This will be a joint service with St. George's and Christ Church **at St. Luke's at 11am.** It will include an 'All Age' element and activities for children as well as a chance to share with other churches. Please support this with your prayers and attendance.

## More Notices:

### Christmas Unwrapped - Just over a week away

Each year we invite Year 6 pupils from four local schools to a 90-minute presentation about the Christian story behind Christmas. This year we are expecting over 120 children to come to St. Luke's. There will be just under 60 on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November (10:30am-12noon)** and just under 70 on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December (10:30am-12:00pm)**. We particularly **need volunteers** on one or both of these dates to join us and help the children to make mince pies (or decorate biscuits). If you can help with this, then please let Paul (01843 592562, [vicar@stlukesramsgate.org](mailto:vicar@stlukesramsgate.org)) know as soon as possible.

### Planned Giving

We are looking for one off gifts to help us meet our costs for this year and an increase in planned giving for next year so that we can put our finances on a stronger footing. Have you responded yet? It is not too late!

### Christmas Services

We have now fixed the list of services over the Christmas period:

**Service of Remembrance** - 18<sup>th</sup> December, 6:30-7:30pm

**Family Carol Service** – 19<sup>th</sup> December, 3:00-4:00pm

**Crib Service** – 24<sup>th</sup> December, 4:00-4:45pm

**Carols and readings by candlelight** – 24<sup>th</sup> December, 6:30-7:30pm

**Christmas Day All Age and Holy Communion**

- 25<sup>th</sup> December, 11:00am-12:00pm

(Joint with St. George's, but at St. Luke's)

**Boxing Day Holy Communion service**

- 26<sup>th</sup> December, 11:00am-12:00pm

(Joint with St. George's, but at St. George's)

You can find out more about the services [on our website](#).

## Links to Share:

### Last Sunday's Sermon:

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

[Battle with sin \(Genesis 4:1-16\)](#). Genesis 4 presents the continuing results of sin in our world by showing us God's warning to Cain, that sin should not master him. Sadly, Cain gives in to sin with tragic consequences. Will we heed the warning today?

### Mobilising Missional Disciples

This blog offers some reflections from an American church leader about the need to focus more on sending Christians into the world to connect with people and less about bringing people into buildings and Sunday services: [Mobilising Missional Disciples 2](#).

Finally, let's remember the wonderful covenant we have through Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

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