

**"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another," (Romans 13:8a)**

One of the most important, but least remembered Christian festivals is Ascension Day. It is easily forgotten as it is no longer a public holiday and always falls on a Thursday. Yet, it is a crucial step in the trajectory of Jesus's ministry:

1. incarnated (came down from heaven to be born as a man)
2. crucified (descended to the dead)
3. resurrected (brought back bodily from the dead to a new life)
4. ascended (returned to heaven to rule at God's right hand).

The ascension is not the end of the story, but it is key to the next stage. That's why the book of Acts begins with the ascension. It is only because Jesus is now ascended to God's right hand that He could send the Holy Spirit, which Jesus says is what is needed for His church to begin its mission to the world. That is to witness to Him (Acts 1:8). The rest of Acts recounts how that new phase of Jesus's ministry began as it recounts the initial spread of the good news.

We still live in that phase of the story. Today's church continues in the power of the Spirit sent by the ascended Jesus to share the good news about Jesus around the world.

Between Ascension Day (26<sup>th</sup> May) and Pentecost Sunday (5<sup>th</sup> June), our prayer meetings at 9:30am – including Wednesday and Friday for these 9 days, will use the ***Thy Kingdom Come*** materials.

You may not be able to come to any of those meetings, but could you consider trying one thing for that period. Choose **5 people** you know who don't yet follow Jesus and commit to praying daily for them that they might hear about Him and come to put their faith in Him. Cards will be available in church to help you do this.

*Paul Worledge*

## **St. George's Website**

Check out:

- [What's On](#) – a page which lets you know what is happening this week and gives information about upcoming events.
- [Notices](#) – You can read the latest notices on this page.
- [Sermons](#) – Read a transcript of a recent sermon or watch the YouTube version recorded at St. Luke's.

## **Weekly Calendar**

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

**Eucharist** (St. George's, 9:30am) – Acts 16:6-15,

**Sunday School** (St. George's 10:45am)

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

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

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

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Coffee Morning** (St. George's Hall) – 11:00am-12:00pm

**Community Meal** (St. George's Hall) – 5:30pm-7:00pm

**Can you trust the Gospels** (Salvation Army, High Street), 7:30pm

## **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Ascension Day Service** (St. George's Church) - 6:30-7:30pm

## **Friday 27<sup>th</sup>**

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

## **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>**

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

## **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Eucharist** (St. George's, 9:30am) – Acts 16:16-40,

**Sunday School** (St. George's 10:45am)

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

## **Can You Trust the Gospels? – Tuesday**

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

*A Churches Together in Ramsgate Course*

This week: *Have the texts been tampered with?*

## **Youth Initiative Service – Next Sunday, 6:00pm**

Everyone is welcome to join us for this service led by the young people who attend Youth Initiative. Previous services have been a great time together and refreshments are served afterwards.

## **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...

- The family and friends of Victor, who sadly passed away on Monday.
- The ongoing plans for developing our church buildings.
- Preparations for the Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Platinum Jubilee – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

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

We are rethinking how to do the 'balloon release' in an environmentally friendly way, but still planning a treasure hunt and barbecue in St. George's church grounds afterwards.

We urgently need volunteers to:

- Provide and run a couple of BBQs (preferably gas)
- Provide cakes
- Help setting up tables and chairs before the service
- Help serve teas, coffees, cakes, etc. after the service

Please let Paul know as soon as possible if you can help in any of these ways.

## **Annual Meeting and Church Lunch – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

After the service this Sunday (at about 12:30pm), we will have St. Luke's Annual Meeting in church. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

We will be taking the annual report as read, so please read it beforehand! Printed copies are available at the back of church. Any questions on any aspect are welcome. Paul will share what he thinks are our main three challenges in the coming years and there will be time for discussion and questions on these. There will also be elections of wardens and PCC members.

Do come for lunch afterwards. If you have signed up to provide food, please bring it with you to church before the service. It would be great to enjoy a good time eating together and getting to know one another better.

## **Dick and Caroline Seed prayer requests:**

Here are a few prayer points:

1. Give thanks for an excellent meeting of the leaders from the 6 hub colleges/universities in Cairo at the end of April.
2. Pray for our final trips to Buckinghamshire this week, and Yorkshire next week. We return to South Africa on the 3rd June.
3. There has been a deterioration in the security situation in Muizenberg while we have been away. Pray for safety for all staff and students at the college and for us as we return.
4. We are currently organising in-person lecturer training for Alexandria School of Theology in August and Uganda Christian University in December. Please pray that all the funding will be available to do this.

## **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:**

[A Radical Welcome \(Acts 11:1-18\)](#)

Peter was in trouble! He had spent time at someone's house that was not a Jew. For the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem this was scandalous! So, when Peter returns to Jerusalem he explains what had happened and how God was calling them to a radical new way of thinking about the world.

### **Praying for 5 – A Guide**

Check out this document, which gives more details and ideas to encourage people to pray for 5 friends or family members to come to know Christ. [Read more...](#)

### **Christians in China**

This article based on a report from Open Doors gives an update on the way the Chinese government is trying to stop Christians sharing the Good News. [Read more...](#)

Finally, let's continue to pray for our friends and family that they can come to know the hope and help that comes from knowing Christ.

Yours in Christ,

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