

**"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28)**

This week, Fiona and I went to the cinema for the first time since Covid. We went to see the latest James Bond, which was as action packed as ever.

One of the best-known phrases of the franchise is when the hero orders a drink of Martini and asks for it to be 'shaken not stirred.' During the film, the spy is regularly 'shaken' as he is forced to jump off bridges, shot at and blown up. Yet somehow, he carries on going; he is not 'stirred'.

James Bond is of course a fictional character and the portrayal in the films is far from reality. Yet, the motto we have as Christians should perhaps also be, 'shaken not stirred'.

In Luke 21, Jesus is clear with his disciples that the future will involve a 'shaking of the heavenly bodies.' This is probably a metaphor that picks up similar Old Testament prophecies about radical changes in the politics and power structures of the time (e.g. Haggai 2:6,20-21). Such changes bring 'terror' and 'apprehension' to many as everything they hold dear is threatened. Most people are deeply 'stirred'.

As Christians, however, although we will be 'shaken' by such circumstances, we have an eternal hope that is secure no matter what happens in our world. For at Advent, we look forward to 'the coming of the Son of Man in the clouds of heaven' to set up God's eternal kingdom that will never be shaken. This hope gives us the strength and security not to be 'stirred' no matter how much our world is 'shaken.'

### **This Sunday is a Joint Service**

This Sunday we will be welcoming members of Christ Church and St. George's for a joint Sunday service at St. Luke's. This is the first time we have tried this and it would be great to have good attendance from all three churches as we meet to encourage one another.

### **[Livestream Sunday 28<sup>th</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. Apologies that the livestream failed last Sunday. I think the issue has been resolved!

## **Weekly Calendar**

### **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

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

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

## **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Christmas Unwrapped** (St. Luke's Church) - 10:30am-12pm

## **Thursday 2<sup>nd</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 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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

**Christmas Unwrapped** (St. Luke's Church) - 10:30am-12pm

## **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>**

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

## **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Joint Service** (St. Luke's Church), Luke 3:1-6 – **John the Baptist**  
- 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...

- Lyn Danino that she will make a good recovery from her heart attack this week.
- Give thanks that Jean Mayton has been able to return home.
- David Gill for a good recovery after having a stent put in his heart.
- John Galer recovering from a stroke on holiday. Pray for continuing recovery and wisdom for the best time to bring him safely back to the UK.
- Chloe Swift baptised last Sunday.
- 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.

## **Christmas Unwrapped - This week!**

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. Please see the time and dates in the diary above.

We are still looking for one or two more volunteers – especially for Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please let me know asap if you can help (01843 592562, [vicar@stlukesramsgate.org](mailto:vicar@stlukesramsgate.org)). I will be contacting those who have already volunteered with details of what's involved in the next couple of days.

## Preparing for Christmas

A big thanks to Claudia, Lesley and Fiona for decorating our church ready for Christmas. It has been done a bit earlier than normal this year, but this means it is all set for Christmas Unwrapped and various Christmas Concerts.

This week, the Christmas Crib figures have been put out. Some are showing their age and it would be good to have a few more shepherds, angels, sheep or wise men. If you are able to take one or more away to repair or to make copies that would be great. We need them returned by 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## Christmas with Cantate, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm

Cantate, a fantastic ensemble of singers, will be performing at St. Luke's again. Do put the date in your diary and invite friends and family along. Donations gratefully received and mainly in aid of St. Luke's, with a proportion going to the choir.

## Youth Led Service, Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 5:00-6:00pm

As part of our exploring and shaping the future of our youth ministry, a small group of our youth have been meeting together over the last three weeks in my house. We have been getting to know each other and having times of worship and teaching focussed on the planning of a youth-led service. It is not a youth service but **a service for all ages** that will be led and organised by our youth. The title will be 'Are you prepared?' It is an exciting chance to gather together to worship and ponder this theme. So all are welcome on **Sunday 12th December 5-6pm, at St. Luke's church** with a chance for some refreshments following the service.

*Claire Coleman*

## Holy Communion:

Normally we have Holy Communion on the third Sunday of the month, but for various reasons that has not happened in November and December is a bit different. So, the next Holy Communion service at St. Luke's will be on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December during our 11am service. There will also be Holy Communion during our Christmas Day service.

## Links to Share:

### Last Sunday's Sermon:

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

[Needing Salvation \(Genesis 6-9\).](#)

The story of Noah and the flood is the first major story of God bringing salvation. It also focuses on the covenant that God makes with Noah, his family and all the creatures of the earth. In this talk we see how Noah is a model for the better salvation that God brings through Jesus.

## Talking to Children about Death

Sometimes we have to share very sad news with children we are involved with. How do we talk to them about very sad news, such as the death of someone they knew well and loved? This short leaflet gives some very practical and down to earth help:

[Twelve guidelines for talking to children about death](#)

## What is distinctive about Luke's gospel?

Advent Sunday is the beginning of the church year. This coming year we are encouraged to take Luke as the main gospel to focus on. Luke's gospel is certainly going to be our focus in the coming few

weeks. Why not read this blog by New Testament scholar, Richard Bauckham, to find out a bit more about this longest of the four gospels:

[What is distinctive about Luke's gospel?](#)

Finally, let's remember that we can face a struggling world with the security of our eternal hope in Christ.

Yours in Christ,

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