

St Luke's Newsletter

December Edition



WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Christmas Services at St Luke's

24th December Christmas Eve

- 9.30am Parish Eucharist
- 4.00pm Crib & Christingle service
- 6.00pm Crib & Christingle service
- 11.30pm Midnight Eucharist



25th December Christmas Day

- 10.00am Family Eucharist

Team Letter December 2017 from Rev Helen Burnett

'Above all trust in the slow work of God'

These lines were penned by Teilhard de Chardin as he sat in the mud and squalor of a first world war trench where he was working as a stretcher bearer. His letters were a response to his cousin who could see no light at the end of the tunnel and his reflections in this correspondence went on to form a single piece 'Genesis of a Thought'.

As we accelerate towards Christmas his work is a salutary reminder that the coming of the kingdom of God is a slow burn, not a quick fix. During October and November, I have been putting aside time for Christian Meditation, as I write this I am trying to fix dates for one half an hour session a week during Advent and it is not easy! My experience over the past two months has been that putting that time aside has not prevented me achieving my goals for the week – they are easily missed anyway! Putting the time aside has eased my mind and I know that when that rising feeling of panic begins to build half an hour of meditation will calm me down and lessen the worry so that I become more able to address the pile of work and it puts the stuff of life in perspective. For me, as a Christian, that perspective comes from putting God at the centre of things. Mary in accepting the message of Angel Gabriel did exactly that, she put God at the centre of her life even though in doing so she risked everything – her safety, her happiness, her betrothal, her place in society. In the last 4 weeks of pregnancy most women are forced by their bodies to slow down whereas in the run up to Christmas most of us feel forced to speed up. In the final weeks of her pregnancy, we are told Mary and Joseph proceeded at donkey pace towards Bethlehem. They were living in an occupied territory from which they would soon have to flee and of course after the birth they sought refuge in Egypt until it was safe to return to Nazareth. The refugee story has become part of our contemporary narrative and for those who make up the 64 MILLION displaced persons in the world they have no choice but to wait – being slow is not a choice it is a fact of life – nothing comes quickly if you have no rights, no possessions no light at the end of the tunnel.

Life becomes a waiting game for all the wrong reasons.

As we, the people of Caterham, begin our journey towards Christmas perhaps we should pause occasionally to remember that seemingly insignificant teenage Mum who was somehow able to say yes to the slow work of God and in so doing approach our own work and our own challenges in a different perspective.

Patient Trust

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you; your ideas mature gradually let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time

(that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow. Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

PARISH REGISTER

Interment of Ashes

1st Nov Susan Elizabeth Ward-Banks
Ruby Pauline Margaret Ward

Funeral and Burial

10th Nov Roy Rigby
23rd Nov Michael Clyro

MORNING PRAYER 8.30am

At 8.30am on either Wednesday or Thursday Morning all members of Caterham Churches are welcome to join the Caterham Churches Together Morning Prayer. Each month a different church is chosen to lead the prayers.

In December on Wednesday mornings they are meeting at St Luke's Church, Whyteleafe.

Confirmation and Enquirers Course

If you would like to join in learning about our Christian faith and exploring the possibility of confirmation we will be running 6 sessions at **8pm** in the evening in the New Year:

Wed Jan 3rd Wed Jan 10th Wed Jan 17th

Wed Jan 24th Wed Jan 31st

SATURDAY Feb 3rd Confirmation Service at Southwark Cathedral

Wed Feb 7th post confirmation discussion.

If you would be interested in this short course then please email Rev Helen with the subject title: *Confirmation and Enquirers* hjburnett@msn.com



The Language of Advent

Take some time out for a pre-Christmas day of quiet reflection on Sat. 16th Dec. We'll be exploring the language of Advent, reflecting on its rich vocabulary and how the familiar words of this season speak to us today. Put the date in your diary and book your place now.

Date: Sat 16th Dec

Time: 10.00am - 4.00pm

**Venue: Elmore Pond Cottage, Castle Road,
Chipstead. CR5 3NS**

To book contact Sara Goatcher:
Email: sara.goatcher@btinternet.com
or phone: 020 8660 6198

Need a lift? Contact Sara Goatcher

Please bring a packed lunch to munch and a Bible to inwardly digest.

CAROL CONCERT at St Luke's



**Wednesday 6th December
at 7pm**

Carols, Christmas Songs & Readings

Bring and Share Lunches at St Luke's

On **Sunday January 7th at 1pm**, we are holding the first of our regular Bring & Share lunches.

Just think, it could be your first meal since Christmas without turkey leftovers! These lunches are a great opportunity for fellowship for the congregation, a chance to invite and meet new members and also to keep up-to-date with events taking place at St Luke's.

They will be held every other month, and the dates for 2018 are: March 4th May 6th July 1st October 7th (Harvest) December 2nd

The Corner House Cafe in the Transept, St Luke's Tuesday 30th January 18

2.30 - 4.30pm



The perfect place to make new friends,
enjoy a traditional English tea
and join in a variety of activities.
Just turn up.
You'll have a great time.

All Age Toy Service Sunday 3rd Dec at 9.30am

An opportunity for the giving of gifts to Welcare for families in need. Welcare would value donations of brand new developmental & sensory toys. Also Toys for boys aged 6 – 12. All gifts to remain unwrapped. Please no cuddly toys or electrical items.



CHRISTINGLE MAKING at St Luke's 23rd December at 2pm

Volunteers are needed to help make the Christingles.



Services During December

Sunday 3rd December

Advent Sunday - Toy Service in aid of Welcare
9.30am All Age Service

Tuesday 5th December

7.30pm Healing and Wholeness

Sunday 10th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.30am Eucharist & Inklings

Tuesday 12th December

7.30pm Conversation and Communion

Sunday 17th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.30am Eucharist & Inklings

Tuesday 19th December

7.30pm Conversation and Communion

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve

9.30am Eucharist

4.00pm Crib & Christingle service

6.00pm Crib & Christingle service

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Monday 25th December Christmas Day

10am Family Eucharist

Sunday 31st December 1st Sunday of Christmas

9.30am Eucharist