

ST LUKE'S NEWS *October 2021*

St Luke's website: www.stlukeschurchbuckfastleigh.org.uk
St Luke's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StLukesBuckfastleigh
Dart & Avon Mission Community website: www.dartandavonmissioncommunity.org.uk

CHURCH SERVICES DURING OCTOBER		
Sunday October 3rd	11.00am	HARVEST THANKGIVING - Holy Communion
Sunday October 10th	11.00am 6.00pm	Morning Prayer Compline and Homily
Sunday October 17th	11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday October 24th	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Sunday October 31st	11.00am	Morning Worship

HARVEST

The Harvest Thanksgiving service is on October 3rd at 11am, and will be a Communion service. There is a harvest cream tea on the preceding day at 3pm.

JOHN VINTON

John recently wrote to members of the PCC: *"I am afraid the time has come for me to step down from all of the posts I hold in the church, for health and other personal reasons. These posts are PCC member, Churchwarden, Trustee of the R E Churchward Trust, the Building Committee and the St. Luke's Steering Group. I will retire from all of these as of 30th September."*

That list of jobs shows how much John has been doing, and previously of course he was also Reader. We do thank John for all he has done and the huge contribution he has made to St Luke's over so many years. The PCC is currently considering how we can best deal with the gaps left by John's resignation.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

After two good "taster" sessions, one at each end of the Mission Community, we are now starting to arrange groups to do the 5-week course, and we do want to encourage as many church members as possible to be involved, whether or not you were able to come to the taster session. There are forms in church for you to sign up and to indicate when you are or are not available. Or else get in touch with George (01364 643912 or rev@georgeday.plus.com).

GIFT DAY

This will be on 17 October this year, and it is more important than ever that we should be able to meet our running costs for St Luke's. Our income is still much reduced, with fundraising postponed, and a trickle coming in from Bookings. Now we have no employees we have less outgoings, but we still have fuel bills, essential maintenance, fire alarm checks, insurance, telephone etc., etc.

Our planned giving brings in about £16,000 per year, while our running costs are around £20,000 so we have quite a shortfall. Also, we are having to dip into savings to pay our Common Share to the Diocese, so we do not have anything to fall back on. Hopefully, Bookings will continue to increase, and perhaps next year we can do some fundraising.

It is wonderful that the Foodbank has been so well supported by the community, but St Luke's has been somewhat overlooked, despite providing the facilities for the Foodbank to operate. We need to get through this lean period, and hopefully the future will be brighter for us, once we have addressed the challenges that we face with the building.

Janet McLellan PCC Treasurer

MOTHERS' UNION

Members enjoyed their trip to Dartmouth in September as our delayed Annual Outing. Although we left Buckfastleigh in rain, the weather brightened up for the rest of the day. Our thanks went to Janet Jones for organising the day for us all. It was good to be with members after such a difficult time.

We were also able to join together recently for our Wave of Prayer when we remembered link branches and worldwide MU.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7 October when our President, Nickie Johnson, will give us the MU talk. This will be held in the Coffee Lounge at St Luke's from 2.30 pm.

John Vinton will be talking to us on The Mezquita/Cathedral of Cordoba – two faiths sharing happily? This will be our November meeting which will be held on Thursday 4th in the Coffee Lounge at St Luke's from 2.30 pm.

Our Committee will be meeting in October when we will be discussing our fund-raising activities.

Visitors are more than welcome to come to any of our meetings. We are a friendly group!

For more information about Mothers' Union please contact Janet Jones on 643627.

Ann Tapper

It's that time of year again when we collect in our Overseas Boxes, so would members who have a collecting box kindly let me have it at our October meeting or in the next couple of weeks. Let me know if you are not able to get out and need me to call for it.

Elaine Day

HELPING IN CHURCH

We do need more members of the church to pitch in and help with some of the small practical things that contribute to the life of the church – the rota for a weekly clean, the Sunday morning coffee rota, and the rota for the Thursday coffee morning. These coffee events can only run if enough people are willing to help, and we cannot have the same few people doing it all. If you can help, please sign on the lists in church.

BIBLE STUDY

We were all very pleased to resume Bible study on Tuesday mornings in the chapel, and the first session produced 90% attendance! Of course, anyone is welcome to come and join us at 10 am on a Tuesday for an hour. Come when you can, as we don't expect everyone to come every week. We are studying Prayer from the Holy Habits Bible reflections series, which brings up all sorts of discussion. It's all confidential and is a place where we can talk freely about faith, doubt, questions etc. in a supportive environment. If you want to know more, please contact me, or just come along.

Janet McLellan

ACTIVITIES IN CHURCH

There are now lots of activities running in church during the week, some run by Laura with various helpers and some run by outside groups, mostly with Laura able to have a "chaplaincy" role for those attending. The table below shows the current pattern.

MONDAYS	Baby and Parent Group Weekly Monday morning group for new parents and anyone with new humans	SUNDAYS	Sunday Stories: Family Church Monthly supper, story and song
WEDNESDAYS	Parent Cafe A weekly Wednesday coffee hour offering space to talk, especially those who are parents of children with SEN, foster carers, and special guardians. Preschool aged children welcome too!	Grief Group Monthly space to share memories and seek support	
THURSDAYS	Community Coffee Weekly Thursday coffee morning in particular providing social space for those living alone and retired	Coming soon? Groups run by Home Start, Children's Centre and Eat that Frog Supporting families at all stages	
FRIDAYS	Coming in January...? Coffee Time at St Luke's Weekly Friday morning drop in for referrals to the Food Bank, other general support and advice and social space	We are also exploring ways that we can support adolescents and their parents in employability and life skills	
		Longer term There is little provision for working parents or those without children (at all or at home). Sunday Supper had some trial meetings within pandemic restrictions and there does seem to be a warmth towards this kind of gathering, aimed at adults exploring faith and providing a chance to make friends beyond being a parent.	
		External groups we support: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Moorland Community Care and Sharing tea and cake meeting monthly afternoons- Sweeney Toddlers' weekly children's group	