

ST LUKE'S NEWS February 2024

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 IN FEBRUARY		
Sunday February 4 th	6.00pm	Compline at 6.00pm
Sunday February 11 th	11.00am	Holy Communion
Ash Wednesday Feb 14 th	6.00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday February 18 th	11.00am	Morning Worship
Sunday February 25 th	11.00am	Holy Communion

THIS MONTH

This month we have the second of our regular **3rd Sunday of the month lay-led services**. It is really good that we now have a service each Sunday of the month, whereas for a couple of years there has been no 3rd Sunday service at St Luke's. It is also really good to see that this is lay-led – Alasdair James led the January one and Janet McLellan will lead the February one, with Anne Gore also as part of the team. It seems to be a fact of life now that we have reduced clergy numbers, and of course we are aiming for the ministry team of clergy and licensed lay ministers to give fair coverage to all the 7 churches in our mission community, so to have other lay members of our church stepping up to lead this monthly service is an important move – for far too long the Church of England has tended to assume that a service can only be taken by somebody with a dog collar, or at least a blue lay minister's scarf. Do support and encourage those who are leading these services.

Also this month there is our **Ash Wednesday service** – Wednesday 14th February at 6pm. We start Lent with this reflective service which will include, for those who wish, the traditional imposition of ashes.

On February 11th there will be one of our regular **charity** retiring offerings, for the work done by **Shekinah** with homeless people in Plymouth and Torquay. Housing problems seem to get ever more acute and Shekinah does vital work. Further details of their work can be found at <https://shekinah.co.uk>.

FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS IN OUR MISSION COMMUNITY

For some time we have had Laura's weekly email serving the 5 churches at this end of the mission community and a separate weekly email from Gina, serving the churches of South Brent and Rattery. These are now to be merged into a communication for our whole mission community, and this requires forming a new email list. Laura has already mentioned this in her emails, **but if you have not yet responded please let her know that you are happy for your email address to be added to this new list, as otherwise you will miss out.**

So there will be a new combined weekly email, giving information about the services and other things relevant to members of our seven churches. It will include a reflection on one of the set Bible passages for the coming Sunday, and the plan is also to at least sometimes include a reflection on other topics of concern and interest – sometimes things crop up in the news or in the wider Church of England that merit comment, and the plan is that this will be done by various people, not just the clergy.

Our monthly St Luke's News will continue, giving things relevant particularly to our own church. This will still be circulated by email and also there will be paper copies available in church for those not on email, or who just find it easier to have a paper version. The sort of reflections that I (George) have included recently will now appear in the amalgamated email.

LENT COURSE

We will be running a 5 week study to look theologically at the themes of death and grief. Whilst we won't be able to arrive at Easter with clear cut answers, we will be exploring and tackling some of the questions that come up when we lose someone or face our own mortality. The sessions take us from the poetry used at funerals, to what the Bible says about grief, death, hope, and what comes next. Drawing on CS Lewis, Paula Gooder and a breadth of Christian thinkers we will delve a little into themes that affect us all, yet are rarely examined together.

We recognise that, whilst this is a study group, it looks at sensitive themes, and we plan to hold the space carefully to ensure all feel comfortable to speak freely on the topics rather than to share personal experience. Our grief and bereavement groups continue to run in the Mission Community to offer a more pastoral and personal exploration.

There will be 2 identical sessions each week, one here at St Luke's, on Tuesday mornings at 10.30am (i.e. using the same time slot as the normal Bible study group) and one on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm at St Petroc's, in the Church Room on the opposite side of the churchyard from the church). Starting dates will be Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st February.

BUCKFASTLEIGH MOTHERS' UNION

In December members met to celebrate Christmas by enjoying a tea at our meeting. Members contributed sandwiches and cakes to share. This was followed with competitions to enjoy. At our January meeting, Anne Gore showed a slide show entitled 'It's a funny old world' which included slides of statues she has come across while travelling to many places with cruises. These were very amusing and members enjoyed them very much.

Our next meeting on Thursday 1 February at 2.30 pm at St Luke's Church will be our Annual Meeting when our committee will be elected for the next year. Visitors will be welcome to join our friendly group. For more information about Mothers' Union please contact Janet Jones on 643627.

MARISA COCKFIELD TO BE RURAL DEAN OF TOTNES

Most readers of St Luke's News will remember Marisa Cockfield, who was non-stipendiary curate here at St Luke's from summer 2014 to January 2018. She was then appointed to a full-time post in a group of parishes in the Bideford area in North Devon, becoming the Rural Dean of Barnstaple in spring 2022. She has now retired, and with husband Bernard is moving back to their house in Stoke Gabriel.

However, she is not going to be idle, as she has been appointed to be the Rural Dean for Totnes Deanery. For some time we have been without a rural dean, with archdeacon Douglas Dettmer stepping into the breach, alongside all his other responsibilities. None of the local clergy was in a position to take this on, and for some time it was very unclear what would happen, so this is very good news. Marisa will be commissioned by the Bishop of Plymouth, after which she will be officially welcomed into the role at the Deanery Synod on 11th March.

The Rural Dean has a co-ordinating and pastoral role, leading the clergy chapter and the deanery synod, and being a link with the diocese. So it is by no means a full-time position, but an important one nevertheless, and it is great that Marisa is stepping into this role with her caring approach and with all her experience.

CONCERT IN MARCH

There will be a concert at St Luke's church on Saturday March 16th at 2.30pm, given by the SOUTH HAMS COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA, conducted by Ian Hiscock. Admission is FREE, with a retiring collection IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS. The programme will consist of works by Handel and Vivaldi, and will include Handel's famous 'Cuckoo and Nightingale' organ concerto, with soloist Richard Lester, and Vivaldi's 'Goldfinch' concerto for flute and orchestra. Last year, the orchestra gave a concert which was well attended and a tremendous success. Please do support this – you won't be disappointed.