

Parish News

Sunday 27th December 2020

1st Sunday of Christmas

Parish Clergy

Revd Vicky Fleming 01543 502857 (Not Fridays)

Revd Gill Joynson 01543 502131

Parish Office 01543 502131

Mon– Fri leave message on
machine and we will call you back

Email: stlukesparish@btconnect.com

<http://www.stlukescannock.org.uk>

It is so frustrating trying to make contact with Vicars so Vicky will endeavour to be in her study every evening except Fridays and Sundays between 6pm and 7pm so that you can be sure of speaking to her. You are welcome to ring at other times but you may have to leave a message!

Important Reminder

If you like a member of the Pastoral Care Team to make contact with you, or anyone you know in need, you should inform the Parish Office. Because of Data Protection legislation access to contact details is restricted and so the person concerned must give permission.

Collect

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading - Galatians 4.4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Second Reading- .Luke 2.15-21

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reverend Vicky and Reverend George would like to thank you for the Christmas cards they received. For the encouragement and support they have had through this difficult year. We are taking a break but you will continue to be held in our prayers so our thanks to the Licensed Ministry team and administrators for holding the fort.

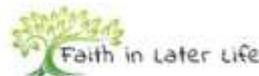
We wish you every blessing for the New Year and looking forward to seeing you again.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



CONNECTIONS

Dear Friends

This is the season of Contrasts and none more so than in the time we are living in at the present moment. While we worship a King born in a squalid Manger, our friends and loved ones are further away from us than ever before. The Angels rejoice with the Good News of Jesus, while churches lie silent or with doors un-opened. Christmas celebrations have not been the same, although the food and festivities are identical to the traditions of time, we may not have been able to join with those closest to us, but Mary and Joseph were also alone.

In all this, despite the restrictions and the considerations, the message of the birth of the Christ child never waivers. Whilst the world moves in a direction we have never before encountered in our lifetime, the story of the Incarnation, the birth, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus remains firm and gives us something to hold on to, something to believe in, something we know as faith. Faith in unusual circumstances, faith in squalor, faith through war and hatred, faith in sickness and in health, a faith so strong that whatever lies before us we are not worn down but lifted up; a faith which breaks down barriers and declares freedom to those held captive by hatred and inequality; a faith where the blind see the dawning of a new light and the broken hearted are healed.

We all hope for a better 2021 but in the meantime, please continue to remain safe and have a peaceful Christmas.

Di

We are the body of Christ and everyone is important.

God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly, thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power. May we walk gently. May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently, aware that you have endowed every creature and plant, every person and habitat with beauty and purpose. May we regard the world with tenderness. May we honour rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully, willing to laugh and dance and dream, remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come. May we welcome your lavish love. May we cast off the small, vindictive god our fears have made.



May the grace and peace of Christ bless us all now and in the days ahead. Amen

Happy Birthday to Nigel Bailey who celebrated his Birthday on

23rd December

Also Happy Birthday to

Teresa Atherton who celebrates on

27th December





Please continue to support the foodbank by donating during these difficult times. The foodbank needs the following per week to ensure there are sufficient stocks. Please donate if you can. Every week they need:

- **200 BOXES OF CEREALS**
- **600 TINS OF BEANS**
- **170 TINS OF TOMATOES**
- **552 TINS OF MEAT**
- **410 TINS OF RICE PUDDING**
- **410 TINS OF FRUIT**
- **205 JARS OF JAM**
- **255 PACKS OF BISCUITS**
- **355 BOTTLES OF JUICE/SQUASH**
- **255 BOTTLES OF UHT MILK**

If you can help by bringing these items the box is at the back of Church and Ian Coulter will take up when he is on duty at the foodbank.

Thank you

We build community with Christ at the centre when we really take care of others. Giving food for the Foodbank is wonderful and so is caring for our immediate neighbours. Is there anyone near you who would appreciate a note through the door, a homemade cake or some shopping done. We care for others by remembering HANDS, FACE, SPACE.

Special Thanks Liz and Vikki representatives at Moto Hilton Park, for community support, who have made a generous donation to the foodbank. Thanks to Ian our warden for taking to the distribution centre.

Thanks All



PLEASE NOTE

This area is getting closer to more strict restrictions so

remember HANDS, FACE AND SPACE

If you take risks you are not caring for others!

Please Note that the Church will be **CLOSED** on
Wednesday 30th December

Owing to the serious spread of the virus please check the website for any changes to our planned services resulting from Government guidelines

	St Luke's	St Thomas'
27th December	10.00 Holy Communion	Closed
3rd January	10.00 Holy Communion	Closed
10th January	8.00 Holy Communion 10.00 Morning Prayer	Closed