

Parish News

Sunday 8th May 2022

Easter 4

Parish Clergy

Revd Vicky Fleming 01543 502857 (Not Fridays)

Revd Gill Joynson 01543 502131

Revd George Fleming 01543 502857 (Not Fridays)

Revd. Marie Meredith 01543 741588 (Not Monday's)

Parish Office 01543 502131—Mon to Wed 9.30 –3 pm
leave messages on machine we will call you back

Email: stlukesparish@btconnect.com

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

The Church takes the safety of everyone within the church very seriously and expects that everyone will work within the church safeguarding policy. In particular, the Church expects anyone who becomes aware of a safeguarding risk or of actual abuse, to report it immediately to our Safeguarding Coordinator.

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading - *Acts 9.36-43*

³⁶In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that **Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.'** ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then **he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up.** ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Second Reading *John 10.22-30*

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon.

²⁴**So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'** ²⁵Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. **The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me;** ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is **greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.** ³⁰**The Father and I are one.'**

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pray for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

on 15th May, 2022

Lord, you have called us to 'Build Community with Christ at the Centre'.

We know this starts with ourselves and to be a disciple is to have you at our centre. We pray for our Annual Meeting that you will be in our hearts and that your Holy Spirit will guide us as we appoint Wardens and PCC members. May our hearts be open and obedient to your call and may we all support our new PCC in the days that lie ahead with our actions and our prayers. Amen



Opportunities for Prayer

Every Tuesday & Thursday Morning Prayer at 9am
in St. Luke's unless otherwise announced

A Prayer Group Meeting takes place on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 3pm at 13 Park Road. Join us as we **pray together for God's blessing and empowerment for the ministry and witness in our communities.**

Everyone is important and everyone has a part to play

Let's give thanks for our Wardens and PCC

Heavenly Father thank you for all those who have served on the PCC and as Wardens. We pray that those you call to serve in this way will be blessed beyond measure. Anoint them afresh with your Holy Spirit as they take on the responsibility of leadership. Amen

HOME COMMUNION

The Pastoral Team are able to take home communion to members of our congregation who cannot come to a church service at present. If you know of anyone who you think would appreciate having home communion please tell any member of the pastoral team, i.e. David Gethin, Gill Winter and Wendy Bishop, or the church wardens or give their name in to the parish office. The pastoral team will make contact and necessary arrangements.



Please remember the Foodbank when you go shopping—a have a lot of families struggling in our parish

Praying For 5

The Mission Action Team have recently embarked on a 14 month course in Leading Evangelism run by CPAS. The first module is around the theme of how we can connect with people and share the Gospel. It is not surprising that prayer was highlighted as an essential part in this process and that the more we pray and seek God for opportunities the more likely situations will arise where we get to share the Good News of Jesus.

My own experience of how I came to faith is testament to the power of prayer. As a child I was brought up within a Christian family. I attended church every Sunday, got confirmed as a teenager and was an active member in church life. Unfortunately like so many youngsters I drifted away from church when I left home and went to university. I still had faith and would have described myself as a Christian but **church was something I didn't have time for and if I am being honest** found rather boring.

I stayed away from church for 25 years but during that time I know my family continued to pray for me to return. They never sought to put any pressure on me but they reminded me often that Jesus loved me and would welcome me back with open arms. All I needed to do was **to invite Him into my life. It wasn't until I hit 40 that I began to reflect** on my life and realized I was unhappy and that there was something missing. I knew that something was Jesus but I stubbornly ignored Him

when He came knocking. That is until one night when I was feeling alone and at my lowest I knew I needed to invite Jesus into my life. I began to read the Bible and prayed for the courage to return to **church. I don't know why I feared returning but it had become an obstacle I couldn't overcome. That was until my mom told me the** coming Sunday was Back to Church Sunday! I just knew she would be praying that I would turn up. You should have seen her face when I did and she had an even broader smile when I turned up the following week too!

Returning to church was only the start of a journey I have been on over the past 8 years. In that time my life has changed completely and my faith has grown stronger as my relationship with Jesus **deepens. I know now that Jesus never stopped calling, I just wasn't** brave enough to open the door and invite Him in. I also know the reason my family prayed so faithfully for me over the years was that they knew what the consequences would be of not accepting Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. This is why I am now committed to praying for 5 people in my life who are yet to be saved. My prayer is that one day they will invite Jesus into their lives too.

Between Ascension Day and Pentecost I urge you to join with me and be intentional about praying for 5 people you know as part of Thy Kingdom Come and beyond. Martin Beavon

For more details of Thy Kingdom Come please visit:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/stories/pray-5>

****Please let the Parish Office know if you wish to advertise your group meeting****

Every family celebrates birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries—the Church family should be no different.



Happy Birthday to Janet Bailey

Who celebrates her Birthday on 14th May

We thank God for you and pray he will bless you richly



Church Refreshments are back
Please join us for refreshments after
the service in the church centre.

ST LUKE'S FUND-RAISING EVENT

Sunday 26th June 4:00pm

Please come along and enjoy a concert being given by Lichfield Sinfonia. Further details to follow.

Following the wonderful Sanctuary Day held on 2nd April, we will be starting a new course on Wednesday 18th May -

Saints Alive!

- This is a nurture course designed to equip churches to help people to come to faith and become active Christians within the church and the world.
- Saints Alive! Helps people to explore what it means to live the Christian life in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- It offers participants an opportunity to respond to Christ and **experience God's power at work in their own lives.**

If you are interested in joining the course please sign up or email:
vicky.fleming981@btinternet.com

Covid is still about
remember **HANDS, FACE AND SPACE**
If you take risks you are not caring for others!

St Luke's

Tuesday 10th May 9.00am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 11th 10.00am Holy Communion

Thursday 12th 9am Morning Prayer

Sunday 15th 9.30 am Holy Communion

Followed by APCM

St Thomas'

Sunday 15th May—Closed due to APCM

Sunday Services will continue to be on our website,
Facebook page and on our You Tube Channel.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



CONNECTIONS