

The Way Christmas Edition



ALL Are Welcome

St Luke's is a place to worship,
grow and to serve.

No matter where you are
on your

spiritual journey,
no matter your age,
or your background,

we would love to invite you
to experience our
church family as we seek
God together.

St Luke's is a place where
everyone
finds a loving welcome.

Inside this issue

Minister Pages 4/5

Special points of interest

◆ Church Groups	Page 2
◆ Church Notices	Page 3
◆ Church Services Dec—Feb 24	Page 6/7
◆ News from Fran	Page 8
◆ Action for Children	Page 9
◆ Christmas Quiz	Page 10
◆ Christmas Cracker Jokes	Page 11
◆ Black Historical Figures	Page 12
◆ The Cedars Foundation in Rochester	Page 13
◆ A quiz for Christmas	Page 14
◆ A Christmas letter from Jesus	Page 15
◆ Church Contacts	Page 16
◆ Quiz Answers	Page 16

St Luke's Methodist Church Centre

Groups that use the Church

Contact details for groups can be found at Community Group Page on church website



St Luke's Pre-School

Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday & Friday
9am to 3.30pm
Thursday
9am to 1pm

Rainbows and Brownies

Mondays

See Leaders for details



Medway Towns Bridge Club

Monday
At 7.30pm



Angie's Over
55s

Keep fit!

Every Tuesday/Thursday at 2pm

Blind Club
Tuesdays
2pm to 4pm

Apolostic Faith Group UK

Tuesday
7pm to 9pm

Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs Explorers and Scouts

Wednesday
5.15pm to 9pm



Bible Study and House Group

Wednesday at 7pm
at Fran's



Homemakers

Thursday at 2pm



Singing Choir

Thursday
between 7pm to 9pm

Craft Club

Every Friday between
10.30am and 1.30pm



Coffee Morning

Last Saturday in month
At 10am



Pentecostal Church Group

Every Sunday between 2-4pm

Special

Prayer News

Prayer Chain: The St Luke's On-Line Prayer Chain is still going strong and I would like to thank all those who are part of it for their faithfulness in praying for many needs during this past difficult year. I am sure that many people have benefited and are thankful. If you have a prayer request or you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain, please contact me by email or phone or speak to me at church.

Weekly Prayer: on our new weekly notice sheet there is a space for prayers. At the moment I am contributing to this but if you have a particular request, which doesn't involve people's names, please let me know. I am tending to stick to more general subjects as personal requests can be shared with the Prayer Chain.

Fran Shepherd

Notes from the Editor

Please keep all the articles rolling in! Remember articles do not have to be three pages long as every little article helps make The Way more enjoyable for all to read.

A copy can be viewed on the church website by clicking on the month at:

www.stlukesrochester.co.uk

Hard copies are free but any donations are kindly accepted. All monies go to the Project Funds.

Don't forget if you need the article typed just give it to Danny Gibson or leave it in an envelope at the church marked "The Way".

Safety Notice *when leaving our* *Church by car*

When leaving the Church premises in a vehicle would you please ensure that you turn immediately left out of the entrance and access City Way via the traffic islands in front of the George Pub. The church has been in contact with the police regarding going straight across onto City Way from our entrance and have been advised, that for safety reasons, due to the speed of traffic coming down City Way, you are less likely to have an accident and technically you are going round a roundabout the wrong way and could be liable to prosecution.

Hall available in City Way

For classes, parties, playgroups, Reasonable rates. Please check for availability and book online using the form on the website at:

<http://www.stlukesrochester.co.uk>



Who would you be most like in the Christmas Story?

Several years ago, I was retelling the Christmas story at a school Nativity and I asked the Question to the children, "Who are you in the Christmas Story?"

Now I promise, as part of our sermon series, I am not going to ask you to dress up but I would like to pose the same Question to you, "Who would you be most like in the Christmas Story?"

Because as I was planning our sermon series "The characters of Christmas, I could see many parallels between the Characters the Bible Portrays and People of our day. After all, Isn't the Bible really a Mirror for us to look into, that we might see ourselves?

Let me Explain Some folks are Represented by the Innkeeper..... the scapegoats of Christmas, Mean?, Hostile? Constantly busy, facing problems from all different directions yet for a while they forgot their own personal problems long enough to extend hospitality and kindness to Mary

and Joseph who needed them in their desperate hour.

Some folks are Represented by Joseph, a man with strong beliefs. prepared to do what was right for the sake of his family, the burden of poverty thrust upon him as he found himself amongst the vast ranks of refugees journeying down the centuries.

Then there's the shepherds, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. They were outsiders, religious outcasts and yet God saw them and valued them.

Oh, but then there are the Wise Men, who we know had great wealth, because they were able to give great treasures to Jesus. They had everything the world could offer but there was something missing in their lives. They had a spiritual hunger that drove them to the highest goal. They were seeking the King of Kings: Seeking to find Him, seeking to know Him, seeking to get close to Him, seeking to worship Him.

And then of course there is Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried, she fearfully stepped out in faith as she believed that God's intention was to do good to her. She knew that he is a God who exalts the humble and shows mercy to those who trust in him.

When you start to think about it that way, you realise that the Christmas story, like

most stories, have different characters, some play greater and lesser roles. There are those who play the main characters, and then others who are in the background playing supporting roles. Yet each character was critical to the story of the birth of the Christ Child.

Hence my hope this Advent, as we slow down, and enter into the stories of these men and women, that you will see that God uses even the most “minor” character to illustrate the central importance of the baby’s birth and that each of them in their own way point to the greatest character in the Christmas story: Jesus.

The Characters of Christmas

3rd December

Advent 1

The Characters of Christmas: Mary
Oscar Siu

10th December

Advent 2

The Characters of Christmas: Joseph
Revd Robin Selmes

17th December at 5.30pm

Advent 3

Carol Service

Christmas Eve 24th December at 6.30pm

Advent 4

The Characters of Christmas: Shepherds
Revd Robin Selmes

Christmas Day 25th December at 9.30am

The Characters of Christmas: Jesus
Revd Robin Selmes

New Years Eve 31st December at 10.30am

United service at Third Avenue
The Characters of Christmas: Wise men
Revd Robin Selmes



As you will have seen in the notices recently, we are planning to make a Christian Book Corner in church. This will contain books, which have a Christian content including biographies, daily readings and thoughts, stories and writings on

different topics. The idea will be that anyone can borrow a book to read and then return it when finished with. Reading books related to our faith can be a source of great encouragement and also challenge us to go deeper in our relationship with our Heavenly Father. Obviously, we need a good supply so, if you

have any such books at home that you have finished with then please let me have them. I have already started a collection, which I hope will grow so start looking! **Fran Shepherd**

Services — December 2023

Minister/Preacher	3rd December Oscar Siu	10th December Revd Robin Selmes Gift Service & Holy Communion
Duty Steward	Ian	Fran
Duty Steward	Fran	Deborah
Reader	Derek	Sylvia G
Door Steward	Jean	Val
Flowers	Advent	Advent
Minister/Preacher	17th December Carol Service at 5.30pm Revd Robin Selmes	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">Please note there is no morning service on Sunday 17th December</div>
Duty Steward	Deborah	
Duty Steward	Jean	
Reader	Rosemary	
Door Steward	Derek	
Flowers	Advent	
Minister/Preacher	24th December 10.30am Local Arrangements	24th December 6.30pm—Christmas Eve Revd Robin Selmes Holy Communion
Duty Steward	Jean	Ian
Duty Steward	Ian	
Flowers	Advent	Advent
Minister/Preacher	25th December 9.30am—Christmas Day Revd Robin Selmes	31st December United Service at Third Avenue
Duty Steward	Ian	
Flowers	Advent	

Services— January to February 2024

	7th January	14th January
Minister/Preacher	Mandy Harris	Revd Robin Selmes Covenant Service
Duty Steward	Ian	Deborah
Duty Steward	Deborah	Jean
Reader	Tony	Jan
Door Steward	Brenda	David
Flowers	Val	Brenda/Janet
	21st January	28th January
Minister/Preacher	Revd Canon Sue Brewer	Monica Wilding
Duty Steward	Fran	Ian
Duty Steward	Ian	Fran
Reader	David	Tim
Door Steward	Jean	Val
Flowers	Deborah	Jean
	4th February	11th February
Minister/Preacher	Lesley Trott	Revd Robin Selmes Holy Communion
Duty Steward	Deborah	Ian
Duty Steward	Ian	Deborah
Reader	Roger	Sylvia K
Door Steward	Derek	Roger
Flowers	Victoria	Ian
	18th February	25th February
Minister/Preacher	Ian Watton	Revd Canon Sue Brewer
Duty Steward	Fran	Jean
Duty Steward	Jean	Fran
Reader	Anne	Fran
Door Steward	Jan	Victoria
Flowers	Lent	Lent

News from Fran

Christian Book Corner

The bookcase is now in place at the back of church and we will be clearing the shelves next to it to make more room. I am pleased to say that I now have a substantial collection of mainly second-hand books, which have been donated or bought on-line. These will be labelled as property of St Luke's in the hope that they will be returned once read. There is a good mix of inspiring stories, meditations and daily readings, theological topics and more. I plan to have the corner set up in the New Year and hope that you will find a book that you would like to read and that it will inspire and encourage you in your faith.

Our Daily Bread

I was really pleased to find that I had given out all the December - February notes and have made a note of those who took one. Please let me know if you were not one of those people but you would like a copy next time so that

I can order extra ones. It is good to set aside time each day to read God's word and be inspired by the messages.

Food Bank

Recently, at the centres in Rochester and Strood, we have seen an increase in the number of people coming for food and support. Many of them are struggling in these difficult times as they try to manage their bills and keep warm and fed. Some have been moved into the area to escape an abusive relationship and they find themselves in temporary accommodation in a place which they don't know. It is good for them to feel that there are people who care and they are always very grateful for all that they receive. So, thank you, once again for your generosity and please keep donating to the green box at the back of church. If everyone just puts one item in it all adds up and helps to keep the warehouse well stocked and if you put more in even better!

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

This year (2023) we have raised
£178.59

for Action for Children from the Home
Collection Boxes.

Many thanks to those of you who have
contributed to this amount.

This is the 3rd highest amount we have raised
in the last 10 years and I am very grateful to
all those of you who have helped to raise
the money.

If you do not have a box but would like to be
able to help contribute (it does not have to be
a lot) please see me.

Rosemary

Christmas Quiz

		Answer
1	What did 'My True Love' send me on day seven?	
2	According to the carol which plant in the wood 'Bears the crown'?	
3	Name who tried to 'steal' Christmas in a children's book.	
4	Is the title of the famous Christmas song 'Rudolph The Red <u>Nose</u> Reindeer' or 'Rudolph The Red- <u>Nosed</u> Reindeer'?	
5	What do the actual '12 Days of Christmas' symbolise?	
6	The 1942 hit-song 'White Christmas' appeared in the film 'Holiday Inn' – who sang it?	
7	Name the ocean that Christmas Island is in.	
8	Boxing Day shares its date with what other named day in December?	
9	Assuming I only got one set of 'gifts' each day how many items all together did 'My True Love' send me by day 12?	
10	In what decade did Band Aid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas' appear?	
11	What other names can be given to the 5 th of January?	
12	'Jingle Bells' was not originally a Christmas song – what special holiday was it originally written for?	
13	He's a character in Dicken's 'A Christmas Carol', so what is 'Tiny Tim's' full name?	
14	Harry Belafonte made famous which Christmas song?	
15	Name the three gifts the 'Magi' took to the stable.	
16	What are the first two lines of Clement Moore's poem 'A Visit From St. Nicholas'?	
17	Where were the 'ships all three' sailing to?	

Christmas Cracker Jokes

What Christmas Carol is most popular with parents
Silent Night

What does Santa called reindeer that wont work?

Dinner

The Four ages of Men

1. You believe in Father Christmas.
2. You don't believe in Father Christmas.
3. You are Father Christmas.

Why was Santa's helpers feeling glum?
They had low self-esteem.

Knock, Knock.
Who's there?
Mary.
Mary who?

Mary Christmas

Knock Knock.
Who's there?
Dexter
Dexter who?

Dexter halls with boughs of holly!

What did Adam say to his partner on December 24th?

It's Christmas, Eve

What goes oh oh oh?

Santa walking backwards

'Romance at Christmas'
by Miss L Towe

Remember Children.

The best way to get a puppy for Christmas is to keep on asking for a baby brother!

What is Father Christmas's telephone number?

0 0 0

What did the monster say when it saw Father Christmas?

"Yum yum!"

'Christmas Traditions'
by Ollie And Ivy

Why is Turkey so popular at Christmas?

Because the weather is a lot hotter over there this time of the year.

Good King Wenceslas orders a pizza. "How would you like it, your majesty?" asks the waiter.
"Oh, same as usual please," the King replies. "Deep pan, crisp and even."

How many black historical figures can you name?

The results of a recent YouGov survey show that at least 50% of Britons cannot name one Black historical figure. It seems most of us know little about our Black British history. Contrary to popular belief that the first black people migrated to Britain in the last 200 years or less, it appears that people migrated from Africa and settled here some 2000 years ago.

Results from the survey also showed a drastic under estimation of Britain's involvement in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Only 12% of people thought that more than a million people were taken. Shockingly, the true figure was more than three times that amount. Even more shameful is the way in which attempts have been made to erase the part played by many people of colour who helped build the Britain we know, in the fields of science, sport, literature and law. There have always been people with black or brown skin in Britain, from the stone age through to the present day.

We know one of the Roman Governors of Britain between the years 139 and 142 was a black man by the name of Quintus Lollius Urbicus.

A former black slave Olaudah Equiano became a prominent abolitionist and writer. Taken as a slave with his sister as a child his experiences as a slave enabled him to write an honest account of the brutality of slavery. His Christian faith sustained him throughout his life.



We've all heard of Florence Nightingale but not



so much of the black nurse Mary Seacole who also provided care for British soldiers during the Crimean War.

Thankfully her work has been recognised in recent years.

There are also many black people who have been involved in the creative arts, such as the composer Samuel Coleridge -Taylor. Much of their work has been ignored over the years. In our multi-racial society there is a need for more Black British history to be covered in our schools and universities . It is only through greater knowledge and understanding that we can avoid further divisions in our society.

***Recommended reading:
Brilliant Black British History written by Atinuke
and published by Bloomsbury***

66 Maidstone Road
Rochester ME1 3BS
admin@cedarsfoundation.org.uk



The Cedars Foundation in Rochester

offers support for parents who are home educating their children. We are looking for the first group of families to strongly establish the new work.

With Bible study and prayer at the centre of family life, enrichment of learning is central to our focus. Our new Bible school has a study programme for all the family at its heart, with resources for all levels of study and libraries for both adults and children.

The school facilities include a Study Centre, a Meeting Room, a Creation Room, classrooms and libraries set within beautiful grounds.

As an independent charitable Christian trust, established in 1969, The Cedars Foundation supported a day school until 2015.

For further information, please contact Dr and Mrs Clifford and Sally Denton on admin@cedarsfoundation.org.uk



The Cedars Foundation Charity Number: 307860

A Quiz for Christmas

		Answer
1	What did 'My True Love' send me on day eight?	
2	Name six of Santa's original reindeer?	
3	Where did probably the best known carol, whose last verse is only sung on Christmas Day itself, tell you to come to?	
4	Which country supplies the Christmas tree that is erected in Trafalgar Square each year?	
5	Name the children's picture book written and drawn by Raymond Briggs that was made into a cartoon that used to appear almost every Christmas on TV?	
6	When was the first televised 'Christmas Message' from royalty?	
7	What does the 'Decem' part of December's name actually mean?	
8	Name the film released in 2003 about one of Santa's helpers who doesn't realise that he is really a human being	
9	When mixing a Christmas pudding in which direction traditionally should you stir it?	
10	Which country started the tradition of putting up and decorating a Christmas Tree?	
11	What sort of tidings do the 'merry gentlemen' offer?	
12	Who wrote the story 'How The Grinch Stole Christmas'?	
13	Which plant with red and green foliage is usually associated with Christmas?	
14	Who composed the song 'White Christmas'?	
15	Name the Christmas song made famous by the 'Singing Cowboy' Gene Autry.	

A Christmas Letter from Jesus

When you look for me at Christmas,

You won't need a special star.

I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,

I'm right here where you are.

You may not be aware of me

amid the celebrations.

You'll have to look beyond the stores,

and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment

from your list of things to do,

To close your eyes and say a prayer,

I'm waiting here for you.

You're the one I want to be with,

You're the reason that I came!

And you'll find me in the stillness

Where I'm whispering your name.

Church Leaders & Contacts Page

Minister	Revd Robin Selmes
Senior Church Steward and Worship Leader	Ian Smith
Church Steward	Jean Wahanchuk
Church Steward	Deborah Ingram
Church Steward	Fran Shepherd
Church Notices	Danny Gibson
Church Secretary	Fran Shepherd
Gift Aid Secretary	Sylvia Kane
Baptism Roll Secretary	Jan Sellings
Magazine Editor	Danny Gibson
Hall Bookings	Jean Wahanchuk
Property & Finance Chairman	Revd Robin Selmes
Church Treasurer	Sylvia Kane
Church Pastoral	Derek Brighton

CHRISTMAS QUIZ – Answers

1. Seven swans a 'swimming. **2.** The Holly. **3.** The 'Grinch' – 'How The Grinch Stole Christmas' by Dr. Seuss. **4.** 'Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer'. **5.** The time from the birth of Jesus to the arrival of the Magi. **6.** Bing Crosby. **7.** The Indian Ocean. **8.** St. Stephen's Day. **9.** 78 gifts. **10.** 1980's (1984). **11.** 'Twelfth Night', Epiphany or Three King's Day. **12.** American 'Thanksgiving Day'. **13.** Timothy Cratchit. **14.** 'Mary's Boy Child'. **15.** Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. **16.** 'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse'. **17.** To Bethlehem.

A QUIZ FOR CHRISTMAS – Answers

1. Eight Maids a milking. **2.** Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. **3.** Bethlehem (O Come All Ye Faithful). **4.** Norway – in response to the help given by Britain during WWII. **5.** 'The Snowman'. **6.** Queen Elizabeth II in 1957. **7.** It's Latin for 'ten' – in the Roman calendar December was the 'Tenth Month'. **8.** 'Elf'. **9.** Clockwise. **10.** Germany. **11.** 'Tidings of Comfort and Joy' (God Rest You Merry Gentlemen). **12.** Dr. Seuss. **13.** A Poinsettia. **14.** Irving Berlin. **15.** 'Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer'.

Details of Groups that use the church can be found via the church website

details below

City Way, Rochester, Kent ME1 2BQ

Website: <http://www.stlukesrochester.co.uk/>

Church e-mail Address: stlukes2014@gmail.com

Church Telephone/Answerphone: 07506 765805