

From the Vicar....

It feels like we really lose the daylight in October, I often leave the house in the mornings in darkness and come back to it mid-afternoon it is the same. The clocks go back on the 27th and we gain an extra hour in bed but lose an hour of daylight in the evening. It's not always that noticeable that we have gained that extra hour in the morning! I don't know about you but I sulk a bit at the loss of the light!

Light and darkness are very powerful ideas. Darkness is often associated with fear and uncertainty whereas light dispels the darkness.

We are told in the psalms that God deals equally well with both light and darkness.

"Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You." Psalm 139 verse 12

Sometimes the cover of darkness is used to cover bad deeds. They may succeed in not being noticed by other people but we are told God sees them as plainly as day. It's a cautionary note that we sometimes believe we can get away with things when we are plainly and clearly in God's sight but it's also hugely reassuring when we see so much injustice in our community and feel like no one can do anything about it.

The light and darkness theme is used to talk about the hope that Jesus brings into the world.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1 verse 5

We all know that throughout our lives we are likely to come across darkness and evil, but God promises that the light will always overcome it. As we are faced by dark places in our lives we should not be overwhelmed by them or feel we are without hope. We are encouraged to look for the light that has the power to dispel the darkness.

On the 31st October we will be out with the community celebrating 'All Hallows Eve' or Halloween. It's an opportunity for us to continue our theme of being light in the darkness and celebrate in a really lovely way, offering hospitality, treats and warm drinks to people who are out and about

Another area where darkness and light can be really pronounced is when we are faced with the death of someone we love. The first Bible verse above is from Psalm 139 which I often use at funeral services.

The church celebrates this hope on the 1st Nov with All Saints and the 2nd Nov with All Souls. We combine the two festivals when we gather for our Sunday morning service on the 3rd November. You are all invited to come and remember someone special to you who has died and there will be an opportunity to light a candle and hear their name read out as we honour their memory. This service reaffirms God's power over light and darkness, life and death.

Every Blessing – Gemma

Newsletter Content

If you have any items for the Newsletter (including requests for prayer) please contact Janette Tadman 01245 469124

Email janettetadman@gmail.com

Deadline Wednesday evening

Contacts

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Churchwardens

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Deputy Churchwardens

Mike Tadman Sue Davies
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WELCOME to St. Luke's Church.

Please stay for refreshments and fellowship in the hall after the service.

There will be a collection during the third hymn. If you are a taxpayer, please use a Gift Aid envelope, available from the Sidesmen. If you give by Standing Order or are unable to give today, please pass the basket on.

Sunday 27th October

Bible Sunday

8am Holy Communion at St. John's

10am Fourth Sunday Service

Leader and Speaker Lucy Bubb

Readings

Psalm 119:129-136 Dawn Thomas
Luke 4:16-24

Sidesman Dawn Thomas, Helen Field

Sound Dave Thomas

Coffee Jane and Dave Chambers

Counters Helen Field, Dave Thomas

Duty Churchwarden Sue Davies

Organist Philippa Penkett

Collect

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be
written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest
them
that, through patience, and the comfort of
your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour
Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Post Communion Prayer

God of all grace,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread; who
is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

TO OUR VISITORS Welcome to our service. The **hymn numbers** are displayed on the boards, and will also be announced. When we come to receive Holy Communion, please see the notes in our **Order of Service**, which are provided for your guidance. We like to mark **birthdays** by singing "Happy Birthday to you: to Jesus be true. May God's richest blessing rest today upon you." If it is your birthday this week, please tell one of the ministers.

The ministry of Prayer with Laying-on-of-Hands for Healing is available every Sunday. If you would like this for yourself or another, please speak to one of the Ministers or Churchwardens.

Readings

Isaiah 45:22-25 (Not being read at Sunday morning service)

Psalms 119:129-136

¹²⁹ Your rules are wonderful. That is why I obey them. ¹³⁰ Learning your words gives wisdom and understanding for the foolish. ¹³¹ I want to learn your commands. I am like a person breathing hard and waiting impatiently. ¹³² Look at me and have mercy on me as you do for those who love you.

¹³³ Guide my steps as you promised. Don't let any sin control me. ¹³⁴ Save me from harmful people. Then I will obey your orders.

¹³⁵ Show your kindness to me, your servant. Teach me your demands. ¹³⁶ Tears stream from my eyes because people do not obey your teachings.

Romans 15:1-6 (Not being read at Sunday morning service)

Luke 4:16-24 International Children's Bible (ICB)

¹⁶ Jesus travelled to Nazareth, where he had grown up. On the Sabbath day he went to the synagogue as he always did. Jesus stood up to read. ¹⁷ The book of Isaiah the prophet was given to him. He opened the book and found the place where this is written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is in me.

This is because God chose me to tell the Good News to the poor.

God sent me to tell the prisoners of sin that they are free,

and to tell the blind that they can see again. *Isaiah 61:1*

God sent me to free those who have been treated unfairly, *Isaiah 58:6*

¹⁹ and to announce the time when the Lord will show kindness to his people." *Isaiah 61:2*

²⁰ Jesus closed the book, gave it back, and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue was watching Jesus closely. ²¹ He began to speak to them. He said, "While you heard these words just now, they were coming true!"

²² All the people praised Jesus. They were amazed at the beautiful words he spoke. They asked, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

²³ Jesus said to them, "I know that you will tell me the old saying: 'Doctor, heal yourself.' You want to say, 'We heard about the things you did in Capernaum. Do those things here in your own town!'" ²⁴ Then Jesus said, "I tell you the truth. A prophet is not accepted in his own town.

Please Pray This Week

For Brian, Joan, Bob, Margaret, June, Tammy, Kath, Emma, Basil, Greta, Carmen, Agnes, Revd John S, Janette, Melvyn, Nicky and Alina

For those named on the prayer board

Christmas Tree Festival

Creating a Buzz!

The invitations to groups, organisations and local businesses asking them to provide and decorate Christmas trees for our Christmas Tree Festival on 14 - 15 December have started to go out this week.

We need you to help create a buzz! Please chat to all those that you know in shops and groups to encourage them to enter a tree - and if you find one that hasn't been invited or you would like to enter a tree with your family, let Lucy know. The trees can be real, artificial or even made from scratch!

This is a real opportunity to bring our community together for a family-orientated event.

Key Messages from PCC:

The PCC met on 23 Oct and have the following key messages:

- We are planning to change the Sanctuary carpet in the near future; watch out for samples!

- We agreed our Christmas giving; this will be, as in previous years, CRISIS throughout December, Little Havens Hospice at the Crib Service, and The Children's Society at the Christingle Service.

- We have taken the first steps to undertake an audit against the Eco Church standards to see what further work we need to do under our priority of environmental stewardship.

Film Morning

Chelmsford Odeon is showing an animated film of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* (PG) daily at 10.20am from Saturday 26th October until Thursday 31st October. Do see it! www.pilgrimsprogressmovie.co.uk

This Week

The church is open daily for prayer

Monday 28 October

Pray for the United Nations

Tuesday 29 October

Pray for Donald Way

9.15am: Morning Prayer at

Church of the Holy Spirit, Widford

Wednesday 30 October

Pray for Methodists

9.15am: Morning Prayer at St. Luke's

Edward Bear is on holiday this week

Thursday 31 October

Pray for Peace in Syria and The Middle East

9.15am: Morning Prayer at St. John's

5 - 7pm: All Hallows Eve Outreach

Friday 1 November

Pray for the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows

Saturday 2 November

Pray for Moss Walk

11am: Saturday Coffee

Sunday 3rd November

All Saints' Day

incorporating a celebration of
All Souls'

8am: Holy Communion at St. John's

10am: Service of Holy Communion

President & Preacher: Revd Jo Jones

Crucifer: Helen Field

Server: David Millward

Chalice: Helen Field, Richard Field

Intercessions: Lucy Bubb

Readings

Ephesians 1:11-23 Louise Whitehead

Luke 6:20-31

Sidesmen: Sue Davies, Maxine Buck

Sound: Mike Tadman

Coffee: Mike and Janette Tadman

Counters: Helen Field, Dave Chambers

Duty Churchwarden: Lucy Bubb

Organist: Michael Davis

Commemoration of All Souls

As we've done for the last few years, our service on **3rd November** will be combining All Saints with the commemoration of All Souls.

If you would like the name of a loved one read out during the service, please add their names clearly to the sign-up sheet at the back of church.

Call to Prayer: Brexit - 30 Oct

In this major time of change, we are being invited to commit the UK to God with Psalm 23 as our inspiration, particularly on 30th October. We would like Jesus to be the Good Shepherd to the UK, to bring comfort and guide us as a nation.

<https://nationalcall2prayer.com/>

Living Light

The Aumbry Light for October has been sponsored by Lucy Bubb in memory of her father John Bubb



Saturday Coffee

2nd November

On duty: Brenda Hudson

Join us for coffee and fellowship

