

Please Pray This Week

For Brian, Joan, Bob, Margaret, Tammy, Emma, Greta, Carmen, Revd John, Nicky, Alina, Doug, Margaret.

For people to step forward as Churchwardens and PCC members at the APCM

For those named on the prayer board

This week we remember:
May Roscoe (21.05.1989)
Yvonne Jackson (21.05.2011)
Ronald Lant (23.05.1990)

Prayer for those affected by Coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
Under the shadow of your mercy,
sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
That we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate
us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Saturday Coffee Book Group Reviews

Members of our Saturday Coffee Book Group have been sharing their thoughts on the books they've been reading over recent weeks - perhaps you'd like to try one or two of them!

"Land of the Long White Cloud" and "Call of the Kiwi"

These two books form part of a trilogy, and were published, originally in German, in 2007 and 2009. Author: Sarah Lark.

The books relate the story of the early European settlers in New Zealand and their relationship with the original Maori inhabitants. Two young women from disparate backgrounds, whose stories become entwined, emigrate by chance on the same ship to New Zealand.

The management of large farms dedicated to sheep-rearing on the South Island is well researched. The author's understanding and appreciation of Maori culture is self-evident in her depiction of the relationship with settlers. It is a far-ranging saga, occasionally exciting and racy. Lark avoids sentimentality, emphasising the hardships of farming and mining in a remote setting, nor is the exploitation of vulnerable women overlooked.

The trilogy is completed by "Song of the Spirits", bringing the reader into the 20th Century. Is this material worthy of a "Poldark"-style TV drama for the southern hemisphere? Read it before the BBC does! - Rita.

Daily Hope

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line - which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** - has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

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

Vicar Revd Gemma Fraser 07540 152561

Churchwardens

Richard Field Lucy Bubb
07776 208546 07970 728673

Deputy Churchwardens

Mike Tadman Sue Davies
07740 625454 07708 296804

Sunday 17th May

6th Sunday of Easter

**8am: Holy Communion with
prayer of Spiritual Communion**

10am: Morning Worship

**10.45am: Virtual Coffee
via Zoom**

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer returns this week [at 9.15am, Monday - Friday](#), on Facebook and on our website.

On Thursday it is Ascension Day, and Revd Gemma will lead the service that morning with a special order of service.

Collect

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father
Amen

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Christian Aid Week 2020

Last week we supported Christian Aid Week 2020; if you missed the short daily reflections from across the world or our own services of Evening Prayer, these can all be found on our website <http://www.stlukemoulsham.co.uk/worship-at-home/>.

We set a joint fundraising target across St John's and St Luke's of £1,000 - by Saturday morning we are delighted that the target has been exceeded and we have raised £1,125 plus Gift Aid!

There is still time to make a donation if you haven't had the chance to do so either online: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/moulshamchurchesca2020> or sending a cheque (made payable to Christian Aid) to: Christian Aid, 35 Lower Marsh, London, SE1 7RL.

St Luke's Financial Situation

Across the nation, indeed across the world, people are suffering financially because of the pandemic, very few are immune and it is very likely that members of our church family will be affected. If this is you, then I am so sorry that things are hard. There is a host of support available, if you haven't found it already then please say and we would be really happy to help you navigate it, please don't struggle alone.

Unfortunately Covid-19 is already having and will continue to have a significant impact on the finances of St Luke's.

How serious is it?

St Luke's entered 2020 committed to removing or at least reducing a planned deficit budget of £7,068. We were making good progress towards this in the first three months of the year, before Covid-19 hit.

Covid-19 impacts on St Luke's in several ways, the most significant by far being a loss of income from building hire. We had hoped hall users would return after the Spring half-term, but September 2020 now looks more likely. The loss of lettings income is part of an estimated total Covid-19 cost of £10,000. It should be noted that due to considerable uncertainty the Finance Committee has not looked beyond 2020, other than to recognise that even if Covid-19 goes away we will still face significant financial problems.

What are we going to do about it?

The PCC has decided to approach the Diocese for their agreement for us to reduce our Parish Share payments by £10,000 in 2020. This will be on condition that we do our best to improve our financial position and, if we do, make an additional contribution.

It is vitally important that we do all that we can to increase income and reduce expenditure for 2020. Already we

- have asked those of you giving by envelope or plate to consider switching to standing order which will ensure we receive income on a regular basis;
- are maintaining strict cost control. While we expect some reduction in expenditure, largely as a result of the building being closed, we think more will be needed to meet additional costs associated with Covid-19;
- are moving to increase the range of ways in which gifts can be made, for example through on-line giving and, when we return, contactless giving; and
- have agreed at the May PCC meeting to join the Parish Giving Scheme, which can be used to handle gift aid. This is an efficient, easy to use system which will improve cash flow and may increase the amount of tax we can reclaim.

The above actions are all necessary but unfortunately won't remedy the situation.

What more can we do?

This may not be the best time to raise questions of money with you, although for some the lockdown may have provided space to reflect on aspects of the Christian life including a call to giving as part of our response to God's generosity to us. As I've said, some people will be facing uncertain futures making it difficult to consider these questions and if that applies to you, please do not feel you need to respond. Some of you are already giving sacrificially and we are so grateful for all that you do for St Luke's. If you are in a position to do so, may I ask you to consider the following question about your regular giving.

- Are you able to increase the amount that you give each month please? How much you feel able to give will depend on your personal circumstances and what seems right after prayerful consideration. Currently, the average monthly regular giving at St Luke's is £53 per giver.

We have experienced financial problems at St Luke's before and, with God's grace, have come through these well. Covid-19 is the most difficult financial situation we have faced to date so please pray for our future, what each of us might do to help us survive 2020.

We believe that if we get this right we will do more than survive, we will build a more solid financial foundation for the future.

If you are able to give more or wish to switch to standing order please contact Dave Chambers at simplydavec@aol.com or ring Richard on 07776 208546.

Above all please pray for our financial situation and let us know of any ideas that might help.

Revd Gemma Fraser

Re-opening the Church

We have now entered the next phase of COVID-19 and although we are starting to think about how things might look once the church building re-opens for everyone, we do not yet know when this will be.

The Church of England has announced that services and prayers can be live streamed from inside churches, involving just one person. Revd Gemma and the churchwardens from St John's and St Luke's have decided not to do so at this time.

The key reasons being:

- livestreaming requires good WiFi access, which neither church currently has. We were already looking at WiFi access and so are stepping up our work to get this implemented as soon as possible;
- our services from home, both during the week and on Sundays, are working well with a team from both churches giving plenty of variety; and
- we want to stay at home for a bit longer in solidarity with many of our congregation who need to be shielded for some time yet.

The church buildings will remain closed but the church community is very much open and alive!