

**Lutherans Up North  
September – November 2016**

**ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**



9 Alma Road, Headingley LS6 2AH

Pastor Libby Toomsalu: 01274 615 365  
0778 099 7532

Pastor Mark Hardy: 0779 552 2229

Deacon Seija Frears: 01904 705 238

Chair of the Congregation:

Katrina Kay: 0790 8191 595

Organist: Nev Mosey: 01132 632 578

Church Warden: Eon Michaelides: 01132 759 042

**We celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday at 10.30 am**

*Please join us*

**SEPTEMBER**

4<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion, *Pastor Libby*

8<sup>th</sup> Northern Pastors' Lunch at St. Luke's

8 – 10<sup>th</sup> Open Days

11<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival, *Pastor Libby*

Trustees' Meeting following the service

18<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion, *Pastor Mark*

19<sup>th</sup> House Trust meeting, 7.00 pm

22<sup>nd</sup> Churches Together in Headingley, 7.00 pm

25<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion, *Pastor Libby*

**OCTOBER**

2<sup>nd</sup> Holy Communion, *Pastor Libby*

5 - 6<sup>th</sup> LCiGB Miniserium and Retreat, Focolare Centre, Welwyn Garden City

9<sup>th</sup> Holy Community, *Pastor Libby*

15<sup>th</sup> Safeguarding Training Day, London

16<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion, *Pastor Mark*

23<sup>rd</sup> Holy Communion, *Pastor Libby*

30<sup>th</sup> Reformation Sunday, *Pastor Mark*

***Don't forget, clocks go back one hour!***

**NOVEMBER**

6<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion, *Pastor Libby*

13<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion, *Pastor Libby*

20<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion, *Pastor Mark*

26<sup>th</sup> Finnish Carol Service 3.00pm, *Deacon Seija*

27<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday, *Pastor Libby*

**House Trust**

Accommodation is available in Church House.

If you know anyone who is interested in renting a room,  
please contact Sue Moore, Secretary to the Trust, on: 07811814910

***“..... surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses”***

*Hebrews 12:1*



Thanks to everyone who joined me at St. Luke's on Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination. The service was a joyful occasion for me, and I'm grateful to everyone who shared it with me. Particular thanks to Bishop Walter for preaching, and to everyone who contributed to this special day in so many different ways.

*Pastor Libby*

To add to our season of celebrations, we have to give thanks for Nev Mosey, who has been the voluntary organist at St Luke's for 50 years in October.

### ***A view from the organ loft!***

It hardly seems like yesterday, let alone 50 years ago, when Heimir Salt, Pastor Jenö Weisz and Roy Long turned up on my doorstep a few hours after I had crossed the Atlantic from Chicago. I had barely recovered from the jetlag when I found myself sitting at the harmonium at 199 Roundhay Road. In those days, two elderly ladies, Mary Davis and Kay Larsen, ruled the congregational roost, and they were none too pleased that I had unwittingly supplanted the elderly Walter Scholes from the organ stool. He was the distinguished brother of Percy, who was editor of the Oxford Companion to Music. I was just a spotty adolescent from Chicago. I was actually dodging the draft. I wasn't keen on the idea of getting embroiled in the war in Vietnam, so I had exercised my legal right to return to the UK as I was not an

American citizen - although I would have automatically become one as soon as my draft papers were served. I escaped in the nick of time.

Back then, the congregation was larger and there was a significant contingent of youth. We all gathered together once a week at the Yout Club in addition to attending Sunday services. Of course, we also enjoyed our frequent retreats to Hothorpe Hall in Leicestershire. It seemed a much busier congregation then. Many of the families lived nearer the church and the demographic of the Harehills area was less Asian then. How strange that the wheel has turned full-circle and now, once more, many eastern European families are living there again. Of course, our congregation back then had a significant number of Scandinavian families too. And of course, a few true Brits, Icelanders, Europeans, Finns, Faroese and even Chinese and Australians, not to mention those from the African subcontinent and elsewhere. There were also Americans in the congregation, Tillie and Calvi Remmert being mainstays. What a blessing that they, Livija, Venche Wilkins, Katrina Kay and many others still have links with St. Luke's. It's wonderful that, as the St. Luke's family has dispersed and regrouped, the people whose lives it has touched still choose to remain a part of it all by visiting when they can and supporting us.

Six months after my arrival, my parents decided to return to the UK so there were two more members to add to the St Luke's family. Things were about to change when The Weisz family moved on, Roy Long quit his teaching job in Leeds and went up to Oxford and Pastor Norman Litzner arrived with his family. He consolidated much of the hard work that Jenö had put in and the congregation continued to flourish. Norman was an amazing preacher and I still vividly remember many of his sermons. I continued to plough my furrows turning up week after week and playing the liturgy. I was occasionally asked to play for the Poles and the Hungarians, but I hated it because I couldn't understand the liturgy. I remember Jenny Jagucki sitting next to me at the Delius Church in Bradford and nudging me when I had to play. I always tried to get out of playing at non-English services.

Things were about to change again, when the Litzners decided to move back to the USA. By this time, their family had grown as they had adopted Nathan. A call was issued to Barry Laird who became our next pastor. His was a different, but no less welcome, style of ministry. It was a joy to visit Barry in Baltimore some years ago while I was on a trip to the USA. At this point, I remember Walter as he used to appear occasionally at Roundhay Road when the Youth Club was in full swing. Little did we know then, that he would become the longest serving pastor the congregation has ever had.

There were comings and goings, weddings and funerals, baptisms, confirmations and so on. I just kept turning up when required. By now, I had finished university, got a teaching job and my future seemed firmly based in Leeds. Eventually, Walter took over the pastoral care of the congregation and eventually, a decision was made to move to Headingley. The old harmonium was moved into the large office and we had services in there while the outbuilding was being refurbished and made into a church.

Miraculously, an electronic organ was purchased. I could hardly believe it! No more pumping away with my feet week after week. It was an exciting development for me. I remember going to Castleford Organ Studio to pick it out. The salesman there told me I could earn a fortune playing in Working Men's Clubs. I still haven't figured out whether that was a compliment or not. From my seat in the corner, often with my back to the congregation, I witnessed yet more arrivals and departures - both temporary and permanent. I had now taken on the monthly service at Menwith Hill. I can remember some hair-raising drives through foul weather over Blubberhouses Moor and Fewston to get there and back.

Eventually, the new church building at Alma Road was ready so with all the pomp and ceremony that only Walter could devise, we moved in. Things proceeded fairly smoothly until one day, to my surprise, a new organ arrived. I was puzzled as I had heard nothing about getting a new instrument. It was an electric pipe organ with a very small single manual keyboard. I didn't like it at all. Why should I? I had not been consulted over its acquisition. I understand it came from the Danish seaman's mission in Hull. I can honestly say that this was the only time in 50 years that I considered leaving St. Luke's.

I was not a happy camper. After much soul-searching, I concluded that the church community itself was more important than having my feather ruffled, so I gritted my teeth and struggled with this ghastly contraption for quite some time. It was a great relief when the church in Harrogate offered us their unwanted two-manual electronic instrument which is a vast improvement. That's the instrument I still volunteer to play today. It's a bit temperamental but will hopefully last for a while - and the same applies to me!

*Nev Mose*

### ***Golden Nev – in appreciation***

What can I say!

The athletes have been coming home from Rio with their well-earned medals, and you are up there with them all!

Over the years, St. Luke's has been truly blessed with many people working tirelessly and using their talents in God's plans, just as you have for an unbelievable 50 years.

I remember how it came about that you arrived St Luke's just as we were wondering who could help our excellent organist, Mr. Scholes. The question was answered when the 'spotty adolescent' decided to leave the windy city and return to Blighty.

St Luke's Church may be small in size physically and numerically, but with faithful, talented people like yourself we **can** do things. We are truly blessed to have such a loving, caring and a talented person among us.

*Livija Upmali*

## ***Abut people***

### ***New Home***

We send our best wishes to Pastor Gita Putce, and wish her every happiness and blessings in her new home in Germany.

### ***RIP Elimos Msekiwa***



*Elimos with Pastor Libby*

*after signing the Twinning Agreement with Harare South Parish*

Sadly, Elimos became very ill after his return to Harare and died in July. Our condolences go to all the members of his family on their loss, and we remember them in our prayers.

## ***Coming Events***

### ***Heritage Open Days***

The Heritage Open Days scheme is a nationwide concept and is aimed at opening interesting buildings, gardens etc., some of which may not be normally open to the general public, for public access.

Locally, it is overseen by the Leeds Civic Trust. Organisations and individuals are invited to participate and for a number of years now, St. Luke's has taken part. This year will be no exception, and I shall be putting up posters, balloons and bunting in attempt to entice passers-by to come in and view our Church and buildings.

The days and times of opening will be:

Thursday 8th.Sept. 10.00 to 16.00

Friday 9th.Sept. 10.00 to 16.00

Saturday 10th.Sept. 10.00 to 14.00

This event provides an opportunity for the public to see our unique little church and to learn something of its history and of Lutheranism.

*Eon Michaelide*

### ***Finnish Carol Service at Advent***

One of my first memories of Finnish Christmas Carols in England is from the beginning of the 21st century when I was a green chaplain in Leeds Universities Chaplaincy. With my colleagues we organised an international Christmas Celebration. I wanted to add a bit of an exotic Finnish feel to the event and played a Finnish Christmas Carols tape. After a while my colleague whispered in my ear: "Stop the funeral music!"

We started singing "The Most Beautiful Christmas Carols" (Kauneimmat Joululaulut) in Finnish over ten years ago. During this time the concept has always remained the same: We meet at 3.00 pm at St. Luke's Lutheran Church on the last Saturday of November. We sing for about an hour after which the traditional Finnish and international refreshments (potluck style) are served in the Social Room. All the songs are normally in Finnish and the talk or drama/puppet story is in English. Although there are many people who are bilingual we think that it is nice when everyone can feel welcome whether they understand Finnish or not. The Finnish language is special in that you can read/sing it correctly even if you don't know the language because we pronounce all the letters as they are written.

Normally there have been 20-40 people attending this 'opening event' for the Christmas season. However last year, 2015, the attendance went through the roof as there were over 60 people. The increase was due to the newly opened Finnish School which now meets at St. Luke's on every other Saturday, when the place is busy with parents, and big and small children. The aim of the school is to support the children and the adults with their Finnish language and cultural skills.

In Finland singing The Most Beautiful Christmas Carols started in 1973. So after 43 years this national event has become part of a 'must do list' during Christmas time for most Finns. The event has also gained firm popularity in overseas countries and singing goes on for example in Thailand and in France. One explanation for its popularity could be that traditional Finnish Christmas Carols are really quite melancholic and nostalgic, although new Christmas Carols are regularly added every year to renewable song sheets. One of the most popular carols among the international Finns was actually written by a Finn living in Italy at that time.

You are most welcome to join us and sing with us on Saturday 26th November, 3.00pm at St Luke's.

*Deacon Seija Frears*