

Lutherans Up North

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE LUTHERANS UP NORTH



What's New

#ASHTAG- ASH
WEDNESDAY

.....

LENT REFLECTION

.....

SYNOD AND
ORDINATION

.....

Lent: A Season for Everything under Heaven

by Joseph

Lent is a time in the year of the Church during which we reflect on the mystery of our salvation. One of the primary steps in our journey of faith is repentance. The word repentance is not a very popular one and is one that in some ways we can regard as being unrelated to our Gospel of salvation by faith. When we hear the word repentance many of us might think about the confessional boxes in Roman Churches or a group of pilgrims starving themselves and feeling sorry for all the things that they got wrong in life... [continued on Page 5]

2022 AGM Minutes

Minutes from the 2021 AGM Approved and Accepted

Pastor's Report

We have successfully moved from online only to in-person services. However, we continue to provide an alternative for those who are either not able or not comfortable with coming in-person – these are done via Facebook Livestream's instead.

Over the past year we have seen an increase in average attendances at our Sunday services! At present, we have a running attendance of 13 adults and 2 children. We have also gained a number of new members over the past year, and we can't wait to welcome more people over the coming year!

In total we have also had one confirmation, one wedding, and three funerals in the past year. Back in September we had a parish retreat which was a great success. With this in mind, we are hoping to do more this year –there will be 20 available spaces.

Please approach Joseph for any topics or speakers that you would like to see.

As promised, we began our gardening group and as a result they have done some great work over the last year, but we do need more people to help! If this is something that you would be interested in, then please do not hesitate to contact us so we can get you involved also! Furthermore, joint services have been taking place between the English and Polish Congregations on a regular basis over the past year.

Sadly, Pastor Mark stepped down as Pastor-in-Charge of St. Luke's. Joseph has been working hard to ensure that services continue as usual with special thanks to those who have taken services for us, including Pastor Libby, Bishop Walter, Pastor Mark, Joseph, Conrad, and Nev.

Despite stepping down Pastor Mark has stressed that he has not retired from ministry. He has resigned from being Pastor-in-Charge only, and he is looking to work more outside of the Church in a missionary capacity.



Plans for the Coming Year

We have numerous plans for the upcoming year, including:

1. Pastor Mark has returned to 'God's Squad' to assist them during a difficult period. This is occurring as part of his work to be more involved in developing the missions and outreach work of St. Luke's.
2. We seek to have another parish retreat this year – encouraging as many of you as possible to join us.
3. Following a successful parish meal at Ambiente last year, we seek to have more such events. Including a pub social at the end of this month.
4. Joseph wants us to have a collaborative form of ministry, where we work together for the Church and seek to work together to move forward in our life as a congregation. He has stressed that 'this is your Church not mine or the parish councils, but something that we all do together'. This year he has also stressed that he wishes to work with members of the parish to look at their vision and plans for the coming years.
5. Joseph also wants to meet every member of the congregation for a chat and a cup of tea/coffee (or a beverage of their choosing!) in order to get to know each person better.
6. We seek to work more closely with our German colleagues and congregation. To help facilitate this, we will be having a joint Easter Vigil this year.

On a separate note – Joseph announced that he is no longer secretary of the parish or a lay member of the parish council, but he has now joined the clergy section of the parish council. Due to this and the proposal to reduce the number of parish council members, there will be a vacancy for election at this AGM.

Financial Report

Full report available on request.

Conrad spoke of how we had a deficit of £5600 last year and how this has been helped by a grant from the LCiGB (Lutheran Church in Great Britain).

Conrad noted how important gift aid is and asked that people consider increasing their donations if they can.

Joseph then thanked Conrad for all of his hard work.

Chaplaincy Report

Charles continues to be a member of the Universities in Leeds Chaplaincy Trust.

^ Full report from the Trust is available on request.

Joseph spoke of his work for Leeds Trinity University.

Sunday School and Confirmation classes have been very successful this year and we hope that these continue.

Deacon Seija's Report from Marseille is available on request.

Amalgamation of St. Luke's and St. Matthew's

Proposal from the agenda:

Bishop Walter, Pastor Mark, Pastor Libby, and Joseph propose that we merge the parishes of St. Matthew's and St. Luke's together into one parish and with one parish council whilst maintaining two distinct ministries (both Polish and English ministries continuing). The Name of this new parish would be 'St. Matthew's and St. Luke's'. The first parish council would consist of 3 parish council members from St. Matthew's, plus 3 from St. Luke's (including all local clergy).

Conrad and Charles were elected as members of the parish council last year and therefore will not be up for election this year. We are now looking for one or more members of the congregation (must be a full member of the parish and be confirmed) to stand for election to the parish council.

The parish will seek formally become a charity, it would like permission from the congregation to investigate how St. Luke's, St. Matthew's, and possibly the House Trusts of both churches could potentially be united to better facilitate and finance the work and ministry of the Church.

The Parish council also seeks permission from the congregation to go forward with the proposed plans to unite into one parish. We ask that the congregation approve that the parish council (s) would be allowed to have the freedom to make decisions as to how we go forward with this.

A discussion has been had around the exact name of the congregation – this is to be decided later by the parish council.

Financial and governance questions will also be sorted by the parish council as we progress in the process.

The AGM voted unanimously in favour of the motion to merge the two parishes.

If St. Matthew's does the same, then the amalgamation will take place after the LCiGB Synod in April.

Election

Philip, Theresa, and Robbie stood for election to the space on the Parish Council.

Theresa has been duly elected to the Parish Council. This position is a 1-year appointment.

Joseph thanked Robbie and Philip for standing.

Philip has further been appointed as the new Church Warden.

Letter of Call

The LCiGB requires a 'Letter of Call' for Joseph to be ordained (aiming for the 23rd of April at 3pm, after Synod).

The AGM voted unanimously for Joseph to receive a letter of call from the congregation.

Conrad will further assist in drafting this and will send it on to the LCiGB.

Synod

Synod will be on the 23rd of April this year.

We require help with catering, serving tea and coffee, and with certain other roles for the day (along with cakes!).

AOB

Joseph has been thanked for his contribution to St. Luke's over the past year.

Thanks were passed again to Robbie and Philip for their support and participation in the Parish Council election.

The meeting was then closed, and Bishop Walter Led us in prayer.

Lent: A Season for Everything under Heaven

Continued from page 1

However, if we look behind the word in the scriptures for 'repent' we see a very different understanding beginning to form. The Greek word often used for repent is 'metanoia'. Metanoia isn't a simple word and isn't a word that means something as basic as our word 'repent' does. Metanoia speaks of the entire transformation of the person, of their mind, heart, life, and outlook. To repent (in the sense of metanoia) is to be completely changed and renewed. When we repent, we bring before God all those areas of our life that need work. The areas that we regret and feel sorrow for. The areas that we don't know what to do with and it is he who makes a difference.

There is a time to sorrow for past sins and to regret mistakes made. Lent is such a season; However, lent is also an opportunity to recognise again the gift of the gospel...



and to seek to enter a new season where we can rejoice in the salvation offered by Jesus. If you would like someone to hear your confession this lent and to proclaim words of forgiveness and absolution over your past please let Pastor Mark, Pastor Libby, Pastor Krystyna, or Bishop Walter Know.

Womens World Day of Prayer

Margaret Pickford

Theme: I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU

Date: MARCH 4TH

Each year, on the first Friday of March, the world unites in prayer, by using the service that's been written by Christian women from a different country. The World Day of Prayer committee of England, Wales and Northern Ireland were chosen for the service for 2022, based on the theme 'I know the plans I have for you'.

The Day of Prayer service is ecumenical. If you don't organise one yourself, then you can look at the website to find a one near to you. Although the service has been written by women, it is a service for everyone.

To find out more about this service of Hope and how to obtain free service booklets, children's materials, young people's resources, and information about World Day of Prayer – the largest women-led, ecumenical movement in the world, contact: www.wwdp.org.uk or telephone the office: 01892 541411

There is a service at St Chad's CofE Church in Headingley at 2pm on the 4th of March.



#Ashtag

Our Ash Wednesday Service this year will be on the 2nd of March at 10.30am (30 minute service).

Ash Wednesday is an ancient service at the beginning of lent in which ashes are placed on the heads of believers. This is to remind us that lent is a time of prayer and fasting.

Much like a 'hashtag' on social media our #ashtag shows what we think and believe. The ashes mark us as belonging to Christ and remind us that even though we have this outward sign of faith that this, especially during the season of lent, should be lived out in our everyday lives.



Coffee and Catch ups

I am hoping to have a catch up with every member of the congregation either by phone or for a coffee over the next few months to check base with you all. If you would like to arrange a date, please call/email me or catch me after a service and we can have a chance to catch up!

Services in Harrogate

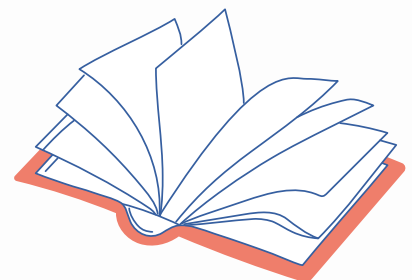
We are currently exploring the possibility of restarting services in Harrogate from the Summer. They would be at St Peter's Church at 7.30pm every 1-2 months. Please let Joseph know if you are interested so that we can see if there is interest in these services starting again.

Pastor's Diary

Joseph will be away from the evening of the 2nd of March until the evening of the 5th of March at a pre ordination training weekend.

On the 9th of March. Please keep Joseph in your prayers as he goes to London to meet with the Vocations Committee.

Pastor Mark, Bishop Walter, and Joseph will be attending the LCiGB ministerium Meeting in Liverpool on the 25th of March.



What is on at St Luke's

Gardening Group

Our Gardening group will be on Thursday the **16th of March from 10am-2pm**. There will be a shared lunch at 12pm. Please feel free to bring food to share. Even if it is raining please still come as we can still chat and possibly do some work in the library.



House open days



The Church House will be open on **Wednesday the 2nd of March, Wednesday the 16th of March, and Wednesday the 23rd of March**. Joseph will be available to chat or pray with you and you are welcome to have as much tea/coffee and as many biscuits as you would like! Please also feel free to use the Church and Library on these days. If you would like to borrow a book you are welcome to do so.

If you are coming let Joseph know by calling 07752530284

Morning Prayer

We will be having a time of Morning Prayer at **9am on Wednesday the 16th of March and Wednesday the 23rd of March**. Start your day off with a time of intercession, scripture readings and contemplative silence as we pray for the Church, the World, and the intentions of our congregation [in the Library].

2022 Parish Retreat



Our last Parish Retreat was a great success!

We hope to be able to have another with more fascinating content and times for social activities and prayer this year. The provisional date for your diaries is the weekend of the 9th-11th of September. The retreat will hopefully be at Mirfield again.

Let me know if there are any issues with these dates, if you are interested in coming, and what topics you might like to explore.

Things to Pray for

Ukraine

Please pray for the ongoing situation on the borders of Ukraine. We pray for peace and that international diplomacy might win out over violence and war.

St Luke's

We pray for our parish as we look towards the future and towards finding a way forward together. We pray that we might grow together and seek to discover a shared vision which can facilitate our future plans and mission in Leeds and beyond.



For Pastor Libby

Please keep Pastor Libby in your prayers as she continues to recover after her stay in hospital last month. We pray for complete healing.



Storms

We remember before God all those who have been affected by the recent storms. We pray for a swift recovery and that those who need assistance may get it as soon as is possible.

Mudslide in Brazil

Intense rainfall has caused mudslides and flooding, destroying part of the city of Petropolis. We remember the 94 that were killed and pray for those who are struggling as a result of this tragedy.



Synod 2022 and Ordination

This years Synod of the LCiGB will be hosted by St Luke's! This is really exciting and will be a great opportunity to extend a warm welcome to everyone from St Luke's to the rest of the LCiGB. However, We need your help!

Venue: St Columba URC Church Headingley

Date: 23rd of April

Time: 9.30am-5pm

Joseph's Ordination: 3pm

If you would like to attend the ordination please let Joseph know so that we can send you an invite.

Please consider how you could help with the day!

Readings for Sundays

6th of March

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

13th of March

Genesis 15:1-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35



20th of March

Isiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

27th of March

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-32

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEXT EDITION OF LUTHERANS UP NORTH, BECOME A MEMBER OF ST LUKE'S, OR SIMPLY WANT TO HAVE A CHAT PLEASE CONTACT JOSEPH
J.NELSON@LEEDSLUTHERAN.CO.UK
07752530284

Sunday Services

Sunday 6th [Lent 1]

10.30am Sung Eucharist LBW (Bishop Walter)
3pm Polish Service- Bradford
2.30pm Confirmation Class- Manchester
3.30pm Polish Service- Manchester

Sunday 13th [Lent 2]

10.30am Lent Service (Joseph)

Sunday 20th [Lent 3]

9.30am Sunday School
10.30am Communion (Pastor Libby)
12pm Confirmation Class
3.30pm Polish Service- Zoom

Sunday 27th [Lent 4]

10.30am Service of the Word (Nev)

