



Giving up on unbelief?

Did you know that on average people in Britain spend a quarter of their waking hours glued to their mobile phones? And recently the Australian government announced that it was introducing a ban on social media for people under the age of 16?

Armed with this information and aware of a growing proclivity for scrolling, I decided that this year I would try to reduce my mobile phone use during Lent. As I write this at the start of Lent, I must admit I am wondering how well I will have done by the time this is published!

The idea of 'giving something up for Lent' has become common currency and often associated with chocolate or alcohol. But the idea originated in the Christian disciplines of fasting from food and taking up good works as a practical sign of the desire for God's forgiveness and help to live a holy life, a life shaped by Jesus.

I read an article about Lent recently, written by the columnist and food writer Giles Coren (*The Times* 8 March) in which he said that he was giving up atheism for Lent. As the article continued it became clear that this was not just a

temporary thought experiment. Instead this was an ongoing journey for him, in which an 'assumed default position of atheism' has been gradually eroded through personal experience: The loss of a parent, attending church at his son's request, being drawn into the worship, the words, being part of a living tradition that has been shaped for thousands of years and... the *"sense that God is there"*.

Since the first Easter, millions of people have 'given up unbelief' and come to trust in Jesus. We have discovered that his life, death and resurrection give us a joy, peace, hope and sense of purpose unlike anything else we have found. Every person's journey to faith is different - but every journey starts somewhere. Often with a pause to consider whether, after all and even against the assumptions I have held thus far, might this Jesus-thing possibly be worth checking out?

Why not face that question this Easter? There is no better time to experience the heart of the Christian story. We'd love you to join us at any of our events this Easter - our Donkey Walk on Palm Sunday, The Passion play on 16 April, our Explore Easter event for families on Good Friday or one of our Celebration services on Easter Day? Who knows: perhaps Giles Coren won't be the only person giving up on unbelief this Easter? Perhaps you might too?

On behalf of all at St Luke's and Connect Gamston and with every blessing for this Easter and beyond,

Mark Fraser



This Easter at St Luke's

Services at St Luke's Leahurst Road unless otherwise stated

- Quiet Morning - Saturday 12 April 9.30am
- Palm Sunday service - Sunday 13 April 10am
- Palm Sunday Donkey Walk at Connect Gamston - Sunday 13 April 3pm
- The Passion - Wednesday 16 April 7.30pm
- Crafts and Maundy Meal - Maundy Thursday 17 April 5.15pm
- Explore Easter for families - Good Friday 18 April 10am
- A service of quiet reflection, prayer and worship - Good Friday 18 April 7.30pm
- Easter Day Celebration - Easter Sunday 20 April 10am
- Easter Day Celebration with Egg Hunt at Connect Gamston - Easter Sunday 20 April 10am



Supporting the Street Pastors keeping people safe

Nottingham is a vibrant city with around 30,000-40,000 visitors coming into the centre for its nightlife every weekend. As people move between the pubs and clubs, the Street Pastors patrol our city's streets to ensure that those who may be vulnerable are cared for and feel safe.

As a church, we financially support the work of Nottingham Street Pastors and members of our congregation also volunteer with the charity. They go out in small teams on a Friday and Saturday between 22:00 and 03:00 whilst others volunteer as Prayer Pastors, covering them in prayer whilst they are out and about.

A faith-based organisation with support from 40 churches across Nottingham, Street Pastors was set up by the Malt Cross Trust in 2010 as a response to urban night-time issues. It aims to improve everyone's experience of nightlife in our city, providing safety and support for those who need it during the evening. Practical, non-judgemental and compassionate help is given to anyone who may be at risk, and the pastors are on hand with a smile, an ear and a kind word for anyone who needs it.



The Street Pastors are there to help if someone's night out takes a turn for the worse - handing out supplies including water and flip flops and providing first-aid if required. They collect glass bottles and drinking glasses from the roads and pavements to help prevent injuries and/or them being used as potential weapons.

To relieve pressure from door staff, the Police and other emergency services, radio messages are sent directly to the team so they can support in situations: whether it be listening to someone who is lonely, someone who's had a few drinks and has lost their friends, talking down a fight or signposting the homeless to a support organisation.

Street pastoring is all about showing God's love to the city by providing care and assistance.- see their website to find out more about their work and how to donate: www.streetpastors.org/locations/nottingham

It's back...

**The Big
Palm Sunday
Donkey Walk!**

Join us on:

Sunday 13th April, 3pm
at Pierrepont Gamston School
for a donkey walk through Gamston
featuring the Wee Donkey Company!



Crafts and supper this Maundy Thursday

Leahurst Road and Connect Gamston are coming together to host a free evening of food and fun at **5.15pm** on **Maundy Thursday 17 April**. Our Maundy Meal will start with children's crafts followed by an evening of food and exploring the Last Supper in creative ways together from 6pm.

Book your place by emailing office@st-lukes-gamston.org or calling the church office.



LAMPS
presents

THE PASSION

7.30pm Wednesday 16 April
at St Luke's Church

Tickets £5
Book here or contact us:
tinyurl.com/yc78234h

The Lamps Collective Theatre Company presents The Passion. Performed by a cast of three talented professional actors, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus will be recreated in a moving, memorable and ultimately joyful retelling of the Easter events.

This production has been written with people who don't normally come to church in mind and is also suitable for secondary school students. As well as being a clear retelling of the story, it is ideal as a stimulating starting point for discussion and debate.

Making an impact in our community

On the weekend of 28/29 June members of St Luke's from Leahurst Road and Connect Gamston will be rolling up their sleeves to serve our local community in practical ways. From car washing to gardening and clearing debris from the canal, we're not afraid to get our hands dirty and we love giving our time as part of our annual Community Action Days.

This year, Connect Gamston is partnering with the Pierrepont Gamston Primary School (PGPS) PTA to hold a Love your school - paint, prune and picnic event. Don't miss out on this great day of teamwork, relaxation, and fresh

air. Bring your gloves, your tools, your energy, and a picnic blanket for a fun-filled day of gardening, maintenance and games. We're coming together to spruce up our school while enjoying a relaxing picnic and some exciting outdoor games. Come for the community spirit, stay for the fun, and leave with a sense of pride knowing you helped make our school shine!

Check out our Facebook pages for more details as they are confirmed

 [ConnectGamston](#)

 [stlukesgamston](#)



A Good Friday Family Event

EXPLORE EASTER

Join us for a completely FREE family Easter event filled with captivating storytelling, hands-on crafts, exciting exploration, and outdoor creativity. Plus relax and unwind in our delightful café area.

Friday 18th April 10-11.30am
St Luke's Church, Leahurst Road,



The greatest adventure

Thirteen children from St Luke's and Connect Gamston will head to The Oakes again this year to share fun and faith together. Based in a Georgian Manor House in South Sheffield, this Christian activity centre gives young people aged 8 to 18 an action-packed holiday while hearing about the Christian message in a fun and relevant way. Our annual visit has become a highlight in our calendar of activities for children and young people, as they continue on the adventure of knowing Jesus for themselves.



Coming up

St Luke's Leahurst Road and Connect Gamston events

We had a great time last month welcoming lots of people from the community to our Board Games and Chilli night, so we are planning another evening of family fun.

Join us from **5pm on Saturday 10 May** for a Family Quiz Night with a fish and chip supper. Bring your own drinks to this charity fundraising event.



Flying high... Connect does... things differently!



Once a month, Connect Gamston does church with a difference at their usual 3pm Sunday service time.

In February all ages came together for 'Connect does Science Experiments' and had a great time trying a variety of interesting experiments, all ages together. Then in March we enjoyed 'Connect does Junk Modelling'. These services are a huge amount of fun and loved by adults and children alike, why not join us at **3pm Sunday 4 May** for 'Connect does Kite Making'?

What's on

Regular Services

- **Sundays 10am at St Luke's**
Morning Worship or Communion Service including group activities for ages 0-14
- **Second Sunday of each month**
'EXPLORE' service for all ages at 10am
- **Second Sunday of each month**
Praise & Prayer 7pm
- **Sundays 3pm**
Connect Gamston at Pierrepont Gamston Primary School
- **Sundays 7.30pm (term time)** Inspire Youth Group for school years 10-13 (off site)
- **Thursdays 11am**
Midweek Service at Leahurst Road

Activities and events

all at St Luke's unless otherwise stated

- **Every Tuesday**
Oasis in the church lounge at Leahurst Road 10am – a Bible study and discussion group for parents of young children
- **Every Tuesday**
Community Café 2-4pm
free tea, coffee and cake
- **Every Thursday (term time)**
Tinies and Toddlers session for pre-school children and their parents/carers. 10am – £1 per child to cover costs please.

Visit our websites

- st-lukes-gamston.org
- connectgamston.org

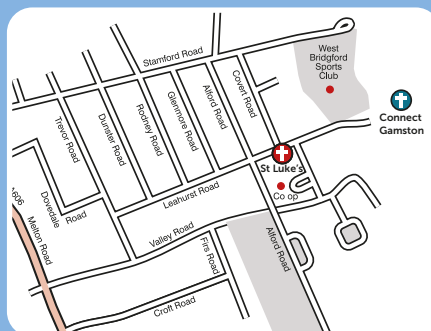


ST LUKE'S COMMUNITY CAFÉ

FREE COFFEE, CAKE AND WARM SPACE **Tuesdays 2-4pm**

About us

St Luke's is one church with two front doors! We meet at two locations, Leahurst Road and Pierrepont Gamston Primary School, which is home to Connect Gamston. We are an Anglican Church (Church of England) serving the Parish of Gamston & Bridgford. Together we enjoy a mixture of service and worship styles from traditional to modern. We offer a warm welcome to everyone on Sundays and at our events and activities throughout the week. So if you are keen to try church for the first time, are returning to church or have recently moved into the area, we'd love to see you.



One church, two front doors!

Contact us

St Luke's Church,
Leahurst Rd, West Bridgford,
Nottingham NG2 6GL

Connect Gamston
Pierrepont Gamston Primary School,
Coledale, West Bridgford NG2 6TH

Call the church office
on **0115 974 5024** or email
office@st-lukes-gamston.org

All activities and events are held at St Luke's Church unless otherwise stated. Our church building is also used by community groups and can be privately hired for meetings, children's parties and special events. St Luke's is a registered charity (number:1132547)