

Alpha is back this autumn at St Luke's

starting Thursday 7 November with a series of conversations about faith and the things we question in life.

Alpha offers a time of connection to build relationships, share food and watch a short film.

There's then space for conversation about the video, a discussion where you can share what you think – or not! - and nothing is off limits. You can truly ask anything at Alpha and the goal is conversation, not consensus.



Alpha? I've never heard of it. What is it?

The Alpha course was started in 1990 at London's Holy Trinity Brompton church aiming to create space for people to process their personal beliefs and faith. Since then, it has become an international organisation. Millions of people from across the world have tried Alpha and it has been translated into 112 different languages. Alpha is run in churches, prisons, coffee shops and workplaces.

Who is Alpha for?

Alpha is for everyone who is willing to have an honest conversation. No matter your background, history, or beliefs. You are welcome.

How much does Alpha cost?

Alpha is free. No pressure. No follow up. No charge. But there is tea, coffee and delicious puddings on offer.

How long does Alpha last?

Alpha runs as a series of ten weekly sessions. You are welcome to give it a try one week to see if it's a fit for you. There's no pressure to return. You can always invite someone along with you as well!

Wendy from Gamston found the last Alpha Course informative, non-judgemental and friendly.

"Before joining the course I thought I lived a 'Christian' way of life which would be enough. But Alpha made me realise it wasn't enough; that it was possible to cultivate a personal relationship with God; and that I needed to do so. This last year, I feel happier and more peaceful."

"Why is life so hard?"

"Can my life have a greater meaning?"

"Where do I belong?"

"Will I ever be happy?"

Thursday evenings from 7 November, starting at 7.30pm

St Luke's is running Alpha again this autumn. You can just turn up on the night or contact us for more information on **0115 974 5024** or email: office@st-lukes-gamston.org

Alpha

Breakfast with Radio and TV broadcaster, Frances Finn

9:30am Saturday 12 October, Poppy & Pint, Lady Bay NG2 5DX

"I love being able to bring words of hope and life to whoever's listening."



Radio and TV presenter Frances Finn will be the guest speaker at our special breakfast event on Saturday 12 October.

She is a familiar face and voice to the region, having spent years presenting BBC Radio Nottingham's morning slot before moving to BBC Radio Lincolnshire and Notts TV, which she helped to launch. She has also reported for BBC 5 Live and features on BBC Radio 2's Pause for Thought.

We'll be taking the microphone this time though as we interview Frances asking her about her career and how her Christian faith has shaped who she is. We'll also be exploring her journey to becoming an ordained priest in 2020 and her current ministry at St Nic's in the city centre.

Contact St Luke's Church office to let us know you are coming so we can plan for the right number of people: **0115 974 5024 / office@st-lukes-gamston.org**

FREE community hog roast and family fun

Saturday 28 September 2-4pm, St Luke's, Leahurst Road

You are invited to join us for our community hog roast served alongside veggie options, salads, cakes, tea and coffee and a warm welcome – and it's all completely free. There will also be activities and games for children so a perfect place to bring the family. Almost 200 people came along last year and we're looking forward to meeting even more people who live and work in our community this time – **hope to see you there.**

Harvest celebration service

10am Sunday 6 October
at St Luke's

We will be collecting donations for local homelessness charity The Friary again this year.

A full list of the items they most need can be found online: **www.the-friary.org.uk/support-us/**



Connect Gamston celebrates its fifth birthday with a weekend away

When we launched our congregation in Pierrepont Gamston School back in 2019 we didn't expect to spend nearly two years having to navigate the pandemic but five years on we are so grateful for all we've learnt along the way. Connect Gamston is a 3pm informal service in the school hall every Sunday but it's also quite a bit more than that. It's a part of the St Luke's Church family that has midweek small groups, activities for children and young people, special events and an annual weekend away. As September begins they will be celebrating their fifth birthday with a weekend away at Stathern in Leicestershire, enjoying activities, worship, games and lots of time together.



A summer of serving, worshipping and fun!

It's been a busy few months at St Luke's and Connect Gamston - here's a round-up of what we've been up to, both locally and further afield.

Community Action day

The St Luke's and Connect Gamston congregations joined together in a weekend of practically serving the community and loving our neighbours. We tackled overgrown gardens, washed cars, cleared debris from the canal and completed conservation questionnaires. We gave our time and love to those around us. We were out and about 'being church' in our parish. We washed 29 cars in two hours whilst their owners enjoyed a cuppa with members of our church inside. The two gardening teams took 11 car and trailer loads of garden waste and rubbish to the tip. We made a local lady, without a car and unable to tackle her garden on her own, very happy and she's now enjoying the view from her window.



Dreaming the Impossible

St Luke's youth leaders and 11 of our young people - who meet for 'Inspire' every Sunday evening - travelled to Staffordshire Showground for Dreaming the Impossible (DTI). This annual event and national youth movement is for young people aged 12-18 from churches and youth organisations everywhere. DTI is passionate about seeing young people fearlessly following Jesus and believing that nothing is impossible with God.



New Wine 2024

Seven families from St Luke's and Connect Gamston camped together at the Bath and West Showground for New Wine's annual gathering - an event that attracted 14,000 Christians from all denominations and speakers from across the world. It was a fantastic time of worship and fellowship, and for once there was sunshine!



Circus fun

Children from St Luke's and Connect Gamston had a great time at an aerial workshop on 8 August where they learned circus skills including trapeze and hoop work in the air.

West Bridgford churches also ran an Olympic-themed holiday club for children in years 1-6 on 28 August which was attended by 50 children.



Jayne & Maureen who volunteer in our Community Café every week (see back page for info) shared information about the warm welcome at St Luke's as part of the **Rushcliffe Social Prescribing event** in Gamston on 17 July.



There is such a thing as a free lunch!

Take time out during the week and join us for a light bite and a bowl of soup on the second Thursday of every month. Food, Fellowship and Faith is a great place to meet locally, make connections and have good conversations over a meal and a cuppa.

12.30-2pm

10 Oct, 14 Nov and 12 Dec

ST LUKE'S COMMUNITY CAFÉ

FREE COFFEE, CAKE AND WARM SPACE

Tuesdays 2-4pm



Meetings, events, exercise and song - we have the space for you

Are you looking to hire a room for a one-off event or social occasion? Do you need a regular booking for a club, training sessions or rehearsals?

St Luke's has a range of modern rooms of different sizes and a wonderful secure outdoor area that can be used for a variety of different things from fitness to choral performances and everything in between!

We host a variety of groups and activities each week: Move it or Lose it fitness, Baby signing class, Music for Everyone, Rock Choir, Slimming World, Brownies, Guides and children's parties.

We also have regular meeting bookings and can accommodate team awaydays at a reasonable cost.

We love to make our spaces available to the wider community. With hire starting from as little as £15 - for the lounge and meeting room - we could be the perfect venue for you. Our building is accessible and there is plenty of free parking around the church.

To enquire about hire charges & booking terms contact op@st-lukes-gamston.org or call **07394 929736**.

What's on

Regular Services

- **Sundays 10am at St Luke's**
Morning Worship or Communion Service including group activities for ages 0-3, 3-7, 7-11 and 11-14
- **Second Sunday of each month**
'ALL IN' service for all ages at 10am
- **Sundays 3pm**
Connect Gamston at Pierrepont Gamston Primary School
- **Sundays 7.30-9pm (term time)**
Inspire Youth Group for school years 10-13
- **Thursdays 11am**
Midweek Service at St Luke's

Activities and events

all at St Luke's unless otherwise stated

- **Last Sunday of each month**
Connect Youth, a youth group for those aged 11+ at Pierrepont Gamston School 4.30-6pm. Next one is Sunday 29th September. Contact Sarah Sharpe for more details sarah@st-lukes-gamston.org
- **Second Thursday of each month**
Food, Fellowship and Faith (free light lunch) 12:30- 2pm
- **Every Tuesday**
Community Café 2-4pm free tea, coffee and cake
- **Every Thursday (term time)**
Tinies & Toddlers - play, stories and friendship for under fives, parents and carers 10-11.30am. Just £1 per child

Visit our websites

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



Save the date:

We Love Christmas family extravaganza!

On Saturday 30th November we will be holding the most Christmassy event ever, full of joy and fun for all the family! Pop the date in your diary now and be sure to keep it free. With opportunity to visit Santa this will be a day not to be missed!

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