



Can we trust anymore?

In March 2022, a national survey* found that just 35% of the population said they trusted the UK government – and 49% did not. By the time the survey was published, 62 ministers had resigned, and the Prime Minister had reluctantly exited.

Since then, our shortest-serving Prime Minister ever has been and gone and we've seen WhatsApp messages in the press that indicate again that those who made the rules didn't keep them.

Services that we depend on are striking and Britain's economy is forecast to shrink. It seems impossible to trust politicians, appointments, timetables, or any sort of stability anymore.

As someone who works for the Church of England, I know we are not blameless. I will continue to apologise for the times and places we have hurt and significantly let down those who trusted us. As humans we make mistakes, but sometimes those mistakes are profoundly trust-shaking – or worse, trust-breaking.

After being rocked by covid, it feels so easy to not trust anything or anyone. **But what kind of a way is that to live?** Distrust can protect us from harm, but deep down we know that healthy, meaningful relationships are built on trust. Is there something or someone above the institutions, governments – and even the Church – who deserves our trust?

God makes promise after promise that we can have life in its fullest if we simply listen to and obey Him. Not to curtail our freedom or make life boring, but for our own good – so we can flourish and be as fabulous as He intended us to be. And yet we continue to mess up and turn our back on Him.

Thankfully, God loves us too much to let us to walk away – keeping His side of the agreement, even if it kills him. And it already has. He came into our world fully human – an innocent man who took on all our wrongs and shame as He died on the cross. God not only keeps His promises but, through Jesus,

laid down His life for them. He did not find a scapegoat but took the blame on Himself so that we can be forgiven and have fullness of life today, tomorrow and forever.

I don't know about you, but someone who is willing to lay down His life for me is someone that I am willing to trust. We celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter – because God keeps His promises, and our mistakes are forgiven. **We celebrate because even when the world lets us down, God never will.**

Why not explore the story of the one we trust at St Luke's or Connect Gamston this Easter? You can do this through an escape room, a donkey walk, craft activities or in a more meditative style through the arts on Good Friday. Or simply

celebrate with us on Easter Day, we would love to see you.



Emily Charkham
Curate

*www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/bulletins/trustinggovernmentuk/2022

Join us this Easter

Maundy Thursday 6 April

- **7:30pm** - St. Luke's & Edwalton joint service at Holy Rood Church

Good Friday 7 April

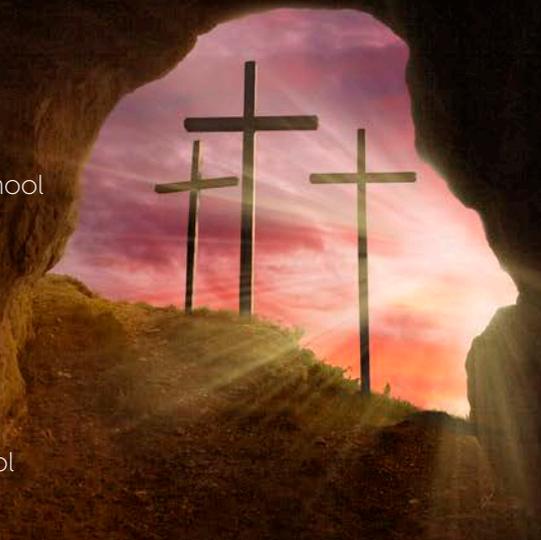
- **10am -1pm** - Easter Story Trail round Edwalton starting at Holy Rood Church
- **10am** - Craft Time with Connect Gamston at Pierrepoint Gamston Primary School
- **3pm** - An Hour at the Cross at Holy Rood Church, Edwalton
- **7:30pm** - Good Friday and the Arts (see inside for details) at St. Luke's Church

Easter Saturday 8 April

- **11am** - Holy Saturday Service in the Edwalton Church Garden

Easter Sunday 9 April

- **10am** - Service of Celebration and egg hunt at St. Luke's Church
- **10am** - Easter Celebration and egg hunt at Pierrepoint Gamston Primary School



GOOD FRIDAY AND THE ARTS

The artist Caravaggio was no stranger to violence. He went on the run after being found guilty of murder. Our vicar, Mark Fraser, is the first to concede that "you probably wouldn't ask him to preach a sermon." But his painting of Jesus being arrested and bundled away by Roman thugs is an image that grabs you by the throat.

It is just one example of many that Mark will cite in his talk, Good Friday and the Arts. Says Mark: "Caravaggio demonstrates profound insight and shows us that God knows our flaws, but that doesn't make our efforts invalid."

Mark will explore music, poetry, and works of art inspired by what he calls "this incredible weekend of death and resurrection – the pivot of the whole story where God's plans seem to have been thwarted and yet it becomes the moment when his promises are fulfilled and he achieves victory over sin. And the cross is at its centre."

For centuries, this bible event has been a major inspiration for the arts throughout the world. Says Mark: "Rightly or wrongly the church was a major source of wealth and power. This meant it was a major patron of churches and monasteries as well as composers like Tallis, Monteverdi and Mozart. It created an explosion of imagination.

"Art doesn't just tell the story. It invites you to come in and explore and ask all sorts of questions. God has given us emotions to respond. Why shouldn't we use them?"



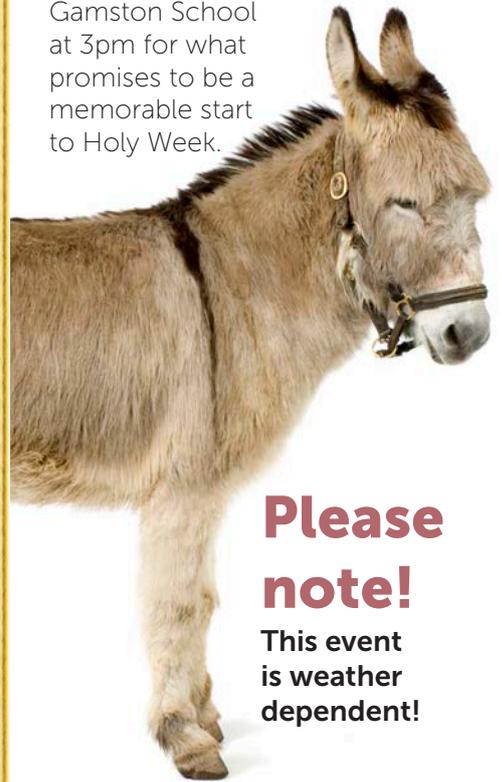
Mark hopes the evening will leave people with profound questions, asking 'What does this invoke in me?' and 'What if it's true?'. "Because if this story is true, then it can't just be an irrelevance. If it's true, I can't just park it. And if it's true, then it could not be more significant to our lives as human beings."

**'Good Friday and the Arts',
7pm at St. Luke's on 7 April.**

Palm Sunday Donkey Walk

Join Connect Gamston for a donkey walk at 3pm on Palm Sunday, 2 April.

We will be handing out palm crosses and ending up at Ambleside Park. We set off from Pierrepont Gamston School at 3pm for what promises to be a memorable start to Holy Week.



**Please
note!**

**This event
is weather
dependent!**

JOIN US AT

**FOOD
FELLOWSHIP
FAITH**

Time out in the middle of the week to enjoy a free light lunch and explore the Christian faith together. Everyone welcome!

12.30-2pm
Second Thursday
of each month

**13 APRIL
11 MAY
8 JUNE**





Milly's South American faith adventure

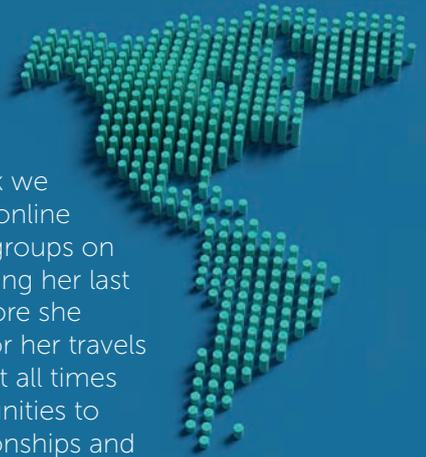
Milly Fraser is off to Warwick University to study Spanish and International development later this year. In the meantime, she's combining her academic interests and her faith by heading to South America with Latin Link.

The organisation partners with churches to share the love and hope of Jesus across Latin America and Europe. Milly's adventure will start with two months in Puebla, Mexico working with children and young people in the community through two local churches. She then travels to Heredia in Costa Rica for another two months, working with a church and children's home sharing God's love in a tangible way through supporting community-based projects.

Says Milly: *"I am really excited to be stepping out and serving God in a new way. As well as immersing myself in local cultures and making new friends I think this experience will really lay strong foundations for my university studies and gives me a really practical way to share my faith."*

Milly has been a huge blessing to our church family at St Luke's, serving through running the media desk we use to stream services online and leading children's groups on Sunday mornings. During her last service at St Luke's before she heads off, we prayed for her travels – that she will be safe at all times and have great opportunities to build meaningful relationships and practise her Spanish.

If you'd like to follow Milly's adventures, then head to www.latinlink.org.uk/step-reports



Musical date for your diary Saturday 29 April



The West Bridgford Social Singers will make a welcome return to St. Luke's when they host a charity concert of favourite and popular music.

Led by Musical Director Simon Thompson, the 50-strong choir supports and raises money for two charities each year and this time they have chosen Memory Café and Hear Together.

The Memory Café takes place weekly at the Café on The Corner's based within St Paul's Church on Boundary Road in West Bridgford. It provides a welcoming, safe and supportive environment for those encountering the challenges of memory impairment. Various activities bring people together and aim to encourage reminiscing including music, film, dance and craft.

that help people to communicate, participate and thrive.

This is a great event to come along to with family, friends and neighbours, starting at 4pm on Saturday 29 April at St Luke's on Leahurst Road.

Tickets cost £5 and include refreshments during the interval.

You can get yours from St Luke's Church Office **0115 974 5024** or contact Lynne Miles on **0115 9827424** or j.c.miles@btinternet.com



Hear Together is all about living well with hearing loss. The charity works with children and adults providing activities to develop confidence, skills and knowledge

Back by
popular
demand!



EXPLORE EASTER

THROUGH IMMERSIVE SCENES
OF PUZZLES & CHALLENGES



ESCAPE ROOM

A free Easter week event suitable for those aged 8 years and older

Monday 3 to Thursday 6 April

Book your free tickets (groups of up to 10 people)

www.bit.ly/3M1R0t5

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

- **Second Thursday of each month**
Food, Fellowship and Faith (free light lunch) 12:30- 2pm
- **First and third Thursdays of each month**
Prime Time - 2pm social group for older people
- **Every Tuesday (term time)**
Oasis – a place for mums, bumps, babies and toddlers to share life and have a coffee, 10-11.30am
- **Every Thursday (term time)**
Tinies & Toddlers - play, stories and friendship for under fives, parents and carers 10-11.30am
- **Dads & Tods**
Meets for tea, chat and bacon butties on the third Saturday of each month 10-11.30am

Visit our websites

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

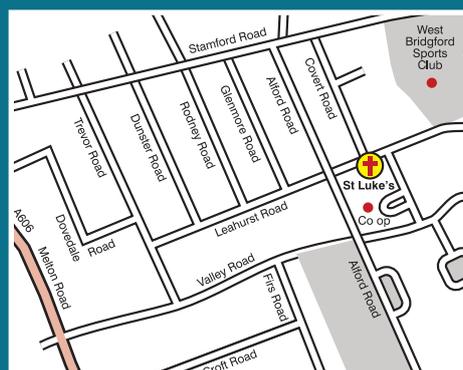
Good Friday Drop In Crafts

Easter crafting for families

Friday 7th April
10-11.30am
Pierrepont Gamston School

About St Luke's

St Luke's is 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, so if you are keen to try church for the first time or are returning to church, we'd love to see you.



St Luke's is a registered charity (number:1132547)

Contact us

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

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 the community including Guides, Brownies, Rainbows and Leahurst Road Pre-school. Our community hall is also available to hire for meetings, children's parties and special events.