

## A garden created to flourish

**Many of us will have returned from recent holidays having enjoyed exotic places, unfamiliar cultures or just a different landscape beyond our own back yard. We inhabit a world of awe-inspiring beauty that God created to be full of life, diversity, abundance and colour.**

It's wonderful to enjoy nature and take pleasure from our surroundings but there's also a need to protect our environment in the light of all the threats it faces. From the perspective of the Bible, humans are called to be good caretakers of God's creation. There are 26 references to 'stewardship' starting in Genesis, where Adam and Eve are placed in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and look after it.

In a country that enjoys a temperate climate, we may only really notice

the outcomes of environmental damage during a heatwave or when we see polluted waterways or air pollution over our cities. But for those living in areas of the world already characterised by extreme poverty the impact is much more tangible - they are disproportionately affected and suffering the most from climate change.

Droughts, floods and storms are becoming more frequent and extreme. For those who are already vulnerable, the environmental crisis

is a life-threatening emergency that is pushing them further into poverty - affecting their health, access to food and their security.

At St Luke's we regularly pray for the poorest and most disadvantaged areas of the world, and we support mission partners overseas who are working directly with communities to tackle poverty and increase access to basic resources and education. But as a church and local community we know there are practical things we can do at home too.

### Community conversation: *Low Carbon Lifestyle*

**We're holding an online discussion, open to everyone not just church members, on Wednesday 28 September at 8.15pm hosted by Tom Bray a chartered environmentalist based in the North East of England.**

Tom instigated the *Low Carbon Lifestyle* project during the Coronavirus lockdown ([www.lowcarbonlifestyle.online](http://www.lowcarbonlifestyle.online)) and will be sharing his thoughts on how we can reduce emissions in everyday life and the steps we can all take to have a smaller impact on the environment. This is an important conversation and you are warmly invited to join us and take part. Please email the church office for a Zoom link for this online event: [office@st-lukes-gamston.org](mailto:office@st-lukes-gamston.org)



*Mark Fraser*

## Join us this autumn

### St Luke's services

- Every Sunday in person and online at 10am
- Every Thursday Midweek Worship at 11am
- Sunday 25 September - Harvest Thanksgiving with collection of toiletries and non-perishable food for The Friary

### Connect Gamston

- Every Sunday at 3pm at Pierrepont Gamston Primary School





# A Hong Kong welcoming church



**Last year Connect Gamston signed up to be a 'Welcome Church' for people arriving here from Hong Kong.**

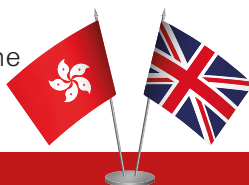
Over the summer, we were delighted to baptise Derek, who joined our congregation in 2021 and is one of a growing group of people relocating from Hong Kong to Nottingham and now regularly worshipping at Connect Gamston. It was wonderful to see him commit his life to Jesus surrounded and supported by new friends.

## Free Welcome Course 為香港人度身訂做的 [歡迎課程]

Connect Gamston is offering a free Welcome Course to help share information and build new relationships with those from Hong Kong who are now making Gamston, West Bridgford and Nottingham their home. The majority of the sessions will run online with one lunchtime session in person.

The course is based on a series of short videos in English with Cantonese subtitles and will provide conversations with both English and Cantonese speakers. It aims to support an understanding of UK culture and customs and give people the opportunity to make new connections and friendships. For more details, the Zoom link and to register please email [leungmeimei12@gmail.com](mailto:leungmeimei12@gmail.com)

- **Tuesday 11 October** 8pm online  
Welcome to the UK 歡迎來到英國
- **Tuesday 25 October** 8pm online  
Understanding British Culture  
了解英國文化
- **Sunday 6 November** 1:30pm at Connect Gamston  
Making Friends 交朋友
- **Tuesday 22 November** 8pm online  
Wellbeing 健康
- **Tuesday 6 December** 8pm online  
Problem Solving 解決問題
- **Tuesday 20 December** 8pm online  
Citizenship 公民身份



Connect Gamston is based at Pierrepoint Gamston School, Coledale NG2 6TH.

## Don't wear it? Share it!

St Luke's became a clothing collection point over the summer coordinating donations for Sharewear, a local scheme established to alleviate clothing poverty nationwide. It mirrors and complements the foodbank network and aims to provide clothing, footwear, bedding and towels for those who cannot afford to buy these things.

St Luke's regular Sue Morris visited their depot off Hucknall Road and was so inspired by their work that she and a small, dedicated team were moved to organise a drop-off point for the charity.

Says Sue: "The response was amazing. We received 172 large bags of high-quality clothes and bed linen. Those donating were delighted to be giving essential items knowing that they would be given to those who need them most, free of charge. Sharewear collects nearly-new or unworn items so that those receiving them feel special and valued. We are all very precious in God's sight, so their ethos very much spoke to me and spurred me into action."

The donations collected by St Luke's were initially stored in a friend's garage, then delivered by



a large van to the charity's sorting depot. Thanks to all who helped on the day and those who contributed from their wardrobes and airing cupboards.

For more information visit [www.sharewareclothingscheme.org/donations](http://www.sharewareclothingscheme.org/donations)

## Food, Fellowship and Faith



We're excited to be restarting Food, Fellowship and Faith (FFF) which will run on the second Thursday in every month starting 8 September. FFF provides a space for people living locally to take time out in the middle of the day and enjoy a free light lunch, whilst exploring the Christian faith together. Join us beforehand for the 11am midweek service or just pop along to St Luke's for food and chat at 12:30pm. It's a great way to meet new people and a reason to get out and about. Feel free to bring a friend and no need to book, just come along!

## Shoeboxes of love



St Luke's and friends will once again be filling Christmas shoeboxes and sending them to Romania via the Children in Distress charity this autumn ([www.childrenindistress.org](http://www.childrenindistress.org)). There will be a display up in the foyer of St Luke's from October if you would like to take part - please hang on to suitable adult size shoeboxes from now!

Last year, Children in Distress sent more than 5,000 shoeboxes to children in hospitals, schools and community centres in Romania. We filled 46 boxes with thoughtful gifts and had a lovely response from the charity: **"We are truly grateful for your generous support of this effort to bring some holiday cheer to those on the margins. Thank you!"**

## Quiz night for tearfund

On Saturday 26 November Connect Gamston is hosting a quiz night at Pierrepoint Gamston Primary School to raise money for the international charity - [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org). Starting at 7pm, there will be Chilli (meat and veggie) and jacket potatoes followed by cake and coffees for all those taking part.

We can't provide a bar so it's bring your own beer, wine or soft drinks. Teams will be eight people maximum, come along and join a team or make up your own. There will also be a raffle - please contact Sarah on 07394 929 738 if you are a local business and would like to offer a prize.

Tickets are £5 per person with all money raised going to Tearfund's work with Ukrainian Refugees in Poland. Email [connectgamston@st-lukes-gamston.org](mailto:connectgamston@st-lukes-gamston.org) to book.

## Oakes fun



A group of children and young people from St Luke's and Connect Gamston enjoyed a weekend at The Oakes in Sheffield this summer. This Christian activity centre provides outdoor fun and creative crafts, all whilst sharing the good news about Jesus in a relevant way. Alongside activities such as Zorbing, rafting, 'the Mudder' assault course, archery and footgolf, they delved deeper into the Bible, listened to inspiring teachings about the life of Jesus, and sang and danced along very enthusiastically to the lively musical worship.

## Community Hog Roast for all ages

...with salads, tea, coffee, cakes, and ice cream

Live music and activities for children including a bouncy slide and face painting

**2-5pm Saturday 24 Sept at St Luke's**

We are catering for around 200 people and will be serving food until all the hog roast and veggie options have gone!

Email [tom@st-lukes-gamston.org](mailto:tom@st-lukes-gamston.org) for more information.



## Half-term Holiday Club World Cup Fun @St Luke's

Tues 25 - Fri 28 October 10am -12.30pm **£9 per session**



**For children in Reception to Year 6 – all abilities welcome**

This Holiday Club is a community event run by St Giles' and St Luke's Churches West Bridgford and Edwalton Church. To book use the qr code or go to [bit.ly/worldcupholiday](http://bit.ly/worldcupholiday)





# 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 10.15am** at Holy Rood Edwalton: Holy Communion or Morning Worship
- **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 the 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 every month at 10am

Visit our websites:

- [st-lukes-gamston.org](http://st-lukes-gamston.org)
- [connectgamston.org](http://connectgamston.org)



## New Alpha Course starts Thursday 29 September

Alpha

**St Luke's is inviting local people to explore faith, ask questions and share their point of view this Autumn as it launches a new 10-week Alpha Course.**

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring and covering the basics of the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe online, in cafés, churches, universities, homes - you name it! No two Alphas look exactly the same, but they generally have three key things in common: food, an informative talk and discussion.

Alpha starts at St Luke's at 7.30pm on Thursday evenings from 29 September. Each session is free and begins with tea, coffee and puddings and there's plenty of time for questions and conversation.

**To book a place call Janet Brydon on 0115 923 2876 or email [alpha@st-lukes-gamston.org](mailto:alpha@st-lukes-gamston.org) or for more information visit [www.alpha.org](http://www.alpha.org)**

### What previous Alpha attendees thought of the course at St Luke's:

*"I signed up for the Alpha Course, and enjoyed everything about it: the food and the other people on the course. But most importantly the teaching and discussions opened my eyes - things I'd taken for granted before now had new meaning, and that's changed my life."*

**Terry**

*"We were guided through the course with patience, humour and a total lack of judgement - and I found myself looking forward to Thursday nights - not just for the amazing food that was on offer! I went to Alpha because I had so many unanswered questions - and I guess I still do - but at least I've been able to explore and discuss and feel I'm on the right path now. I am extremely grateful to my friend for inviting me along."*

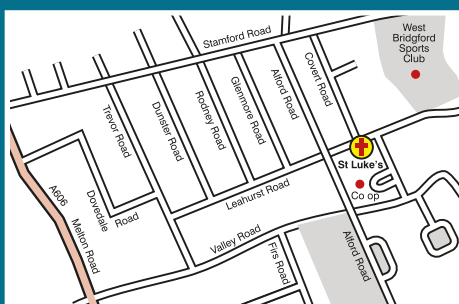
**Karen**

*"Before I went on the Alpha Course I already considered myself to be a Christian, but now my whole thinking has been 'lit up', with a new level of understanding of what it is to know and be surrounded by God."*

**David**

## 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.



## 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](mailto:office@st-lukes-gamston.org)

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