

## While Shepherds watched.....



Representatives from ten local Churches joined together to rehearse and perform this Roger Jones Christmas Musical in St Luke's on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. We rehearsed during the day and a good audience arrived at 4.30 to enjoy the performance.

Members of the choir and of the audience offered the following comments:

Always a pleasure singing Roger Jones ... some of the songs are very worshipful. (Bob)

A fantastic day, definitely worth it. (Natalie)

It has been great to be back with singers from Jail Break. (Elaine & Roger)

Well done everyone, thoroughly enjoyable. (Nicola)

A great opportunity- but quite a challenge to master everything in one day! (Chris)

Wonderful to be a part of this. Have thoroughly enjoyed the day despite not always getting the alto part right! Many thanks. (Stella)

A test of sight reading music and an opportunity to try something different. (Nigel)

Thoroughly moving and worshipful occasion – more than just a performance. (Audrey)



Amazing to be done in a day. (Angela)

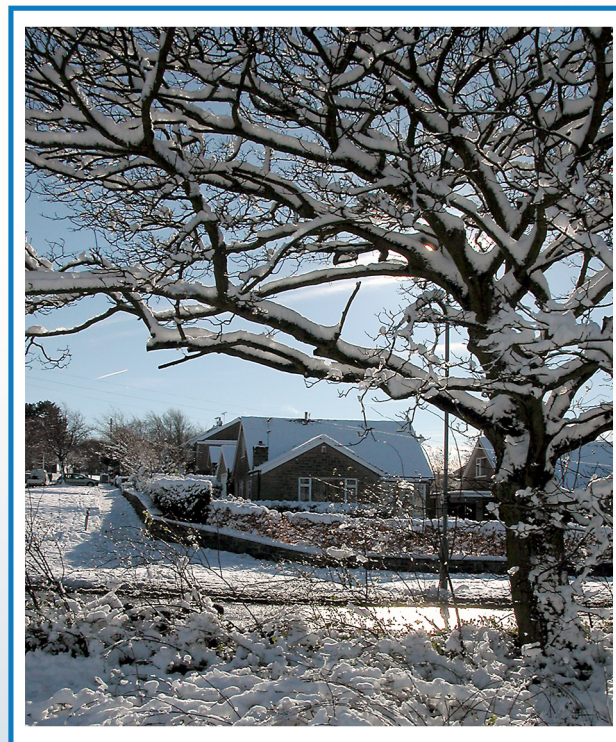
A musical treat. (Ken & Vic)

Many thanks to Liz Tipple and Sally Rhodes for their patience and hard work in organising the event.

Printed by **MENSA PRINTERS** 111 Arundel Lane Sheffield S1 4RF T: 0114 272 5992 F: 0114 272 1002 E: info@mensaprinters.co.uk www.mensaprinters.co.uk



# St. Luke's News



January 2007

40p



St. Luke's Church  
Lodge Moor Sheffield

# ST. LUKE'S IS A LOCAL ECUMENICAL CHURCH

(Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed Church).

## EVERYONE IS WELCOME

### JANUARY

St. Luke's Lunches will be held in the Hall on Monday 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th January & 5th February. Half an hour of Prayer takes place, in the Chapel, each Tuesday at 9.30am, Wednesday at 7.30pm (for the sick & needy) and Thursday at 7.30am. *All are welcome!*

Wednesday 3rd

8.00pm Standing Committee

Thursday 4th

10.00am Women's Coffee'n'Chat (in the Upper Room)

8.00pm Girls Night Out! : Quiz Night

Friday 5th

8.00pm First Friday for Men (at the Three Merry Lads)

### SUNDAY 7th

10.00am Morning Worship – Lesley Combe

11.30am Holy Communion (BCP) – Revd. S. Stewart

6.30pm Evening Worship – John Hayward

Monday 8th

2.20pm Monday Meeting Point

Thursday 11th

10.00am Men's Coffee'n'Chat (Upper Room)

2.15pm Women's Fellowship

### SUNDAY 14th

10.30am Epiphany Toy Service & Panto – Revd. Sue Stewart & Team

6.30pm Holy Communion (URC) – Revd. Sue Stewart

Tuesday 16th

2.30pm Seeds of Hope (Bereavement Support Group)

Wednesday 17th

10.45am Westminster Communion at 53, Westminster Crescent

Thursday 18th

10.00am Women's Coffee'n'Chat (Upper Room)

7.30pm Church Council

8.00pm Women's Evening Group : Stuart Trickey 'Growing up in China between the Wars'

### SUNDAY 21st

8.30am Holy Communion (CW) – Revd. Sue Stewart

10.00am Morning Worship – Revd. Sue Stewart

3.30pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity United Service at St. Francis

6.30pm Plan B Service – Dave Bartram

Monday 22nd

2.20pm Monday Meeting Point

Tuesday 23rd

8.00pm Worship for Women

Thursday 25th

10.00am Men's Coffee'n'Chat (Upper Room)

2.15pm Women's Fellowship

Saturday 27th

1.30pm St. Luke's Ramblers

### SUNDAY 28th

10.00am Holy Communion (Baptist) – Lesley Combe

6.30pm Evening Worship – John Hayward

### FEBRUARY

Thursday 1st

10.00am Women's Coffee'n'Chat (Upper Room)

8.00pm Girls Night Out! : Striking Stories

Friday 2nd

8.00pm First Friday for Men (at the Three Merry Lads)

### SUNDAY 4th

10.00am Morning Worship – David Bartram & Lesley Combe

11.30am Holy Communion (BCP) – Revd. Sue Stewart

6.30pm Evening Worship – Revd. Sue Stewart

### Sunday Services at St Luke's Church

8.30am Holy Communion: CW, 3rd & 5th Sundays

9.50am Kids' Church: (except 2nd Sunday)

10.00am Morning Worship: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Family Worship with Parade: 2nd Sunday

Creche (under 3 yrs): Nicola Thompson (230 4116)

Holy Communion: 4th Sunday

11.30am Holy Communion: BCP with Choir, 1st Sun

6.30pm Evening Worship: 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sun

Holy Communion, 2nd Sunday

Sunday SLOT (Yr11+): David Bartram (230 2766)

### Who's Who?

Vicar/Minister: Revd John Stride (Home 230 5271  
Office 230 3199)

Curate: Revd Sue Stewart (229 5813)

Pastoral Workers: Angela Peskett (230 7740)  
Linda Russell (230 8585)

Youth Worker: David Bartram (230 2766)

Readers: Lesley Combe (230 1759)

John Hayward (263 0030)

Colin Roberts (230 1472)

Churchwardens/Stewards: Bill Wade (230 5346)

Nick Stratford (230 8428)

Church Administrator: Rachel Allis (Office 230 3199)

Church Secretary: Jane Pitfield (Home 230 5603)

Office 230 3199

Treasurer: Nigel Thompson (230 2881)

Organist & Choirmaster: Peter Else (230 5694)

Bookings Secretary: Janet Else (230 5694)

Church Centre: (230 1624)

### Visit our websites:

St Luke's Church:  
<http://www.stlukeslodgemoor.org.uk/>

Youth Work:  
<http://www.youthprojects.co.uk/>

Pre-school Nursery, Breakfast and Holiday Clubs:  
<http://www.stlukesnursery.co.uk/>

### Mid-Week Groups

Prayer Half-hours: 9.30am Tues; 7.30pm Wed  
and 7.30am Thurs

Mid-Week Holy Communion:

at 53 Westminster Cres. 3rd Wed. at 10.45am

Choir Practice: Peter Else (230 5694)

Homegroups: Revd. Sue Stewart (229 5813)

Women's Fellowship: Colleen Denman (230 2938)

Women's Evening Group: Chris Trickey (230 6410)

Girls Night Out!: Jacky Stride (230 5271)

Women's Coffee'n'Chat: Dorothy Stratton (230 5556)

Men's Coffee'n'Chat: Gren Morgan (230 5981)

Men's Evening Meeting: Alan Combe (230 1759)

Monday Mtg Pt (60+): David & Ann Jardine (230 8721)

St Luke's Lunches: Ron Turton (230 5909)

Bumps & Babies (Tues.): Linda Russell (230 8585)

Bumps & Babies (Wed.): Dorothy Stratton (230 5556)

Toddlers (Tues. & Wed.): Linda Russell (230 8585)

Friday U3's: Alex Morley (07946 582276)

Pre-School Nursery: Sheila Radford (229 5933)

Sparklers (under 5's): Angela Peskett (230 7740)

Kids' Club (Reception-Y6): David Bartram (230 2766)

Unity (Yr 7+): David Bartram (230 2766)



An induction loop for the hard of hearing and large print song sheets are available at services in St. Luke's Church.



Contributions to St. Luke's News are always welcome. Articles and items of news for the magazine should be handed to Keith Bomford, 331 Crimicar Lane, (email address: ckbomford@onetel.com) or placed in the 'B' pigeon hole in the Church Foyer by the first of the preceding month. New subscriptions are always welcome, please telephone the Church Office on 230 3199.

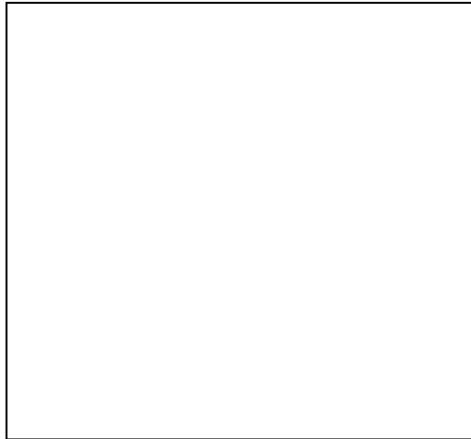
better paid!

My eyesight continues to cause problems. I am now registered with a sight impairment but trying to convince people at work that I can still do my job is becoming a problem. All I can say is thank God for the disability discrimination act which protects people like myself. People still make a lot of assumptions about disability and focus on what you cannot do instead of what you can do.

My faith seems to have taken a major upturn. I have been a Christian for 32 years but never have I felt so full of the life of God. Truly I feel like the early disciples - "when He spoke to us did our hearts not burn within us." Those of you who remember me will know that I'm naturally extrovert and dramatic with a big mouth! After I became a Christian at the age of 20, I had a real 'heart' for evangelism and, over the next 5 years, God used me in bringing several people to Christ (some of whom are now leaders and teachers in the Church!).

However, at 25, I just 'closed the door' to evangelism because, a bit like Jonah when he refused to preach to Nineveh, I was fed up of having to 'die to self' and putting my reputation on the line (in effect being a 'fool' for Christ).

However, 25 years later since turning 50, God has really grabbed hold of me again by the 'spiritual' scruff of the neck and, to cut a long story short, most Saturday mornings you will find



me on the Moor and Fargate handing out John's gospels and engaging people in conversation about the Gospel. I've been buying 'job lots' of John's gospels from CLC - as Wendy Bomford will verify!

Even Paul asked for prayer that opportunities would come to preach the Gospel message and again God is using the personality he has given me. In Colossians it says He appointed some to be teachers some pastors, apostles and evangelists, prophets, etc. I now know He has appointed me as an Evangelist!

If we have the glorious presence of Christ in our lives every moment of every day giving us power to live a godly life, we cannot but help 'speak of what we have seen and heard' 'with men it is impossible, but with God nothing is impossible'.

If anyone wishes to e-mail us at: [william.skipworth@btinternet.com](mailto:william.skipworth@btinternet.com) we would love to hear from you!

## From St. Luke's House



Happy New Year!!

As you may know, I begin 2007 with a three month sabbatical, and that is a real luxury and privilege. During my absence, my colleague Sue Stewart will be acting for me in all aspects of the Church's ministry and I am sure that you will continue to give her all the support you have given me over the years.

A sabbatical is an opportunity to take stock, to spend time with God trying to listen to what he is saying. I shall be seeking his guidance for the coming years. New year is always a time to pause and review one's life and consider changes. I regularly resolve to take more exercise and try to be a nicer person and usually fail within days if not hours! That does not invalidate the exercise and I would encourage you to select one aspect of your life that needs adjustment and really make an effort to build a new routine. Someone once said that it takes at least 30 days of repetition to create a habit and one day to break it!

Many years ago I resolved to read through the Bible each year and for the last 25 years I have managed this most years. It has proved truly life changing and has been a very positive contribution to both my personal and professional life.

There are any number of plans available to help you with a scheme like this from Christian bookshops and on the internet, and there are even Bibles printed out in a daily format to guide you through. Why not try this and see how giving this attention each day to God changes your life for the better!

Happy new year, see you at Easter!

John Stride  
Vicar/Minister

### Register

#### Funeral

27th November Alistair Dalgleish Horne of Barncliffe Crescent

## Minding the (Zambian) Gap!

Tim Hayward



I don't think I have ever looked forward to anything in my life in quite the same way as I am now looking forward to my GAP year. The feeling of anticipation and excitement is steadily building up and it seems hard to wait for the moment when I will step out of the plane and into Zambia.

At the beginning of November it was a great relief to finally hear from Chengelo Christian Boarding School in Zambia about me doing some voluntary work there. I had started to really wonder what I was supposed to be doing in my year out. A friend of mine reminded me that God had put the thought of me going away to a foreign country in my heart and that I should be trusting in Him. He will put me where He wants me to be.

The school is short of staff and they expressed an interest in having me there. Over the course of the following few weeks it became clearer that I was meant to go to Chengelo and that God was leading me on.

Zambia is north of Zimbabwe, and south of DR Congo, both very troubled

countries. It is between Angola and Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique. Chengelo School is about 4 hours drive from Lusaka, the Zambian capital.

Most of the students at Chengelo are Zambian and come from fairly rich and influential families. The students are exposed to the Christian Gospel and to Christian teaching on a regular basis. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of November I met Chengelo School's head of PE, Steven Bannister, Trevor (who I discovered is a friend of Joan and Nigel Bull, our link mission partners in Quetta!) and some of the students. Those I met were a fantastic bunch of kids, full of energy and enthusiasm. My main role at the school will be assisting with sporting activities. There is also the possibility of working in the boarding department.

By the time you read this I will be either finishing my packing or on the plane and about to step out into what should be an exciting journey with God. I hope to leave England on 3rd January and will be away for 6 or 12 months.

My final thought can be summed up in this simple prayer: "O Lord my God,



small the weak and the "foolish things of the world to shame the wise" (1 Cor 1:27). Just as Paul's work in Philippi (Acts 16:13) started with the small step of beginning to speak to a few women by a river, so we've found that as we've begun to speak God has been at work. On one Saturday morning when we went out a member of our group began speaking to an alcoholic about Jesus and discovered that only the night before he'd cried out to God to help him. He's now coming on the Alpha course the church is running being introduced to the God who really can help him.

Although there are also discouragements along the way we're seeing the truth of Jesus' words when he talked about the kingdom advancing forcefully as we meet people who are longing for the life in all its fullness that only God can give. We're planning to



start some work in local primary schools as well as planning a big community outreach event for the summer. I'm excited to see what God will do over the next year and beyond in making His name famous in this place. It's a huge privilege that our God, who is mighty to save, calls us to be a partner in his work and provides us with his Spirit to enable us to take even the smallest of steps in beginning to speak to people about Him.

Thank you for all your prayers.

## Where are they now?

### Bill, Hillary, Daniel and Joshua Skipworth

Hi! It is now over 5 years since we left St Luke's.

Daniel is 18 and bigger than me! He is very keen on Rugby and is now captain of the second team at his school. His favourite subject is Philosophy and he is hoping to study this subject along with Theology at University next year. Many of you who remember him as a little boy at St Luke's would probably not have thought at the time that he had the

makings of a Philosopher!

Joshua is nearly 12. He is very keen on Judo and has won a few medals at competitions. He is also a very good singer and still very entrepreneurial (he loves making money!).

Hilary is now working in Leeds and commuting every day. This is because she was made redundant, along with 40 others, at her old job in Broomhill. Fortunately, she acquired this new job straight away and it is

## An Update from Ruth Woodcraft Newfrontiers in Nottingham

I never expected that after three years in Nottingham for university that I'd still be there when I finished. I assumed that either itchy feet or feeling a call to go overseas would take me onto new and different things. I knew I would enjoy my time at uni but I didn't really contemplate that there would be anything exciting enough happening there to keep me any longer, especially if there was the chance to go abroad again. But I'd underestimated God's fondness of meeting us in unexpected places and sending us to even more unexpected places.

During my first year I began to get involved with a relatively new church in Nottingham called Grace church. As I became more involved with Grace church God really captured my heart with the church's vision to impact the city of Nottingham with the gospel. It can be so easy for a student to get so caught up on campus that they never get involved in church but there's absolutely nothing that beats getting caught up with God's bigger purposes in a city and being part of God's family through the local church. Although



involvement in God's plans should perhaps come with a health warning - life will certainly never be dull!

While praying for Nottingham, over the past year or so God began to put a passion in my heart for a particular area of Nottingham known as St. Ann's. St. Ann's is one of those inner city areas, which is famous for all the wrong reasons. Although the average Nottingham person will know it for its crime rate, God had been speaking about his desire that it would be a place famous for His glory. Out of all this came the exciting opportunity along with two others to do a voluntary year working for my church in Nottingham with our focus being outreach in the St. Ann's area. The year is called a Frontier Project (a year out run by the Newfrontiers family of churches) where we spend time with others from around the country having theological teaching and skills training for one-week blocks throughout the year, and the rest of the time are based in our churches.

We began our church based work at the beginning of September by starting a new midweek group in the St. Ann's area, where I am now living, and during the times when we're not helping with other church activities, we've begun meeting people in the community and beginning to speak to them about the good news of the gospel. In an area of 13,000 people the prospect of seeing God move through a small group of 10 of us could seem impossible if it weren't that our God delights to use the

give me your Holy Spirit, a willing heart and a ready hand, to use all your gifts to your praise and glory, Amen"

Thank you to all who have prayed for me, continue to do so and who have helped in my fund raising. The muffin sales have been a big success! Thank you. I will keep in touch.



**Thank you to Ken Doney  
Keith Bomford**

It was as if he had been forewarned. It was while we were drinking coffee in the Hall after the Sunday Service that I tentatively asked if he might be interested in joining the Editorial Team. I was taken aback by his positive and enthusiastic response! That was over ten years ago and it is with much sadness that Ken Doney has now decided to stand down.

Those ten years have seen some major changes thanks to Ken's expertise. When he arrived, we had a monochrome cover that only changed every January. Ken first introduced the monthly black and white cover photograph and - when Mensa Printers' new technology made it affordable - the full colour front and back cover. The close co-operation we enjoy with Mensa Printers has largely developed

## **St. Luke's Church**

is  
*Doing 'Panto' Again!*

**Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am**

You are invited to join us for our  
annual

Toy Service with Parade.  
which will include our  
Epiphany Panto

***'It's Easier for a Camel!'***

Everyone is invited to stay  
afterwards for a buffet lunch.

\*Please note the change of

through their rapport with Ken.

Ken has been an inspiration on the Editorial Team, bringing a great deal of hilarity to our monthly get-togethers - not least when we gather round a table almost void of material for the next issue! Human nature being what it is, there are times when expected material does not arrive and we have to persuade and cajole authors into action at short notice! We believe home-grown material makes a more interesting read. Occasionally we do use material from other sources but there is nearly always some association with a member of the Church.

So thank you, Ken, for your computer skills, your enthusiasm and your personality which so often raises our spirits when we're faced with printing blank pages!

## 7 Days of Silence! - Never!

Wendy Finch

That was some people's reactions when they knew I was going on an individual guided retreat, when the only time I could speak would be 50 minutes per day with my Spiritual Director. I must admit that I was a little daunted by it too, but God moves in mysterious ways!

I had constantly been nudged by God over the past couple of years that I needed to go on a retreat like this but, like many other people, I would always find reasons why I couldn't. Eventually it was time for action rather than excuses and, looking back, how I wish that I had been obedient to God right from the beginning.

A wet Wednesday afternoon in

November saw me ringing the doorbell of St. Beuno's, a Jesuit Spirituality Centre, in North Wales. To say I rang that doorbell in trepidation of what lay ahead, is to put it mildly, but I was also full of expectancy that great things would happen, and that I would return home pleased that I had made the time to meet with God and all that it could offer. I wasn't disappointed.

When the door of St. Beuno's was opened, I was met with a lovely smile from a lady who helped me in with my case. This was quickly followed by a friendly looking man who said, "You must be Wendy". I thought how clever he was to know my name until I realised there were only two of us on



the retreat, and the other was a man!

The silence was so powerful that first evening that it felt as if I was walking into a brick wall, but I soon embraced the silence and all that it offered – to sit and be still with God, to talk to him, to listen to what he wanted me to hear – and without any interruptions at all – no phone calls, no sounds from a T.V. – to break the quiet. And there was the sheer luxury to choose from so many different locations – small intimate prayer rooms and chapels in abundance; beautiful and peaceful gardens and woods (where you could walk and just chance upon a bench giving you the most fantastic views of the sea, the Great Orme and the Welsh mountains, including Snowdon.); wonderful countryside where you could walk miles without seeing another human being; an art room where you could express yourself through different media. And dotted around the wide corridors etc. were beautiful sculptures and art work which could speak volumes to you.

Every evening at 5:45pm there was a ¾ hour Eucharist service in the chapel, which had the most simple and wonderful Communion table, lectern and cross imaginable. There was no compulsion to attend, but I went the first evening simply out of curiosity. There was much ritual and symbolism within the service, but eventually I found myself quite looking forward to it and really felt the presence of the Holy Spirit throughout the service.

Every morning at 9:30am I met my spiritual director. I had prayed so much beforehand that God would choose someone whom I would "click" with.



God didn't let me down. Mark was so full of God's love, compassion and discernment; had a terrific sense of humour and had his feet firmly planted on the ground.

On that last evening I chose to go for anointing, not really knowing exactly what it was. As my head, eyes, ears, lips, hands, feet, heart and spirit were anointed and I heard the prayer and the blessing that accompanied it, I just wanted to weep it was so powerful.

Did I enjoy myself? Was it worthwhile? You bet! I met with God in a most wondrous way and had the time to reflect on what He wanted for me; what He wanted me to become. I was given so many reassurances and the knowledge that I was enfolded in God's love and, whatever the future held, He was with me and would carry me if, at times, I found it too difficult. I've felt humbled and privileged to have had this opportunity to meet with God, but I also felt like a child being indulged by her doting Heavenly Father

So would I recommend a retreat at St. Beuno's? Yes, yes, yes – but do take your cheque book – there's a fantastic book stall!