



THE BEACON-The Church of St. Luke

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"He is not here, He is Risen!" Mark. 24/6

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An Easter Message from your Honourary Assistant:

There is a story from the ancient days in Saxon England. They were trying to decide about allowing the Christian faith to be taught in that land. The meeting was held in the Great Hall of the King's house; a roaring fire burned in the big fireplace. Men spoke their minds bluntly and sometimes vehemently, because to adopt this new religion meant abandoning the old, and many held to the old traditions very strongly. It is always difficult to face renewal and change!

As the hour grew late, a certain man stood up and addressed the chair. "As we were talking," he said, "I saw a bird fly in the window here. It circled about in the warmth for a while and then it flew out the window over there. We could only see it for a few brief moments. Where it came from and where it went, we know not. Man's life, it seems to me, is like that sparrow. We are only here in the warmth and light for a short time. What lies at either end of life we cannot know. I say then, if this Christian faith can solve this great mystery, let us welcome it." And so it was decided. The Christian faith came to England on the pledge of Easter.

This pledge is equally valid today. Death is only another birth. God in Jesus Christ came into the world so that death would be swallowed up in His victory on the cross of Good Friday, and through His resurrection of Easter Day.

What do we believe about Easter? It is recorded in all four gospels that the tomb was empty on that first Easter morning.

Historically, it is the only answer that makes sense. There were a number of independent witnesses for the empty tomb and the resurrection. Scriptures record the following, Mary Magdalene, the other Mary, Salome, Joanna, the eleven in Jerusalem and in Galilee,

the two walking to Emmaus, the five hundred referred to by Paul, and then Paul himself. Few other events in the ancient world are as well attested.

Many original witnesses accepted martyrdom and many more were willing to run that risk by affirming the resurrection. People in such large numbers are not usually willing to die for something that was a hoax. They knew the resurrection happened.

The original witnesses to the resurrection were women. The ancient world regarded the testimony of women with great suspicion. No one wanting to be persuasive would have invented evidence that relied on the testimony of women.

Those opposed to Christianity must have looked for Jesus' body to contradict the proclamation of this gospel. Had anyone found the body you can be sure they would have publicized it. Similarly, those proclaiming the Gospel would not have emphasized the resurrection as strongly as they did, had they thought that their opponents stood a good chance of finding the body. In fact, the early Christians staked everything on the resurrection. As St. Paul writes, "If Christ had not been raised from the dead, your faith is futile." (1 Corinthians 15:17)

There are no sufficient alternative explanations for the survival of the Christian movement after the crucifixion.

The resurrection is not an irrational dogma, which some external authority obliges us to believe as a precondition of our salvation, but a well-documented historical event that warrants our joyful confidence in the God who reconciled the world to himself in Jesus Christ crucified and risen. Thanks be to God, who in liberating Christ from death has liberated us as well.

Have a blessed and holy Easter.

Christ has risen! Alleluia!

Yours faithfully, The Rev. Canon Don Beatty



Movie Night: On Saturday, February 27th an enthusiastic crowd of about 60 people watched the movie **RUTH**, a musical adaptation of the beloved Biblical story, and enjoyed donated snacks of popcorn, cheesies, pop and water at intermission. A freewill offering taken at the movie night and popcorn sales at coffee hour the next day, combined to make a total **donation of \$336. To the Primates World Relief and Development Fund for Disaster Relief.** Thanks to all who helped.

SPRING BREAK FOR SENIORS'

"To educate and help empower us"

St. Luke's Church

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2010

9:30 am TO 11:30 am

Speakers On

Tips on ways to improve everyday life

Information on available outside help when needed.

"Red Coats" help in downsizing or moving

There will be displays with wellness information

Registration appreciated – sign sheet in church hall or contact Lois Marshall at 905-275-0777.

Plan to attend and bring a friend.

The Ministry of Healing will be available on Sunday, April 18 following the 10:30 am Service. Congratulations to Captain Walter Marshall who was commissioned as

a Lay Anointer by the Rt. Rev. Philip Poole during his Episcopal visit to St. Luke's on Sunday, March 7th.

YOU ARE INVITED

Sexual Misconduct Policy Workshops, sponsored by the Pastoral Care Group, will be held at St. Luke's on **Saturday, April 10 from 10:00 am to 12 noon** and again on **Monday, April 12 from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.** It is expected that all who work in ministry at St. Luke's will attend one of these workshops. This includes Church School Teachers, Nursery Care, Youth Leaders, members of the Pastoral Care Group, Pastoral Visitors, members of the Prayer Chain, Church Wardens and other Church officers. All interested people are invited to attend.

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Special Music for Easter Day!

Again this Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010, we will be joined at the 10:30 am service by the **FALGARWOOD BRASS**, a quartet of experienced local musicians. Come and celebrate our Lord's Resurrection with the sound of Brass!

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Good Friday at St. Luke's

Friday, April 2, 2010

10:30 am

The Veneration of the Cross Liturgy ending with a silent procession.

At the same time there will be a special Good Friday Programme for all the children of the Parish. It will

concentrate on the story of the "Cross" along with crafts and discussion of the Good Friday events.

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Thursday, April 22nd St. Luke's is responsible for providing the meal at the "OPEN DOOR". Please sign the donation list posted in the Parish Hall. Contact Grace Harte for further information.

The Face of Jesus in the Gospels and the Early Church - A series of lectures and discussion led by Canon Don Beatty,

Wednesdays April 7th to May 19th (seven weeks)

7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. In the Vine Room.

Please join us for this seven week course as we look at Who is Jesus and what do we know about him? This course is designed to examine the evidence in the four Gospels, the twenty-one Epistles, and some of the writings of the early church fathers. How did John's understanding of Jesus differ from Matthew, Mark, or Luke? What about the various writers of the epistles? Did Paul's view of Jesus differ from other current understandings? How do we see Jesus today? What is our understanding of the meaning of His life and how does it affect the way we live?

These are some of the questions this course will look at and try to answer. Come and bring your questions and concerns as together we learn about the Bible and the early Church and what it means to us today..

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On Sunday, March 7th. Bishop Poole dedicated a



travelling Communion Set in loving memory of Mr. George Sava, given by his wife Joyce and family. We thank the Sava family for this generous gift.

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CAN YOU HELP

The Church School requires the assistance of a Church School Co-ordinator to work with the teaching staff and music leader in the best interests of all the children. To assist the teachers as they lead the children to know Christ and grow close to Him and to understand God's word and promises, to communicate with children and their parents, to be a link between the Church School and the Advisory Committee as well as with the Incumbent and other Church officials. A detailed position description is available. Should this interest you please speak to the Incumbent or any member of the Church School Staff.

Parish Prayer Chain for St. Luke's

Are you interested in being part of a Prayer Chain? The Pastoral care Group is in the process of establishing this ministry here at St. Luke's.

What is a Prayer Chain? It is a group of people who commit to pray individually most days for specific needs and concerns. A list of parish needs will be provided each month, and then you will be notified of specific concerns as they arise. This does not require a great commitment of time. There is a need for confidentiality in this ministry and you will be expected to treat all prayer needs with discretion. Members of the Prayer Chain should attend a Sexual Misconduct Workshop which will be offered here at St. Luke's. (Special arrangements will be made to accommodate shut-ins who would like to be part of this ministry.) No other meetings will be required.

It is expected to start this Prayer Chain after Easter. People will be invited to contact me to

seek prayers for any purpose. This request will then be passed down the Prayer Chain. Each one, call one!

If you are interested in being part of this group, or to receive a copy of 'Suggestions for Prayer Chain Members', please contact Canon Don Beatty as soon as possible, at 905-274-9776 or email: donbeatty@rogers.com.

SOME REMINDERS:


FOOD BANK: As you prepare for your Easter celebrations kindly remember to help fill

our "Food Bank Chest" to overflowing to assist those in our community who require a helping hand at this time.

LENTEN READING: Do not hurry, but once you have finished reading your Lenten library book, kindly return it to the book table or the church office.

SENIOR'S LUNCHEON-GORDON GRAYDON HIGH SCHOOL – Wednesday, March 31 – 11:45 am

ST. LUKE'S HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 28	8:30 am Holy Eucharist	10:30 am Holy Eucharist -
 Liturgy of the Palms		
Monday, March 29	7:30 pm Evening Prayer	
Tuesday, March 30	7:30 pm Service of Compline	
Wednesday, March 31	9:15 am Mid-week Eucharist	
	7:30 pm Tenebrae Service	
Maundy Thursday, April 1 of the	7:30 pm Celebration of the Institution	
	Lord's Supper.	
Good Friday, April 2	10:30 am The Veneration of the Cross	
Programme	Good Friday Children's	



Easter Day, Sunday, April 4	8:30 am Easter Eucharist	
	10:30 am Easter Eucharist	
Brass	Special Music - The Falgarwood	

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday April 6 - 20	1:30 pm Dorcas Group
Wednesday April 7-May 19 Lectures	7:30 pm The Face of Jesus in the Bible
Thursday, April 8	1:30 pm Threads of Love
Saturday, April 10 Workshop	10:00 am Sexual Misconduct Policy
Monday, April 12 Workshop	1:30 pm Sexual Misconduct Policy
	7:15 pm Advisory Board
Tuesday, April 13	7:30 pm Worship Group
Monday, April 19	2:00 pm Pastoral Care Group
Tuesday, April 27	9:30 am Spring Break for Seniors (see page 2)