

# MONTHLY NEWS

April 2026

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## An invitation to “Come Alive This Easter!”

### Planted seeds bringing life to our parish

This Easter, we're launching our new five week ALIVE sermon series, beginning on Easter Day. We will be exploring the life-changing reality that Jesus is alive and what that means for us today.

Our hope is simple: that many people across our parish will not only hear this good news, but come and experience it for themselves.

As part of this, our seed bombing has begun!

These are more than just a gift. Each one is an invitation.

Every pack includes a QR code linking to:

- A short Easter video
- Our Easter service details
- A warm invitation into the ALIVE series

It's a simple and natural way to share faith — something anyone can give to a friend, neighbour, or colleague.

The seeds are a picture of what Easter is all about: new life, growth, and transformation. As we give them away, we're praying that:

- People will receive them with curiosity
- Seeds of faith will be planted

And many will choose to come along — not just for Easter Sunday, but to journey with us through ALIVE.

Small groups are invited to use the ALIVE resources and we would love to hear from anyone considering joining a small group to try out the course.



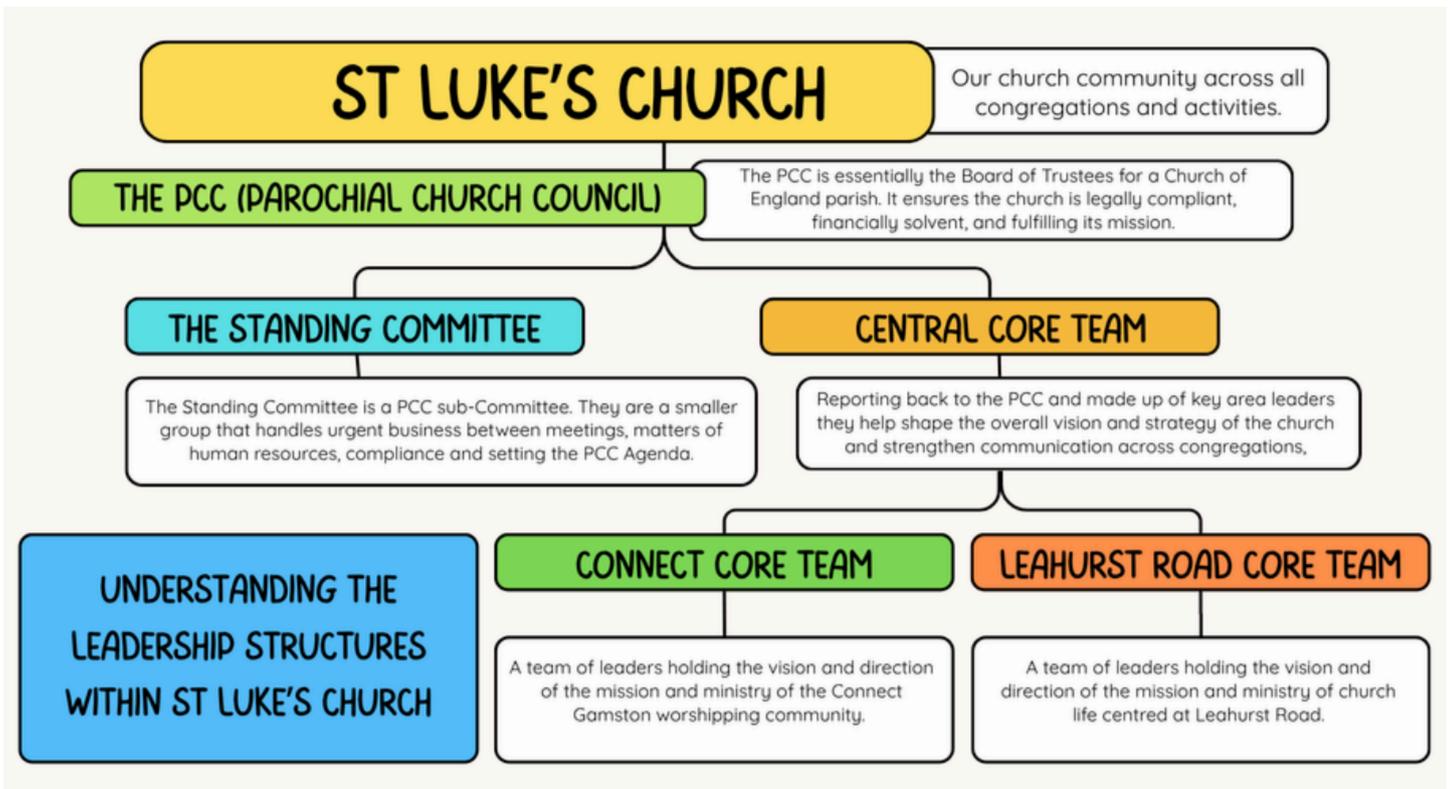
- **Sun 29 March, 3pm**  
Join Connect to hand out seed bombs!
- **Thursday 2 April, 11am**  
Maundy Thursday Communion
- **Thursday 2 April, 6pm**  
The Traitors Maundy Meal  
Book in through the church office
- **Friday 3 April, 10-11.30am**  
Easter family drop-in with a FREE Cafe serving hot cross buns!
- **Friday 3 April, 7.30pm**  
Good Friday Contemplative Service
- **Easter Day, 9am**  
Connect Easter Celebration service with egg hunt! Breakfast served from 8.45am
- **Easter Day, 10.30am**  
Easter Celebration Communion Service with egg hunt!

# Interregnum news from PCC

Last month we shared that a Central Core Team had been set up, consisting of our Church Wardens, Associate Pastor, Assistant Minister, Operations Manager, Treasurer and Youth & Children's Minister. This team have begun to meet and will be helping shape the overall vision and strategy of the church and strengthen communication across congregations,

A Leahurst Road Core Team is being set up to oversee the life around church life at Leahurst Road, to mirror the existing Core Team for Connect Gamston.

Next month we will share names of those in the teams but for now please pray for this structure and it helps us as a church through our vacancy. You can view the diagram of this structure above.



## What is a

## PARISH PROFILE

and why are we writing one?

A parish profile is a document that tells the story of a church and its community, created when a parish is looking for a new Vicar. It paints a clear picture of:

- Who the church is (its values, traditions, and vision)
  - What it's like now (worship style, ministries, strengths, challenges)
  - Who the community is (local area, demographics, needs, opportunities)
  - Where the church feels God is leading it next
- It's both informational and invitational—helping potential leaders understand the heart of the church, while also expressing what kind of person the parish is prayerfully seeking. At its best, a parish profile isn't just a report—it's a honest, hopeful snapshot of a church's life, and an invitation to join in what God is already doing there.

## Children & Young People

We're delighted to now have a full-time Youth & Children's Minister serving across St Luke's, and it's already exciting to see fresh energy and growing coordination taking shape. If you're a parent of a young person, you should have received a questionnaire from Ethan. He'd really value hearing both your views and those of your child—what's working well, what could be improved, and what you'd love to see in the future.

Please do take a few moments to complete it as soon as you can, so Ethan and the team can begin shaping what comes next.



Ethan is particularly keen to strengthen our Sunday groups, while also developing a midweek youth group with a more social feel—creating natural opportunities for friendships to deepen and a strong sense of community to grow among our young people.

There are also many exciting things coming up this term, and we'd love to see these as opportunities for our children and young people to grow in both their faith and their friendships. Please do take a look at the "Dates for your diary" section and be praying for all that's planned.



### Dates for your diaries

- **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, Holy Trinity Clifton**  
DISCIPLÉ is a brand new Diocesan five week course designed to inspire and equip you as you follow Jesus.
- **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm**  
WAIT : a joint prayer & worship night
- **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm**  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm**  
St Giles Church - Ascension Day  
WB Churches Together event
- **12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> June : The Oakes**  
A group of our 8-11s are heading off for a faith-filled adventurous weekend!
- **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June, Southwell Minster**  
A giant Praise Party for primary aged children - we will be bringing a group!
- **The Serving Day - TBC very soon!**  
Have an idea for this great day of serving our community? Speak to Sarah or Tom.
- **19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> September : Connect Weekend**  
Connect Weekend Away at Stathern Lodge with Rachel Turner

## Opportunities to get involved...

### Regular serving needs:

- Join the Tuesday cafe team and support this outreach to the community
- Speak to Ethan about joining one of his Youth or Children's teams at either 10am or 3pm on Sundays
- We could do with some help in the church garden. Contact the office if interested.
- Sidespeople at both Sunday services

### One-off serving needs:

- We will be using our usual Outlook distribution rounds to deliver our Easter cards, but we need a more volunteers to fill some rounds. Contact Sarah Hewitt or Claire Meese if you can help.



## GROWING TOGETHER IN PRAYER

During this interregnum, we sense a real invitation to deepen our life of prayer together as a church. These are not just “extra” moments in the week, but opportunities to seek God, listen to Him, and be shaped by Him as we look to the future. Alongside this, as we journeyed through Lent and now beyond, we are beginning to explore fasting together. For some, this may already be familiar through the Lent course; for others, this may be something new. We want to encourage everyone to take simple, accessible steps—perhaps starting by missing a meal or two—and using that time to pray. If you have any health concerns, please do seek appropriate medical advice before fasting. And remember, everyone can take part in prayer, whether or not fasting is right for you. There are a number of regular opportunities to gather for prayer each week starting from 12th April:

### **Sundays (Lounge)**

9.30–9.50am

11.40–12.00 noon

2.20–2.40pm

### **Tuesdays**

Prayer walk from church: 1-1.30pm

7.00–7.20pm on Zoom

### **Wednesday mornings (Lounge)**

7.15–7.45am

We will also be sharing in a day of prayer and fasting from 8.30pm on Good Friday through to 9am on Easter Day, as we wait on God and prepare to celebrate the hope of the resurrection.

Our monthly rhythm of prayer continues, with 12-1pm gatherings on the first Monday of the month (please note April and May will be 13th April and 11th May). These will also be opportunities to fast if you are able.

In addition, our termly prayer and worship nights will become more regular. The first of these will be on

### **Thursday 16th April at 7.30pm, with the theme: WAIT.**

As we step into this season, our prayer is simple—that we would grow as a people who seek God together, making space for Him to lead, shape, and renew us.

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“Through prayer, we partner with God to bend reality in the direction of our Father’s wisdom and good intentions.”

John Mark Comer

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Last term three children and young people attended the evening of prayer and worship. It was inspiring to have them with us and a reminder that they are a vital part of our church family.

We would like all parents to know that children are warmly invited to any or all of our prayer gatherings. A church is a family where stories are passed down and lived out, where the past testifies, the present rejoices, and the future learns to sing and pray.