

# Bolingbroke Deanery Team Parishes

*Faithful, Confident, Joyful*

**18<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

(Green)

## **St Luke the Evangelist**

**Nineteenth Sunday After Trinity**

**9.00am** Sunday Service at Home **Watch the service**

### **A cross-cultural celebration of St Luke**

This online service is a cross-cultural celebration of St Luke.



From the Diocese of Blackburn, the service is led by Rev Sarah Gill, featuring contributions from the Rt Rev Dr Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster, and the Rt Rev Julian Henderson, Bishop of Blackburn.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

### **19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity - St Luke**

Media

#### *Services in the Spilsby Cluster*

9.30am Spilsby Holy Communion Banns 2<sup>nd</sup>: Phillip Morgan (s) & Chloe Louise Faulkner (s) both of St Peter Morley Leeds (Wed.-Haghworthingham 23/01/20) (JC)

11.15am Hundleby (PC)

3.00pm Firsby Evening Prayer & Firsby & Gt Steeping APCM (PC)

#### *Services in the Marden Hill Cluster*

9.30am East Keal Holy Communion (PC)

3.00pm Old Bolingbroke HARVEST (FJ)

#### *Services in the Stickney Cluster*

11.15am Stickney Morning Worship for St Luke ((+Nigel/FJ)

#### *Services in the Partney Cluster*

11.15pm Partney Family Service (JC)

#### *Services in the South Ormsby Cluster*

9.30am Tetford Holy Communion (+Nigel/FJ)

### **10.00am Prayer in our own homes**

See below

## **Bolingbroke Churches on line:**

We will continue to publish a short video on YouTube and linked it to our website.

Our Web Site <http://lincoln.ourchurchweb.org.uk/spilsby/index.php>

I have created a YouTube Account **Bolingbroke Team Churches**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqTDWzvl2jxeB6ESF-aP9Nw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqTDWzvl2jxeB6ESF-aP9Nw?view_as=subscriber)

**Monday** Henry Martin

Healing Ministry

**Tuesday**

Deliverance Ministry

2.00pm New Leake: Prayer & Bible Study

**Wednesday**

Spilsby Surgery

10.30am Spilsby

3.30pm Clergy Team Meeting

**Thursday**

Stickney Surgery

**Friday**

Tetford Surgery

**Saturday**

Community Nursing

**Last Sunday (20<sup>th</sup>) after Trinity**

Health Service Chaplains

*Services in the Spilsby Cluster*

9.30am Spilsby Holy Communion Banns 3<sup>rd</sup>: Phillip Morgan (s) & Chloe Louise Faulkner (s) both of St Peter Morley Leeds (Wed.-Hagworthingham 23/01/20) (JC)

11.15am Sausthorpe (PC)

*Services in the Marden Hill Cluster*

9.30am East Keal Holy Communion (+DR)

*Services in the Stickney Cluster*

11.15am Stickford Morning Worship (FJ)

*Services in the Partney Cluster*

3.00pm Skendleby Evening Prayer (PC)

*Services in the South Ormsby Cluster*

9.30am Tetford Holy Communion (PC)

## **Private Prayer in the Following Churches:**

St James Spilsby	Daily	08.00 to 12.00
St Helen East Keal	Daily	10.00 to 16.00
St Helen's West Keal	Saturdays	10.00 to 14.00
St Nicholas Partney	Thursdays	11.30 to 12.30

St Mary Tetford	Thursdays	14.00 to 15.00
St Luke Stickney	Thursdays	09.45 to 11.00
St Helen Stickford	Thursdays	10.00 to 11.30
St Mary Hundleby	Daily	10.00 to 14.00

**Daily 8am Morning Prayer**  
**at Noon**

**God of love, turn our hearts to Your ways and give us peace. Amen**

**Please note that although Track & Trace Data is not compulsory for Public Worship, it may be when we are open for other things. We feel it is good to have the records and particularly that we display the NHS QR Code. We will be making sure our Churches have them to display.**

**Bolingbroke Team Ministry**

**St Luke the Evangelist  
Morning Worship**



Peace be upon this house.  
May it be a house of peace, where all can find rest.  
May it be a house of prayer, where all can hear the word of God.  
May it be a house of purpose, where all can find meaning for their lives.  
May it be a house of power, where all can be equipped to serve God in the world. Amen.

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run,  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,  
and praises throng to crown his head.  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring  
the highest honours to our King,  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

*Words: Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748)*

### *Invitation to Confession*

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So let us turn away from sin and turn to the Lord, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

### *A prayer of confession*

Father God, following Christ isn't easy.  
He keeps leading us to places where we would rather not go.

We confess that we don't want to look for his image in the face of the beggar or the criminal.

Teach us to look, when it is easier to look away.

We confess that we don't want too many more neighbours, that we are happiest with those whom we choose for ourselves.

Teach us to listen, when we feel we've heard enough.

We confess that loving our neighbour as ourselves can be difficult, because we are not sure that we are lovely.

Teach us to feel your transforming love with all our heart, soul, strength and mind. Amen.

### *Assurance of sins forgiven*

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### *Hymn*

*To hear with my heart, to see with my soul,*

*To be guided by a hand I cannot hold*

*To trust in a way that I cannot see*

*That's what faith must be*

When the universe fell from his fingertips

He decided he wanted some fellowship

But the man and the woman would not submit

So he made a better way  
When the moment was right, he sent his own son  
And he opened the way so that everyone  
Could have hope and believe that when time was done  
He'd be able to make us one

*To hear with my heart, to see with my soul,  
To be guided by a hand I cannot hold  
To trust in a way that I cannot see  
That's what faith must be*

Now I understand that there is a key  
It's Jesus in me, a reality  
That God is in Christ, and that Christ's in me  
That with faith I see what is unseen

*Words: Michael Card*

### *A Reading from the Gospel of Luke*

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### *Homily*

If we want to grow as a Church, we should constantly be exploring together what it means to be a mission-shaped church and to share the Gospel to the wider community in both word and deed. And that is what this morning's Gospel reading is about.



The story is about Jesus sending out his followers into mission. And you would think that, before he sent them, he would want to give them strong words of encouragement and to stir up their spirits and fill them with a sense of joy and hope for the mission journey that lay ahead. But he doesn't do that, I'm afraid: in fact, his approach seems really puzzling – so puzzling, in fact, I'm not sure that that many businesses would want to employ Jesus as a Personnel Manager! He obviously hadn't been on any team building courses!

There is a huge task that Jesus wants his team to undertake, so what does he say? "The harvest is plentiful. But the labourers are few". Not much of a way to motivate the team, really: there's a lot of hard work to do, guys: but hardly any of you to do it!

And as if that wasn't bad enough, he compounds the problem further: "Go on your way! I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves", and "Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals".

This task doesn't sound very inviting, does it? It's too big for the team, we are likely to get ravaged by wolves, and we can't take anything with us to help us on the way.

Welcome to Christian mission!

So what can we learn from this passage about the task of mission to which we are called?

Firstly: Mission is a partnership activity between all of us and God. Jesus sent out 70 disciples. At the time, there were thought to be 70 nations in the world. So, symbolically, what Jesus is saying here is that all the nations of the world are to be involved in Christian mission. Christian mission is the responsibility of all believers everywhere.

And that make us feel nervous because we don't feel confident in our own abilities. But that's exactly how Moses felt in Exodus 4 when he said to God, "Lord, don't send me. I have never been a good speaker. I am a poor speaker, slow and hesitant". But God wouldn't let him off that lightly and said to Moses, "Go, I will help you to speak, and I will tell you what to say".

So, what we know is that if we are obedient to God in responding to the mission call, he will empower us for the task and give us the words to say.

Like these 70 whom Jesus sent out, we may be taken out of our comfort zone. But we go in the power of the Holy Spirit and are transformed from being mere bystanders into being participants for the Kingdom of God.

The call to mission is essentially a call to partnership work for the Kingdom of God and we all have a part to play in that.

The second thing our Gospel reading tells us is that Mission requires us to be absolutely focused on the task in hand. As a church we need to be single-minded in our commitment to mission. That's why, in verse 4, Jesus says to the 70: "Greet no one on the road". It sounds a bit rude - but it isn't really. In Middle Eastern, African and Asian countries, greetings can take a very long time (sometimes, even days!). When it comes to mission, it's easy for us to get sidetracked and forget why we are on the journey in the first place.

Too often, churches operate like social clubs – a place to be with our friends. But if our Church is not a place where we are making new friendships and engaging with the local community, then we, as a church, are doing something seriously wrong.

So Jesus' imperative not to stop and greet anyone was not saying that they shouldn't be friendly to other people but saying that the building of relationships was part of the task in hand and that they shouldn't get sidetracked and forget the missional work that needed doing by becoming too comfortable. They needed to remain single-minded in purpose.

And so when Jesus later says: "Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide", it was quite a radical thing to say to young Jews. Because the mission they were being sent on was to the other side of the Jordan, which was a Gentile region. And if they accepted hospitality, they would have to eat unclean food. So Jesus is saying that, in order to be successful in their mission, they would have to sit lightly to their religiosity and their rituals and immerse themselves in the local culture so that there would be no barriers to receiving Christ.

We may be very comfortable with the way our church 'is' - but, if we are to be truly missional and embrace the wider community, it will inevitably involve us stepping outside our comfort zones in order to find new and creative ways to reach out with the Gospel. And that can be as challenging as it is exciting...



The final pointer from our Gospel reading is that Mission is activity-based. Being involved in mission is about more than words; it's about active engagement. In the reading, Jesus exhorts the disciples to say: "The Kingdom of God has come near to you". People cannot guess the truths of the Christian faith. They need to be told about Jesus' love and how that has been expressed through the Cross and Resurrection. And that is our responsibility.

Our prayer must surely be that we become increasingly known as a missionary people - not because of what we do but because of who we are: a hospitable people, a compassionate people, a proclamation people.

### *Hymn*

O Breath of life, come sweeping through us,  
revive your church with life and power;  
O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us,  
and fit your church to meet this hour.

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,  
till humbly we confess our need;  
then in your tenderness remake us,  
revive, restore, for this we plead.

O Breath of love, come breathe within us,  
renewing thought and will and heart;  
come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us,  
revive your church in every part.

O Heart of Christ, once broken for us,  
'tis there we find our strength and rest;  
our broken, contrite hearts now solace,  
and let your waiting church be blest.

Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating  
while harvest fields are vast and white?  
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,  
equip your church to spread the light.

*Words: Elizabeth Ann Porter Head (1850 – 1936)*

### *The Creed*

Let us declare our faith in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.  
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession*

*A prayer for the world*

O God, you embrace us and envelop us with love.

**You see everything about us and call us your children.**

*A prayer for the church*

You know what we can be and call us to step out in faith.

**You love all that you have made and challenge us to be your people in your world.**

*A prayer for those who are suffering*

O God, thank you for your unending love for us.

**Help us to receive your love and to believe that it is a life-changing gift for us.**

*A prayer for our community*

Thank you for your call to follow you to unexpected places.

**Help us to listen for your call and to dare to believe that we are of use to you.**

*A prayer for the coming week*

Thank you for your unsurpassable care for every particle and person of this world.

**Help us to share the gifts we have received and to be Christ-like in our words and actions. Amen.**

*Collect*

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive

and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

### *Hymn*

Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!  
God's saving news to all the nations take;  
proclaim Christ Jesus, saviour, Lord, and king,  
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;  
he will in grace respond to all who call:  
how shall they call if they have never heard  
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell where still the darkness lies;  
in wealth or want, the sinner surely dies:  
give us, O Lord, concern of heart and mind,  
a love like yours which cares for all mankind.

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:  
share God's good gifts let no one be denied;  
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,  
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!  
go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;  
go till all nations his great name adore  
and serve him, Lord and king for evermore

*Words: James Seddon (1915 - 1983)*

## *A sending out prayer*

Go from this place in anticipation and joy.

Be like Luke: share the faith, speak to all, seek companions and let your praise always be for Jesus Christ your Saviour and mine.

**Amen.**

*Some items are © ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020. Reproduced with permission.*

Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> Luke the Evangelist	Jesus sent his disciples out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. Pray for all involved in healing ministry across the Diocese  Pray for the Episcopal Church The Most Revd Michael Curry - Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> Henry Martyn, Translator of the Scriptures, Missionary in India and Persia, 1812	<b>The South Ormsby Cluster: Revd Teresa McLaughlin</b> Pray that we can look ahead and focus on those things that really do matter  Quebec (Canada) The Rt Revd Bruce Myers Coventry (England) The Rt Revd Christopher Cocksworth Krishna-Godavari (South India) The Rt Revd George Cornelious Tanteputi
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Spilsby Cluster: Revd Canon Peter Coates</b> Pray for the completion of our APCM's taking place this month.  Raiwind (Pakistan) The Rt Revd Azad Marshall Cuba (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Griselda Delgado Del Carpio Kubwa (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Duke Akamisoko
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>The Stickney Cluster: Revd Fran Jeffries</b> Pray for the new Bible Study Groupe which has opened up, post Covid, in St Jude's Church, New Leake.  Rajasthan (North India) The Rt Revd Darbara Singh Cueibet (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Elijah Muteny Awet
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>The Deanery of Beltisloe – Rural Dean: Revd Stephen Buckman, Lay Chair: Vincent Hedley Lewis</b> Pray for the discussions at Deanery level around Resourcing Sustainable Church.  Rayalaseema (South India) The Rt Revd B D Prasada Rao Cuernavaca (Mexico) The Rt Revd Enrique Treviño Cruz Curitiba (Brazil) The Most Revd Naudal Alves Gomes (Primate)

Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<p><b>Church Schools in the Deanery of Beltisloe – Bourne Abbey, Bourne Elsea Park, Colsterworth, Edenham, Great Ponton, Morton, Ropsley</b></p> <p>Recife (Brazil) The Rt Revd João Cancio Peixoto Cuttack (North India) The Rt Revd Surendra Kumar Nanda</p>
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>Bourne – Revd Chris Atkinson</b> Please pray for the parish and people of Bourne, as we give thanks for the successful re-opening of the Church for Public Worship and Private Prayer.</p> <p>Rejaf (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Edward Oliver Mathew Tombe Cyangugu (Rwanda) The Rt Revd Francis Karenera Kuching (South East Asia) The Rt Revd Danald Jute</p>
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	<p><b>Castle Bytham w Creeton – in Vacancy</b> Pray for those who have the care of the community at this time.</p> <p>Pray for the Church in Wales The Most Revd John Davies - Archbishop of Wales &amp; Bishop of Swansea &amp; Brecon</p>

***The sick at home or in hospital,***

Leo Seebacher-Hobson, Nigel Worth, Kathleen, Ann, Molly, Veronica, Dorothy, Maggie J. Betty Brawn, Tristan, Joan Abbey, Michael P, Joan T. Mark, Jossie Lee, June, Hilary, Michael, Harriet, Rose L., Abby, Sheila Janes, Fleur, Mary, Jeff Mason, Rosie, Jean C. Bob, (Baby) Chloe Lear, Lawrence, Margaret White (Spilsby), Ann Howman, John and Audrey Prince, Sylvia Bonsey, Anthea B.

***The Departed:*** Neville Padley, Raymond (Eggy) Goodwin, Sid Mabbott, Tony Richmond, Elsie Hezel, George Whiting, Sid Scarborough, Margaret Everard.

***Anniversary:***

Paul Allen, Maurice Longmates, Beatrice Crowder, Alice Wright, Margaret Read, Norman Norris, Geoffery Clemence, Sue Marwood, Min Learey, Thomas Smith, Maureen Ross, Donald Arliss, Kathleen Todd, Daphne Brummell, Eddie Wyld, June Myszczyzyn, Lynn Leverton, Diana Pruen, Richard Gilbert, Frederick Herberts, Millicent Smith, Daphne Mitchell-Smith, Edward Shaw. Elaine Minchin, Pauline “Avril” Pippin, Mavis Coe, John Carpenter. Kathleen Scrimshaw, Biddy Haddow, Joan Brown, Fredrick Marshall, Tony Byrne, John Oliver, Miriam Joan Price, Betty Cook, Brian Edge, Bert Bonsor, Doris Dennett, Tony Evans, Anna, Margaret Brown, Jim Bailey Alvina Ash, Vera Beamis, Carina Maitland, Mary McCoy, Harry Roberts, John Simons, Robin Worsdall (P) Sydney Ashley, Pauline Thornton, Patricia Carpenter, Rolly Panton, Harry Middleton, Howard Lansom.

## **An act of Spiritual Communion**

*You may wish to find a space for prayer in front of a cross, a candle, or a special place.*

*You might choose to make your Spiritual Communion at a particular time of day, or after viewing a live streamed service.*

*Reflect on the day and on your relationships.*

- *What good things have come from God today?*
- *Where have I fallen short?*
- *What might I do tomorrow?*

*You may wish to say or pray*

*Lord, have mercy.*

*Christ, have mercy.*

*Lord, have mercy.*

*Read the following words from Scripture. If you have access to today's readings for Holy Communion, you may wish to read and reflect on them.*

*Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life.*

*Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'*

*John 6.35*

*Pray for the needs of the world, for your local community, and for those close to you. End with the Lord's Prayer.*

*Our Father...*

*Give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now.*

*Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.*

*O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.*

*after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester Conclude with the following:*

*The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.*

**Amen.**

## **A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.

Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Clergy Team**

**The Rev'd. Canon Peter Coates**  
**The Vicarage, Church Street, Spilsby,**  
**PE23 5EF**  
**email: [peter.coates50@yahoo.com](mailto:peter.coates50@yahoo.com)**  
**Tel: 01790 752526**

**The Rev'd. Ms. Fran Jeffries**  
**The Rectory, Horbling Lane, Stickney**  
**PE22 8DQ**  
**email: [revfjeffries@outlook.com](mailto:revfjeffries@outlook.com)**

**The Rev'd. Mrs Joan Thornett**  
email: [fctjw@btinternet.com](mailto:fctjw@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 01790 754151

**Rev'd. Mrs Teresa McLaughlin &  
Mr Paul McLaughlin – Community  
Chaplain**

**The Rev'd Mrs Jean Coates**  
Contact via Spilsby Vicarage – As above  
email: [coatesjean@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:coatesjean@yahoo.co.uk)

**The Rectory, Scremby Road Partney  
PE23 4PG**  
[tmclaughlin@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tmclaughlin@tiscali.co.uk)  
01790 752344

**St. Luke** is quite special. Not only was he the only Gentile to write books of the Bible, but he was a close companion of St. Paul. If St. Paul succeeded in evangelizing the western Roman empire, Luke may have had more to do with it than we know. It is likely that God used his medical skills to keep St. Paul alive some of those times when he was beaten, stoned, or half-drowned.

St. Luke is special, too, because he is the first Christian physician on record. Untold thousands have followed in his steps. Physicians can look to St. Luke as an example, but so can historians, because his writings are very much in the Greek tradition. Painters claim him for their brotherhood, too, because tradition holds he painted a picture of the Blessed Virgin which hung in the Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome.

As a physician, Luke must have been curious about the medical conditions behind Christ's miracles. As a matter of fact, Luke uses more medical terms than any other New Testament writer. For example, he doesn't just say Publius' father was sick: he tells us he suffered from fever and dysentery. The apostle Paul told us that Luke was a doctor. In fact, he called him "dear doctor Luke." Given his use of medical detail in the two books he wrote for the Bible, The Gospel According to Luke and The Acts of the Apostles, we might have guessed it ourselves.

Luke pulled back the curtain on the young Jesus more than any other gospel writer. Without him we would not know anything about the boy Jesus's thinking. It is a pretty safe bet that Luke interviewed the Blessed Virgin Mary and got most of the details from her. Perhaps he even heard the Magnificat, recorded in his gospel alone, from her very own lips. October 18 is the great doctor's feast day in churches that observe such traditions.

St. Luke is patron saint of artists, bachelors, bookbinders, brewers, butchers, doctors, glass makers, glassworkers, gold workers, goldsmiths, lacemakers, lace workers, notaries, painters, physicians, sculptors, stained glass workers, surgeons, and unmarried men.

Tradition tells us that St. Luke was the son of pagan parents, possibly born a slave, and was one of the earliest converts. Legend has that he was also a painter who



may have done portraits of Jesus and His Mother, but none have ever been correctly attributed to him. This story, and the inspiration of his Gospel, has always led artists to his patronage of them. St. Luke traveled with St. Paul and evangelized Greece and Rome with him, being there for the shipwreck and other perils of the voyage to Rome. St. Luke wrote the Gospel According to Luke, much of which was based on the teachings and writings of St. Paul and his own experiences. He also wrote a history of the early Church in the Acts of the Apostles. He was a martyr.

### **Henry Martyn 19 October**

Translator of the Scriptures, Missionary in India and Persia, 1812

Born in Truro in 1781, Henry Martyn was educated at Truro Grammar School and St John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated as Senior Wrangler (highest marks in the mathematics examination). He had also undergone a conversion experience during his time in Cambridge under the influence of Charles Simeon (see 13 November), the Vicar of Holy Trinity. Consequently he abandoned his intended legal career and was ordained in 1803 to serve as curate (under Simeon) of the Cambridgeshire village of Lolworth, a post which he combined with a fellowship at St John's College.

In the early nineteenth century the East India Company (a private company which controlled all of British India) did not allow Christian missionaries to operate in their territory lest Hindu susceptibilities be offended. This policy was being challenged in England but in the meantime the Clapham evangelicals and Charles Simeon were using their contacts and influence to have evangelical clergy appointed as East India Company chaplains. Officially they ministered to the Company's employees and to the expatriate British community. Unofficially they also sought to begin mission work among indigenous Indians. It was to such a chaplaincy in India that Henry Martyn embarked in 1805 on a nine-month voyage to Calcutta. The last-minute rush when a passage to India became available meant that he had to leave his sweet-heart, Lydia Grenfell, without becoming engaged to her. They were never to meet again.

Martyn's main contribution to mission work was two-fold. First, what today would be called 'dialogue' – seeking to learn all he could about Indian religions by discussion with Hindus and Muslims. Second, his translation work. As well as his brilliance in mathematics he had a real ability in languages (he had spent his spare time at Lolworth learning oriental languages as a means of relaxation). In his six short years in India, he translated the New Testament into both Urdu and Persian, revised an Arabic translation of the New Testament, and translated the Psalter into Persian and the whole Book of Common Prayer into Urdu. But his health rapidly declined. He almost died of tuberculosis at Cawnpore in 1809, and he was given unlimited leave of absence. He left India in 1811, returning home via Persia, hoping to make further translations and to improve his existing ones. But he fell ill en route to Damascus and died on 16 October 1812 at Tokat, where he was given an honoured burial by the Armenian Church.