



St Marylebone  
Parish Church

## **St Lukestide 2018**

### **St Marylebone 8.30 am**

*In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Today, we celebrate St Luke, the Apostle and Evangelist; the ‘beloved physician’, who has, through time become the patron saint of physicians and healers.

For several centuries now St Marylebone, with Harley street running like a spine through the parish’s core, has been synonymous with medicine: with the quest for wholeness and healing and, for the last 30 years or so, this parish church through the work of the Marylebone Health Centre and the St Marylebone Healing and Counselling Centre has sought to embody something of that quest as one of our gifts to the world.

It is, in Christ Jesus, that we find our true and perfect healing – our ‘wholeness’. When we are baptized – as infants or as adults in later life - we are ‘recreated’, ‘made new’; we die to sin and darkness and death and we are invited to live the new life of Christ’s Resurrection.

In baptism we are incorporated into Christ Jesus, the One who brings God’s healing and wholeness to broken creation and

fractured humanity, and we are not only made whole in him but are invited to bring *his* wholeness and healing to others.

It is our daily duty - and hopefully our daily joy, too, to bring something of God's wholeness and healing to those whom we encounter day by day, to bring something of God's wholeness and healing to the places and the situations in which we find ourselves.

Whilst we at St Marylebone, in a unique way among parish churches, physically embody, through the variety of ministries expressed here, something of this divine imperative to seek out the lost and to heal the broken, we all need reminding over and over again that such is the calling of everyone who has been baptised.

Every day, broken and hurting people come through our doors searching for healing and wholeness.

Some of those people come to the Marylebone Health Centre, others to our Healing and Counselling Centre, still others to call us to the bedsides of loved ones being treated in one of the many hospitals which surround us; an even greater number of people simply wander in off the busy streets of central London to find solace, or shelter, or safety; somewhere to pray, to light a candle or to leave a prayer.

Increasingly, our work at St Marylebone finds a focus working with people living with dementia and with others who face increasing old age and the isolation that can often accompany it, and, through our chaplaincies to schools and links to universities; through our music and Young Church we seek to

live out that calling to bring wholeness and healing to those who need it most.

Every time we share bread and wine together in the Holy Eucharist, God asks us a question: what are you going to do today to help make someone or something or someplace whole?

What are you, uniquely because of who you are, where you live or where you work or where you take your leisure, going to do to heal and make whole?

The answer doesn't have to be anything terribly heroic or noble or grand (although sometimes God does call us to engage in noble and courageous acts); it doesn't even have to be anything that someone else might even recognise as an overt 'act of healing', but the God who has reconciled all things to himself through Christ Jesus, does ask us to live out our Christian calling '*intentionally*' in such a way that *what* we do and *how* we do it; what we *say* and how we *say* it; how we engage with those amongst whom we live or work; how we spend our money and live our daily lives will make a positive difference and help to bring God's healing wherever it is needed.

God calls us to embrace our baptism every day of our lives and not just for an hour so on a Sunday. God has commissioned in baptism to be his agents of wholeness and healing; he nourishes us and equips us to do such things with the body and blood of his Son, and he pours out upon us the abiding comfort of his Holy Spirit.

This St Luke'stide – indeed, everyday - may we have the courage to be God's agents of healing and reconciling love.

Amen.