

Welcome to St Peter's Walsall

Luke's gospel – good news

GOOD NEWS

Luke's *gospel* – *good news* – about Jesus

Jesus' life and ministry

Christmas – God becomes human

Ministry– miracles and teaching

Death – to bring forgiveness and healing

Resurrection – to bring new life

Ascension – the Lord reigns and rules

What does it mean for us? What are the implications of this news?

What does word 'news' mean? Items that are new!

Rest of NT is about the response to God's news – inc 1 Peter.

What's new in this? 15 things – at least. You might find more.

GOOD NEWS

NEW LIFE

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be **born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

Born again = new life. Newspaper code language for 'crazy', but it really means something profound and wonderful. John 3:3 – You must be born again /born from above. It's a spiritual awakening, life-changing insight and experience

GOOD NEWS

NEW INHERITANCE

4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...

"Where there's a will, there's a relative" :-)

"who's going to get what? Have I been cut out? Has someone else been favoured? Will there be anything left for me? Is it all going to the dog's Home?"

This is on a whole new level: *imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...*

not Bank of England, but Bank of Heaven
not cash under the mattress but God's everlasting love

GOOD NEWS

NEW SECURITY

5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time

No matter what happens, we're safe for ever.

Guarded. Protected. Even the best bodyguards don't always stop attacks. But in God we're safe – always

Another word for it: *Shepherd.* Jesus is the Good Shepherd of Psalm 23.

GOOD NEWS

NEW JOY

6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials

Once the reality of this starts to sink in, it brings **joy**. A lot of stuff we call mental health starts to get better: Depression, anger, sadness all start to go, and a deep, all-pervasive sense of well-being, of rightness, solid satisfaction builds.

GOOD NEWS

NEW WEALTH

7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

What's true wealth? Winning the lottery? Selling your house for a profit? Nope!

Pound fell to its lowest for thirty years after the referendum.

The financial crash of a few years ago shook us out of overconfidence in money and financial institutions.

These things are important for life – but the reality of God is more important

Your faith in God is much more precious than money or possessions.

Good news for the poor: the reality of what God is doing through Jesus is far, far more valuable than assets like stocks, shares, and cash under the bed.

GOOD NEWS

NEW TRUST

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory

So many people look endlessly for happiness in the 'perfect match'. They give their all for what looks like it only to be let down – and so many people *are* let down, over and over.

Actually perfection is only found in Jesus – and once we know that, deep inside, we're freed up to love other people realistically. God's love is the best love. Nothing else compares. We can trust him completely knowing that despite our trials, his love has won.

GOOD NEWS

NEW FUTURE

9 obtaining the outcome of your faith,
the salvation of your souls.

Salvation - a religious word which means God's rescue of us from a fatally broken world. This life isn't all there is. There's more to come. New heaven, new earth, all put right. When Jesus comes back. If we want to be sure to be in it, start trusting God in Jesus now.

GOOD NEWS

NEW UNDERSTANDING

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Ever wondered what it's all about? Why we're here? People always have. Look at the night sky, or a sunset, "There must be more"

The bible is full of its people trying to get to grips with what God is doing to help us and sort us out.

Prophets searched and enquired

Announcement – not good advice or clever philosophy – it's news. What Jesus has done is news – good news.

GOOD NEWS

NEW WORLDVIEW

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

THEREFORE

A response is involved.
Action is involved
Transformation is involved

News changes us: births, marriages, deaths. Referendums. Disasters

This news does too: *set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

This changes our way of understanding the world, our 'worldview'.

Now we know what we really need to know about God and life and life beyond death

GOOD NEWS

NEW LIFESTYLE

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

If we're to live out what God has planned and does for us, we need to change.

The problem is we've always done it our way, not God's

Now we see things differently, and once we start to get it, we realise we need to change the way we live and behave and work in God's world.

So we start to feel guilty about things that never bothered us. We find ourselves in conflict with the world around us, even friends and family.

Holy ≠ goody-goody, nice nice.

Holy = good, true, complete, perfect, fully everything God means us to be.

Everyone wants to go to heaven (rightly understood – people have lots of false ideas) Heaven is the kingdom of God in the new heaven and new earth – God's dimension and our dimension re-mad and re-united – but to do that we have to grow up and become good enough to be able to handle it.

HEALING AND FORGIVENESS – Jesus' blood.

GOOD NEWS

NEW RESPECT

17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile.

Perhaps we ignored God, slandered him, mocked him, didn't believe in him.

Now we know something about him, our respect and awe and wonder for him comes into us very deeply.

Exile – we have a new home waiting for us. God is the one who provides it –we cannot do it for ourselves – deep respect is due!

GOOD NEWS

NEW HUMILITY

knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you.

Ransomed – captives who are ransomed often depend on others to pay it – Governments, family members – or on negotiators to negotiate it

Sometimes if we're rich, we can have someone sort out our money,

But when it comes to salvation and God's Kingdom, our debts are too high; we cannot afford to pay. We need a rescuer.

Mountain rescue – broke leg but someone comes to get you when you would otherwise die. It's humbling, it's necessary

We need more than money - we need Jesus and his blood to pay the price and wash us clean. He' rescues us with that. no one else can.

For the sake of you: Yes, he did it for the world, but He also did it for *you*. Personally.

Once you realise what God has done – when it hits your heart – it make you very humble indeed.

GOOD NEWS

NEW FOCUS

21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Our faith and hope are in God

Instead of looking to everything else to make you feel alright – people, possessions, passions – now we look to God. He is the anchor that keeps us still. He is the foundation that we build on.

Love God first and foremost.
love the creator, not created things

GOOD NEWS

NEW LOVE

22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God

Love is a word bandied around a lot, and it seems to cover just about anything we want.

But true love is when we're living and working as God would have us do it.
We need to repent in response to the good news. we need to change, and we can.
Love becomes sincere and pure rather than self-centred and conditional/

Augustine: "But living a just and holy life requires one to be capable of an objective and impartial evaluation of things: to love things, that is to say, in the right order, so that you do not love what is not to be loved, or fail to love what is to be loved, or have a greater love for what should be loved less, or an equal love for things that should be loved less or more, or a lesser or greater love for things that should be loved equally. (On Christian Doctrine, I.27-28)

"Set love in order in me." (City of God, XV.22).

GOOD NEWS

NEW CONFIDENCE

24 for

“All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
25 but the word of the Lord remains
forever.”

And this word is the good news that
was preached to you

We trust in ourselves and other humans – but all of us have to go sometime.

175 years anniversary celebrated here two weeks ago – but one day this church will be no more.

Everything changes.

God, however, doesn't. We're in on it because of Jesus. We can be confident for everything, because the word of God endures for ever.

GOOD NEWS 1 Peter 1

NEW:

- Life
- Inheritance
- Security
- Joy
- Wealth
- Trust
- Future
- Understanding
- Worldview
- Lifestyle
- Respect
- Humility
- Focus
- Love
- Confidence

15 implications. 15 glorious new things that are ours because of Jesus

Set love in order in me

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... And this word is the good news that was preached to you

Starts by choosing to follow Jesus

Continues by continuing to follow Jesus, through trials and joys

Ends when we're united with Jesus for ever

Choose today