Reflection for St Luke.

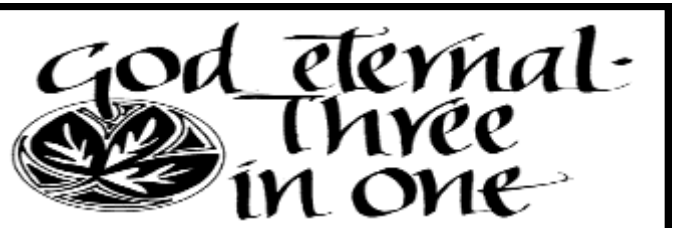
St Luke the Evangelist traditionally wrote not only his gospel but also the Acts of the Apostles, though some modern scholars might argue otherwise. The Acts starts in such a way that it is obviously following on from an account of Jesus' life and ministry. Both are addressed to Theophilus, though that name means lover of God and might have been a general name he used to address whoever read the books.

The Acts provides us with invaluable history about the formation of the early church and particularly about the travels and ministry of St Paul. Luke was Paul's companion on these travels and much of Acts is written in the first person plural, "we did this or that". The extraordinary thing is the detail which the accounts of Paul's travels contain about places, ships, people and incidents. They have to be eye-witness accounts of what happened on those travels. We know that Paul suffered from health issues though precisely what is not known. Luke was a physician and would therefore have been a good companion for Paul to have with him.

Acts was probably written in Rome after they arrived there and written for the Gentiles to whom the Gospel was being taken.

Phil Baker





NEXT SUNDAY 25.10.26 ***Bible Sunday***
10.30am in the Church



OT Nehemiah 8: 1-4a (5-6) 8-12
NT Colossians 3: 12-17
GOSPEL Matthew 24: 30-35

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St Thomas, Exeter

18th October 2026

Luke the Evangelist

10.30am in the Church

Today
Sung Eucharist
Hymn Numbers
235 I, the Lord of sea and sky
39 Be still, for the presence of the Lord
73 Brother, sister, let me serve you
164 Go forth and tell
6pm New Evening Service

Wednesday 21st October
10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 22nd October
9.30-11am St Thomas Tots
10.30-12noon Knit & Natter at Su & Ted's house

Friday 23rd October
9.45am Morning Prayer
10.15am Staff Meeting

Saturday 24th October
12.30pm St Thomas Lunch at the Royal Oak. All welcome.



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**

Acts 16: 6-12a

Paul and Timothy 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.

Isaiah 35: 3-6

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

2 Timothy 4: 5-17

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

Luke 10: 1-9

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." '

Post Communion

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Notices

Thanks to all who donated food items etc., to the Foodbank.

Please note that the Knit & Natter venues have changed for the next three Thursdays. Details on the front of this sheet.

Advance Notices

Sunday 25th October There will be a multi-cultural All Souls celebration in the Church, Churchyard and Hall. Our service will be as usual but the refreshments will be in the church and the time shortened.

Sunday 1st November All Souls/All Saints. Next week we will be asking for names of loved ones to be read out at the All Souls service.

Sunday 8th November. There will be the usual gathering at the memorial in the churchyard followed by a joint service here with the Methodist Church.