St Mary's
IN THE LACE MARKET

Choral Evensong

St Luke the Evangelist
Officiant & Preacher: The Vicar
18th October 2026, 6.30 pm

If you are visiting St Mary's for the first time, we are particularly pleased to see you and hope you find yourself at home among the church family today. Please join us for refreshments after the service.

*The order of **service** is found in the **cream** booklets.*
*The **psalm** is found in the **blue** prayer books.*
***Hymns** are in the **red** books.*
***Bible** readings are in the **grey** Bibles*

PRE-SERVICE:	Elgar *Vesper Voluntary No. 3*
RESPONSES:	Leighton
PSALM:	Psalm 147. 1-7 (p. 613)
CANTICLES:	Leighton *Magdalen Service*
HYMNS:	173, 169, 175
1st READING:	Ecclesiasticus 38.1-14 (see overleaf)
2nd READING:	Colossians 4.7-end (New Testament, p. 221)
ANTHEM:	Harris *Strengthen ye the weak hands* (words overleaf)
VOLUNTARY:	Leighton *Paean*

We are most grateful for all donations which are our main source of income.
Please make use of the QR Code or the donation station by the South Porch.
Or cash/cheques may be placed in the nearby chest, using Gift Aid if you pay UK tax.

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First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 38: 1-14

Honour physicians for their services, for the Lord created them; for their gift of healing comes from the Most High, and they are rewarded by the king. The skill of physicians makes them distinguished, and in the presence of the great they are admired. The Lord created medicines out of the earth, and the sensible will not despise them. Was not water made sweet with a tree in order that its power might be known? And he gave skill to human beings that he might be glorified in his marvellous works. By them the physician heals and takes away pain; the pharmacist makes a mixture from them. God's works will never be finished; and from him health spreads over all the earth.

My child, when you are ill, do not delay, but pray to the Lord, and he will heal you. Give up your faults and direct your hands rightly, and cleanse your heart from all sin. Offer a sweet-smelling sacrifice, and a memorial portion of choice flour, and pour oil on your offering, as much as you can afford. Then give the physician his place, for the Lord created him; do not let him leave you, for you need him. There may come a time when recovery lies in the hands of physicians, for they too pray to the Lord that he will grant them success in diagnosis and in healing, for the sake of preserving life.

Anthem

The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth;
and he that is wise will not abhor them.
And he hath given men skill, that he might be honoured in his marvellous works.
My son, in thy sickness leave off from sin and order thy hands arights,
and cleanse thy heart from all wickedness.
Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.
Say to them that are of a fearful heart,
Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come; he will come and save you.
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing:
for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.
The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them:
and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.
It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing:
the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon,
they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.
O Saviour of the world, who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us,
Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Ecclesiasticus 38: 4, 6, 9, 10, 12; Isaiah 35: 1-6; Book of Common Prayer