

## Luke the Evangelist

**T**he 18 October is the day when the church remembers Luke the Evangelist, Luke who wrote the gospel and indeed the book of Acts.

I love Luke because he has that clarity which I really enjoy. The Gospel he wrote begins with him explaining why he was writing it, he says "I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first to write an orderly account for you."

Scripture tells us some significant things. Because he travelled with Paul and his companions we know other things about Luke such as the fact he was a Doctor (Colossians 4:14 calls him 'the beloved physician') and we know he travelled with Paul, you'll notice in the book of Acts he sometimes writes 'we'.

Luke was not one of the 12 chosen by Jesus to be with him during his ministry, Luke's skill is to listen very carefully to others and to be able to put their story in writing so that it can be shared with others, firstly Theophilus (who Luke and Acts were written for) and now for us.

I always wonder if Luke travelling with Paul was a response to being inspired by the witness of others to Jesus, our saviour and Lord, and all that Jesus did and said.

This is a repeating story. People met Jesus, told their story to Luke, who discovered it to be true himself and told the story to others! Interestingly for Luke though this didn't mean



leaving the skills and vocation he had behind. Luke the doctor is clearly still Luke the doctor even when he is travelling around telling others about Jesus. Luke is an example to us of faithful Christians, who work in the place God has called them and who also share their faith with others.

As we remember Luke on the 18 October let's pray for Doctors (and indeed any who work in the medical profession or healthcare of any kind) and for each of us to fulfil the tasks of our ordinary lives (which mostly won't be medicine) and like Luke, to share the love of Jesus while we are doing that.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Booker'.

The Venerable Alison Booker  
Archdeacon of Oakham