



SUNDAY 4TH JANUARY 2026

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.' (Matthew 5:14)

Sunday 4th January	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Prayer Time in Side Chapel
	10.30am	All Age Service in Church and on Zoom
Theme:		Epiphany - Seeking Jesus
Reading:		Matthew 2:1-12
Leader:		Stuart Cocksedge
Talk:		Anna Counsell

SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday 5 th	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Wednesday 7 th	9.30am	Holy Communion in Church Rooms, followed by coffee
	6.00pm	Youth Deeper in Church Rooms (until 7.30pm)
Thursday 8 th	9.15am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
	10.00am	St Luke's Toddlers in Church (until 11.30am)
Friday 9 th	3.30pm	Fab Friday in Church (until 4.45pm)
Saturday 10 th	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Sunday 11 th	10.00am	Prayer Time in Side Chapel
	10.30am	Morning Worship with children's groups, in Church and on Zoom
	6.00pm	Prayer Evening in Church

Dear St Luke's family,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you have had time to rest and to enjoy time with friends and family over Christmas. At the start of this new year at St Luke's, we are going to focus on **developing our vision**. We will spend time reflecting on where we are and who we are as a church, and seeking God for what he may be calling us to do. This is a process that we can all be involved in – through our Sunday services and sermons, studies in our Connect Groups, and praying and listening to God at our Sunday evening prayer gatherings. Connect Group leaders have details of the sessions for this term, which they will be sharing with you. I hope this will be fruitful and inspiring as we go through this process together over the coming weeks.

Jesus is the light of the world. At Christmas, we've been reminded of how he stepped into the darkness of our world, bringing light, life and hope. And Jesus says to his followers, **'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden'** (Matthew 5:14). As we move into 2026, may we discern more and more what it looks like for us to shine as lights for Jesus in Parkstone and beyond.

So please do join us for our next **prayer gathering** on Sunday 11th January at 6pm.

God bless, Stuart

PRAYERS

Prayer for the Epiphany: Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Pray for peace in troubled parts of the world, especially the Middle East, Ukraine, and the Sudans.
- Pray for all those affected by the devastating fire in Switzerland, for the injured being treated in hospitals, for those who have lost loved ones, and for the emergency services who have responded to this tragedy.
- Pray for each of our eight Connect Groups at St Luke's, and their leaders, as we prepare for the new Spring sessions about developing our vision as a church, that we will be guided and inspired by God.
- Pray for God's healing and comfort for those who are unwell, including Ashden, Jane Diggle, Margaret Holst, Lisa, Louise, Cecile & Tim Lynes and wider family (following the death of Cecile's mother), Matthew, Julie Murphy, George Palmer, Geraldine Rodrigues, Sue Rushton, Sid Wells, Ian Wilson and Jake Wilson.

This week we are praying Tearfund

Please pray for the work of Tearfund, seeking to help and support those in poverty through the work of local church partners around the world. Pray that the funds raised during Tearfund's recent Christmas appeal will be effective in helping people like Valerie, a widow in the Central African Republic, with basic needs including food, housing, access to education, and Bible-based training delivered by local churches, to help lift Valerie, her children, and so many others, out of poverty and to help them find hope in Jesus. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 11 th January 6pm	St Luke's Prayer Evening in Church
Saturday 24 th & Sunday 25 th January	John & Anne Coles (former leaders of New Wine) visiting St Luke's
Wednesday 28 th January 7.30pm	PCC Meeting at the Church Hall
Saturday 31 st January 6pm	Barn Dance at the Church Hall (details TBC)
Wednesday 18 th February 11.30am	Ash Wednesday Communion Service in Church Rooms
Sunday 8 th March 6pm	St Luke's Prayer Evening in Church
Sunday 15 th March 10.30am	Mothering Sunday Service in Church
Wednesday 25 th March 7.30pm	PCC Meeting at the Church Hall

NOTICES

Thank you for your prayers for Ashden – from Trevor and Lorraine Muddimer

Ashden (great nephew of Trevor Muddimer) had a tough start in life, needing a liver transplant in his first year, then after 15 years suffered liver failure, and was awaiting a liver transplant at Birmingham Children's Hospital earlier this year. With no transplant available, he was sent home but in late August was recalled to hospital urgently as a suitable liver had become available. An overnight transplant followed and Ashden started on the road to recovery. There were kidney and digestive issues, so Ashden remained on a feeding tube and needed corrective surgery. Later in the Autumn we celebrated Ashden's return home to continue recovery there. This is ongoing, with healing and pain management. So we start the year celebrating his progress, with Ashden walking at home, using his wheelchair outside, and starting to eat solids. Once clear of these issues, he looks forward to starting college in September, leading on to an acting career. We'll keep you updated during 2026, but we want to give thanks to God and to you all for your prayers for Ashden and his family, who are so grateful for your support.

Poole-Wau Partnership Prayer Meeting – Monday 5th January

The next prayer meeting will be on Monday 5th January 2026 at St Dunstan's Church, Poole Road, Upton, BH16 5JA. Come along from 12.15pm for a 12.30pm start. 2025 was a good year for the Partnership with a visit in February, personal friendships growing, ongoing support of St John's College, a new Archbishop, wonderful worship, ministry and mission, a new borehole being drilled, the Holes Bay Walk, a day on St Luke in October and lots more. Well done and praise the Lord! For more information visit: www.poolewaupartnership.com

Bournemouth William Temple Association – Monday 5th January

The next meeting will be on Monday 5th January at the Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth at 7.40pm, with optional dinner beforehand at 6.30pm. The speaker will be Brother Hugh, a member of the Society of St Francis speaking on 'Hilfield Friary - History and Ecotheology'. All welcome!

Families First AGM – Tuesday 13th January

The Families First (Mothers' Union) AGM takes place on Tuesday 13th January at 10.10am in the Church Rooms, beginning with Holy Communion. All are welcome.

John & Anne Coles at St Luke's – Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th January

We are excited to be welcoming John and Anne Coles, former national leaders of New Wine, to St Luke's in January. On Saturday 24th January they will be leading training for our prayer ministry team at 10am, and a session with the PCC at 1.30pm. Then on Sunday 25th January they will preach at our 10.30am service. Do put the dates in your diary!

Kids, Youth & Families Work – Prayer Updates

Please email Anna at kidsandyouth@stlukesparkstone.org.uk to receive regular email updates to inform your prayers.

New Wine Festival 2026

Tickets are now available for the New Wine Festival being held from Tuesday 28th July – Sunday 2nd August. Follow the link to buy your tickets: www.festival.new-wine.org/book-now

Giving to support the work of St Luke's Parkstone

To set up regular giving, please go www.parishgiving.org.uk and search for St Luke's Parkstone or scan this QR code:

Bank details CAF Bank Limited Name St Lukes Church Account No 00008836 Sort Code 40-52-40

Office opening hours week commencing 5th January 2026: Wednesday and Friday 9.30am – 4pm

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