



**SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**

**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

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

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> in Side Chapel
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>All Age Service</b> 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 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion in Church Rooms, followed by coffee
	6.00pm	Youth Deeper in Church Rooms (until 7.30pm)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
	10.00am	St Luke's Toddlers in Church (until 11.30am)
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	3.30pm	Fab Friday in Church (until 4.45pm)
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> January 6pm	<b>St Luke's Prayer Evening</b> in Church
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> & Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>John &amp; Anne Coles (former leaders of New Wine) visiting St Luke's</b>
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm	<b>PCC Meeting</b> at the Church Hall
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 6pm	<b>Barn Dance</b> at the Church Hall (details TBC)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 11.30am	<b>Ash Wednesday Communion Service</b> in Church Rooms
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 6pm	<b>St Luke's Prayer Evening</b> in Church
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 10.30am	<b>Mothering Sunday Service</b> in Church
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm	<b>PCC Meeting</b> 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 5<sup>th</sup> January**

The next prayer meeting will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.poolewaupartnership.com)

##### **Bournemouth William Temple Association – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

The next meeting will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> January**

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

##### **John & Anne Coles at St Luke's – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 28<sup>th</sup> July – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Follow the link to buy your tickets: [www.festival.new-wine.org/book-now](http://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](http://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 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026: **Wednesday and Friday 9.30am – 4pm**

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