



SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:5)

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| Sunday 7th December | 9.00am | Holy Communion in Church |
| | 10.00am | Prayer Time in Side Chapel |
| | 10.30am | All Age Christingle Service in Church and on Zoom |
| | Theme: | Light in the darkness Reading: John 1:1-14 |
| | Leader & Talk: | Anna Counsell |

SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

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| Monday 8 th | 9.30am | Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel |
| Wednesday 10 th | 9.30am | Holy Communion in Church Rooms, followed by coffee |
| | 10.30am | BCS Prep School Christmas Service in Church |
| | 6.00pm | Youth Deeper in Church Rooms |
| Thursday 11 th | 9.15am | Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel |
| | 10.00am | St Luke's Toddlers in Church (until 11.30am) |
| Friday 12 th | 3.30pm | Fab Friday Kids Club in Church (until 4.45pm) (for Reception to Year 6) |
| | 6.30pm | Carol service practice in Church Rooms |
| Saturday 13 th | 9.30am | Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel |
| | 2.00pm | A Taste of Christmas in Church |
| Sunday 14 th | 10.00am | Prayer Time in Side Chapel |
| | 10.30am | Morning Worship with children's groups, in Church and on Zoom |
| | 6.30pm | Cantabile Christmas Concert in Church |

Dear St Luke's family,

As we celebrate at our Christingle service this Sunday we are reminded that Jesus, the light of the world, steps into every place where life feels heavy or uncertain. The message of John 1 assures us that God's light is stronger than any darkness we face, and that His hope continues to shine even when circumstances seem dim. The Christingles we hold are a simple yet powerful reminder of God's love for the world. The orange, red ribbon, fruit, sweets and candle, each point us to a God who creates, sustains, and redeems. As we share light of Christ together, may we be strengthened to carry God's hope into our homes, our community, and our world this season.

God bless, Anna

PRAYERS

Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent: Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and Saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen.

- Pray for peace in troubled parts of the world, especially the Middle East, Ukraine, and the Sudans.
- Pray for God's comfort for Kate, Arrietty and James Giles, Anne and Richard Roberts, and the wider family, following the very sad and unexpected death of Nick Giles.
- Pray for St Luke's Pastoral Team who offer prayer, support and comfort to those in need in our community.
- 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, George Palmer, Geraldine Rodrigues, Sue Rushton, Sid Wells, Ian Wilson and Jake Wilson.

This week we are praying for Open Doors as they support believers in North Korea

Father, we cannot imagine what it is like to live under complete oppression. Give courage and Holy Spirit inspiration for those who risk their lives not only to share the gospel but also to own a Bible in North Korea. Dear Lord, please blind the eyes of the authorities, neighbours, and even family members as your people worship you despite persecution. Enable believers to encourage and pray with one another. May the Open Doors workers at 'Safe Houses' be a beacon of light. Give them wisdom and protection. We long for the day, dear Lord, when North Korea will be filled with the light and life of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| Saturday 13 th December 2pm | A Taste of Christmas in Church |
| Sunday 14 th December 6.30pm | Cantabile Christmas Concert in Church |
| Tuesday 16 th December 3pm | Memorial Service for Nick Giles in Church |
| Wednesday 17 th December 3.30pm | Carol Singing at Pennant House |
| Friday 19 th December 5pm & 6pm | Carol Singing outdoors at Penn Hill |
| Sunday 21 st December 6.30pm | Carols by Candlelight in Church |
| Wednesday 24 th December 3pm | Christmas Eve Nativity Service in Church |
| Wednesday 24 th December 11.15pm | Midnight Holy Communion in Church |
| Thursday 25 th December 10am | Christmas Day All Age Communion in Church (please note new time) |

NOTICES

Funeral of Nick Giles – Tuesday 16th December, 3pm

The Memorial Service for Nick Giles will take place at St Luke's on Tuesday 16th December at 3pm, followed by refreshments. All are welcome. You do not need to wear black. Prior to this, at 12.30pm there will be a committal service in the Long Barrow at Harbour View Crematorium, Lytchett Minster. Please keep all the family in your prayers.

Christmas is coming

Thank you to everyone who has delivered Christmas leaflets around the parish, just a handful left to go! Please do pray about who you could invite to our Christmas services and events. Events - St Luke's Parkstone - A Church Near You

Your church office needs you!

Could you give two hours per week to help in the church office with basic admin, answering the phone and perhaps emails? We are looking for some additional, voluntary support in the church office from January onwards. If you feel you may be able to help, or would like to find out more, please speak to Stuart or Helen. Thank you!

St Luke's Library

The library at the back of church has now been refreshed and is open again. Please see the newly laid-out selection of books available. Thank you to Carole and Ian for all their hard work in setting up the new library.

Kids, Youth & Families Work – Prayer Updates

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

Church Locking Up Rota for 2026

We are seeking additional volunteers to join the small team who lock the church at around 5pm each day from Monday to Saturday. There may also be limited occasions when you are asked to unlock the church by 9am each day. For further info please speak to Richard Hudson (01202 721919) or Stuart. Thank you.

A Taste of Christmas – Saturday 13th December, 2pm

Join the team: If you would like to volunteer as part of the team at this year's event, please let Anna know.

Bake a cake: If you are able to provide a cake, flapjacks, tray bake or some mince pies for A Taste of Christmas please let Kate Wyatt know (katewyatt17@gmail.com) what you are able to provide. Thank you!

Cantabile Christmas Concert – Sunday 14th December, 6.30pm

All are welcome to this year's Christmas concert. Tickets available on the door (adults £10, student concessions).

Carol Singing at Penn Hill – Friday 19th December, 5pm & 6pm

Please do join us for carol singing outside the shops at Penn Hill on Friday 19th December at 5pm and 6pm. Keyboard accompaniment by Jean and Adam. Carol sheets provided. All are welcome – please just turn up and sing!

Choir rehearsals for Carols by Candlelight

These continue on Fridays at 6.30pm in the Church Rooms. Final rehearsal in the afternoon on Sunday 21st December.

Thank you from Jane Diggle

Jane wishes to thank you for your prayers during 2025. She feels blessed and wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas.

This Christmas we are supporting the following good causes, through a mixture of gifts and financial donations:

- SMILE Christmas Toy Appeal: We are partnering with SMILE, who support lone parent families locally. At Christmas they give gifts to local families. **Please bring a new toy or monetary gift to church this Sunday. Thank you.**

- Tearfund: We are supporting our mission partner Tearfund in sharing God's love in practical ways around the world. They will double all donations to their Christmas appeal: <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/christmas-appeal>

- Poole Foodbank: We are once again inviting you to donate non-perishable foods items to help local people in need. Please see the Foodbank box and leaflets at the back of church for details of what to give.

- Winter Clothing Project: We are once again supporting the homeless in Parkstone. Donations of men's socks, hats, gloves, jumpers, etc, much appreciated. Please place items in the plastic box at the back of the church. Many thanks.

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 8th December 2025: **Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am – 3pm**

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