



SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2026 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land where there is no water. (Psalm 63:1)

Sunday 8th March	10.00am	Prayer Time in Side Chapel
	10.30am	Morning Worship with children's groups, in Church and on Zoom
	Theme:	Lent series - With Jesus in the quiet place
	Readings:	Psalm 63:1-8 and Mark 1:35-39
	Leader:	Justin Coldstream
Preacher:	Stuart Cocksedge	
6.00pm		Prayer and Worship Gathering in Church

SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday 9 th	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Tuesday 10 th	10.10am	Families First in Church Rooms (Roy Stacey will be speaking about Rupert Bear)
Wednesday 11 th	9.30am	Holy Communion in Church Rooms, followed by coffee
	6.00pm	Youth Deeper in Church Rooms (until 7.30pm)
Thursday 12 th	9.15am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
	10.00am	St Luke's Toddlers in Church (until 11.30am)
Friday 13 th	3.30pm	Fab Friday in Church (until 5.00pm)
Saturday 14 th	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
	10.00am	Prayer Time in Side Chapel
Sunday 15 th	9.00am	Breakfast Church in Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion with children's groups, in Church and on Zoom

Dear St Luke's family,

We are living in times of both **challenge** and **opportunity**, with conflict in the Middle East dominating the headlines, and at the same time growing signs of a greater openness to faith in our nation, particularly amongst younger people. So we need to be people who **prioritize seeking God in prayer**, and are **ready to respond** to those who are searching after God and have questions about faith. Prayer should be at the heart of all we do at St Luke's, so I'd love you to **join us to pray and worship this Sunday evening** at 6pm.

And if you took some Bible verses home last Sunday to memorize, how is it going? I'd love to encourage you to keep going with this, and **we'll have an opportunity this Sunday morning for anyone who would like to, to come up and say the verse or verses you have memorized!** So do take up the challenge, it will be a great way to encourage each other during Lent!

God bless, Stuart

PRAYERS

Prayer for Third Sunday of Lent: Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Pray for peace and de-escalation of the conflict in the Middle East, for protection for the vulnerable, comfort for the bereaved, and wisdom for world leaders in how to respond.
 - Pray for our church vision process, that we will be guided by God in discerning his vision for St Luke's.
 - Pray for the St Luke's Mission Partnerships Team who keep us connected with our mission partners as they share Jesus through words and actions, both overseas and in the UK.
 - Pray for God's healing and comfort for those who are unwell, including Tina Bacon, Jane Diggle and Julie Murphy.
- Please note: following feedback, we are trialing a new system for our prayer list. If you would like us to pray for someone (yourself or someone else) please let the office know and we will add their name to the list for four weeks. At the end of this time, please let us know if you would like the name to stay on the list, otherwise we will take it off.

This week we are praying for PACE

Please pray for PACE as they partner with local churches to take the Christian message into local schools. Give thanks for new opportunities, new volunteers, positive responses from churches, and pray for ongoing funding. Challenging school environments and levels of need among students means much work for school pastoral workers and PACE staff. Please pray for them, especially as Easter approaches, for weekly assemblies, Bible lessons, and lunchtime clubs.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 15 th March 10.30am	Mothering Sunday Service in Church
Wednesday 25 th March 7.30pm	PCC Meeting at the Church Hall
Thursday 2 nd April 6.30pm (Maundy Th.)	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion in Church
Friday 3 rd April 10am (Good Friday)	Messy Easter in Church
Friday 3 rd April 2pm (Good Friday)	Last Hour at the Cross Reflective Service in Church
Sunday 5 th April 9am (Easter Day)	Easter Holy Communion in Church
Sunday 5 th April 10.30am (Easter Day)	Easter All Age Communion in Church
Sunday 5 th April 6pm (Easter Day)	Prayer & Worship Gathering (Easter Prayer & Worship)
Sunday 12 th April 6.30pm	Spring Cantabile Concert in Church
Sunday 26 th April 10.30am	Annual Meeting (APCM) in Church as part of morning service
Wednesday 3 rd June 7pm	Watoto Concert in Church (see below)

NOTICES

Good Friday Messy Easter – Friday 3rd April 10am

Easter is coming! At Messy Easter there will be crafts, refreshments, worship and an Easter Egg hunt. All are welcome, so invite friends and family for what will be a great morning celebrating Easter. If you are available to help, please let Anna know.

New Parish Safeguarding Hub

We are moving to a new online Safeguarding Hub for safer recruitment, DBS checks and safeguarding training. This will enable us to enroll people into roles at church and keep everyone, new or already involved, up to date with DBS and safeguarding training as required. We'll also be able to proceed with DBS checks through this system. As we transfer people over to the Hub, an email will be sent to those individuals asking them to agree to receive personal messages and reminders from the Hub. Please respond as requested to enable us to keep the Hub up to date. Thank you.

Watoto Children's Choir coming to St Luke's – host families wanted please!

We are very excited to have the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda coming to St Luke's on Wednesday 3rd June. They will present a joyful evening of music, worship, dance, testimonies and a gospel talk. This is a great opportunity to invite friends along, and we'll be doing lots to publicise this event. **If you would be able to help by providing accommodation for choir members** for two nights (3rd & 4th June) please let the church office know. Thank you!

Storage space needed

If you have some storage space at home, such as a garage or spare room, which you might be able to make available to help a member of our church family, please let Stuart know. Thank you in advance.

Part Time Church Administrator Vacancy at Lytchett Minster & St Dunstan's Upton

See their website at www.lytup.church for job description and person specification. Closing date: 23rd March.

PACE Quiz Night – Saturday 14th March 7pm – 8.30pm

At St Paul's Church, Throop. Entry £5 per person. Why not invite friends along for a fun filled evening, which at the same time will help to raise funds to continue the important work of PACE.

Good Friday Walk of Witness – Friday 3rd April 10am

This takes place in Poole town, organized by Churches Together in Poole. The event includes a service in the town square near Sainsbury's, with processions starting from St George's Oakdale and Parkstone URC. All are welcome.

Open Garden at 24A Western Avenue, Branksome Park – Sunday 26th April 2pm -5pm

The garden at 24A Western Avenue will be open on Sunday 26th April, 2pm to 5pm, with refreshments during the afternoon and Judy selling her preserves. All proceeds from refreshments and sales go to the Poole-Wau Partnership. Admission charge payable. We are looking for volunteers to help serve refreshments, make cakes, etc. If you are able to help please speak to Richard or Judy Hudson or phone 01202 721919. There will only be one Open Garden this year.

Watoto Children's Choir – book your tickets for Wednesday 3rd June!

Please follow this link to book your tickets for the Watoto concert: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/watoto-childrens-choir-in-better-days-2026-tickets-1979974652485?aff=oddttdcreator>

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 9th March 2026: **Mon 10.00am-3.00pm, Thu 9.30am-12.30pm & Fri 9.30am – 3pm**

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