

SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him...”’ (Luke 3:4)

Sunday 8th December	10.00am	Pre-Service Prayers in the Side Chapel
	10.30am	Morning Worship with children’s groups, in Church and on Zoom
		Theme: Advent: Prepare the way for the Lord
		Readings: Malachi 3:1-4 & Luke 3:1-6
		Leader: Dan Washbrook
		Preacher: Stuart Cocksedge
	6.00pm	Youth Deeper at the Vicarage
	6.00pm	Rehearsal for Joseph Production in the Church Hall

SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday 9 th	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Wednesday 11 th	9.30am	Holy Communion in Church Rooms
	10.00am	BCS Prep School Christmas Service
Thursday 12 th	9.15am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
	10.00am	St Luke’s Toddlers in Church
Friday 13 th	7.30pm	Youth Club in Church Hall (until 9pm) – Years 7 to 13
Saturday 14 th	2.00pm	A Taste of Christmas – a fun, family-friendly Christmas event (until 5pm)
Sunday 15 th	10.00am	Pre-service Prayers in Side Chapel
	10.30am	Holy Communion with children’s groups, in Church and on Zoom
	6.00pm	Rehearsal for Joseph Production in the Church Hall
	6.30pm	Cantabile Christmas Concert in Church

Dear St Luke’s family,

It was great to welcome so many to our Christingle service last week, as we began Advent by focusing on **Jesus, the light of the world**, shining in the darkness. In the midst of the busyness and the commercialism of this season, may we give time to **prepare our hearts** once again to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, and to anticipate his return one day.

This Sunday, we will also share details of the **small group courses** we’ll be running after Christmas in place of our usual Connect Groups, which are taking a break during the Spring Term. There will be six different courses at different times during the week, all designed to help us grow and deepen our faith as disciples of Christ. Find out about the courses and how to sign up for a course here: <https://stlukesparkstone.org.uk/788/Spring-Short-Courses>

God bless, Stuart

PRAYERS

Special 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.

Please:

- Pray for all peace in those parts of our world affected by war and conflict, including Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon and Sudan. Pray for strength and comfort for those who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods.
- Pray for God’s healing, strength and comfort for those who are unwell including Jane Diggle, Margaret Holst, Marian Laird, George Palmer, Geraldine Rodrigues, Virginia Stacey, Sara Turnbull’s mother Alix, Lorna Warburton and Colin West.

This week we are praying for CPAS - the Church Pastoral Aid Society

Their prayer and aspiration for 2025 is to see every church a pathway to faith, every leader a catalyst for evangelism, every Christian a courageous witness, every child the chance to explore Jesus.

Lord, we thank you for the work of CPAS, founded in 1836 to bring the good news of Jesus to children and adults. Please bless their endeavours over the coming months to fulfil their aims. May there be good and surprising outcomes over the year! In the name of Jesus. Amen.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 14 th December 2pm – 5pm	A Taste of Christmas – a fun, family-friendly Christmas event
Sunday 15 th December 6.30pm	Cantabile Christmas Concert – tickets £10 (concessions £5)
Saturday 21 st December 4pm	Campfire Carols
Sunday 22 nd December 6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 24 th December 3pm	Nativity Service
Tuesday 24 th December 11.15pm	Midnight Communion
Wednesday 25 th December 10.30am	Christmas Day All Age Communion

NOTICES

Spring Courses at St Luke's

Find out about our Spring Term small group courses and sign up for a course here:

<https://stlukesparkstone.org.uk/788/Spring-Short-Courses>

Reverse Advent Calendar – Supporting the Foodbank

To donate to this very important cause, please bring food items to Church from Sunday 17th November until Sunday 15th December. Donations will be distributed to needy people and families. Any queries contact Linda or Roger Jones.

Winter Clothing Project

We are supporting the Winter Clothing Project for the homeless run by Parkstone URC. Men's socks, hats, gloves, jumpers, etc are required. Please place any items in the plastic box at the back of church for collection. Many thanks.

SMILE – Supporting Lone Parent Families

Thank you to everyone who donated toys last Sunday as part of our project to support SMILE. SMILE works closely with 60 families in Poole and has also partnered with the YMCA and The Waterside Cafe to host a special two course Christmas meal for families to make some magical and happy memories for parents and their children. We are looking for funding to cover some of the children's Christmas dinners at £6 a plate. Please follow this link to donate:

<https://faithworks.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/vges2q8a>

A Taste of Christmas – Volunteers Needed!

This family-friendly Christmas event is happening on Saturday 14th December, 2pm – 5pm. If you are able to help on the day, Anna would love to hear from you. Thank you!

Mince Pies!

We'll be offering festive refreshments after our Christmas services once again. To help with this, any donations of mince pies gratefully received!

Carol singers needed!

Prayer cards will be offered to passing shoppers outside the Spire in Poole High Street on Saturday 14th December, but it will be the carols that draw them to the Crib and an opportunity to light a candle for a loved one. Singers are needed! If you can join in for the odd half hour between 10am and 1pm - please do so. Further information from andrewwilliams1150@gmail.com or 07522 968778.

Christmas Leaflets – Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who has helped deliver our Christmas leaflets around the parish!

Daily Devotional Emails based on our Sunday Sermons

To deepen your relationship with God and your prayer life. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/StLukesdailydevotion>

Thank you!

Jane Diggie would like to thank everyone for their prayers, which she finds very helpful. Jane would also like to wish all at St Luke's a very happy Christmas and to add that she is not in a position to send out Christmas Cards this year.

Church Locking Up Rota for 2025

We are looking for 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 any member of the current team. Thank you.

Choir for Carols by Candlelight

Rehearsals are taking place in the Church Rooms on Fridays at 6.30pm. Join us if you would like to be in the choir.

Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat – Performance dates: 7th – 9th March 2025

For further details please contact Claire Storey at clairestorey0204@gmail.com or 01202 733669.

Giving to support the work of St Luke's Parkstone



Bank details: CAF Bank Limited, Name: St Luke's Church, Parkstone PCC Account No: 00008836 Sort Code: 40-52-40
or please send a cheque to St Luke's Church Parkstone PCC to the Church Office Wellington Road Parkstone BH14 9LF
Week commencing 9th December
Cover in the office: Monday 9.30am – 4.30pm, Wednesday 10.30am-4.30pm & Friday 12.30pm – 4.30pm.
Tel: 01202 717268 Email: office@stlukesparkstone.org.uk Website: www.stlukesparkstone.org.uk