



SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

Sunday 14th December	10.00am	Prayer Time in Side Chapel
	10.30am	Morning Worship with children's groups, in Church and on Zoom
	Theme:	Practical Advent: Peace – finding calm in the chaos
	Readings:	Isaiah 9:6-7 and Philippians 4:4-9
	Leader:	Stuart Cocksedge
	Preacher:	Ruth Greig
	6.30pm	Cantabile Christmas Concert in Church

SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday 15 th	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Tuesday 16 th	3.00pm	Memorial Service for Nick Giles
Wednesday 17 th	11.30am	Holy Communion in Church Rooms, followed by light lunch
	3.30pm	Carol Singing at Pennant House (No Youth Deeper due to Christmas break)
Thursday 18 th	9.15am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel (No St Luke's Toddlers due to Christmas break)
Friday 19 th		(No Fab Friday due to Christmas break)
	5.00pm & 6.00pm	Carol Singing at Penn Hill
	6.30pm	Carol service practice in Church Rooms
Sunday 21 st	9.00am	Breakfast Church in Church
	10.00am	Prayer Time in Side Chapel
	10.30am	Holy Communion with children's groups, in Church and on Zoom
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight in Church

Dear St Luke's family,

One of the names for Jesus, the promised Messiah, that is given in Isaiah 9:6 is "Prince of Peace". But at Christmas, when we celebrate his birth, it can be one of the most hectic and stressful times of the year. And we are all too aware of the lack of peace in various parts of our world. Yet it is possible to know "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding" (Philippians 4:7), even in the midst of conflict, pain and stress.

This is also a time when we as a church are seeking to hold together the joy and excitement of Christmas, and our grief at the unexpected death of a dear member of our church family, as we prepare for Nick Giles' funeral on Tuesday. Jesus came into the pain and suffering of our world to save us. May we know his peace and his joy in our hearts.

God bless, Stuart

PRAYERS

Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent: God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 Prayer Ministry Team as they pray for others in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Spirit.
- 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 OMF

Father, we pray for the Pain family in this Christmas season, with all the comings and goings of their family. We pray that they and all OMF missionaries may know the peace of Christ this Christmas, and that their friends and neighbours may see the difference this makes in their lives. We pray for your Spirit to be at work in all sorts of ways throughout Japan, making people aware of their need for God, and helping them to respond to the gospel. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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)
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

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. This service will also be on Zoom on our usual church Zoom link. Prior to this, at 12.30pm there will be a committal service at the Long Barrow, Harbour View Crematorium, Lytchett Minster. You are welcome to attend either or both services. Please keep all the family in your prayers.

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who donated gifts or money to the SMILE Christmas appeal last Sunday.

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!

Collections at our Christmas services

Collections taken at our Christmas services this year will be split equally between two Christian organisations doing important work to share Jesus and support those in need: **Faithworks Wessex** (who run several of the local foodbanks) and **Tearfund** (who work through local churches in some of the poorest parts of the world – more details below).

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.

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!

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 office Christmas closure

The church office will close at 1pm on Wednesday 24th December and will re-opening at 9.30am on Friday 2nd January.

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

- **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 15th December 2025: **Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am – 3pm**

Tel Office **01202 717268** Vicarage **01202 790987** Email office@stlukesparkstone.org.uk Website stlukesparkstone.org.uk

