



Living and Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

## SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing. (Zephaniah 3:17)**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**    **10.00am** Pre-Service Prayers in the Side Chapel  
   **10.30am** **Holy Communion** with children's groups, in Church and on Zoom  
   Theme:                    Advent – Preparing our hearts for the coming of the Lord  
   Readings:                Zephaniah 3:14-20 & Luke 3:7-18  
   Leader:                    Stuart Cocksedge  
   Preacher:                Justin Coldstream  
   **6.30pm** **Cantabile Christmas Concert** in Church

### SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Holy Communion in Church Rooms followed by lunch
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Pre-service Prayers in Side Chapel
	10.30am	Morning Worship with children's groups, in Church and on Zoom
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight

**Dear St Luke's family,**

I'm not much good at waiting—it's tough work, isn't it? Advent can feel like we're stuck, holding our breath, just waiting for something big to happen. C.S. Lewis once said the world's like a sculptor's shop, full of statues, and there's a rumour going round. Can you hear it? One day, some of those statues are going to come to life.

Advent's a chance to slow down, to catch the whisper on the wind and see the first glow of dawn on the horizon. The rumour's true—Jesus is coming, bringing life to anyone with an open heart. And you know, I have to remind myself that this waiting isn't wasted. Advent's my chance to hush the noise and listen for that whisper that can get lost in all the world's clamour.

God bless, Dan

### PRAYERS

Special 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.

Please:

- Pray for all peace in those parts of our world affected by war and conflict, including Syria, 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 Open Doors – Urgent prayer for Christians in Syria

In the midst of the escalating crisis in Syria, Open Doors partners and Syrian Christians are asking for urgent prayer:

1. For justice and mercy to prevail and innocent citizens to be protected.
2. For unity among leaders and a move towards reconciliation.
3. For strength, courage and protection for Christian communities and minority groups, especially families facing impossible choices of staying or leaving.
4. For wisdom for church leaders and the church to remain a beacon of hope where the love of Christ strengthens the weary and all who long for peace. Amen.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm	<b>Cantabile Christmas Concert</b> - tickets £10 (concessions £5)
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 4pm	<b>Campfire Carols</b>
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 6.30pm	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b>
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December 3pm	<b>Nativity Service</b>
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December 11.15pm	<b>Midnight Communion</b>
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December 10.30am	<b>Christmas Day All Age Communion</b>
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 10.00am	<b>Safeguarding Training Course</b>
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 10.00am	<b>St Luke's Community Fun Day</b> (until 2pm)

## NOTICES

### Sign up for a Spring Term Courses at St Luke's!

We are running six different small group courses starting in mid January, in place of our usual Connect Groups during the Spring Term, all designed to help us deepen and grow in our faith in God. Themes include: seeing life through the lens of Jesus, growing in prayer, sharing our faith, growing on our frontlines, building a culture of belonging, and parenting for faith. All are welcome to join a course, whether or not you are already in a Connect Group. Find out more and sign up for a course at: <https://stlukesparkstone.org.uk/788/Spring-Short-Courses> (or contact the office).

### Reverse Advent Calendar – Supporting the Foodbank

To donate to this very important cause, please bring food items to Church from Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November until Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Mince Pies and Mulled Wine!

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

### SMILE – Supporting Lone Parent Families

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>

### New Church Bibles!

The PCC recently agreed to purchase 80 new Bibles for use in church, to replace the Bibles we have been using for many years. The new Bibles are the NIV (New International Version) 2011 Edition, which incorporates advances in biblical scholarship and the use of inclusive language, and is in widespread use in many churches. These Bibles are being funded from a surplus in the St Luke's bookstall fund, rather than from general church funds. They will be available for use soon after Christmas. We will be giving the old church Bibles away, but if anyone would like to keep one for themselves, please speak to Helen in the office.

### 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>

### 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.

### Safeguarding Training Course

Julie Murphy, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, will be running another safeguarding training course on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in the Church Rooms. Coffee from 9.30am, for a 10am start. We'd like to encourage as many people as possible to attend. Please contact Helen in the office to book your place.

### Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat – Performance dates: 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025

For further details please contact Claire Storey at [clairestorey0204@gmail.com](mailto: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 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:office@stlukesparkstone.org.uk) Website: [www.stlukesparkstone.org.uk](http://www.stlukesparkstone.org.uk)