



Living and Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

SUNDAY 21st APRIL 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER AND ANNUAL MEETING

**For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)**

Sunday 21st April	10.00am	Pre-Service Prayers in the Side Chapel
	10.30am	Morning Worship including APCM with children's groups, in Church and on Zoom Theme: Giving thanks and looking forwards Reading: Mark 4: 30-32 Leader & Talk: Stuart Cocksedge

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND SERVICES

Monday 22 nd	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Wednesday 24 th	9.30am	Midweek Worship on Zoom
Thursday 25 th	9.15am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
	10.00am	St Luke's Toddlers in Church
Friday 26 th	3.30pm	Fab Friday in Church Rooms (until 4.45pm) – Reception to Year 6
	7.30pm	Youth Club in Hall (until 9.00pm) – Year 7 and up
Saturday 27 th	9.00am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel (please note, earlier time)
Sunday 28 th	10.00am	Pre-service Prayers in Side Chapel
	10.30am	Morning Worship with children's groups, in Church and on Zoom
	2.00pm	Open Garden in aid of Wau at 24a Western Avenue (until 5.00pm)
	6.30pm	Cantabile Spring Concert

Dear St Luke's family,

As you may know, we have been doing some work in the vicarage garden, and have recently sown grass seed to create a new lawn. We have been watching for signs of growth, and have been excited to see tiny new shoots appearing across the garden in the last few days. Jesus said that God's kingdom is like a mustard seed - the smallest of all seeds which, when it is planted, grows to become the largest of garden plants, providing shade, shelter and blessing. As Christians, we are called to seek God's kingdom, and our Annual Meeting is an opportunity to look back and give thanks to God for his faithfulness, but also to look forward, to seek and pray for signs of kingdom growth in our midst. We may not always feel that we have that much to offer, but it is God who brings the growth and he can do great things, even from the smallest seeds and the most humble beginnings.

So, thank you for all you are doing, and please do join us this Sunday for our Annual Meeting and bring and share lunch (no need to sign up, just bring yourself and some food to share - savoury or sweet or both).

God bless, Stuart

PRAYERS

Special Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Easter: Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Please:

- Pray for peace in the Holy Land, across the Middle East, in Sudan and in Ukraine.
- Pray for our mission partners including Ken and Jen Cable currently back in the UK, and the Pains in Japan.
- Pray for all those in our church family or known to us who are unwell, including Virginia, George Palmer, Margaret Holst, Claire Storey's sister Gina, Geraldine Rodrigues and Ben Cullis.

This week we are praying for Tearfund

We give thanks for Tearfund's *Rubbish Campaign* and for Christians globally speaking up, praying for and taking action to demand an end to plastic pollution, its impact on people living in poverty and the way it is choking our seas and soils. We pray that more progress will be made at the UN Conference in Ottawa, Canada in the coming week towards a worldwide treaty on plastics pollution. We give thanks for many positive initiatives that have emerged from the *Rubbish Campaign* and we pray also that treaty negotiators be refreshed and strengthened to persevere despite the big polluters pushing hard to stall any further progress. Dear Lord we pray for an ambitious treaty that brings an end to the world's rubbish problem. Amen.

NOTICES

Men's walking group

We are embarking on our third walk next Tuesday morning (23rd April), weather permitting. We walk for a couple of hours and finish with refreshments. This one is from Gravel Hill to Wimborne, to complete a route that we started at Bournemouth Gardens. Please speak to Duncan or Steve if you would like to join us.

Update - Meeting with Kevin and Jen Cable - Saturday 27th April

The Cables have now arrived safely in the UK, following Kevin's surgery, and the attack from Iran. Thankfully their flight was not cancelled and they were able to depart on schedule. They are holding an event at St Katharine's Church, Church Road, Southbourne, BH6 4AR on Saturday 27th April, 10.30am - 12 noon, where they will be giving a presentation on their ministry in Israel, with coffee and cake. They are thankful to God for the many miracles he has performed in providing this time of rest in the UK for them. Please do join them on the 27th, and pray for them, and for peace in Israel. Thank you. **Please note:** Our Saturday morning prayer meeting on 27th April will be at the earlier time of 9am to allow time for those wishing to travel to Southbourne.

Help needed please - Open Gardens and fundraising for Poole-Wau Partnership

The gardens at 24A Western Avenue, Branksome Park will be open to the public on Sunday 28th April between 2.00pm and 5.00pm. During the open garden we will be providing refreshments and selling Judy's Jams in aid of the Poole Wau Partnership. If you are making a cake, please deliver it to the garden by 2.00pm or leave it in the church kitchen, from where it will be collected at 1.00pm. Please let Judy Hudson know if you can help - 01202 721919.

Cantabile - Requiem by Brahms

A Spring Concert is being held on Sunday 28th April at 6.30pm, at St Luke's Church. Tickets at the door £10 (cash or card) or at the Church Office, concessions for students £5.

Cycle Ride "In the footsteps of St Paul"

On May 6th, Geoff and William Sherwood will be starting a two-month, 3600 mile cycle ride from Paphos (Cyprus) to the UK. Across Cyprus, Turkey and Greece they will be following "in the footsteps of St Paul", thereafter following the 'Via Egnatia' and 'Via Francigena' pilgrimage routes via Rome back to Canterbury. They will be using their trip to raise money for Christian Aid's continuing work helping economic and emotional recovery of the millions impacted by the devastating 2023 Turkey/Syria earthquakes. You can find out more, and follow Geoff & Will's progress, via their 'JustGiving' web page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/g-sherwood-earthquake>

Fayre in Church Hall

A local community group is holding a Table Top Fayre of Collectables and Crafts in the Church Hall on Saturday May 4th from 10am to 2pm. Homemade refreshments will be available. Free entry. Pre-loved items, preserves, books, art, antiques, jewellery and much more!

New Wine Summer Festival: 25th - 30th July

New Wine is a gathering of thousands of Christians this summer, which is returning to Shepton Mallet in Somerset this year. It includes worship, Bible teaching, ministry, great groups for children and young people, seminars and lots more. We would love to invite you to join us at New Wine this summer. Speak to Stuart or Rachel for more details.

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 22nd Apr – Cover in the office: Monday 9.30am – 4.30pm. Helen will be on leave on Wednesday and Friday, but messages will still be checked and responded to as far as possible.
Tel: 01202 717268 Email: office@stlukesparkstone.org.uk Website: www.stlukesparkstone.org.uk