



SUNDAY 21ST & SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2: 10-11)

We wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas!

Sunday 21st December	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
	Theme:	Practical Advent - Joy (choosing gratitude and generosity)
	Readings:	Habakkuk 3:17-19 and Matthew 6:25-34
	Leader:	Stuart Cocksedge
	Preacher:	Justin Coldstream
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight in Church and on Zoom
Christmas Eve	3.00pm	Nativity Service in Church
	11.15pm	Midnight Communion in Church
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Day All Age Communion in Church and on Zoom
Sunday 28th December	10.00am	Prayer Time in Side Chapel
	10.30am	Morning Worship in Church and on Zoom

SERVICES AND EVENTS

Monday 22 nd	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Wednesday 24 th		Christmas Eve services – see above
Thursday 25 th		Christmas Day service – see above
Monday 29 th		(No Prayer Meeting due to Christmas break)
Wednesday 31 st		(No Holy Communion due to Christmas break)
Thursday 1 st		(No Prayer Meeting due to Christmas break)
Sunday 4 th	9.00am	Holy Communion in Church
	10.00am	Prayer Time in Side Chapel
	10.30am	All Age Service in Church and on Zoom

Dear St Luke's family,

At this busy time, it is good to take time to reflect on message of Christmas: that because of God's great love for us, he gave up the glory and splendour of heaven to come into our world, our Saviour Jesus born as a helpless baby. God, in Jesus, entered into the pain and suffering of our world, and as new parents Mary and Joseph found themselves in a very vulnerable situation, forced to flee to another country with the infant Jesus, because of Herod's murderous plans. From the beginning of his earthly life, until his death on the cross, Jesus transformed peoples' lives, but he also faced opposition and suffering. So we can be confident that he knows what it's like to experience pain and grief, and that he is with us now in all that we face in the world today. In the midst of hard times and happy times, may you know the joy of Immanuel, God with us, this Christmas time.

God bless, Stuart

PRAYERS

Special Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Advent: Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Special Prayer for Christmas Day: Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise, as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

Special Prayer for the First Sunday of Christmas: God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. 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 funeral of Nick Giles.
- Pray for the St Luke's worship teams who use their gifts to lead us in sung worship week by week.
- 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 Bible Society

Heavenly Father, we thank you for upholding Bible Society's work both at home and in many parts of the world. Today we think of the work being done in our prisons, where so many Bibles and New Testaments are given freely to the inmates. The prison chaplains can start Bible studies and help many to come to salvation thanks to your word being available in prisons. We pray that this work can continue through the generosity of all who support Bible Society. In Jesus' name we pray. 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
Tuesday 20 th January 7pm for 7.30pm	Churches Together in Poole Unity Event at St Edward's School
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

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).

Church office Christmas closure

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

Good news – church heating replacement and reducing our carbon footprint

The PCC have agreed to progress the replacement of the church heating system alongside upgrading the church lighting, in order to reduce our impact on the environment. We'll be applying for funds from grant-making trusts, and you can also contribute to this project by making a donation using the bank details below using 'Heating' as the payment reference, or using the card machine in church. Thank you! We'll say more about all this in the new year.

Churches Together in Poole Unity Event – Tuesday 20th January, 7pm

As in previous years, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Churches Together in Poole are organising an evening at St Edward's School on Tuesday 20th January. There will be worship, prayer, and we'll hear from several speakers on the theme of the current sense of breakdown in society, matched at the same time, with clear signs of growth in community spirit. Tea and coffee served from 7pm, for a 7.30pm start. All are welcome!

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.

Kids, Youth & Families Work – Prayer Updates

Please email Anna at kidsandyouth@stlukesparkstone.org.uk to receive regular email updates to inform your prayers.

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**

The Church Office will close for Christmas from 1pm on Wednesday 24th December until 9.30am on Friday 2nd January 2026

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

