



**SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit' (Romans 15:13)**

<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> in Side Chapel
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b> with children's groups, in Church and on Zoom
	Theme:	Our vision of God - A beacon of light and hope
	Readings:	Ephesians 5:8-20 and Matthew 5:13-16
	Leader:	Stuart Cocksedge
	Talk:	Stuart Cocksedge

**SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK**

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion in Church Rooms, followed by coffee
	6.00pm	Youth Deeper in Church Rooms (until 7:30pm)
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
	10.00am	St Luke's Toddlers in Church (until 11.30am)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	3.30pm	Fab Friday in Church (until 5.00pm)
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.00am	Holy Communion in Church
	10.00am	Prayer Time in Side Chapel
	10.30am	All Age Service in Church and on Zoom
	3.30pm	Welcome Tea at The Vicarage

**Dear St Luke's family,**

I wonder how many of us had pancakes on Tuesday as we celebrated Shrove Tuesday (or pancake day!) It's a chance to enjoy simple treats. But it also prepares us for something deeper.

The very next day, Ash Wednesday gently marks our foreheads with ashes, reminding us to pause, reflect, and turn our hearts back to God. And so Lent begins — forty days to pray more intentionally, give generously, and make space for Jesus in our busy lives. As we journey toward Easter, we are invited to slow down, set aside distractions, and intentionally make space for Jesus in our daily lives.

Whether through prayer, fasting, reading Scripture, or quiet moments of stillness, Lent reminds us that drawing near to Christ transforms our hearts. Let me encourage you to make a bit of extra time with Him this season, even a few minutes each day can deepen our relationship with Him. As Scripture encourages us: **"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you."** James 4:8

Join us this Sunday as we get closer to God thinking about how he is our beacon of light and hope in this season. God bless, Anna

**PRAYERS**

Prayer for the First Sunday of Lent: Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Pray for peace in troubled parts of the world, especially the Middle East, Ukraine, and the Sudans.
- Pray for our church vision process, that we will be guided by God in discerning his vision for St Luke's.
- Pray for the St Luke's Welcome Team who provide a warm welcome to all who come along to St Luke's.
- Pray for God's healing and comfort for those who are unwell, including Jane Diggle, Margaret Holst, Louise, Matthew, Julie Murphy, George Palmer, Geraldine Rodrigues, Sue Rushton, Sid Wells, Ian Wilson and Jake Wilson.

Please note: following feedback, we are trialing a new system for our prayer list. If you would like us to pray for someone (yourself or someone else) please let the office know and we will add their name to the list for four weeks. At the end of this time, please let us know if you would like the name to stay on the list, otherwise we will take it off.

### **This week we are praying for Christian Aid**

Pray for the restore campaign, campaigning the UK government to take a stand against climate change and the debt crisis, both of which affect the world's poorest countries the most and keep millions trapped in poverty. Pray that many would be moved to support the campaign by signing the campaign petition and that those receiving the petitions would have wisdom and discernment when deciding how to act.

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 3.30pm	<b>Welcome Tea</b> at the Vicarage
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 6pm	<b>Prayer &amp; Worship Gathering</b> in Church
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 10.30am	<b>Mothering Sunday Service</b> in Church
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm	<b>PCC Meeting</b> at the Church Hall
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 6.30pm (Maundy Th.)	<b>Maundy Thursday Holy Communion</b> in Church
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 10am (Good Friday)	<b>Messy Easter</b> in Church
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2pm (Good Friday)	<b>Last Hour at the Cross Reflective Service</b> in Church
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 9am (Easter Day)	<b>Easter Holy Communion</b> in Church
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 10.30am (Easter Day)	<b>Easter All Age Communion</b> in Church
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 6pm (Easter Day)	<b>Prayer &amp; Worship Gathering</b> (Easter Prayer & Worship)
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 10.30am	<b>Annual Meeting (APCM)</b> in Church as part of morning service
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 7pm	<b>Watoto Concert</b> in Church (see below)

#### **NOTICES**

##### **Watoto Children's Choir coming to St Luke's – host families wanted please!**

We are very excited to have the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda coming to St Luke's on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Some of you may remember them coming here in the past, and it will be great to have them again. They will present a joyful evening of music, worship, dance, testimonies and a gospel talk. This will be a great opportunity to invite friends along, and we'll be doing lots to publicise the event in the coming months. **If you would be able to help by providing accommodation for choir members** for two nights (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> June) please let the church office know. Thank you!

##### **Watoto Children's Choir**

Please follow the link to book your tickets for the concert on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/watoto-childrens-choir-in-better-days-2026-tickets-1979974652485?aff=oddtcreator>

##### **Welcome Tea – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 3.30pm – 5pm**

If you are new to St Luke's, we would love to invite you to join us for tea, coffee and cake at the vicarage at our next welcome tea, on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 3.30pm. There will be time to chat, answer your questions, and get to know you more. Please email [vicar@stlukesparkstone.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stlukesparkstone.org.uk) to let us know you're coming. We look forward to seeing you!

##### **Sunday Evening Prayer Gatherings – 6pm – 7.30pm**

We have now held several Sunday evening times of worship and prayer since last summer. These are important times for the St Luke's family to come together to pray for our church and community. We feel it is right for these to now become a regular monthly event, usually on the second Sunday of the month.

##### **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. We'll be applying for funds from grant-making trusts, and you can also contribute by donating using the bank details below (using payment ref 'Heating') or using the card machine in church. Thank you! More details to follow.

##### **New Wine Festival 2026**

Tickets are now available for the New Wine Festival which takes place from Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July until Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Follow this link for more info or to buy your tickets: [www.festival.new-wine.org/book-now](http://www.festival.new-wine.org/book-now)

##### **Giving to support the work of St Luke's Parkstone**

To set up regular giving, please go [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://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 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026: **Mon 1.30pm-3.30pm, Wed & Fri 9.30am – 3pm**

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