

This week we are praying for OMF

Please pray for the Pain family in Japan as they share the good news of Christmas with those around them. Pray for their Christmas outreach activities, including gifts to friends and neighbours, a possible church football event, and Christmas church services. Pray also for wisdom and guidance as they plan possible outreach opportunities for the new year. Finally, please pray that they will enjoy good quality time together and know God's blessing as a family over Christmas.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week beginning Monday 13 th January	Small group courses begin (see below)
Saturday 25 th January 10.00am	Safeguarding Training Course
Saturday 1 st February 10.00am	St Luke's Community Fun Day (until 2pm)
Sunday 23 rd March	St Luke's Gift Day

NOTICES

Looking ahead to 2025!

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (1 Corinthians 12:27)

This will be our Bible verse for 2025, and we'll begin the year by unpacking this verse in an all age service on 5th January. Then on 12th January Bishop Karen and Archdeacon Penny will be with us to licence Stuart as incumbent of St Luke's, following the lifting of the suspension of the patron's right to present an incumbent to the parish. This means that Stuart will be Vicar rather than Priest in Charge. On 19th January, we'll begin a sermon series based on the account of Jesus feeding the five thousand in Mark's gospel, drawing out what this has to teach us about being church and growing as disciples, and learning from other relevant passages in the Old and New Testaments. Alongside this, please do sign up for one of our Spring Term short courses, more details below!

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).**

Collections at our Christmas services

The PCC has agreed that the collections at our Christmas services this year will be split equally between Faithworks Wessex (supporting those in need in the BCP area) and Open Doors (supporting the persecuted church overseas).

Food Bank Donations

A heartfelt thank you to all who so generously donated food and Christmas treat items - Linda & Roger Jones.

New Church Bibles!

The PCC recently agreed to purchase 80 new Bibles for use in church. The new Bibles are the NIV (New International Version) 2011 Edition, incorporating 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, and 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 contact the office.

Church Office opening hours are changing!

The office will be closed for Christmas from 3pm on Monday 23rd December, re-opening at 9.30am on Friday 3rd January. New opening hours will then be in place as follows: 9.30am – 3pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We hope that these standardised times will be easier to remember!

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>

Quiet Day at the Greenhouse Christian Centre

A Quiet Day will be held on Monday 6th January, 10am – 4pm with a sandwich lunch. £10 per head. All welcome!

Safeguarding Training Course

Julie Murphy, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, will be running another safeguarding training course on Saturday 25th 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: 7th – 9th March 2025

For further details please contact Claire Storey at 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, Poole BH14 9LF

The Church Office will close for Christmas from 3pm on Monday 23rd December until 9.30am on Friday 3rd January 2025

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