

# SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> – SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

The angel said to them, "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)

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 10.00am Pre-Service Prayers in the Side Chapel

**10.30am** Morning Worship with children's groups, in Church and on Zoom

Theme: The promised Saviour who brings joy Readings: Micah 5:2-5a & Luke 1:39-55

Leader: Stuart Cocksedge Preacher: John Pattison

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 10.30am Christmas Day All Age Communion in Church and on Zoom

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am Pre-Service Prayers** in the Side Chapel

10.30am Morning Worship in Church and on Zoom

Theme: Jesus is presented in the temple Readings: Psalm 24 & Luke 2:22-40

Leader: Stuart Cocksedge Preacher: Stuart Cocksedge

### **SERVICES AND EVENTS**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>
9.30am Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>
Christmas Eve services – see above
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>
Christmas Day service – see above

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> No Prayer Meeting Monday 30<sup>th</sup> No Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January No Holy Communion service due to New Years Day bank holiday

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> <u>No</u> Prayer Meeting

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Pre-service Prayers in Side Chapel
10.30am All Age Service in Church and on Zoom

## Dear St Luke's family,

As we come to the end of my first full year at St Luke's, I'd like to **thank everyone** for your love, support, and hard work over the past year. I pray that you will know **God's peace and joy** this Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Please note that this news sheet covers two weeks, and please see over the page **for important details** of what's happening in the new year. **I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas!** 

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.

#### Please

- Pray for peace in all places devastated by war and conflict, and for strength and comfort for all those affected.
- Pray that all who come to our Christmas services may hear the good news of Christmas and know God's peace and joy.
- Pray for God's healing 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 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<sup>th</sup> January Small group courses begin (see below)

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 10.00am Safeguarding Training Course

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February 10.00am St Luke's Community Fun Day (until 2pm)

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> January. Then on 12<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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:** <a href="https://stlukesparkstone.org.uk/788/Spring-Short-Courses">https://stlukesparkstone.org.uk/788/Spring-Short-Courses</a> (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 23<sup>rd</sup> December, re-opening at 9.30am on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 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: 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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