

**SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**  
**(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)**

<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Prayer Time</b> in Side Chapel
	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Worship &amp; APCM</b> with children's groups, in Church and on Zoom
	Theme:	Annual Meeting & Vision Update
	Reading:	1 Thessalonians 5:12-24
	Leaders:	Stuart Cocksedge & Anna Counsell
	Speaker:	Stuart Cocksedge

**SERVICES AND EVENTS**

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion in Church, followed by coffee
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Prayer Meeting in Side Chapel
	10.00am	St Luke's Toddlers in Church (until 11.30am)
	6.30pm	Youth Deeper in Church Rooms (until 8pm) (please note new day and time)
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	3.30pm	Fab Friday in Church (until 5.00pm)
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	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 the end of his first letter to the church in Thessalonica, the apostle Paul finishes with some important instructions, including that we should **"rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances"** (1 Thess 5:16-18). As a PCC, we read these verses together at our March meeting, inspired by Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford, who died earlier this year having been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer just a few weeks before. In these verses it's as if the apostle Paul has much to say, but not much space left to say it in. Aware that he didn't have much time left, Bishop Andrew chose to share these verses in his final pastoral letter to the Diocese of Guildford, where he was much loved as their leader and pastor. As we gather for our APCM this Sunday, may we be inspired by the example of people like Bishop Andrew, to **rejoice** in God's presence with us, **give thanks** for all that has been, and commit to **praying** for all that's to come. On Sunday we'll give thanks for all who serve in the life of St Luke's, pray for those stepping into new roles (see over the page), and we'll have the opportunity to bring our gifts for the **Beacon Project**. God bless, Stuart

**PRAYERS**

Prayer for 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

- Pray for peace and de-escalation of the conflict in the Middle East, for protection and relief for all affected.
- Pray for our church vision process, that we will be guided by God in discerning his vision for St Luke's.
- Pray for our Beacon Project as we raise funds, apply for grants, and seek approvals to enable the project to progress.
- Pray for our Cleaning Team who give their time to keep St Luke's clean, tidy and welcoming each week.
- Pray for God's healing and comfort for those who are unwell, including Jane Diggle, Julie Murphy and Iain Wilson.



**We encourage you to respond with your gifts or pledges for the Beacon Project this Sunday.**  
 Please help us to ensure that St Luke's Church is a bright, warm, welcoming place where the love of God is made known, now and into the future, as we seek to renew our church heating, lighting, and sound and visual capabilities. See leaflets or website for details:  
<https://stlukesparkstone.org.uk/888/St-Lukes-Beacon-Project>

To add a name to this prayer list, please let the church office know and we will add it 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. Thank you.

## This week we are praying for the Poole-Wau Partnership

Give thanks for the well which has been installed in the grounds of St John's College Wau, built with monies from Poole. Please pray for South Sudan, one of the poorest countries in the world, now with 70,000 refugees from Sudan. Pray for protection for the people of the Bahr El Ghazel province who suffer attacks from the north. 200 people including women and children were killed on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2pm – 5pm	<b>Open Garden</b> at 24A Western Avenue, Branksome Park (see below)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 7am – 10pm	<b>St Luke's Church in use as a Polling Station</b>
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 6pm	<b>Prayer &amp; Worship Gathering</b> in Church
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 6.30pm	<b>Watoto Children's Choir Concert</b> in Church (see below)
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Spree South West 2026 Youth Weekend</b> at Westpoint, Exeter
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> July 10.30am	<b>Mission Partnerships Sunday</b> in Church
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> July – Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	<b>New Wine Festival</b> at Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>'Under the Sea' Holiday Club</b> for primary age children in Church

### NOTICES

#### Annual Meeting and PCC Vacancies – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am

As we gather for our Annual Meeting (APCM) this Sunday, we thank the following people who are stepping down from the PCC and/or Deanery Synod: **Ben Counsell, Kate Giles, Richard Hudson and Trevor Muddimer**, and for **Ruth Greig** who is retiring as an LLM but will continue to be involved in ministry at St Luke's. We also give thanks for those who are coming to the end of their three year terms on the PCC and are standing again: **Steve Blight and Harriet Sturgess**. We also give thanks for new people standing for the PCC: **Sara Turnbull and Frank Westfield**, and for **Martin Holst and Margaret Lloyds** standing for Deanery Synod. Please do keep the PCC in your prayers. If you are still considering whether to stand, do speak to Stuart or the wardens. Nomination forms available at the back of church. Thank you.

#### Update from the Holsts

Martin Holst would like to let you all know that Margaret has now moved to a new care home: Elizabeth House, Dolbery Road, Poole BH12 4PX. She would welcome visitors, please do speak to Martin for more details.

#### Watoto Children's Choir Concert – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 6.30pm

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. A great opportunity to invite friends to. **The concert is free to attend**, but to help us keep track of numbers, please book tickets using the link below, or via the church office. Click here to book your tickets:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/watoto-childrens-choir-in-better-days-2026-tickets-1979974652485?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/watoto-childrens-choir-in-better-days-2026-tickets-1979974652485?aff=oddtcreator)

#### Watoto Children's Choir Concert – host families needed

We are still looking for a couple more host families to provide accommodation for Watoto choir members for two nights (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> June). If you may be able to help, please let the church office know. Thank you!

#### Connect Group Study Notes

Copies of the summer term Connect Group study notes are available at the back of church and on the website at this link: <https://stlukesparkstone.org.uk/70/Connect>

#### Open Garden at 24A Western Avenue, Branksome Park – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2pm - 5pm

The garden at 24A Western Avenue will be open on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2pm to 5pm, with refreshments during the afternoon and Judy selling her preserves. All proceeds from refreshments and sales go to the Poole-Wau Partnership. Admission charge payable. Please join us, visit a lovely garden and also support the Poole-Wau Partnership.

#### Pennant House Fundraiser Bingo – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2pm

Tea and cake, name the teddy, raffle and bingo, with part of the proceeds to Cancer Research UK. All welcome!

#### Book Launch – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm

Jeannie Kendall will be launching her new book 'He Refreshes My Soul' on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm, at Buckland Road Baptist Church, Buckland Road, Poole BH12 2NA. Please email [bucklandroadchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bucklandroadchurch@gmail.com) if you would like to attend or would like to order a signed copy of the book at £14.99.

#### Part Time Church Administrator Vacancy at Lytchett Minster & St Dunstan's Upton

See their website at [www.lytup.church](http://www.lytup.church) for job description and person specification. Closing date: 11<sup>th</sup> May.

#### 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 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.paritygiving.org.uk](http://www.paritygiving.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 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026: **Mon 10am-12pm & 1.30pm-3.30pm, Wed & Fri 9.30am-3pm**

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