

St Luke's Church Parkstone

A CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS

A community of whole-life disciples of Jesus Christ committed to worship, growth, partnership and mission

Sunday 22nd November 2020 Last before Advent/Christ the King

9.30am Children's Group via zoom led by Anna Counsell.
"Joseph - Dreams come true" Please bring paper, felt tips, glue, tin foil, a cup and scissors
Link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4197596873?pwd=MINoTFNqZlIWNnFDZTJmTHZORnV2Zz09>
Meeting ID: 419 759 6873 Password: 1ffwp annastainer.stlukes@gmail.com 07919621343

10.30am Morning Worship via zoom (join from 10.20)
Leader: Chris Strain Preacher: Charles Burgess whom we welcome from CPAS. He will be sharing about the ministry of CPAS and speaking on 'A Community of Good News to share' Acts 8: 26-40

5.00pm Praise and Prayer via zoom
Usual link each week for both services with password – see email or the website (just click)

29th November 2020 Advent Sunday

9.30am Children's Group via zoom led by Anna Counsell. Theme: 'Advent' See above for link

10.30am Morning Worship via zoom (join from 10.20) Leader: Justin Coldstream
Preacher: Chris Strain Acts 6: 1-7 'The Church – Community of Ministry and service'

5.00pm Evening Prayer via zoom (details as above)

Worship and Events over the next few weeks

- ✚ Private Prayer in Church/Chapel 9am - 10am Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
- ✚ Wednesday worship is at 9.30am by zoom (usual link)
- ✚ Sunday 6th December – Watch this space!

Church Finances – a message from our Treasurer, Steve Blight

Thank you to all of you who have maintained your financial commitment to St Luke's during this difficult last 8 months. As I reported at the annual meeting recently, we are in a better position than many churches at this point in the financial year, especially those churches that rely on donations at the plate or more casual giving rather than monthly payments from bank accounts. Despite that, our general church income is running at 83% of budget so far, that's 10 months of the church financial year, and as I prepare the budget for 2021, I have to allow for the possibility of a reduced income next year as well.

It is difficult to reduce expenditure when the teams and employees already make such efforts to keep costs down. One piece of good news is that our diocese, Salisbury, has decided not to increase the amount we have to pay them (the parish share) this time. There is no doubt that as we currently stand, we will finish the year with our working bank accounts many thousands lower than last year, so may I ask everyone to review and pray about their giving and the need to invest in the work of St Luke's now and in the future. If you have not yet set up a bank standing order, may I encourage you to do so. Forms are available from the website, the church office or porch. **Bank details are at the bottom of page 2.** Many thanks. Steve Blight - sblightly@yahoo.co.uk

Christmas gift for the Poole Domestic Abuse Centre

Families First/Mothers Union are giving boxes of biscuits to the Refuge this Christmas. Donations of £5 towards one box, would be appreciated. Please leave any cash in marked envelopes at the Church office or take to Anne Roberts door (25 Wellington Road) or Virginia's (28 Pine Ave). Cheques payable to Virginia Stacey who has paid for 18 boxes. It is financial donations that are needed to ensure that all recipients have the same item. Many thanks, The MU Committee

How can we as church continue to help our community at this time?

May I commend this request from our BCP Borough – "The **Together We Can** helpline is up and running and available to support those who are unable to leave their homes. But we need more volunteers! Can you support those in need in the area? If you can help please register with our partner CAN." Click here for electronic link => [Please register with our partner](#) Chris

Praying for the Nation and World during Lockdown

The Church of England have produced some excellent prayers and resources for the next four weeks. Please click on the link and join with thousands of others in prayer at this time. [CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRAYERS DURING THE LOCKDOWN](#)

Operation Christmas Child shoe box collection

Shoe box collection is now **Friday 11th December**. Alternatively, you can fill a shoe box online. This is a good alternative this year. Go to <https://shoeboxonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/> Contact Julie at: julie.a.murphy@btinternet.com.

Winter Clothing Project

Good condition donations of scarfs, hats, coats, jumpers or socks for MEN wanted. To remain Covid safe donations can be left in the driveway of Liz Howes, 5 Earlham Drive. Thank you. Contact: jwghowes@gmail.com

Wednesday Virtual Coffee Morning at 10am – everyone is welcome

This will now follow straight on from the 9.30am Wednesday Worship so the link will be the same as that used for all services.

Living in Love and Faith

God relates to us in love and faith and wants us to live his way. The Church of England has for some time been considering the issues of relationships, sexuality, marriage and singleness and what God's purposes are. A long-awaited report called "Living in Love and Faith" has just been published for consideration and discussion. There are a number of resources including a lengthy book, videos, podcasts, e-resources and study guides. It's overall aim is not campaigning but to deal in depth with a large range of issues and views, and to listen well. You can access the web site at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>. Full access requires registering an account. The Church of England's Evangelical Council has also produced an excellent video called "The Beautiful Story" which can be watched at <http://www.ceec.info/> How we deal with all this at this particular time is not straightforward, but do consider taking an interest and pray for the Church at this time. Chris Strain

Church Office - Christine is not in the office next week. The answer phone will be checked, please leave a message.

PRAYERS

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the work of OMF/Pain Family: Chris, Kesia, Caleb, Jonathan, Carys and Megumi Pain are our OMF Mission Partners in Japan. Give thanks that Carys and Megumi are enjoying school and that Chris was able to enjoy a cycling trip with Caleb and Jonathan. Pray for Chris as he attends the Japan Evangelical Church Meeting online; for a productive meeting as restructuring is discussed. Pray for wisdom as Christmas plans are made and for both Chris and Kesia as they mentor and coach missionaries.

We pray especially for Andy Hogg, John Wartnaby, Mary Exton, Joy Dale (now at home), Craig Giles, Margaret B-J (friend of the Westfields), Chris Gould, Dorothy Cawthorne (sister of Val Wilson), Peter Lockwood, Angie Threadgold, Bobby Matthews (now at home), David Lynes, Claire Burgess, John Singer, the family of Daphne Reeves.

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. Amen.

Special Prayer for the last Sunday before Advent: *Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen*

Special Prayer for the 1st Sunday of Advent: *Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen*

Church Finances and Giving

Thank you on behalf of one another for your support. We are grateful. We appreciate your commitment going forwards to enable us to maintain and grow our church life. **Our bank details are: Account No: 00008836 Sort Code: 40-52-40 CAF Bank Limited St Luke's Church, Parkstone PCC.** You can also send a cheque to St Luke's Church Parkstone PCC to the Church Office Wellington Road Parkstone BH14 9LF

www.stlukesparkstone.org.uk

stlukes_parkstone@yahoo.co.uk

The Church Office Open: Tuesday to Friday mornings 01202 717268