

# 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

### Welcome to our Harvest Thanksgiving Service Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

**9.30am** No Group

**10.30am** All Age Harvest Thanksgiving in Church and via zoom (*join from 10.20*)  
**Theme: 'God is the Faithful Gardener' - John 15: 1-9**  
*Usual link each week with password – see email*

**5.00pm** Holy Communion in Chancel and on zoom

### THIS WEEK AND OTHER NEWS

#### Sundays over the next few weeks

We will continue our theme on the Community of God's people.

- Harvest Gifts - This year any financial gifts will go to the Foodbank. Also tinned and boxed gifts will be gratefully received.
- Next Sunday, **11<sup>th</sup> October** we welcome the family & friends of Jude and Jessica Spear for their Baptism.
- Younger Children's groups could start on **18<sup>th</sup> October** if we can manage the complexity. **Pathfinders** start on **11<sup>th</sup> October**, hopefully and will be fortnightly.
- The **Evening service** is at **5pm in the Chancel** and by zoom, **Wednesday worship** is at **9.30am** by zoom (*usual link*) and Morning Prayer is in church on **Thursdays at 9.30am** .

#### Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Meeting of Parishioners

Please take notice that this will take place next **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October from 7.30 – 8.30pm** by ZOOM (*usual link*). The Annual Report and summary of our Accounts were circulated six months ago, the Agenda will be available next week. We shall have the normal brief presentations. We need to elect our churchwardens, 3 Deanery Synod members for 3 years, 4 PCC members for 3 years and 1 PCC member for 2 years. Some nominations have already been received but others are welcome. It would be great to see some younger people joining the PCC. For a nomination form please contact the Office.

#### Morning Prayer, Holy Communion Services, prayer booklet and Letter from the Vicar

If you have not yet received an envelope please let Christine know in the office.

#### Wednesday Virtual Coffee Morning at 10am – everyone is welcome

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84989145321?pwd=eXBDYU9JKzJxa29peW5LUnpBMEhVUT09> ID: 849 8914 5321 Password: 027346

#### 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: CAF Bank Limited Sort code 40-52-40 Account St Luke's Church, Parkstone PCC No. 00008836.** You can also send a cheque to St Luke's Church Parkstone PCC to the Church Office Wellington Road Parkstone BH14 9LF

#### Routes to Roots Volunteers Needed

For one lunchtime a week, 12:45-3:00, to help give out lunches and hot drinks to Poole's homeless at Skinner Street URC. Email [Andy.mason@routestoroots.org](mailto:Andy.mason@routestoroots.org) for more info and an application. Also, R to R hope to re-open their drop in sessions, and would welcome more volunteers to help things run smoothly!

## BEING CHURCH – What do you think?

When we think of church we tend to think of a building, like our beautiful one in Wellington Road. We may call it “a church”, but I wonder whether the Methodist idea of “Chapel” might not be more helpful. That releases us to appreciate what church is apart from the building and a limited number of good things that happen inside of it! It frees “church” to be something bigger and better. The church is the community of God’s people begun by Jesus through Simon Peter and the apostles - the Kingdom of God people – to praise God and to transform the world. This change in understanding also liberates church from simply being St Luke’s.

Over the last months I sense we have been moving to appreciate that church is not only just the community of St Luke’s or St Peter’s or whatever. There is one church expressed at least **six levels**– international, national, regional, local, small grouped, and the 2 or 3 gathered in Jesus’ name. I wonder if you have engaged more with some of these in different ways since March – the worldwide church internationally, HTB or Lectio365, Spring Harvest or the CofE nationally, through the Diocese, schools and Faithworks regionally, through our services and zooming locally, particularly through Connect and other small gatherings in groups, and in your family and bubbles!

It seems to me in this we become more democratic and less hierarchical as we are not simply a compliant congregation. We also expand our vision and become more purposeful and responsible. So here are some questions to consider: What is your understanding of church? Which of these six levels have become more significant to you? What does it mean for each of us to belong to and contribute to the Church. Being church is much more than we may have believed and become satisfied with. We have a big Jesus. We have a big church! What do you think? *Chris Strain*

## PRAYERS

*We give thanks at this Harvest time for those who produce our food: for farmers and fishermen, factory and shop workers. We pray for those for whom this has been a difficult year: farmers who have battled the weather to grow food, delivery drivers and shop workers who kept working despite the pandemic. Help us to value and support each other. Amen.*

### **Please pray for:**

- **The Annual Meeting** - taking place via zoom next Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Pray for Chris, our churchwardens, all those being nominated and all those currently standing on the PCC.
- **The elderly and vulnerable**, all those who live alone and those who care for them. Pray and give thanks for all those involved in Pastoral Care at St. Luke’s as they support those most vulnerable in our community.
- **The work of Tearfund** in Beirut following recent tragic events there; especially for The Tahaddi centre which provides families with the urgent essentials and food vouchers. Give thanks that Tearfund and their partners in Beirut were able to respond quickly to people’s immediate needs not only from the explosion but also the pandemic. Pray also for Anna Strain who is working for Tearfund in Rwanda.

We pray especially for Andy Hogg, John Wartnaby, Mary Exton, Angie Threadgold, Ruth Greig, Joy Dale, Craig Giles, Margaret B-J and Ralph Gatrell (both friends of Frank and Pauline Westfield), Chris Gould, Dorothy Cawthorne (sister of Val Wilson).

**Special Prayer for the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity** *Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen*

**Special Prayer for Harvest:** *Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.*