

WEAR ST. LUKE PARISH MAGAZINE



“O Holy Night”

December 2025/January 2026

50p



Christmas is a time of gathering in; gathering in the family and community; gathering in memories, poignant as well as joyful; gathering in our hopes and intentions for new life.

Culturally it is no coincidence that the church placed this festival mid-winter: at the point of maximum darkness, we reach for the greatest sources of light in our lives.

And our Christian story shows that principally by foregrounding the birth of the light of the world in the most unlikely of places, to the most unexpected of parents, at the most inconvenient of times.

The light and new life we all long for at Christmas, through our gatherings and in the quietness of heart, that light and life may well take us off guard by coming when we least expect it. Prepare to be surprised by joy this Christmas.

With all blessings. Revd Louise Grace





DECEMBER SERVICES AT ST. LUKE'S



7th December	10am	Holy Communion
14th December	10am	Holy Communion
21st December	10am	Mission Community Joint Service at St. Luke's
24th December	3pm	Christmas Carols, Crib and Readings
24th December	11pm	Christmas Eve Midnight Mass
25th December	10am	Christmas Day Holy Communion
28th December	10am	Morning Worship with Christingles



DECEMBER READINGS AT ST. LUKE'S



7th December	Romans 15. 4 – 13
Advent 2	Matthew 3. 1 – 12
14th December	James 5. 7 – 10
Advent 3	Matthew 11. 2 – 11
21st December	Romans 1. 1 -7
Advent 4	Matthew 1. 18 – 25
24th December	Titus 2. 11 - 14
Christmas Eve Mass	Luke 2. 1 - 14
25th December	Psalms 98 & Hebrews 1. 1-4
Christmas day	John 1. 1 - 14
28th December	Isaiah 9. 2, 6 - 7
Christmas 1	John 1. 1 – 5, 9 - 14



JANUARY SERVICES AT ST. LUKE'S

4th January	10am	Holy Communion
11th January	10am	Holy Communion
18th January	10am	Mission Community Joint Service at St. Margaret's
25th January	10am	Morning Worship



JANUARY READINGS AT ST. LUKE'S

4th January	Ephesians 1. 3 – 14
Christmas 2	John 1. (1 – 9) 10 – 18
11th January	Acts 10. 34 - 43
Epiphany 1	Matthew 3. 13 – 17
25th January	1 Corinthians 1. 10 – 18
Epiphany 3	Matthew 4. 12 – 23



FROM THE ST. LUKE'S REGISTERS

Funeral

13th November

Diana Gwendoline Carnell



ST. LUKE'S ALTAR FLOWER ROTA



DECEMBER

7th Advent
 14th Advent
 21st Advent
 24th Midnight Caryl Ingerslev
 25th Christmas Caryl Ingerslev
 28th Altar flowers should last

JANUARY

4th Sandra Greedy
 11th Sandra Greedy
 18th (St. Margaret's)
 25th Jean Tipper



DECEMBER SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S

7 th December	10am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evensong for Advent
14 th December	10am	Holy Communion
	3pm	Nativity Trail for Families
20 th December	10.30am	Carol Singing (Chapel Platt)
21 st December	8am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Carol Service
22 nd December	7.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
24 th December	6pm	Community Carols
	11pm	Midnight Mass
25 th December	8am	Holy Communion
	10am	Holy Communion
28 th December	10am	Christingle
	3pm	Carols and Cake



JANUARY SERVICES AT ST. MARGARET'S

4th January	10am	Holy Communion
11th January	10am	Holy Communion
	3pm	Forest Church
	6.30pm	Evensong
18th January	8am	BCP Holy Communion
	10am	Mission Community Joint Service
25th January	10am	Family Friendly Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evensong



Mission Community regular Mid-week Services and events - Please note any changes and additions



Mondays:

2.30pm	Contemplative Prayer (St. Margaret's)
7pm	Compline (via Zoom)

Tuesdays:

9am	Morning Prayer (St. Luke's)
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Wednesdays:

10am	Morning Worship (via Zoom)
2.30pm	Coffee/tea and cake (St. Margaret's)

Fridays:

9am	Morning Prayer (St. Margaret's)
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Saturdays:

8am	(6 th December) Prayer Breakfast
8am	(3 rd January) Prayer Breakfast

Forest Church



Forest Church, at the moment, could not use the outside venue and instead went to St. Margaret's Church to put on a Remembrance Day event. It was a horrible wet Sunday, but over 100 people came. With songs and activities to suit parents and children, we had a very happy time together.

Peter Ingerslev

Money from Old Cables and Plugs

A few months ago, we were collecting old cables and plugs in Church and the Church Rooms. We had a brilliant response, even someone collecting some at the tip as they were about to be dumped. All the plugs were removed and, where possible, brass fittings were collected separately. A trip to Newbury Metals on Marsh Barton resulted in St Luke's receiving £57. Well done everyone who contributed to this fund-raising initiative which was suggested by St Margaret's.



Ken Greedy

St Luke's Bell

As some of you may have noticed that the bell has been removed from the bell tower. It has been taken away for repair following the quinquennial inspection which identified it as being potentially unsafe. If you rely on the bell to call you to church, on Sundays you might want to set your alarm clock!

Ken Greedy



St. David's Singers

Musical Director: Stephen Tanner



Christmas Concert

**St. Luke's Church
Countess Wear Road**

**Tuesday 9th December
at 7.30pm**

The retiring collection will be shared
equally between

St. Luke's Church funds and
the St. David's Singers



God's Colourful Paintbrush



Leaves What a display of reds, oranges and yellows interspersed with light and dark green and brown leaves on the trees this Autumn, especially if the sun is shining!

Views The bright yellow-leaved terraced vineyards were clinging to the banks of the River Rhine. They formed a patchwork with the painted houses and protruding Church spires with the formidable grey castles on the hills, that seemed to be protecting the community.

Mist The light silver mist was lying low over the valley with tall, dark grey trees sticking through a layer of lighter grey hills behind him. The mysterious atmosphere fell on the scene of subdued colours.

Flowers Red, purple and white fuchsias, white roses, orange and yellow marigolds and even blue speedwell are all giving my garden colour at the moment.

Aurora You could see the amazing Northern Lights over Dartmoor in early November. I have only seen pictures, so have not experienced the wonders of this natural 'light' show.

Sunsets The red sky becomes a picture of exquisite beauty where the pink clouds pick up the Sun's rays. I gaze in awe at the paintbrush of God!

Rainbows It always uplifts my spirits when the all-colour rainbow emerges into the sky, reminding me of God's promise never to completely flood the earth again. His promises to protect, care and love me just as I am give me hope, He sometimes paints two arches just to show His overflowing love!

Sue Richardson



Countess Wear Comes Up Trumps!

On Saturday 15th November Countess Wear held its very first Talent Evening. It wasn't a competition, just a chance to enjoy the many talents on offer in a very enjoyable and supportive way. It was organised by members from the Countess Wear Community Choir, and it was another way of working together with the Church, Village Hall and Tally Ho,

To say it had been a roller coaster of a week would be underplaying it, so many people were away or ill and it really made us wonder what sort of evening it would be. A small group of us had really prayed for the event too.

However, we need not have worried as the Hall was full, and so many people had gone the extra mile and stepped in when needed, often out of their comfort zone and we had a wonderful evening.

There were children doing dance routines which they had performed in Her Majesty's Theatre in London, which were amazing. At the other end of the age spectrum Renee did a tap dance and Janet dramatically read *The Owl and the Pussy Cat*, as well as *Macavity the cat*. Wonderful to see all ages joining in with the words. Every act was very warmly applauded.

The range of talent covered was dance in various forms, including a very moving SILC dance which was probably new to most people. There was a funny sketch about hobbies in Countess Wear, we had jokes and singing. We had the Fit Steps showing us their Salsa and we had an Elvis and Englebert songs and impersonation with audience participation. Sophie, one of our youngsters, had recently started Irish dancing and she wowed the audience with her enthusiasm and skill. So much to report and the time flew as the programme was so varied. We ended as we began with The Spindle Tree Folk Trio and spontaneously most of the audience were out of their seats dancing to "These Boots were made for Walking" and a shout for an encore.

It just showed that where there is a will there is a way of bringing the Community together. Something like this never happens on its own. We would like to thank all those who took part and the ones who made it happen, Special thanks to Christine Knapman, Cathy Hall, Lucy Wills and John Collett as, without them, it wouldn't have happened.

A collection for Hospiscare raised over £250.

Josephine Shaw.

COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT IN ST LUKE'S CHURCH
FRIDAY DECEMBER 12th AT 7.00pm

Please come and support our Christmas concert in Church.
Everyone is warmly invited, and we would love to see you all.
The concert is free, with donations invited to be shared between
St Lukes Church and Hospiscare.



COMMUNITY SING ALONG
SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER AT 5pm

Come and enjoy our community carol sing-along, outside the Tally Ho.

There will be mulled wine and mince pies, while supplies last.





Christmas Joy and Togetherness

The bells are ringing, bright and clear,
A song of love for all to hear!
The candles shine, the stars are bright,
And hearts are warm this Christmas night.

Hope is dancing through the air,
In every smile, in every prayer.
Peace is wrapped in kindness sweet,
When neighbours wave and friends all meet.

We laugh, we sing, we share good cheer,
For Christmas time is truly here!
Together strong, with hearts that care,
God's joy and love are everywhere.

So, let's give thanks, both near and far,
For love still shines—our guiding star.
And may this season's gentle light,
Bring peace and hope to all tonight.

Malcolm Crozier



Coffee and Cake at St Margaret's Church



Everyone will find a very warm welcome at St Margaret's Church every Wednesday from 2.30-3.30. If you're fed up of four walls and would like company, convivial chat, warmth, excellent tea or coffee, and splendid cakes, please do look into the social area at the back of the church, after you've admired the estuary view, of course! You may see some familiar faces from St Luke's there too!

Min Wild

What Does it Take to Change a Light Bulb?

For the past couple of years, the spotlights above the front pews in St Luke's have not been working and when concerts are held, the choirs mention that it is quite difficult to read their music. The height involved to change them, off a ladder was not possible and to get a cherry picker into church was not feasible. We therefore had to resort to erecting scaffolding which was erected one day and dismantled the next. The lights have been replaced with LED bulbs, and the electrical fittings have been checked for condition and earthing.



Whilst the scaffolding was in place it provided an opportunity to obtain a rather nice picture of the chancel of the church. An opportunity not to be missed!

Ken Greedy

Celebrate Christmas Together at St Luke's Church.

Christmas is a time for joy, warmth, and community and here at St Luke's Church, we're opening our doors and hearts to welcome everyone to share in the season's celebrations.



Whether you're a familiar face, a neighbour, or new to the area, you'll find a place for you at St Luke's this Christmas. Our services and gatherings are filled with carols, candlelight, and the true spirit of Christmas a time to pause, reflect, and rejoice together.

Join us for our festive services, family events, and moments of quiet reflection. There will be mince pies, friendly smiles, and plenty of Christmas cheer to go around!

In a world that sometimes feels rushed and divided, Christmas reminds us of what matters most, peace, hope, and togetherness. So come along, bring your friends and family, and celebrate the joy of Christmas with your local community at St Luke's Church, Countess Wear.

Everyone is welcome just as you are.

Jackie Crozier

February 2026 will be your next magazine. When it is delivered, there will probably be a knock on the door and a polite reminder that your subscription for the year remains at £5.

*Come and join us for
Carols*



*and
cake*

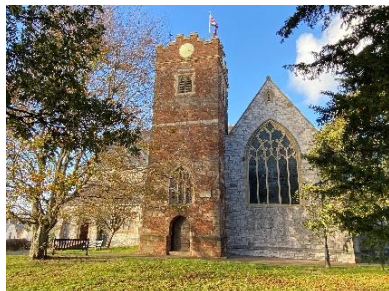


*on Sunday
28th December*

at 3pm

at

*St. Margaret's
Church*



Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles to our Parish magazine during the year. The magazines are delivered to many people, some who do not attend the church, but they like to know what is happening in the Parish and they enjoy the stories from members of the congregation. So, we look forward to your interesting stories for the 2026 magazines.

We are very grateful to Maureen Harding who has done an excellent job of producing the Wear St. Luke Parish Magazine for many years. Her last magazine was in August, and she then retired from editing it. So, thank you very much Maureen for all your hard work, which has been very much appreciated.

Our thanks go to Optima graphics for printing the December 2024/January 2025 and February 2025 magazines, after printing our magazine for several years. Exe Valley Design and Print have taken this over and they are very helpful, for which we are very grateful.

We thank our Revd. Louise Grace and Associate Priest Revd Peter Ingerslev for our church services during the year. We are grateful for Revd. Katy Gough, and retired priests Revd. Sid Humphries, Revd. Ian Blyde and Revd. John Phillpott who have helped to fill dates. A service would not be the same without our organists. Paul Morgan and Rob Tipper, and Susie Morcom, who stood down early in the year, due to family and work commitments.

To all those who arranged flowers for the Altar and helped with the Easter flowers, a big thank you.



**We wish everyone who have been involved with
the Church services and all those who are reading
this magazine a
“Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year”.**



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Ere Valley

MISSION COMMUNITY OF ST. LUKE'S, COUNTESS WEAR

AND

ST. MARGARET'S, TOPSHAM

We would like to share the current Mission Community Leadership Team and their roles, so that everyone knows who is involved and how we work together. Our aim is to support the life of our Mission Community and the wider parish, serving together in faith and fellowship.

Louise Grace -Vicar: vicartopshamwear@gmail.com

Jackie Crozier – Churchwarden: churchwardenwear@gmail.com

Sandra Greedy – Churchwarden: churchwardenwear@gmail.com

**Sandra Greedy St. Luke's Church & Church Room Bookings
bookingswear@gmail.com**

**Associate Priest- Peter Ingerslev :
associatepriesttopshamwear@gmail.com**

**Anna Chaplaincy - Elizabeth Reed:
annachaplainstopshamandwear@gmail.com**

**Rough Sleepers -Elizabeth Reed:
homelessoutreachtopshamwear@gmail.com**

**Safeguarding Officer- Katie Gray
safeguardingtopshamwear@gmail.com**

**St. Margaret's Bookings Coordinator - Caryll Ingerslev
bookingstopsham@gmail.com**

**A gentle reminder to please send your articles to the
editor's email by 14th January 2026**

Parish Magazine Editor – magazineeditorwear@gmail.com

**Thank you for your contributions they are always very
much appreciated!**