



# St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

[www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk](http://www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk)

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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## Week Commencing: 14<sup>th</sup> December- Advent 3

This Sunday we have an 8.00 am service of Holy Communion and then 10.00am Parish Communion. All welcome.

### The Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your  
mysteries may likewise so prepare and make  
ready your way by turning the hearts of the  
disobedient to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your  
sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these  
heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

### First Reading

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus<sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.  
<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Isaiah 35. 1-10*

## Gospel Reading

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." <sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

*Matthew 11. 2-11*

P: 46	On Jordans bank
G: 262	Spirit of mercy, truth and love
O: 557	Beauty for brokenness
HC: 320 ( T, 717)	The great forerunner of the morn
R: 394	Tell out my soul

### ***Prayer suggestions for this week:***

- For our Advent season
- For our PCC and church officers, and for those covering the vacancy.
- For the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, nominated as the next Archbishop of Canterbury
- For the strengthening of our efforts to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.
- For a just and sustainable peace in Ukraine and Russia, Palestine and Israel, and Sudan
- For our local schools and teachers and all children and young people in education.
- Giving thanks for our Christmas Tree Festival and all those who visited and helped
- For all those who live and work in School Lane
- For those baptised recently
- For all those whose anniversary of baptism falls in December: Arlo, Charlie, Keeon, Cole.
- The sick and their carers : Valerie Bosley, Bridget Morris, Jacqueline Lewis, Angela Baldwin, Baby Keeon, Aram Hakobian, Joan Lynch, Alicia Little, Ralph Hinchliffe, Harry, Andrew Sheppard, Jenny, Adam, John Cotterill, Barbara Romaker
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in December: John Sheppard, David Sawyers, Patricia Walker, Roy Goff, Jean Judd, David Jesson, Dorothy Chalk, Steven Robinson, Carol Kharas, Joey Colton, Joyce Parry.

### **Rotas for next week**

#### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December: Advent 4**

Reader: Joan H	Intercede: Shula	Chalice: Nichola B	Sound: Simon
Welcomers: Kim, Don and Ben	Coffee: Margaret and Beryl	Children: Sam	

## Our church is floodlit at night.

The church floodlighting this week has been sponsored by Bridget Morris  
*"In loving memory of Keith Morris and Graham Sterling"*



To sponsor the floodlighting please fill in the form at the back of church or email:  
[admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk](mailto:admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk)

It is suggested the minimum donation for weekly sponsorship is £15.

## What's on.... This week:

Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 am, Holy Communion 10.00 am, Parish Communion
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom Clare's Court School Carol Services
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom 10.00 am Holy Communion
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom 9.30 am, Baby and Toddler Party 3.00 pm, Keeping Company
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am, Morning Prayer 9.30 am, St. Luke's School Carol Service
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 am, Parish Communion 6.00 pm, Carol Service

**Sundays at Six:** All Services are at 6.00pm Zoom link: use Sunday morning or as specified above

21 <sup>st</sup> Dec. 6.00 pm	Carol Services at each church
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## Christmas Tree Festival – Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered, sponsored, decorated the church and helped out in so many ways at the Christmas Tree Festival. Final totals and the winning tree will be announced soon.

**Missing Christmas tree festival decorations.** A set of small 12 days of Xmas paintings in tiny frames has gone missing. These may have inadvertently been picked up with the trees. If anyone comes across them please return them to the church. Many thanks.

## EMBRACE reflections and vigils for Advent

Embrace is the Christian development charity tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East. This Advent, Embrace invites us to journey with them in a series of reflections delivered weekly by email. They will also offer on-line vigils at 7pm on Monday evenings.

The reflections look at passages from Isaiah and are shaped by the theme Building the Kingdom of the Prince of Peace. The on-line vigils will be a time of prayer, music, and reflection, introduced by the Dean of the Community of the Cross of Nails. They will feature video reflections from Embrace partners, exploring how we can live out the themes of peace-building in our communities and world. Sign up for the reflections and/or vigils at <https://embraceme.org/advent-reflections>

## Christmas Lights

Richard and Ann Burdett are holding their "open house" on:

- Saturday 20th December from 1:30pm to 9:30pm
- Sunday 21st December from 1:30pm to 5:00pm and 8:15pm to 10:00pm

at 30 Mallow Park, SL6 6SQ (off Cranbrook Drive). Please feel free to drop in for coffee/tea and a mince pie/cake, and to see and hear Richard's Christmas Illuminations. Children's lucky dip and games, raffle, and the famous unlucky dip! Donations in aid of Thames Hospice and Alzheimer's Dementia Support will be gratefully received.

## Our Regular activities:

**The 8.00 Holy Communion service** will continue to be monthly, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday.

**Midweek Holy Communion** is at 10 am weekly, followed by coffee

**Baby and Toddler group** meets on Thursdays, 9.30 – 11.00 am **term time only**. We meet in church.

**Messy Church** continues on the first (usually) Friday, monthly, 4-5.30pm. Starts again in the new year [admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk](mailto:admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk) to book a place.

**Keeping Company** is our monthly meeting for those bereaved (at any time). Third Thursday at 3pm, in church.

**Thursday Teas** meets in the community hall offering tea, cake and conversation. Second Thursdays monthly, 1.30 pm.

**Thursday Lunches** meets fourth Thursday of the month, usually at the Toby Cavery but please contact Jean Tyrwhitt-Drake on [Jeant-d2@outlook.com](mailto:Jeant-d2@outlook.com) for further details.

**Gaynor's Gift** is a prayer shawl knitting ministry that anyone can take part in at home. We meet together monthly to pray, knit and drink tea. 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays monthly.

**Please note that for Zoom services the links below are being used:**

### Sunday Morning Worship:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87358197400?pwd=MTFhVlNad1R6NEl6cVZ6TVJ5bGlzdz09>

Meeting ID: 873 5819 7400

Passcode: 526076

**Zoom Morning Prayer** at 8.30 am Tuesday – Friday (no Saturday during the vacancy)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81459090925?pwd=Y2hKZkFYZ04zbGZBd1BHcmllU5Hdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 5909 0925

Passcode: 180609

### Sunday 21st December

*6.00 pm, Nine Lessons and Carols, by candlelight*  
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

### Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December

*4.00pm, Candlelit Crib Services*  
*10.00 pm 'Midnight Mass'*

### Christmas Day, Monday 25th December

10.00 am, Parish Communion