**St. Luke’s Church, Maidenhead**



www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

Church Office: 01628 622733

admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

**current preferred email address: sally514@btinternet.com**

**Week commencing: 5th April 2020**

**Palm Sunday**

We are continuing with our new look weekly sheet.

Each week we will send you a Saturday update with a Worship section, and a news section. We may also be sending mid-week updates as appropriate (and time permitting – this week has been crazy I am afraid!). This week’s sheet comes to you on Friday with some attachments:

* A ‘This is Holy Week’ poster to print and put up in a window (remember to fold up the bottom – and fold it down on Easter day!)
* Information about BACS / paypal payments to church
* Orders of service for Morning Prayer and Night Prayer in Passiontide.
* Practical ideas for Holy week (primarily written for those with no internet access, but useful for all).

I will send another email shortly with orders of service for:

* Palm Sunday
* Stations of the Cross
* An Agape meal for Maundy Thursday
* Good Friday - An Hour at the Cross
* Easter Day

I hope that these will also all be available on our website (address at top).

If you know of someone who would like to receive this update and does not have access to the internet, please do print a copy for them.

Likewise, if you know of anyone who would like to receive this by email, please ask them to email ***me (not the office for now)*** to be added to the mailing list.

Please do keep us up to date with both how you are your family are faring at this time, and with you own health. You can call or email Revd. Sally or your contactor at any (reasonable!) time. Please note that the church office is now completely closed and all communication should be to the vicarage telephone and my email.

**Online worship available this Sunday:**

There are many online resources and churches streaming their services (see later for our own response).

In particular we would today flag up:

* 10.00 am Diocesan Eucharist

Go to: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/> for the link

With both the diocesan service and our own, and to save printing, I have found it helpful to have two devices open side by side (e.g. lap top and phone / ipad) – one with the service on and the other with the order of service to follow.

**Worship resources for home use: some of these are new … do scan the list**

Roots on the web produces some really good materials

You can access these at:

https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2020/106-march-april-2020-a/palm-sunday/adultsathome for adults

and

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2020/106-march-april-2020-a/palm-sunday/familiesathome> for families

The Church of England is also developing resources that can be accessed through the website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

and here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

Resources from the diocese of Oxford:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/prayer-and-worship/>

Prayers for the day:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/todays-prayer>

**Pray as you go**: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

This useful website and app has a short beautifully reflective daily service and other options on the website. Do try it.

And I have found this resource with daily reflections on **good mental health** very helpful:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/10961%E2%80%A2Mental%20Health%20Reflections_WEB.pdf>

**Reflection for the week:**

On Palm Sunday we usually read the story of Jesus’ passion in full, rather than listening to a sermon. So, why not do that for yourself today. You may also like to read the story of the Exodus which lies behind the Easter story.

You may like to read these in your own Bibles – Exodus chapters 3-15 and Matthew 21.1-27 and 26-27.

You may also like to read different versions / translations of these stories and reflect on how they speak to you. You may have a variety of your own, or the You Bible app has many: <https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/> and the Oremus Bible Browser has a few: <http://bible.oremus.org/>.

The Church of England has some really good, thoughtful resources for Holy Week: ‘Living through a prolonged Holy Saturday’. I would really encourage you to use these, at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/holy-week-and-easter-2020>

I particularly like to look of the virtual Vigil service for Holy Saturday.

**Pray at 11am each day:**

We are invited to stop at 11 am each day and say the Lord’s Prayer and Psalm 23 ‘together’. This version from the diocese is helpful:

Psalm 23 <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/DOX-032-Coronavirus-psalm-23.pdf>

**Spiritual Communion** although we cant receive communion right now, there is a spiritual ‘exercise’ which might help – see the diocesan website.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/Guidance%20on%20Spiritual%20Communion%20and%20Coronavirus.pdf>

**Holy Week with St. Luke’s** 

**Morning Prayer** will be said daily Monday – Friday, at 9 am, using Zoom. You are warmly invited to join in and will need to access also the daily Prayer app (or have a Common Worship Daily Prayer book or use the attached order of service) if you wish to speak – or just listen along.

I sent an invitation tis week to all to join in and I am truly sorry that it was not blind copied – I am still getting used to Zoom and in really thought I has blind copied it so I am really sorry that everyone’s email address was shown. I will try to get it right next time!

If you’d like to join inn and didn’t get the invitation or cant open it please email me and I will send you a personal one… I look forward to seeing some of you (please, not in PJs!)

**Candle stand** I have brought a sand tray into the vicarage study and am lighting candles here for those who would like prayer that way. Do email me or call if you’d like me to light one for you.

**Today’s worship from St. Luke’s Church**

This Sunday we continue to be barred from our church building myself and Phyl have recorded another Service of the Word for Palm Sunday – each from our own homes. Dave has edited the service and as it is an All Age service (it is the first Sunday of the month) I am delighted that Rachel is going to read a story for children (but don’t we all like to be read to!). Please continue to bear with us as we get used to this, it won’t be perfect, but we offer it so that we can join together as a congregation.

To access the service, and all our recorded worship, go onto our website and click on the right-hand side for ‘recordings of Sunday worship’. The next email will have the order of service attached, with links to the hymns so that you can pause the service and play the hymns (or sing for yourself – ask if you’d like a hymn book delivered to you). The readings and collect for this week are in the order of service. We are not allowed to distribute palm crosses this year but you may like to make your own cross to hold.

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

*See also our Facebook page for daily prayer intentions*

* For all those currently affected by the coronavirus outbreak and for a calm response, and for those who are now self isolating
* For those who are very sick in hospital and for those who have died,
* For a fruitful Holy Week, that we may all recognise God’s mercy to us, and in this challenging time find peace
* For the most vulnerable in our society
* For all NHS and medical staff, Police and Armed service personnel, and for Dr. Harriett Burdett
* For ALL leaders who have difficult decisions to make
* For all in prison, finding life very tough with all visiting stopped
* For all Funeral Directors and arrangers, under huge pressure, and for families unable to attend funerals.
* For our schools as children learn at home and teachers under pressure teaching online
* Those whose anniversary of baptism fall in April: Sophie Annabelle Hughes, Jasper Saunders Murray Craig, Arthur Dominic Marshall-Pullin, Charlotte Mary Reay, Lucy Elizabeth Traut.
* For all those who live and work in Clappers Meadow
* The sick and those who care for them: Stephen Sands, John Francis,
* Pat Lovering, Tony Lucas, Monica Olley and Revd Richard Holroyd

· Those who died recently, and those who mourn them: Harvey Lovegrove, Francis (Jack) Garnett, Eileen Herbert, Gillian Sinclair-Hill, Audrey Fenwick, Sir Sidney Giffard, Jack Hayden, Mary Walsh

· Those whose anniversary of death falls in April: John Rogers, Fiona Nunn, John Quinn, Penelope Lawrence, Len Reynolds, Paul Hill, Lesley Griffiths, Myra Ford, David Sherwood, Philip Agnew, Peter Brown, Vivienne Sewell, Roy Howton, Doreen Headington, John Henry, Doris Simpson, Joan Carpenter, Betty Smith, Irene Weller, Peter Petter, Elise Taplion, Josephine Aldridge, Helen Poynter, Alma Rookie, Roger Bevitt, Diana Philps, Elsie Cummings, Pamela Neville, Bertha Selby, Virginia Mzorori-Murwisi, Dorothy Main, Philip Davies, Alan Coombs, Keith Morris, Ernie Thomas, Brenda Clark, and Brian Pitts.

The church is still floodlit at night.

A sign on the side of a building

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Last week the floodlighting was sponsored:

*In memory of Phil on his first Anniversary,*

*miss you. Kath*

*by Iris Brown: Our wedding anniversary 2nd April*

*by Bridget Morris: In memory of Keith, 9th April*

To sponsor the floodlighting just email Revd. Sally

**This week’s news and information**

A reminder that the **church is now closed completely.**

Do email prayer requests to: [sally514@btinternet.com](mailto:sally514@btinternet.com)

Or requests for books, DVDs and CDs

You should know who your **contactor** is. If you don’t have one do also make contact and we will set you up with someone.

**Generous Giving:** if you usually give to the work of the church through your bank, this is unaffected. If you give by cash or envelopes, we suggest that you out this aside somewhere safe and bring to church when we meet again. If you would like to start giving by direct debit please contact our treasurer: [richard@arembe.com](mailto:richard@arembe.com)

You may also wish to give online / by bacs and Richard has kindly updated the details to allow for this. Please see the sheet attached – you may wish to print it for future reference.

**Where else to find help locally:**

News passed to me:

Strawberry Grove the cafe is doing basic boxes of some fruit, veg, milk, bread and eggs. They vary in size but have a smaller box for £15 with £2 delivery

RBWM key page: <https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200384/news_and_information_releases/1521/covid19_resident_and_business_update_page>

Please note **that refuse collection is** moving to fortnightly from Monday, from what I can see, alternating blue and black bins weekly.

***People to places’ updated 7am, Friday 20 March***

Continuing to go above and beyond to support residents. In addition to their usual services they can assist in collecting grocery orders and deliver food parcels for those who cannot attend the foodbanks themselves. They are also offering a pharmacy prescription collection and delivery service to our most vulnerable residents.

A friendly “time to talk” phone support service is also available for anyone feeling overwhelmed or isolated in the borough. If you know someone who requires assistance with any of the above, please call People to Places on 01628 587921.

***Community action***

Community action is a really good thing. If you can, please help others in your community - check on any vulnerable family, friends and neighbours to see if they need anything from the shops, a prescription collected or help with other small jobs. Sometimes just a small favour can make a big difference.

As a starting point, please see a simple guide to helping neighbours or others in the community.

You can also join your local neighbourhood watch scheme: https://www.ourwatch.org.uk.

There are local groups being set up across the borough by individuals, generally being coordinated through Facebook. Your local councillors will have information about what is going on in their wards.

**Foodshare:** it is really important to keep this going. Donate now via the boxes in supermarkets (great to see these so well used).

***Food Bank - updated 7am, Friday 20 March***

If anyone is facing financial hardship and need to access either food bank they can call the duty phone number on 01628 683803. A request for a food voucher must be requested before attending either foodbank. Requests will be assessed over the phone. Both food banks will try wherever possible to arrange delivery of food parcels i.e. if the customer is self-isolating.

The location and opening times for both food banks are below:

Maidenhead Foodshare

The New Market, King Street, Maidenhead SL6 1DR.

Wednesday evenings   6pm- 7pm

Saturday mornings       9.30am - 11am

It is good to see community service springing up. **Please do be cautious,** however, about accepting help from people you don’t know at all. All those who make contact from St. Luke’s will be DBS checked and / or regular church members. Do not be afraid to challenge anyone you don’t know and / or contact Revd. Sally or your contactor with ANY concerns.

As the email system is becoming overloaded some people have also been receiving emails apparently from Sally, the church, the choir, which are clearly not. In any doubt DO NOT OPEN them and call the purported sender to check.

**Don’t forget the #LiveLent App**: The Church of England has created a free Lent app with daily reflections centred around ‘Care for God’s Creation’. You can sign up at https://www.churchofengland.org/livelent

**Save the date** : Week of accompanied prayer– an exciting opportunity to further our relationship with God through exploring prayer. Fun and rewarding. Sunday 25th– Friday 30th October. Details to come—do put the date in your diary now. There will be opportunities to help as well as. Watch this space to see if it happens, but at least this gives you something to put in your diaries!

**Inspire:** The next issue will be out in the near future. You may like to spend some of your newly gained free time writing an article for Inspire. Please send articles, pictures etc to [stlukes.inspire@gmail](mailto:stlukes.inspire@gmail).com. Please remember this is a new email address.  Thank you, Louisa

**Your news**

Please email news of what you are up to at home to Revd. Sally so that we can share it!

*I received this lovely email this week from Deborah, who visited us while staying here from the USA in May 2019.*

*Dear Reverend Lynch,*

*I watched your Sunday service and was very blessed to see you and hear your voice and worship with you and St. Luke’s from across the world. As I’ve mentioned to you in previous writings, I have you and your parish in my prayer list and remember you, lifting you up to God for everyone’s health and safety, and for the health of your congregation as a church body.*

*God bless you, Deborah*



*Terrie writes from Shropshire, where she is in isolation with her mother:*

*A colleague in South Africa, also isolating*

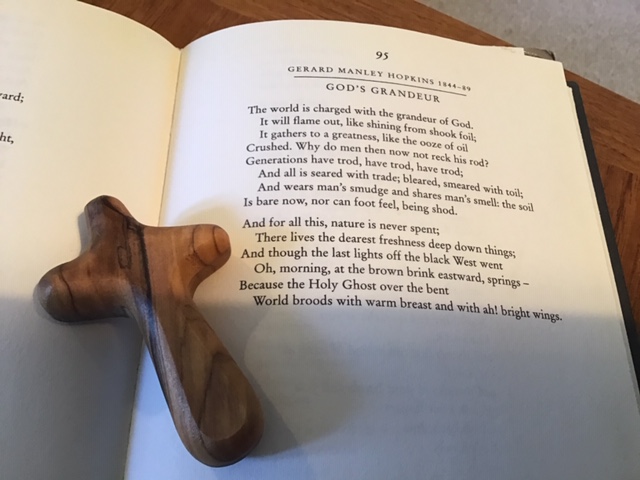
*said that people are making palm crosses*

*out of all sorts of foliage for their home*

*doors since they can't go to church. I'm going*

*to forage and try one myself!*

*Ruth Sheppard shared this lovely poem as part of a women’s email trail…*



*Thank you to Susan Wilson for this Zoom Last Supper*A picture containing table

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*And Clare Price shared this sensitive (!) picture:*



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