



St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead



www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Week commencing: 19th April 2020 Easter 2

Thank you everyone for your Easter wishes and kind words of the services we offered during Holy Week. Thanks too to Phyl, Rachel and Dave and to all who are helping to ensure that we can offer services, as well as all our contactors who are keeping in touch with people.

This week's attachments are:

- An order of service for tomorrow morning (Word service)
- A sermon for Easter 2

These will also all be available on our website (address at top) with the recorded service.

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:

Roots on the web

www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome19apr for adults

and

www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome19apr for families

The Church of England is also constantly 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.

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>

Three Vicars (no, not Joan, Jeremy and Sally!)

Rabbi Jonathan recommended this BBC radio 4 programme to me – Reverends Giles Fraser, Richard Coles and Kate Bottley discuss Easter (and there are other programmes too) in a really engaging way – theological, spiritual, emotional and funny all in one. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/search?scope=sounds&filter=programmes&q=Three+vicars>

Lighting candles and prayers: 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 or add any prayer to the prayer basket.

Today's worship from St. Luke's Church

This Sunday we have another Word service and I am delighted that James Ellins, who is rota'd for the first reading, is doing just that. We hope that one person on the rota will be able to fulfil that role in the coming weeks.

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', and 'order of services'. The order of service has links to 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.

Morning Prayer continues using Zoom at 9 am from Tuesday to Saturday. Please email me if you would like an invitation to join in and I will gladly send one, rather than a block email as I still can't work out how to do blind copies with Zoom!

readings for this week are:

Tuesday	Psalm 8	Exodus 15.22-16.10	Colossians 1. 15-end
Wednesday	Psalm 30	Exodus 16. 11-end	Colossians 2. 1-15
Thursday (St. George)	Psalm 5	Joshua 1.1-9	Ephesians 6.10-20
Friday	Psalm 61	Exodus 18. 1-12	Colossians 3.12-4.1
Saturday (St. Mark)	Psalm 148	Isaiah 62. 6-10	Acts 12. 25-13.13

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 the most vulnerable in our society

- For all NHS and medical staff, Police and Armed service personnel,
- For Dr. Harriett Burdett, Hannah Hirst (paramedic, TV Air Ambulance), Eleanor Kershaw (frontline nursing), Phyl Sopp (nurse practitioner), Dr Chris Moulton
- For ALL leaders who have difficult decisions to make
- For all in prison, finding life very tough with all visiting stopped
- For staff and patients at Huntercombe Clinic
- For all the volunteer counsellors at Number 22 and Youth Talk, supporting people in difficult times
- For Adam Went as he oversees care homes now under huge pressure
- 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
- Luke Darracott, living and working in Spain
- 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 Clivemont road
- The sick and those who care for them: Stephen Sands, John Francis, Tony Lucas, Monica Olley, Susan Smith, and Revd Richard Holroyd
- Those who died recently, and those who mourn them: Pat Lovering, Merrick Dowson, Rita Redhead, Andrew Curtis, Brian Beard, Stella Lee
- 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 Philips, 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.

This week the floodlighting was sponsored by:

Genevieve Usher...

'For Claire and her family, as they face her severe illness and for Sheila Groves, a true friend to all, who will be greatly missed.'



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

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 put 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@arembes.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.

Virtual activities: I hope that in the near future we will be able to offer a virtual Quiet Day / Morning / Evening (not sure which space slot yet) using Zoom and your own space, and also some activities for our children, including a virtual Messy Church. We may also be able to offer Zoom Café Church (a bring your own cake one!!). Watch this space.

Mission Planning Tool: PCC members and others may be aware that the diocese has launched a new Mission Planning Tool. We had hoped to start using this at the APCM but were side-tracked by the impending crisis. I hope next week to drip feed some aspects of it out by a midweek sheet, inviting responses.

Faculty application: We have been kindly offered a gift of new legillum hangings in memory of May Reeve and to match the nave altar frontals. I draw your attention to the faculty application for these on the website (Under About us / Our Church Building). A copy is also on the main church noticeboard.

Online jigsaws – yes, really! Ruth has found these online jigsaws by Dave Walker, the cartoonist with the Church Times:

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/davewalker>

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).

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.

Emails:

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.

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.com. Please remember this is a new email address.

Your news

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

Roger Clarke took Sonya for a walk and sends these lovely photos of bluebells at
Dungrovehill Wood



Johanna Raffan shares an Easter poem:

How the Virus Stole Easter, by Kristi Bothur, with a nod to Dr. Seuss 😊

Twas late in '19 when the virus began
Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.

People were sick, hospitals full,
Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.

As winter gave way to the promise of spring,
The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.

People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.
They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.

April approached and churches were closed.
"There won't be an Easter," the world supposed.

"There won't be church services, and egg hunts are out.
No reason for new dresses when we can't go about."

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.
The world was focused on masks and on tests.

"Easter can't happen this year," it proclaimed.
"Online and at home, it just won't be the same."

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.
The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.

The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed.
The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.

“Pooh pooh to the saints,” the world was grumbling.
“They’re finding out now that no Easter is coming.

“They’re just waking up! We know just what they’ll do!
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,
And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo.

“That noise,” said the world, “will be something to hear.”
So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.

And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies.
It started down low, then it started to rise.

But the sound wasn’t depressed.
Why, this sound was triumphant!
It couldn’t be so!
But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes.
Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!

Every saint in every nation, the tall and the small,
Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!

It hadn’t stopped Easter from coming! It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine
Stood puzzling and puzzling.
“Just how can it be?”

“It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,
It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money.”

Then the world thought of something it hadn't before.
"Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."

The churches are empty - but so is the tomb,
And Jesus is victor over death, doom, and gloom.

So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer,
As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it looks at God's people.
May the world see the church is not a building or steeple.
May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection,
May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.
May 2020 be known as the year of survival,
But not only that - Let it start a revival.

And another poem by Malcolm Guite, sent to me by a friend:

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
And he is up and risen, long before,
Alive, at large, and making his strong way
Into the world he gave his life to save,
No need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands
Of priests this day, or music from the lips
Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
Away from church, shakes off our linen bands
To don his apron with a nurse: he grips
And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
Breathes with the breathless, lends them strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
And served us in a thousand names and faces
Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces
Of that virus which was death to him:
Good Friday happened in a thousand places
Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
That they might share his Easter in their need,
Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

Malcolm Guite 2020

We may be able to access the church building, but local resident Alex Hughes spotted 'squatters' – a pair of peregrine falcons. Thanks to Alex for his stunning pictures.



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