

# 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: 15th December, Advent 3

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Tree Festival, it was a great success. Thank you to all those who helped out and visited over the weekend. See below for further details.

This Sunday we have a 10.00am Parish Communion. An activity for children will be available during the service and all are warmly invited to worship with us.

### 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

### 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>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

*Zephaniah 3.14-20*

## Gospel Reading

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' <sup>12</sup>Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' <sup>13</sup>He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' <sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*Luke 3.7-18*

## Sunday's Hymns

54 Wake, O wake! Screen: How lovely on the mountains  
47 People look east 45 O come, o come Emmanuel!

## Thought for the week...

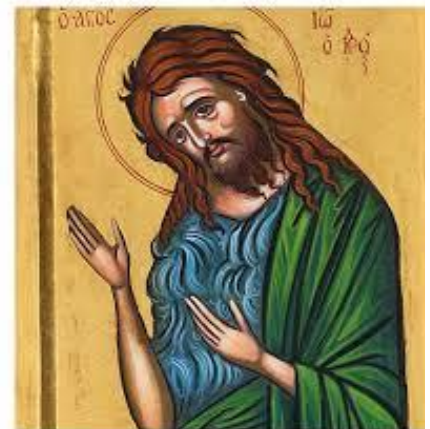
In Year C we think about John the Baptist for the middle two weeks of Advent. He is a curious character – often portrayed as rough and dishevelled but he plays a crucial role in preparing people for the arrival of the Messiah – his cousin, Jesus.

John speaks the truth to power. He calls out injustice and wrong in society and he calls for purer personal living. He points always away from himself and to Jesus (look at the positioning of his hands in this icon).

John should perhaps challenge us today too – where do we need to follow his example and call out wrong in society, even if it makes us unpopular? What aspect of our own lives might need to be sorted out a little (purified)? How can we point away from ourselves and focus on Jesus, so that others see his light through our lives?

The term 'kenosis' is often used of Jesus – the idea that, through Jesus, God 'emptied himself' into humanity. How might we empty ourselves of all that is unhelpful and allow God's Spirit in?

A third candle on the Advent ring stands for love. This Advent may we allow God's love to fill our lives so that it overflows to those around us too.



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This week the floodlighting has been sponsored by  
**Lucy Young**  
*In memory of Ken*

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)

The donation for weekly sponsorship is £15.



**Prayer suggestions for this week:**

- Our keeping of a holy Advent
- The Revd. Canon Mary Gregory, as she prepares to become Bishop of Reading (and the Revd Canon Dave Bull who will be the Bishop of Buckingham).
- For the people of the whole Middle East, for an end to the violence there.
- Give thanks for a successful Christmas Tree Festival .... and for stamina and lots of helpers!
- For our sisters and brothers in the Jewish and Muslim communities of our own town.
- For peace in Ukraine and Russia, and of Sudan, and also in Armenia and Ethiopia.
- For all those who live and work in Holmanleaze
- For Isabel Nixon and Keeon Obianwu, baptised recently and Cole Brooks to be baptised today
- For all those whose anniversary of baptism falls in December: Arlo Ridley and Charlie Galvin.
- The sick and their carers : Monica Olley, Valerie Bosley, Bridget Morris, Lucy Young, Emily Buckwell, Jacqueline Lewis, Angela Baldwin, Baby Keeon, Joan Harnby, Bill Bowyer, Katharine and Millie, Aram Hakobian, Faith Powley
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them: Tony Barber, Joyce Parry.
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in December. Max Neale, Eileen Pond, David Sawyers, Robert Gardener, Peggy Harris, Colin Bowerman, Robert Gill, Sheila Mayers, Joyce Bryant, Isabella Monk, David Jones, Bernard Bowdery, Patricia Walker, Roy Goff, Jean Judd, David Jesson, Dorothy Chalk, Steven Robinson, Carol Kharas, Joey (Josephine) Colton.

**Readings for Morning Prayer for the week beginning Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024:**

|           |           |                  |                          |
|-----------|-----------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday    | Psalm 12  | Isaiah 25.1-9    | Luke 3.1-17              |
| Monday    | Psalm 40  | Isaiah 49.14-25  | 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11   |
| Tuesday   | Psalm 70  | Isaiah 50        | 1 Thessalonians 5.12-end |
| Wednesday | Psalm 75  | Isaiah 51.1-8    | 2 Thessalonians 1        |
| Thursday  | Psalm 146 | Isaiah 51.9-16   | 2 Thessalonians 2        |
| Friday    | Psalm 46  | Isaiah 51.17-end | 2 Thessalonians 3        |
| Saturday  | Psalm 121 | Isaiah 52.1-12   | Jude                     |

**Rotas for next week, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 10.00am Parish Communion**

Read: Michael Masango      Intercede: Phyl Sopp      Chalice: Sue H  
 Welcomers: Ralph, Sue and Shula      Coffee: Sally and Jeanette

**What's on.... this week:**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>    | 10.00am, Parish Communion<br>12.00pm, Baptism of Cole Brooks  |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>    | 10.00am, St Luke's School Nativity, in Church   |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>   | 8.30am, Morning Prayer, on zoom   |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am, Morning Prayer, on zoom<br>10.00am, Holy Communion<br>2.00pm, St Luke's School Nativity, in Church      |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>  | 8.30am, Morning Prayer, on Zoom<br>9.30am, St Luke's School Carol Service, in Church<br>3.00pm, Keeping Company |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>    | 8.30am, Morning Prayer on zoom<br>5.00pm, Evening Prayer on zoom  |
| Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>  | 9.00am, Morning prayer, on zoom<br>9.30am, Church decorating (all welcome to help)<br>6 – 9 pm Open Vicarage    |

Sunday 22nd                      10.00am, Parish Communion  
6.00pm, Nine Lessons and Carols, by candlelight, followed by mulled wine/mince pies

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

|                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> December | Carol Services at each church |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|

**Messy Church.** Messy Church dates for 2025 are as follows: 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 28<sup>th</sup> November

## Christmas Cards

With the spiralling cost of post and of cards, and in an effort to be an eco church, you are invited to send greetings in lieu of cards to friends at church via a giant church Christmas card.

Slips are available in church for you to write a general greeting to the congregation and place in a box to be pinned on the brown boards at the back. You may also wish to make a donation to a charity of your own choice.

## Open Vicarage

Members of the congregation are warmly invited to call into the vicarage any time between 6pm and 9 pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December for mulled wine / fruit juice and light seasonal refreshments.

All are welcome!

## Christmas Tree Festival

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. The trees looked stunning. So much thought and care had gone into each one. As ever, they created a lovely atmosphere and helped get us in the mood for Christmas. We were delighted that around 3000 people came to see the trees despite the. It was great to welcome new sponsors on board, including our new MP, Josh Reynolds.

Many people commented on how lovely the whole event was and how beautiful the church looked with all the trees. As usual, we really did represent a microcosm of the whole community with such a variety of trees and all really thoughtful.

We are delighted that, from the tree voting boxes, we will be sending £4900 to Thames Valley Heartbeat. Thanks to the team there who came and spoke about their work at our closing service on Sunday. We have also raised much needed money for church funds from refreshments, donations, the craft / produce stall and the raffle.

We can now reveal that the tree voted 'best dressed' in church was the tree decorated by the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice, for the second year running. Many congratulations to their volunteers. The immediate runners up were, in order: TVAP: Teddies take over the Thames Valley Adventure Playground, Thames Hospice, Claremont and Holyport Practice, Nursing Team, Sing, Choirs of Angels", The Wellbeing Tree (Maidenhead United Community Trust , Guess the Film by Craft Coop, Pines Veterinary Clinic, Christians against poverty, and If you want a better world you can make it. Well done everyone!

## The Burdetts Christmas Lights Open House

The Burdetts are holding their annual Christmas Lights "open house" on Saturday 21st December from 2:00pm to 9:30pm and Sunday 22nd December from 2:00pm to 5:15pm and 8:15pm to 10:00pm at 30 Mallow Park (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.

## **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. Next is 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025  
[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. The next is 19<sup>th</sup> December

**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. Next is 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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

### **Sunday Morning Worship:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87358197400?pwd=MTFxVINad1R6NEl6cVZ6TVJ5bGlzd09>

Meeting ID: 873 5819 7400

Passcode: 526076

**Zoom Morning Prayer** at 8.30 am Tuesday – Friday, 9 am Saturday

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81459090925?pwd=Y2hKZkFYZ04zbGZBd1BHcmllldU5Hdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 5909 0925

Passcode: 180609

## **Advent and Christmas at St. Luke's Church 2024**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

3.00 pm, **Keeping Company**

Tea, cake and reflection for those bereaved at any time

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

6.00 pm, **Nine Lessons and Carols, by candlelight**

followed by mulled wine and mince pies

**Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

4.00 (younger families) and 5.00 (older families) pm, **Candlelit Crib Services**

10.00 pm **'Midnight Mass'**

**Christmas Day, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

10.00 am, All Age Christmas Holy Communion

**The Feast of the Epiphany – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

10.00 am All Age Holy Communion service

6.00 pm Epiphany Carol Service



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**Alexander Devine**  
Children's Hospice Service

Proudly sponsored by

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**Alexander Devine Christmas Treecycling**  
Supporting your local children's hospice service

Recycle Your Christmas Tree and Keep the Holiday Spirit Green!

Let Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service make tree disposal easy this festive season! Our volunteers will collect and recycle your used tree, helping you give back to nature and your community.

**Collection Areas:**  
SL6, SL7, SL8, and RG10 Postal Areas

Scan here to book your tree collection

For a donation to our charity, our volunteers will collect and recycle your Christmas tree between **Thursday 9th and Saturday 11th January 2025**.

[www.alexanderdevine.org/trees](http://www.alexanderdevine.org/trees)

**Book your Christmas Tree Collection TODAY in Aid of**

**Thames hospice**

Scan the QR code to donate AND email [nicholas@riversidetreecare.co.uk](mailto:nicholas@riversidetreecare.co.uk) to arrange your collection TODAY

SCAN ME

Collections will be available at the following:  
Maidenhead, Bray, Fifeild, Holyport, Marlow, Windsor, Cookham, Bourne End and Taplow

**Riverside Tree Care**