



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

Vicar: sally514@btinternet.co

Week commencing: 18th December 2022 , Fourth Sunday of Advent

As we enter the last week of Advent our Sunday morning service is a Parish Communion at 10 am. Our Carol Service is at 7pm in the evening and followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Both services will be zoomed using the same Sunday morning link.

The Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming
as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things
we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A reading from Isaiah

10The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. 12But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. 13Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 14Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 15He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. *Isaiah 7. 10-16*

The Gospel Reading

18The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' 22All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
23'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',
which means, 'God is with us.' 24When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. *Matthew 1. 18-25*

Sunday's Hymns:

- 31 Lo, he comes with clouds descending
242 The Angel Gabriel from heaven came
309 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
38 The people that in darkness sat
63 O little town of Bethlehem

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- Give thanks for the success of our Christmas Tree Festival
- For our Christmas services
- For the work of the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice.
For the people of Ukraine and Russia, and for the UN. For all world leaders. For peace.
- For all who are worried and struggling with the cost of living, for those who are hungry, or who eat alone every day.
- For our ministry as part of the Warm Welcome scheme, and Thursday lunches.
- That we may embrace our ministry as an inclusive church, in every way.
- For our ministry with children and for our plans to appoint a Children and Family Leader.
- For our care for creation for our work towards becoming an Eco church.
- Those whose anniversary of baptism falls in December: Herbie Prater, Lily Edmonds, Arlo Ridley
- For all those who live and work in Alston Gardens.
- The sick and their carers : Monica Olley, Tony Boaks, Howard Baxter, Julienne Grobler, Clarice, Andy, Dorothy Nicks, Ann Hockham, Pat Brooks, Andrew, Jim Mundy, Naila Watanabe,
- Valerie Bosley, Joan Lynch, Harry, Eunice Goodman, Robert Lewis, Joy Richmond.
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them: Pamela Rivers
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in December: John Sheppard, Beryl Jenkins, Evelyn Rose, Roy Horsham, John Norris, Margaret Swansborough, Joan Parker, Dorothy Scott, Penelope Hutchings, Peter Brown, John Dickson, Anne Seagrove, Max Neale, Eileen Pond, David Sawyers, Robert Gardener, Peggy Harris, Colin Bowerman, Robert Gill, Pamela Barber, Sheila Mayers, Joyce Bryant, Isabella Monk, David Jones, Bernard Bowdery, Patricia Walker, Roy Goff, Jean Judd, David Jesson.

Readings for Morning Prayer for the week beginning Sunday 18th December 2022:

Sunday	Psalm 144	Luke 1.26-38	
Monday	Psalm 146	Isaiah 52.13-end of 53	2 Peter 1.1-15
Tuesday	Psalm 46	Isaiah 54	2 Peter 1.16-2.3
Wednesday	Psalm 121	Isaiah 55	2 Peter 2.4 – end
Thursday	Psalm 124	Isaiah 56.1-8	2 Peter 3
Friday	Psalm 130	Isaiah 63.1-6	2 John
Saturday, Christmas Eve	Psalm 45	Isaiah 58	3 John

Rotas for next week:

Sunday 25th December, Christmas Day, Parish Communion, in church and on zoom

Read: Sue Turner
Intercede: Ministry team
Welcomers: Jacqueline, Simon, Ben
Coffee: none

Our church is floodlit at night.

This week the flood lighting has been sponsored by Eunice Goodman:
"In memory of Charles"



To sponsor the floodlighting please fill in the form at the back of church or email:
admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk The 2023 form is now available.

Given rising fuel prices, it is suggested the minimum donation for weekly sponsorship is now £15.

Many congratulations to Oliver and Kirsty Laurenson-Gore on the safe arrival of Eleanor Lesley, born on 12th December at 11.19am and weighing 7 pounds 4 oz. Sending every blessing on their new family.

Thought for the week:



It is a little unusual to find a painting or icon of the infant Jesus with his 'father' Joseph. Those that do exist are touching and remind us of the vital role of fathers in caring for children. We are in year A of the lectionary cycle now and focus on Matthew's gospel. So, we hear the story of the nativity from Joseph's viewpoint, as that is Matthew's focus.

It would have been so easy for Joseph to have abandoned Mary once he knew of her pregnancy, not to go through with the

marriage (they were betrothed – engaged) and to leave her to the fate of all fallen women of the time. But he was both a man of compassion and of faith. He listened and he *heard* the words that the angel spoke to him. He acted on them, knowing that it might cost him dear. Some people suggest that when the couple went to Bethlehem just prior to Jesus' birth they should have been able to stay with his relatives, it was, after all, Joseph's home town, but that he was disowned by his family when they saw the advanced state of Mary's pregnancy- prior to marriage.

Joseph remained faithful – to Mary and to God.

Becoming a father is not easy. It means a whole change of life and priorities. That can be particularly challenging in today's world.

It would be good for us to pray for new fathers, and also to seek ourselves to model Joseph's faith and trust – in loved ones, and especially in God.

What's on... This week:

Thursday 15 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom	
	9.30 am, Baby and Toddler group party (bookings only)	
	3.00 pm, Keeping Company	
Friday 16 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom	
	5.00 pm, Evening Prayer, on zoom	
	8.00 pm, Choir	
Saturday 17 th	9.00 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom	
	9.30 am onwards, church clean, flowers, Love Christmas	
Sunday 18 th	10.00 am, Parish Communion	
	7.00 pm, Carol Service (zoomed, use Sunday morning link)	
Tuesday 20 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom	Office closed
Wednesday 21 st	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom	Office closed
	10.00 am, Holy Communion	
Thursday 22 nd	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom	

Friday 23 rd	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 5.00 pm, Evening Prayer, on zoom
Saturday 24 th <i>Christmas Eve</i>	9.00 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 4.00 pm, Crib service 5.00 pm, Crib service 10.00 pm, Midnight Mass
Sunday 25 th <i>Christmas Day</i>	10.00 am, Parish Communion

No further services until Sunday 1st January

Christmas

The Church of England's Christmas material is now available on its website, open this link to see it and to sign up for daily email reflections to 'follow the star'.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/follow-star-great-invitation>

There is also a beautiful invitation video to watch and share with friends – you will find it on this link – spoiler alert – you will need tissues!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uglkRXWOZak>

Love Christmas

This year we will not join with St. Peter's but will simply buy plants to take to people as a gift of love at Christmas. You can get involved by:

- Buying a small plant (poinsettia or cyclamen) with a plant saucer of some sort please
- Suggesting the names of recipients to Revd. Sally / the office
- Coming along on 17th December at 10 am to collect plants to deliver.

Sunday 18th December

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

Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December

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

10.00 pm 'Midnight Mass'

Christmas Day, Sunday 25th December

10.00 am, All Age Christmas Holy Communion

Getting the church ready for Christmas...

On Saturday 17th December, we will be making the church look beautiful for Christmas... flower arranging, cleaning cobweb removing, brass polishing...

Please do consider coming along to help – even if you can only give an hour... any time between 9.30 am and midday. Thank you.

Christmas Lights are back! The Burdetts are holding their annual "open house" (Strictly and World Cup finals notwithstanding!) on:

Saturday 17th December from 2:00pm to 9:30pm and Sunday 18th December from 2:00pm to 5:15pm and 8:00pm 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

We are delighted to have been chosen by the **CoOp as a recipient of their Community Fund** for the coming year. By shopping in the CoOp now you can support this church.

St. Luke's Church is part of the @Coopuk Local Community Fund, to find out more about our project and to choose us as your cause, click here

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/68757> #ItsWhatWeDo

Our particular project is to redevelop the churchyard to make it a more useable community space for quiet and to support the natural environment.

WORLD CAFÉ IS COMING TO BELMONT

There will be information stands to help you get the right support

Tuesday 20 December 2022 at 12.30-2.30pm

Jakes House, Holmanleaze, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 8AL

- Refreshments and food (including soup making!),
- fun activities, and goodies/gifts!

No booking! Just turn up – it's free!

Speed networking to help you with the cost of living

Can you afford to miss it

Sundays at Six, this Autumn, All Services are at 6.00pm Zoom link: use Sunday morning

11 th December	Christmas Tree Festival Service, at St. Luke's
18 th December	Carol Services at each church at 7.00 pm

And next year:

8 th January	Evensong and Benediction, in church at All Saints
22 nd January	Night Prayer with reflection, on zoom Led by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
29 th January	Taizé service for Candlemas, in church at St Luke's
12 th February	Iona Evening worship, on zoom Led by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
26 th February	Eucharist for St. David, in church at All Saints
12 th March	Lenten Reflections, on zoom Led by St. Luke's
26 th March	Stations of the Cross, in church at All Saints (Passion Sunday)
2 nd April	Taizé service, in church Led by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green (Palm Sunday)
23 rd April	Easter reflections, on zoom Led by St Luke's

And on the 4th Sunday monthly: (except December)

3pm, Deaf Church, at Cox Green 4pm, Sundays at 4, at All Saints 4pm, Café church, at St. Luke's

Our Regular activities:

The 8.00 Holy Communion service will continue to be monthly, on the 2nd Sunday.

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

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

Warm Welcome Thursdays midday – 2pm, a warm space in church to meet with others (or just be quiet and warm) and have a warm meal. Free, and open to all.

Messy Church continues on the first (usually) Friday, monthly, 4-5pm. Next, 3rd February. Email Revd. Sally 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 15th December.

Thursday Teas meets in the community hall offering tea, cake and conversation. Second Thursdays monthly. Next is January.

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. Both in church and on zoom, 4th Thursdays monthly. The next is January.

Please note that for all 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

Zoom Evening Prayer at 5pm on Fridays (except first Friday)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88677688468?pwd=WnF3aEQ2dTdLYjB1dDEvQ2YwcTJJZz09>

Meeting ID: 886 7768 8468

Passcode: 132142