

St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

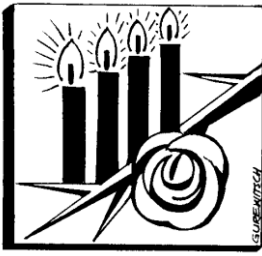
www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Weeks Commencing: 22nd and 29th December

A very Happy Christmas to everyone, and prayers for a peaceful and healthy new year.

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. At 6pm it is the Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. We hope to see many of you there for this beautiful service.

Just a reminder of our forthcoming Christmas services. On Tuesday 24th December there is a Crib Service at 4.00pm (younger families) and 5.00pm (older families). At 10.00pm we will be celebrating 'Midnight Mass'. On Christmas Day there will be a 10.00am All Age Holy Communion. On Sunday 29th December there will be a 10.00am Parish Communion and details for this service are included in this weekly sheet.

The Collect for 22nd December

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 Prayer for 22nd December

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.

The Collect for 29th December

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you...

Post Communion Prayer for 29th December

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared
at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our
home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

First Reading for 22nd December

The LORD says to his people:

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

Michah 5.2-5a

Gospel Reading for 22nd December

³⁹Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

⁴⁶And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Luke 1.39-45

First Reading for 29th December

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3.12-17

Gospel Reading for 29th December

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2.41-end

Sunday's Hymns for 22nd December

712 Lord Jesus Christ
85 The Angel Gabriel
79 O little town of Bethlehem
394 Tell out my soul!

Sunday's Hymns for 29th December

61 Christians awake!
74 Like a candle flame
59 Angels from the realms of glory
76 Love came down at Christmas
666 I cannot tell

Thought for the week...

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we think about Mary and her response to God. Despite all the challenges she knew she would face, she still said 'yes' to God's call to be the mother of Jesus.

Life as the mother of the saviour was not easy for Mary. She started married life uneasily, pregnant before marriage with a baby that was not of her husband – the gossip must have been tortuous. Her son went missing at the age of 12 and was found in the Temple, soaking up learning from the rabbis.

As an adult he left home and became a wandering preacher – leaving unsure about where he was.

He died a cruel death – and she waited because his cross.

At his dedication in the Temple (Luke 2) old Simeon had warned her that 'a sword would piece her heart'.

It seems odd then that the fourth candle on the Advent wreath reminds us of joy. For Mary there were times of little joy. Sometimes the Christian life can feel joy-less. But perhaps we have a wrong understanding of what joy is. It is not total happiness but rather deeper.

A friend posted this helpful poem on What's App this week...



JOY COMES BACK

When you finally realize
that joy is less fireworks, more firefly
less orchestra, more birdsong
she will come back much more often

for joy will not fight with the fast pace of this life
she is not in the shiny or the new

she breathes in the basic, simmers in the simple
and dances in the daily to-and-fro

joy has been beckoning you
for many a year my friend
you were just too busy doing, to see

the very next time joy wraps her quiet warmth
around you as the garden embraces
your weary body in its wildness

tip her a nod...she doesn't stay long
but if you are a gracious host
joy comes back.

DONNA ASHWORTH

For week commencing Sunday 22nd December
This week the floodlighting has been sponsored by
Jacqueline Lewis
In memory of my mum Barbara

For week commencing Sunday 29th December
This week the floodlighting has been sponsored by
Colette Baxter
David and Noel Sexton, Fond Memories



To sponsor the floodlighting please fill in the form at the back of church or email:
admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk
The donation for weekly sponsorship is £15.

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- Our keeping of a holy Christmas
- That all who pass through the church this Christmastide might meet with God.
- 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
- 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 Jakes House and Nicolas Winton Court
- For Isabel Nixon, Keeon Obianwu and Cole Brooks who were all baptised in December
- 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, 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 22nd December 2024:

Sunday	Psalm 123	Isaiah 32.1-18	Luke 1.26-45
Monday	Psalm 130	Isaiah 52.13-end of 53	2 Peter 1.1-15
Tuesday	Psalm 45	Isaiah 54	2 Peter 1.16-2.3
Wednesday	Psalm 110	Isaiah 9.2-7	Luke 2.1-20
Thursday	Psalm 13	Genesis 4.1-10	Acts 6
Friday	Psalm 21	Exodus 33.9-19	John 13.21-35
Saturday	Psalm 36	Jeremiah 31.1-17	Matthew 18.1-10

Readings for Morning Prayer for the week beginning Sunday 29th December 2024:

Sunday	Psalm 105.1-11	Isaiah 40.1-11	Luke 2.22-40
Monday	Psalm 144	Isaiah 60.13-end	Luke 12.22-34
Tuesday	Psalm 102	Isaiah 59.15b-end	John 1.29-34
Wednesday	Psalm 103	Genesis 17.1-13	Romans 2.17-end

Thursday	Psalm 18.1-30	Isaiah 60.1-12	John 1.35-42
Friday	Psalm 127	Isaiah 60.13-end	John 1.43-end
Saturday	Psalm 89.1-37	Isaiah 61	John 2.1-12

Rota for 29th December, 10.00am Parish Communion

Read: Richard Burdett	Intercede: Sally Lynch	Chalice: Jean TD
Welcomers: Clare, Ann and Ben		Coffee: Jenny and Lisa

Rota for 5th January, 10.00am All Age Holy Communion

Read: Child	Intercede: Preacher	Chalice: James Ellins
Welcomers: Clare, Helen and Carl		Coffee: Sally and Kate

What's on.... For the next two weeks:

Sunday 22nd	10.00am, Parish Communion 6.00pm, Nine Lessons and Carols, by candlelight, followed by mulled wine/mince pies
Tuesday 24th	8.30am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 4.00pm, Crib Service for younger children, in Church 5.00pm, Crib Service for older children, in Church 10.00pm, Midnight Mass, in Church and on Zoom (Sunday morning link)
Wednesday 25th	10.00am, All Age Holy Communion, in Church <i>No Services and Office closed 26th – 2nd January</i>
Sunday 29th	10.00am, Parish Communion <i>No Services</i>
Friday 3 rd	8.30am, Morning Prayer, on Zoom 4.00pm, Messy Church, in Church
Saturday 4 th	9.00am, Morning Prayer on zoom
Sunday 5 th	10.00am, All Age Holy Communion 6.00pm, Epiphany Carol Service, in Church

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

22 nd December	Carol Services at each church
5 th January	Epiphany Carol Service, at St. Luke's
19 th January	Night Prayer with reflection, on zoom, led by the Church of the Good Shepherd
2 nd February	Taizé service for Candlemas, at St Luke's
16 th February	Evensong and Benediction, at All Saints
2 nd March	Eucharist for St. David, at All Saints
16 th March	Iona service with reflection, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
6 th April	Stations of the Cross, at All Saints
13 th April	Taize service, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
4 th May	Eucharist of Wholeness and Healing, at All Saints
18 th May	Choral Sung Evensong, at St. Luke's
1 st June	Desert Island Hymns and Readings, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
15 th June	International Taizé service, at St. Luke's
6 th July	Evensong and Benediction, at All Saints
20 th July	Prayer walk on Ray Mill Island

Messy Church. Messy Church dates for 2025 are as follows: 3rd January, 7th February, 7th March, 4th April, 2nd May, 6th June, 4th July, 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November, 28th 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 21st December for mulled wine / fruit juice and light seasonal refreshments.

All are welcome!

Alpha 2025

We will be running our second Alpha course next year. This course is an opportunity to explore big questions in life and faith. The course will start on Wednesday 22nd January. Please speak to Revd. Sally if you think you would like to join the course. All welcome. Sessions are Wednesday evenings 7-9pm and start with a two course meal.

Christmas Tree Festival

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.

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.

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!

CTF de-brief meeting: on Zoom, 7pm, Thursday 9th January. All welcome:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81712707293?pwd=AEkRzcrDMWWWh2eij9xaTbj1zFbfTtd.1>

Meeting ID: 817 1270 7293

Passcode: 352571

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 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 term time only. We meet in church.

Messy Church continues on the first (usually) Friday, monthly, 4-5.30pm. Next is 3rd January 2025
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 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. 4th Thursdays monthly. Next is 25th January 2025

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

Sunday Morning Worship:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87358197400?pwd=MTFxVINad1R6NEl6cVZ6TVJ5bGlzdz09>

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

Sunday 22nd December

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

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December

4.00 (younger families) and 5.00 (older families) pm, **Candlelit Crib Services**
10.00 pm **'Midnight Mass'**

Christmas Day, Wednesday 25th December

10.00 am, All Age Christmas Holy Communion

The Feast of the Epiphany – Sunday 5th January

10.00 am All Age Holy Communion service

6.00 pm Epiphany Carol Service

FR Registered with FSC PEFC CERTIFIED REGULATOR

Alexander Devine
Children's Hospice Service

Proudly sponsored by

LEYWOOD

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

Book your Christmas Tree Collection TODAY in Aid of

Thames hospice

For the Church, Christmas isn't just a birth... through charity... to Christ... on December 25th... in Britain and many... People have to... of the... with...

Scan the QR code to donate AND email 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