



St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Week commencing: 25th December 2022 , Christmas Day

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

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year. There will be a service of festal Holy Communion suitable for all ages at 10 am, and then no services until Parish Communion at 10 am on 1st January. The next All Age Holy Communion will celebrate the feast of the Epiphany on Sunday 8th January at 10. There will also be an 8 am service that day.

On Christmas Eve we have two Crib services again – at 4pm for younger children and 5pm for older families. Our 'Midnight' Mass is at 10pm.

The Collect for Christmas Day

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.

The Collect for 1st January

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light
of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion for Christmas Day

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

Post Communion for 1st January

All praise to you,
almighty God and heavenly King,
who sent your Son into the world
to take our nature upon him
and to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that, as we are born again in
him, so he may continually dwell in
us and reign on earth as he reigns in
heaven, now and for ever.

The Collect for the Epiphany

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son
to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion for Epiphany

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and
revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved
Son: by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our
rebirth through the waters of the
new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for Christmas Day

A reading from Titus

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Titus 3. 4-7

The Gospel Reading

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2. 1-20

Readings for 1st January

A reading from Galatians

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Gal 4. 4-7

The Gospel Reading

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

Luke 2.15-22

Readings for the Feast of the Epiphany

A reading from Isaiah

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Isaiah 60. 1-6

The Gospel Reading

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Matthew 2. 1-12

Hymns for Christmas Day:

66 Once in Royal (v1, 2, 5,6)

44 Angels from the realms of glory

53 Hark the Herald angels sing

Hymns of 1st January (Carol sheet)

As with gladness, men of old
Away in a manger

In the bleak midwinter
Of the Father's love begotten

Hymns for 8th January (Carol sheet)

The First Nowell
In the bleak midwinter

See him lying in a bed of straw
We three kings

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- Give thanks for the success of our Christmas Tree Festival and Carol service
- For a blessed and peaceful Christmas
- For the work of the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice, and Thames Hospice.
- For all those travelling at this time.
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 January: Ryan and Ritchie Westbury, Jonas and Sebastian Lanyon, Arthur Smith.
- 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: Dorothy Chalk, Steven Robinson.
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in January: Ann Hancock, Roger March, Clifford Collier Alice Wellman, Peter Brown, John Dickson, Anne Seagrove, Jaqueline Hayward, Ida Walters, Dorothy Scott, Penelope Hutchings, Robert Newman, Beryl Jenkins, Joan Parker, Robert Howe, Frank Joyce, Marjorie Hopkins, Evelyn Rose, Roy Horsham, Andrew Drummond, Vivan Oliver, Charles Woodman, Julie Brazenor, Trevor Tilbury, Christine Bowyer, Jean Stemp, Michael Marriner, Nora Searle, Dawn Crampin, Edward Hylton-Jones, Eileen Gulrayani, Derek Jones, Florence Hampton.

Readings for Morning Prayer can be found on the MP app.

Rotas for next week:

Sunday 1st January, Naming of Jesus, Parish Communion, in church and on zoom

Read: Ben Darracott

Intercede: Jeanette Lock

Welcomers: Clare, Ann, Sue

Coffee: Sally Jeanette

Sunday 8th January, Feast of the Epiphany, All Age Holy Communion, in church and on zoom

Read: Sue Hinchliffe

Intercede: preacher

Welcomers: Jacqueline, Simon, Ben

Coffee: Helen and Carl

Our church is floodlit at night.

This week the flood lighting has been sponsored by Collette Baxter

In memory of David Sexton who died on 28/12/19



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.

Thought for the week: the story of Jesus' birth is so familiar that we are in danger of becoming blasé about it. We think we know it inside out – and certainly we will have seen it played out in nativity plays and heard it sung in carols over the last few weeks. We have hosted several in church – which has been a delight. Of course, there are elements of the story that have changed over the years, or been added to embellish it – there is no little donkey in the Bible account, nor mention of an innkeeper who kindly lets out his sparkling clean stable. We are not actually told how many 'wise men' there are, and there was no snow on the ground. We could be forgiven for assuming that it is all 'made up'



BUT.. one little phrase in Luke's account assures us otherwise... 'Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. Just like all new mothers, especially first time ones, Mary held onto and savoured every (unusual) detail of Jesus' birth. Surely it was she who simply re-told the story many years later to the historian Luke. Despite the strangeness, Mary treasured the whole episode of God coming to earth, to be among his people.

How much do we treasure, ponder and hang on, not just to the story of Jesus' birth, but to the amazing fact of God's grace, which Titus tells us, 'has appeared, bringing salvation to all'?

What's on... This week:

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

Christmas Day

No further services until Sunday 1st January

Sunday 1 st Jan	10.00 am, Parish Communion
Tuesday 3 rd	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
Wednesday 4 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom NO Holy Communion
Thursday 5 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
Friday 6 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
Saturday 7 th	9.00 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
Sunday 8 th	8.00 am, Holy Communion 10.00 am, All Age Holy Communion

Tuesday 10 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
Wednesday 11 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 10.00 am, Holy Communion
Thursday 12 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 9.30, Baby and Toddler group 12.00 – 2.00 pm, Warm Welcome 2.00 pm, Teas
Friday 13 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 5.00 pm, Evening prayer, on zoom
Saturday 14 th	9.00 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom

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>

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.

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

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 19th January.

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