



St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Week commencing: 30th April 2023, Easter 4

Our 10am service this week is a Parish Communion and will be followed by the APCM (around 11.15 am). The zoom link will continue to allow those online to be part of the meeting too.

The **Church Electoral Roll** is now closed and on display for checking at the back of church. Please bring with you to the meeting your electronic copy of the Annual Report / Bulletin (or you may have printed it out). There will be a few hard copies on the day for those without IT facilities.

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good
shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and
rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for Sunday

Many were baptized and were added to the community. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.
Acts 2.42-end

The Gospel reading

Jesus said to the Pharisees: ¹'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.’ *John 10. 1-10*

Hymns for Sunday

748	O Jesus, I have promised
792	The God of love my shepherd is
806	There’s a wideness in God’s mercy
724	Loving shepherd of thy sheep
650	Great is thy faithfulness

Thought for the week



In May 2017 I was in Jerusalem for a week. As I walked along the ridge of the old city one evening I heard a sound of tinkling bells and looked down into the valley of Gehenna to see a shepherd leading his flock home for the night, with one limping along at the back. This beautiful pastoral imagery was right in the centre of the city and I suddenly realised that it was also the fourth Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday.

The vision before me brought home clearly the model of the Good Shepherd – leading his sheep home and going back for the last, frail one. Gehenna valley below me was also known

as ‘the valley of the shadow of death’ and so Psalm 23 also came to mind: ‘though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death you are with me...’.

In the time of Jesus shepherds did not carry the pastoral image we assign them now. They were seen as dirty outsiders of society and unreliable. Yet to their sheep they were to be relied on totally. They knew every sheep in the flock and they cared wholly for them – however mucky they got! Every night the shepherd lay down across the entrance to the stone sheepfold – and became the gate or door to keep them in and protect them.

Jesus knew what he was doing when he called himself the gate for the sheep, and later in John 10, the Good Shepherd. He had observed and grasped the care and tenderness with which the shepherds cared for every one of their flocks and the lengths that they went to in order to keep them safe.

He remains our Good Shepherd, our Gate, our protector today – for every one of us – even the stragglers, just like the modern day shepherd that I saw in Jerusalem.

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- For our APCM and for people to stand for election to the PCC
- For the people of Ukraine and Russia, and for the UN. For all world leaders.
- For all who are worried and struggling with the cost of living, for those who are hungry, or who eat alone every day.
- That we may embrace our ministry as an inclusive church, in every way.
- For a new Director of Music / organist and a Children and Family leader.
- For our care for creation for our work towards becoming an Eco church.
- For the forthcoming baptisms in May of Tajus Ramanauskas, Amanda Simana and Jaxon Williams
- For all those who live and work in Blakeney Close.

- The sick and their carers : Monica Olley, Howard Baxter, Julienne Grobler, Clarice, Andy, Ann Hockham, Pat Brooks, Andrew, Naila Watanabe, Valerie Bosley, Joan Lynch, Harry, Robert Lewis, Joy Richmond, Pauline Norris, Bridget Morris, Nicholas.
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them: Barbara Lewis, Jim Mundy
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in May: Angela Beavis, Glyn Jackson, Alicia Teare, Geoffrey Hutson, Terence Comley, Ronald Birch, Gerald Gunner, John Wells, Kathleen Heskith, Bernard (Vic) Kellerman, Geoffrey Thrift, William Mayers, Helen Bailey, Michael Poynter, Patricia Kealey, Robert Ashby, Priscilla Evans, Edwina Richardson, David Trinkwon, Ivy Trillow, Brian Webb, Michael Curley,

Readings for Morning Prayer for the week beginning Sunday 30th April 2023:

Sunday	Psalm 106.6-24	1 Corinthians 10.1-13	
Monday	Psalm 139	Proverbs 4.10-18	James 1.1-12
Tuesday	Psalm 139	Deuteronomy 9.23-10.5	Ephesians 4.17-end
Wednesday	Psalm 135	Deuteronomy 10.12-end	Ephesians 5.1-14
Thursday	Psalm 118	Deuteronomy 11.8-end	Ephesians 5.15-end
Friday	Psalm 33	Deuteronomy 12.1-14	Ephesians 6.1-9
Saturday	Psalm 34	Deuteronomy 15.1-18	Ephesians 6.10-end

Rotas for next week:

Sunday 7th May in church and on zoom

Read: Gospel only

Intercede: Preacher

Welcomers: Clare, Helen, Carl

Coffee: Jenny and Sally

Our church is floodlit at night.

This week the flood lighting has been sponsored by:
Mr T Autos



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.

What's on... This week:

Sunday 30 th	10.00 am, Parish Communion, in church and on zoom 11.15am APCM
Tuesday 2 nd	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
Wednesday 3 rd	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 10.00 am Holy Communion
Thursday 4 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 9.30 am, Baby and Toddler Group
Friday 5 th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 5.00pm, Evening Prayer, on zoom
Saturday 6 th	9.00 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
Sunday 7 th	10.00 am, All Age Holy Communion, in church and on zoom 12.00 pm, Wedding blessing in church 1.00 pm Bring and share Coronation lunch – vicarage garden

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

14 th May	Reflections for Christian Aid week, on zoom led by St. Luke's, Meeting ID: 873 5819 7400 Passcode: 526076
28 th May	Evensong and Benediction for Pentecost, in church at All Saints
11 th June	Desert Island hymns and readings, in church, led by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
25 th June	International Taizé service, in church and on zoom at St. Luke's Meeting ID: 873 5819 7400 Passcode: 526076
9 th July	Prayer walk on Ray Mill Island, led by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green

And on the 4th Sunday monthly: 3pm, Deaf Church, at Cox Green 4pm, Sundays at 4, at All Saints

Coming up..

Messy Church our next Messy church is on Friday 2nd June when we will be thinking about Messy miracles – Jesus walks on water. 4pm. £2 per child. All welcome. Do email the office at admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk to book places (so we know how many to cater for). Dates for following Messy Church sessions are; 7th July, 1st September, 6th October, 3rd November and 1st December.

Keeping Company: is our monthly meeting for those bereaved (at any time). Third Thursday at 3pm, in church. The next is 18th May.

Coronation Celebrations: do book Sunday 7th May in your diaries for a church family bring and share lunch. join us in the vicarage garden from 1pm – 3pm (or church if wet). There is now a sign-up sheet in church to indicate what food / drink contribution you might bring. You may like to bring your own garden chair – we will provide some too – and perhaps to dress in red, white and blue! All ages and anyone welcome. Crockery etc all provided.

Growing in faith we will be offering some nurture activities in church on alternate Wednesday evenings, at 8pm: 17th and 31st May, 7th and 21st June, 5th and 19th July. There will be the option of a Bible study on Matthew's gospel and also a small group exploring Ignatian spirituality using Paula Gooder's book, 'Women of Holy week'. Do put this in your diaries. These will be in person and not zoomed.

DISCOVER WHAT JOSEPHUS REPORTED ABOUT JESUS

You are invited to a talk on Josephus: hero or villainfor Jews and for Christians? Why is Josephus - chronicler of the 1st century - so controversial...but also so important for both faiths?

It will be given by Professor Martin Goodman, of Oxford University and a leading expert on the 1st century period.

His talk will be at Maidenhead Synagogue, Grenfell Lodge, Ray Park Road, Maidenhead, SL6 8QX (there is ample parking inside the Synagogue car park). It is being held under the auspices of the Council of Christians and Jews on Tuesday 16th May at 8.00 pm. It will be followed by refreshments and a chance

to chat to him in person. There is no charge, but it is important you book a place, along with any guests, by emailing the Synagogue office: admin@maidshul.org

The Wintershall Life of Christ is back this year. This is a full scale re telling of the life of Jesus over a day in the countryside. Details can be found here: <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/life-christ-6>
We are proposing to take a group from St. Luke's on Tuesday 27th June, leaving quite early for a 10 am start. The cost is £25 pp plus transport (to be confirmed once we know numbers). If you would be interested in coming along please would you sign up in church or email the office by 8th May so that we know how many tickets to book.

Inspire Thank you to all who contributed to the last edition and to Miriam our new editor. The next edition of Inspire will be published in late June so please do let Miriam have your articles, photos, etc now. Email to: miamii.mansour3@gmail.com

We have been chosen by the CoOp as a recipient of their **Community Fund** for the coming year. By shopping in the CoOp and using your blue card, 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>

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 2nd June e-mail 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 18th May

Thursday Teas meets in the community hall offering tea, cake and conversation. Second Thursdays monthly. Next is 11th May

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. The next is 25th May in the vicarage and on zoom (use the MP link)

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=WnF3aEQ2dTdLYjB1dDEvQ2YwcTJJz09>

Meeting ID: 886 7768 8468

Passcode: 132142

