



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 July 2023, Trinity 8

Our 10 am service this week will be a Parish Communion service. All are warmly invited to join us for worship. There will be an activity for any children present.

The Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws
and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection,
both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise
be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of
your love shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with
your body be refreshed with the fullness of
your life; glory to you for ever.

First Reading

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, ³⁹nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.26-end

Gospel Reading

³¹Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' ³³He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

⁴⁴The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵²And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52

Hymns for Sunday

584	All my hope on God is founded
595	Be thou my vision, O lord of my heart
450	Jesus calls us here to meet him
<i>Taize</i>	<i>O Lord, hear my prayer (choir only)</i>
646	God is working his purpose out

Thought for the week

RS Thomas, in his poem *The Bright Field* (see below), gives us a meditation on what it means to be slowed down enough, attentive enough to recognise the pearl of great price right beside us, the treasure in the field right here – to know what is most important and precious in our lives.

His insight into the reign of God is that we are often too busy in our minds hankering after an imagined past or worrying about a receding future. Instead, if we can trustfully arrive in this present moment, in not too much of a hurry, with not too much on our to do list, we can recognise the precious treasure of God's reign already offering itself to us.

The insight from the merchant that sold everything to possess the pearl of great price is that we have to let go of a lot of unnecessary baggage, outworn attitudes, lesser priorities to recognise and enjoy the immense value of God's kingdom, already here in front of our noses. The reign of God becomes visible when people find what is most precious and important and live out of that truth. Such joy and love are contagious and healing.

From: *Roots on the web*



*I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the
pearl of great price, the one field that had
treasure in it. I realise now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying
on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.*
by R.S. Thomas

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- For all school staff and learners, for rest and re-creation over the summer.
- For the people of Ukraine and Russia, and of Sudan, and also Armenia. For peace.
- 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, giving thanks that we have achieved the Bronze Award.
- For Casper, Paisley and Payton Brudenall, Clara Crampin and Freddie Bate baptised recently. For the forthcoming baptism of Haylee, Rocco and Sonny Tagg and for all those whose anniversary of baptism falls in August: Harley Perry, Remy Perry- Bridger, Logan Hing, Kevin Obwianu, Lily Webber, Archie Marosi, Myles Levy, Romain Levy, Mateusz Malinowski, Margot Wooley, Mabel Wooley.
- For Lauren and Sean, as they are married her on 5th August.
- For all those who live and work in Partridge Place.
- 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, Bridget Morris, Nicholas, Rosemary Alexander, Jacqueline Lewis, Sue Brett, Lissa-Jane Waugh, Anne Child, Angela Gaskin, Wendy and Pat Botting, Phyllis Sigsworth, Ruth Sheppard, Gemma Payne
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them.
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in August: James Schofield, Reginlad Blewitt, Paul Duncombe, Betty Hunt, Joan Fusco, Jessica Nicholls, Dorcas Bennett, Neville Searle, Kenneth Lewis, Patricia Walker, Wendy Logie, Robert Dymond, Terence Greene, Elizabeth Pearce, Rita Buckland, James Harry, Dorothy Webster, Betty Ann Lambourne, Margaret Grove, John Brant, John Coupe, , May Reeve, Margaret Moulton, 'Colin' Duncan, Vivienne King, Janet Seaman, Alix Burnage, Patricia Nuth.

Generous God,

Thank you for the abundance of your creation and for all the good gifts that we enjoy in our church and home lives. May we mirror your creative giving in the way that we manage the finances of our church; and embrace a spirit of thankfulness and gratitude.

Please help us as individuals to give with contemplative generosity to the whole ministry of this church; as church to give compassionately to the needs of those around us; and as your body in this place to be courageous in our sacrificial giving of our whole selves, out of our love for you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, Amen.

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

Sunday	Psalm 77	Song of Solomon 2	1 Peter 4.7-14
Monday	Psalm 30	Jeremiah 31.23-25, 27-37	James 2.1-13
Tuesday	Psalm 36	Jeremiah 32.1-15	James 2.14-end
Wednesday	Psalm 34	Jeremiah 33.1-13	James 3
Thursday	Psalm 37	Jeremiah 33.14-end	James 4.1-12
Friday	Psalm 31	Jeremiah 35	James 4.13-5.6
Saturday	Psalm 42	Jeremiah 36.1-18	James 5.7-end

Rotas for next week:

Sunday 6th August: All Age Holy Communion, in church and on zoom

Read: Gospel only

Intercede: Preacher

Welcomers: Clare, Helen and Carl

Coffee: Simone and Season

Our church is floodlit at night.

This week the flood lighting has been sponsored by:

Sally Somerville

Celebrating a Birthday!



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:

NB: There will be no evening prayer in August

Sunday 30th	10.00 am, Parish Communion, in church 12.00 pm, Baptism of Freddie Hugo Bate
Tuesday 1 st	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom Parish office closed
Wednesday 2nd	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 10.00 am, Holy Communion
Thursday 3rd	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
Friday 4th	8.30 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
Saturday 5th	9.00 am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 1.00pm, Wedding of Lauren Bolland and Sean Burby
Sunday 6 th	10.00 am, All Age Holy Communion, in Church

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

3 rd September	Evening Prayer in the vicarage garden led by St. Luke's
17 th September	Evensong and Benediction, in church at All Saints
1 st October	Harvest Songs of Praise, in church, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green

22 nd October	Sung Evensong (BCP), in church and on zoom at St. Luke's
5 th November NB: 4 pm:	Memorial services, in church, at St. Luke's, and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
5 th November At 6pm	All Souls Eucharist at All Saints
19 th November	Service of Wholeness and Healing At All Saints
26 th November	Taize service, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
3 rd December	Christ Child Market at All Saints 12.00 – 3pm
10 th December	Christmas Tree Festival Service, at St. Luke's (Tree Festival 8 th – 10 th December)
17 th December	Carol Services at each church at 6.00 pm

And on the 4th Sunday monthly, Sundays at 4, at All Saints

Coming up..

Messy Church our next Messy church is on Friday 1st September 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;, 6th October, 3rd November and 1st December.

An extra Messy Church / Baby and Toddler Summer session: these groups will not run during the school holidays but we are offering a special session for all ages on Thursday 17th August, from 10 am - midday in the church and churchyard. This will, have an eco - theme and will include games, crafts, activities snacks and songs, with the local Wildlife Trust working with us on this. There is no charge, but donations are invited. Sign up via the parish office – do tell families about this activity.

Baptism Anniversary party: Some years ago, we used to hold an annual get-together for those who had been christened at church over the previous year. We fell out of that pattern just before the pandemic and are now keen to reinstate it. It entails a simple church service and craft activity for children and will be taking place from **3.00pm Sunday 10th September**. Afterwards there will be tea in the vicarage garden, weather permitting! If you have had your child/ren christened at St Luke's and have not yet had a personal invitation, then you are warmly invited to attend. Please do let us know if you would like to come by e-mailing the Parish office on admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

Recycling at St Luke's

As one of the ways to demonstrate our commitment to living more sustainably and caring for creation, we have set up an area at the back of church by the servery, where things that can be difficult to recycle at home can be brought and members of the 'eco-team' will ensure they are taken to be recycled correctly.

There are two boxes:

- One for used pill packets
- One for dead batteries and empty make up containers.

There is a larger 'hamper' for packaging that can be recycled in supermarkets. This rubbish has this label



Recycle with bags at large supermarkets | Don't recycle at home

You can see this label on plastic wrapping such as bread bags, fruit and veg bags, crisp packets and chocolate wrappers. You can recycle this type of packaging at recycling points in selected supermarkets.

Please do bring any of these items of rubbish and place them in the appropriate container. Many people making small changes in the end makes a big difference.

Fellowship and Fundraising opportunities

Garden Party: a late summer afternoon garden party in the vicarage garden. Sunday 3rd September. Tickets at £15 each include a glass of prosecco or soft fizz on arrival and a full tea. Available NOW. Do bring along friends and family.

The Inaugural Johanna Raffan Recital: Andrew Gallagher will give a piano recital at 3pm on Sunday 8th October. Save the date.

Church Working parties

The PCC notes above state that we have set up four working parties to explore areas of our church life that we need to develop. Every PCC member has joined one and ALL members of the congregation are warmly invited to join in too – please do contact the group leader in each case and offer to join in. The groups are time limited and will ensure that we can be the very best in our mission and ministry – both practically and spiritually.

- Nurture group, led by Revd. Sally
- Eco group, led by Revd. Phyl
- Heating and Lighting, led by Clare Price
- Churchyard, led by Simon Bader

Church finances

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>

Not the summer fair...

This is how Revd.. Sally explained this last Sunday:

The PCC is responding to a suggestion that in the past some people have put huge effort into the fair – making things putting stalls together, putting up gazebos etc, giving time and money.... For little relative gain as a fundraiser and neither drawing in many people to hear about the work of the church - we just don't get passing footfall.

As we recover from the pandemic and respond to the changes that it has brought about in society, we are being realistic about what we can manage to do with limited people resource. A number of people have said: I'd rather just give a donation than spend a lot of time for little result. The PCC is honouring that and putting all our efforts into the Afternoon Tea on 3rd September – which is jolly good value for the price when you consider what a coffee and cake costs in a high street café. And also the Christmas Tree Festival – our fabulous opportunity to raise funds for ourselves, and a charity, and to share Jesus' love as people flock into church.

So thank you for the offerings that you will make today – by card, bacs or envelope - remembering to gift aid if you can. [it's not too late to give!]

The PCC has also asked me to remind us all of the need to give – not just of our time and talents but also of our money – as we are able – to enable the whole ministry of this church.

At the Bible study on Wednesday giving was discussed as it arose in Matthew 6 where Jesus says: do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing (in relation to almsgiving) and we thought that suggested the idea of not counting the cost – not weighting up but simply giving to God.

We know that the economic situation is tough for everyone right now- and also for the church. Our fuel bill alone tripled last autumn.

I'd like to encourage us all to prayerfully consider again our giving and to remind us of various things that we might do – such as sponsoring the floodlighting (sheet at back) and also to encourage us to use the church giving scheme – leaflets given out – gets gift aid back quickly and is easy to use.

Thank you for all each of you contribute to the life of the church and what you give financially.

Our Chosen Charities for 2023

Foodshare: <https://www.foodshare.charity/donate>

Green Christians:

Embrace:

The Charles Davies Trust

This charitable trust donates supermarket vouchers to residents of the borough who are aged 70 and over and have savings not exceeding £23,250. There is a poster on the brown board at the back of church with more details. Do ask one of the clergy for an application form for yourself or to pass to someone you know who qualifies.

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 1st September 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 17 August

Thursday Teas meets in the community hall offering tea, cake and conversation. Second Thursdays monthly. Next is 10th August

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 24th August

NB: there will be no Evening Prayer during August

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