



St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Week Commencing: 11th February, Last Sunday before Lent

This week we have an 8.00am Holy Communion and 10.00am Parish Communion, with activity for children. All are warmly invited to join us for worship

The Collect

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened
to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness,
from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know
his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4.3-6

Gospel Reading

²Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Mark 9.2-9

Sunday's Hymns:

2	Christ whose glory fills the skies
281	Tis good Lord to be here
788	Take this moment
324 (ii)	Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
646	God is working his purpose out

Thought for the week:

Sundays reading is the story of the transfiguration of Jesus. These days most of us don't have visions of Jesus. We may not have that many mountain top experiences to help us with what we face in life. But we do have both spiritual and everyday highs. Maybe we have enjoyed a really peaceful and reflective retreat, perhaps a service has been just what we needed to meet with God in some way, perhaps we have been caught up in the beauty of a peace of music, our choir singing a beautiful anthem, the exhilaration of watching our team win a football match, the fun of a family holiday, the simple joy of time with a good friend. And at such times we sometimes want to hold onto them – to make them last for ever. And we can't.



Sometimes we are brought down to earth with a thud as the service moves on, or we have to go back to work, noise breaks in on our reflection, or our team loses the next match. A recording, picture or photo can capture something of the event in memory but we cannot hold onto things for ever.

A few years ago the late Bishop Kenneth Stevenson wrote : 'in order to see the transcended Christ we have to leave behind the familiar, but we have to come down again, there can be no staying permanently in an unnaturally extended religious comfort zone'. He wrote a book on the transfiguration in which he explored the story through an icon painted in Greece around 600 years ago (above).

In the icon the eye is clearly drawn to Jesus, in white centre stage, with Moses and Elijah in gold beside him. The three apostles are in earthy brown at the bottom of the icon – but they are linked to Jesus by three shafts of light. At either side we see them being led by Jesus up – and down- the mountain. They have had their experience – now they must return to real life with all that it holds – and get on with the job in hand.

There is a saying that some people are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly use. As Christians we are encouraged to drink in the spiritual highs - and to get stuck in to the everyday too. We can enjoy beautiful worship, quiet time with God, but we have to be fully involved in the messiness of life too. The communion service reminds us of that. Whilst it may be beautiful and deeply spiritual to receive the bread and wine – Jesus - into our very being, we must hang onto the fact that the bread, like Jesus body, is broken, the wine outpoured. And many people the world over – locally, nationally and internationally – are also broken and suffering.

As we prepare to enter Lent, we can hold that tension of spiritual highs and lows and seek to bring the love of God into the messiness of everyday life.

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- For light for those living 'in darkness'
- For His Majesty the King (and all the Royal family) in his illness.
- For those who are living on the breadline and on our streets, for shelter and support
- For the people of Israel and Palestine, for an end to the violence there and for strength for all those who are suffering loss and fear. For our sisters and brothers in the Jewish and Muslim communities of our own town, especially those worried for loved ones.
- For a de-escalation of the situation in the Middle East.
- For peace in Ukraine and Russia, and of Sudan, and also in Armenia and Ethiopia.
- For more children and families to come along to Sunday services / children's activities. And for Sam Fiordelisi as she leads our children and family ministry.
- For a new church music leader.
- For our growth in faith and for the developing Alpha team. For God to be moving more guests to join the course.
- For all those whose anniversary of baptism falls in February: Harry Ford, Oscar Ford, Zara Mean, Lucy Walwyn Salisbury, Harriet Walwyn Salisbury.
- For all those who live and work in College Road.
- The sick and their carers : Monica Olley, Ann Hockham, Valerie Bosley, Pat Botting, Phyllis Sigsworth, Iris Brown, Lorraine, Ken Young, Olu Rowe, Bridget Morris.
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them: Audrey Ellins, Julienne Grobler, John Walden.
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in February: Peter Sharp, Valerie Merkel, Doreen Leverkus, Monica Macaulay Brown, Jean Glossop, Doreen Palmer, Rodgers Murwisi, Peter Curtis, Joan Bartholomew, Harvey Lovegrove, Stanley Swansborough, Christine Dawson, Walter Horwood, Judy Galvin, Oliver Mercer, Barbara Stevens, Douglas Thomson.

Readings for Morning Prayer for the week beginning Sunday 11th February 2024:

Sunday	Psalm 27	Genesis 12.1-8	Matthew 5.1-16
Monday	Psalm 30	Genesis 37.1-11	Galatians 1
Tuesday	Psalm 36	Genesis 37.12-end	Galatians 2.1-10
Wednesday	Psalm 38	Isaiah 58	Mark 2.13-22
Thursday	Psalm 77	Genesis 39	Galatians 2.11-end
Friday	Psalm 3	Genesis 40	Galatians 3.1-14
Saturday	Psalm 71	Genesis 41.1-24	Galatians 3.15-22

Rotas for next week Sunday 18th February: Parish Communion

Read: Ruth Sheppard

Intercede: Jacqueline Lewis

Welcomers: Ralph, Sue and Rita

Coffee: Sally and Lisa

Our church is floodlit at night.

This week the flood lighting has been sponsored by:

The Townsend Family

In loving memory of our dear father, grandfather and great grandfather, Frederick Townsend, on the occasion of what would have been his 100th birthday on 17th February 2024

John Salter

Rita's Birthday week

Sue Hinchliffe

Ralphs Birthday and for a successful operation



To sponsor the floodlighting please fill in the form at the back of church or email:

admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

Given rising fuel prices, it is suggested the minimum donation for weekly sponsorship is now £15. There are lots of weeks available.

What's on.... This week:

Sunday 11th	8.00am, Holy Communion 10.00am, Parish Communion 12.00, Baptism of Danny Hulse
Tuesday 13th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom
Wednesday 14th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	10.00am, Holy Communion, with ashing 8.00pm, Holy Communion, with ashing
Thursday 15th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 3.00pm, Keeping Company
Friday 16th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 5.00pm, Evening prayer, on zoom
Saturday 17th	9.00am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
Sunday 18th	10.00am, Parish Communion 12.00pm, Lent lunch, in Church (Video from 11.30) 6.00pm, Evensong and Benediction, All Saints Church

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

18 th February	Evensong and Benediction, in church at All Saints
3 rd March	Eucharist for St. David, in church at All Saints
17 th March	Stations of the Cross, in church at St. Luke's (Passion Sunday)
24 th March	Taizé service at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green (Palm Sunday)
7 th April	Stations of the Resurrection, on zoom Led by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
21 st April	Eucharist of Wholeness and Healing, in church, at All Saints

Coming up..

Messy Church our Messy church dates are as follows: 1st March, 30th March, 3rd May, 7th June, 5th July, 6th September, 4th October, 1st November, 29th November

Alpha course: please be praying for the Alpha course – team and guests. The course has just started but it is not too late to join. Please speak to Revd. Sally if you think you would like to join the course.

World Day of Prayer: This year, by coincidence, the service is planned by the women of Palestine. It will be held at the High Street Methodist Church on Friday 1st March at 2pm, followed by refreshments. This service is always held on the first Friday in March, beginning in Samoa and making a wave of prayer across the world throughout the day, finishing in American Samoa 24 hours later. All are welcome at this beautiful service. It is planned by the women but we are hoping that more men will attend as well. You can contact Gill Curry or Ruth Sheppard if you need to know more.

LENT

Ash Wednesday, 14th February: we will offer services of Holy Communion and ashing, with reflections, at 10.00 am and 8.00 pm.

Lent Lunches are back this year! Sundays at midday (or just after) in church: 18 February, 3rd March and 17th March. All are welcome to come along for a soup, bread and cheese lunch. We collect the money we would have spent on a full Sunday lunch and donate it to Christian Aid. Please sign up at the back of church to help – providing soup, bread or cheese, or serving / washing up. There will be a short film before the first two and an IT talk before the second, starting at about 11.30 am.

Lent Course: this year our Lent course will run from 11.00 – 12.15 pm on Wednesdays in church. We will be using the video course: Unanswered Prayer, by Pete Grieg. There is a book from which this is taken. There will be no online or evening course as Alpha is running at this time. If you cannot make the Wednesday session you may like to follow the course alone, or get together with a friend or two: <https://unanswered.prayercourse.org/sessions/>. Or read the book.

A Lent leaflet is available now with more ideas for Lenten activities.

Come and See

In three of the four gospels, Jesus is asked which commandment is the most important. He answers not with one commandment but with two: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and you shall love your neighbour as yourself. How can these two commandments give a rhythm and a shape to our lives? Come and See...

We will be using the weekly films in church and you can also sign up for daily emails:

- Come and See - for groups and individuals (daily content)
<https://mailchi.mp/oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see>
- Come and See - for families (weekly content, each Sunday)
<https://mailchi.mp/oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see-for-families>

Fake emails: a reminder to be vigilant about opening emails that do not ring true. There will be a talk about online protection by James Ellins on Sunday 3rd March, at 11.30 am before the Lent lunch.

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 01 March 2024
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 15th February

Thursday Teas meets in the community hall offering tea, cake and conversation. Second Thursdays monthly. Next is 14th March

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 22nd February

Please note that for all 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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85378796960?pwd=dUNTTnRZVFJBY2xiS3QyVHIYZ1BaZz09> Meeting ID:

853 7879 6960

Passcode: 386635