



St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Week Commencing: 7th April, Easter 1

This week we have a 10.00am All Age Holy Communion service, including an adult baptism. At 6.00pm everyone is invited to join in the Stations of the Resurrection, on zoom, led by the Church of Good Shepherd (the zoom link is below).

The Collect

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven
of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive
and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

First Reading

³²The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. *Acts 4.32-35*

Gospel Reading

¹⁹When it was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see

the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. *John 20.19-31*

Sunday's Hymns:

197	Alleluia, give thanks
193	All heaven declares
screen	Jesus stand among us
545	Morning has broken
818	To God be the glory



Thought for the week

Saint Thomas would have got on well with Victor Meldrew. Both uttered 'I don't believe it' with gusto – perhaps more than once. But whereas the fictional Victor felt that the world was always against him and he could not believe what had just happened to *him*, the disciple Thomas surely simply felt left out when on the day of resurrection Jesus appeared to his closest friend, and perhaps he sullenly muttered those words whilst quietly kicking himself for being missing at the most exciting thing to happen since he had started to follow Jesus.

As it turns out his absence was crucial in leading to a beautiful encounter and a powerful message. Frustratingly Thomas had to wait for a whole week before he saw Jesus for himself to, and when Jesus appeared this time he spoke deliberately straight to Thomas, clearly knowing just what sulky words had been muttered a week earlier and inviting Thomas to go further than the others – not just to see but to reach out and touch his crucifixion wounded hands and side.

Touch – a sense that we can easily lose sight of, but which is so important in our faith.

This resurrection story is presented in the most sublime way in Caravaggio's *The incredulity of St Thomas* in which a stunned Thomas almost wiggles his finger in the gaping scar in Jesus' side. He really truly touches the risen Jesus.

Why did Jesus invite, almost compel, Thomas to touch him? I think to prove two things:

- that Jesus was real

- and that his resurrection was real.

There are the two sides to touch: touching and being touched:

- Like Thomas we are invited to reach out to touch Jesus and
- Jesus reaches out to us and longs to touch us.

In a way that is what is happening each time we receive holy communion – Jesus body is placed gently in our hands and were are touched by his love and reminded of what he did for us on the cross.

Every person is included in the embrace of God and we can wriggle in embarrassment in his arms and try to free ourselves, or we can reach out and touch him and enjoy his holding us.

I have spoken before of an experience I had in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem some years ago. In the chapel next to the Calvary chapel is a wall mosaic of Jesus being nailed to the cross. One arm is outstretched towards us and I noticed people queuing up to place their hand in that of Jesus. I did the same and when it came to my turn to place my hand into the wounded hand of Christ I was blown away by the power of his love for me in doing all that and allowing me to touch him.

For most of us a holding cross may be the nearest we will get to that experience. Jesus himself recognised that we won't have the benefits that Thomas did – have to believe without seeing. But he still reaches out to us and invites us to feel his touch on our lives and to respond with love, reaching back to him and out to others.

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- That all may know themselves loved by God
- That we may accept the touch of God upon our lives.
- 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, and for all who are keeping Ramadan.
- For the King and the Princess of Wales as they are treated for cancer
- 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 our ministry with children and families.
- For a new church music leader.
- For our growth in faith and for the Alpha team and guests.
- For all those whose anniversary of baptism falls in April: Lucy Traut, Abigail Porro, Jazmin Porro, Iris Bithell, Albert Bithell
- For all those who live and work in the Crescent.
- The sick and their carers : Monica Olley, Ann Hockham, Valerie Bosley, Pat Botting, Phyllis Sigsworth, Iris Brown, Lorraine, Ken Young, Olu Rowe, Bridget Morris, Albert Murray.
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them: Janet Whitlock, Frederick Dawson.
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in April: John Rogers, Vivienne Sewell, Roy Howton, Helen Poynter, Alma Rookie, Roger Bevitt, Diana Philips, Elsie Cummings, Pamela Neville, Bertha Selby, Dorothy Main, Philip Davies, Alan Coombs, Keith Morris, Ernie Thomas, Brenda Clark, Brian Pitts, Patricia Lovering, Brian Beard, Rita Redhead, Maureen Williams, Reginald Jacobs, Francis (Frank) Hepburn, Alice Smith, George Hayward, John McLean, Barbara Lewis, Eileen Daniel

Readings for Morning Prayer for the week beginning Sunday 7th April 2024:

Sunday	Psalm 22.20-31	Isaiah 52.1-12	Luke 24.13-35
Monday	Psalm 38	Isaiah 52.7-12	Hebrews 2.5-end
Tuesday	Psalm 44	Deuteronomy 2.1-25	Acts 2.1-21
Wednesday	Psalm 50	Deuteronomy 3.18-end	Acts 3.1-4.4
Thursday	Psalm 28	Exodus 17	Colossians 2.16-3.11
Friday	Psalm 61	Exodus 18.1-12	Colossians 3.12-4.1
Saturday	Psalm 84	Exodus 18.13-end	Colossians 4.2-end

Rotas for next week Sunday 14th April: Parish Communion

Read: Joan Harnby

Intercede: Ruth Sheppard

Welcomers: Jacqueline, Simon, Ben and Beryl

Chalice: Bev Botting

Coffee: Sally S and Jenny

Our church is floodlit at night.

This week the flood lighting has been sponsored by:

Kath Davies

In memory of Phil. Love you always



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 7th	10.00am, All Age Holy Communion and Baptism of Alexandra Perkins 6.00pm, Stations of the Resurrection, on zoom only, Church of Good Shepherd
Tuesday 9th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom
Wednesday 10th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 10.00am, Holy Communion 7.00pm, Alpha course, in Church
Thursday 11th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 2.00pm, Thursday Teas
Friday 12th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 5.00pm, Evening prayer on zoom
Saturday 13th	9.00am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
Sunday 14th	8.00am, Holy Communion 10.00am, Parish Communion

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

7 th April	Stations of the Resurrection, on zoom Led by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2050342877?pwd=-9xhNbvMjdUTp-6oyViaHMquASm Meeting ID: 205 034 2877 Passcode: 86420
21 st April	Eucharist of Wholeness and Healing, in church, at All Saints

APCM (Church Annual Business Meeting)

Our annual meeting this year is on Sunday 21st April at around 11.30 and following the main Sunday service. Do please note this in your diaries and aim to be there. Please do consider standing for the PCC and speak to a member of the ministry team for a nomination form.

Church Electoral Roll: If you are not on the Electoral Roll, please ensure that you register asap – there are now forms at the back of church for this purpose, a welcomer can find one for you if you fail!. Please return the form directly to the parish office, the PCC secretary or one of the ministers. Anyone wishing to stand for PCC or to vote at the APCM must be on the Electoral Roll.

There is a copy of the current Roll on the table at the back of church if anyone wishes to check it. The Roll will close on 6th April, and then be published (names only) in church before the APCM.

Coming up..

Confirmation

There will be a Deanery confirmation on the evening of Wednesday 17th July. If you are interested in being confirmed (or would like to know more about confirmation – making our baptismal promises for ourselves) please speak to Revd. Sally.

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

Defibrillator training, now Saturday 20th April (NB changed date). Following the installation of the defibrillator outside the church, it would be good to have as many people, as possible trained to use it (or any other that you may pass when needed). Please book two hours in the morning of 20th April in your diary to come along if you can.

Schubert and all that Jazz Concert. Please see details below about the forthcoming concert taking place at St Luke's Church on the 27th April. Tickets are now available to buy after services or from the office.

CCJ Talk: You are invited to meet TV presenter, Sean Fletcher, at a Berkshire Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) event in Maidenhead on Wednesday 1st May at 8.00 pm.

Well-known for his deep Christian faith, he has been or continues to be presenter of *Rebound*, *Countryfile*, *Sunday Morning Live*, *Songs of Praise* as well as ambassador for both *Beating Bowel Cancer* and *Young Minds UK*. He will be talking about his life, religious journey, passionate causes and media roles.

Numbers will have to be limited, so please book in advance by emailing admin@maidshul.org with your name and postal address if you wish to attend. There is no charge, but there will be an optional donation for the work of CCJ.

It will be held at Grenfell Lodge, Ray Park Road, Maidenhead, SL6 8QX (please do not park on the road, there is ample parking inside the Synagogue car park)



WAMCF Dialogue:

Join in the Dialogue at the Thames Hospice, Windsor road Maidenhead, SL6 2DN.

'How can we best support someone through dying, loss and grieving?'

Thursday 18th April 2024

7pm - 830pm followed by refreshments

PLENTY OF FREE CAR PARKING SPACE

FREE ADMISSION & REFRESHMENTS

The Berkshire Historic Churches Trust: The Englefield Lecture 2024:

Going to church in medieval Berkshire: Professor Nicholas Orme, FSA FRHistS

Emeritus Professor of Medieval History, University of Exeter

in St Mark's church, Englefield, Reading RG7 5EL at 2:30pm on Saturday 13 April, 2024

Tickets £15 including tea after the lecture Book online at

www.TicketSource.co.uk/Berkshire-Churches-Trust or phone Marion Elly (01628 482637)

What was it like to go to church in medieval England? What did churches look like? Were there seats? What were the services like, and how did congregations respond? And what about the clergy? In his recent and highly-acclaimed book, *Going to Church in Medieval England*, (it was a *Daily Telegraph* Book of the Year in 2021), Professor Orme explored all these questions and more, with a wealth of vignettes that brought the story vividly to life – examples of often colourful but sometimes dingy churches, mostly (though not always) educated and conscientious clergy, and congregations of variable attentiveness. Some folk, it seemed, 'come only for the manner [*i.e.* the fashion] and for no devotion, nor for no profit of their soul, and such fall soon asleep', though for many, attendance was more than a duty; there was evidently a strong and widespread belief in keeping the Sabbath holy, and people attended out of a genuine piety

An invitation from Reading & East Berkshire Dignity in Dying

Join us to hear Dr Jonathan Romain, Chair of Dignity in Dying, speak on:

Assisted Dying is Coming Closer:

Why assisted dying is more likely to be legalised in the UK than ever before

Why not bring a friend with you, whether for, against or undecided?

Sunday, 7th April, 11.00am – 12.30pm, at Grenfell Lodge, Ray Park Road, Maidenhead, SL6 8QX

All cordially welcome, but please register ahead at: reading.group@dignityindying.org.uk

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 May 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 18th April

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

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 April

A St Luke's Church Concert in aid of Thames Hospice

Schubert and all that Jazz



Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm

St Luke's Church

Norfolk Road, Maidenhead SL6 7AX

This will be a wonderful concert to delight all musical tastes and is guaranteed to put a smile on your face

Featuring

Peter De Souza	Piano	Geneviève Usher	Soprano
Chris Crocker	Piano	Andrew Smith	Clarinet

Tickets £10 with all proceeds to be given to

Thames hospice

**For more information or to purchase tickets please
call 01628 62273 or
admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk**

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/85378796960?pwd=dUNTTnRZVFJBY2xiS3QyVHlYZ1BaZ09> Meeting ID: 853 7879

6960 Passcode: 386635