



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 January, the Feast of the Epiphany

This week is an All Age Holy Communion and all are warmly invited to worship. At 6pm it is the Epiphany Carol Service, in church. Do come and join in the beautiful service to mark the end of the Christmas season. It includes an opportunity to renew our baptism promises. As usual zoom is available should you not be able to attend in person.

The Collect

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 Prayer

Lord God
the bright splendour who the nations seek
may we who with the wise men have
been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence
in your Son, the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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

Gospel Reading

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ²'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.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶'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.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.' ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Matthew 2.1-12

Sunday's Hymns:

82	See him lying on a bed of straw	60	Away in a manger
105	We three kings	68	In the bleak midwinter
62	Come and join the celebration		

Thought for the week:

It seems appropriate that at the start of a new year for the world, the church re-tells the story of a star, whose light guided some wise men to meet the infant Jesus, Emmanuel.

The child (as he was by the time those eastern visitors arrived) had already been visited by shepherds and brought, presumably, joy to his parents.

Thinking back, each of the people in the Christmas story must have been changed in some way by what happened. We could say that they saw the light.

Meeting the new king was beyond the wildest dreams of the magi. Mary and Joseph would never have imagined bringing the Son of God into the world – the promised Messiah.

We too can be changed by God's light (love) in our lives. God's light can help us to see things differently – in our world and in our lives.

This story teaches us that with God we really can reach for the stars – God wants us to achieve beyond our wildest dreams and God will do amazing things for us and with us – if we allow God space in our lives - both as individuals and as a church.

Is there anything that you need to allow God's light to shine on and transform as we start the new year?

What stars do you long to reach with God's help this year? Personally, spiritually, in the church, the community, the world?

A prayer for the start of the year: Lord God, as you led the magi by the star and showed the world your light, please help us to allow your light to shine in our hearts and to set them on fire with love for you. Amen

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- For a healthy and peaceful New Year.
- 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 peace in Ukraine and Russia, and of Sudan, and also in Armenia and Ethiopia.
- For our schools as they return to work, and for Mrs Sam Stevenson as she takes up the role of Headteacher at St. Luke's.



- For a new church music leader.
- For our growth in faith and for the developing Alpha team. For God to be moving guests to join the course.
- For all those whose anniversary of baptism falls in January: Otilie Beresford Jones, Grace Mondal, Ryan Westbury, Ritchie Westbury, Jonas Lanyon, Sebastian Lanyon, Arthur Smith
- For all those who live and work in College Avenue,
- The sick and their carers : Monica Olley, Ann Hockham, Valerie Bosley, Pat Botting, Phyllis Sigsworth, Jean Jackson, Iris Brown, Lorraine, Emily Holmes, Ken Young.
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them: Josephine Colton
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in January: Clifford Collier, David Bateman, Peter Joyce, Roger Martin, Alice Wellman, Ann Hancock, Charles Woodman, Julie Brazenor, Florence Hampton, Derek Jones, Eileen Gulrayani, Edward Hylton Jones, Dawn Crampin, Nora Searle, Michael Marriner, Christine Bowyer, Phyllis Boshier, Trevor Tilbury, Tony Boaks, Dorothy Nicks, Florence Woodruff.

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

Sunday	Psalm 89.20-29	Isaiah 44.6-end	John 1.19-34
Monday	Psalm 2	Genesis 1.1-19	Matthew 21.1-17
Tuesday	Psalm 9	Genesis 1.20-2.3	Matthew 21.18-32
Wednesday	Psalm 20	Genesis 2.4-end	Matthew 21.33-end
Thursday	P 78.1-39	Genesis 3	Matthew 22.1-14
Friday	Psalm 67	Genesis 4.1-16, 25-26	Matthew 22.15-33
Saturday	Psalm 33	Genesis 6.1-10	Matthew 22.34-end

Rotas for next week

Sunday 14th January: Parish Communion

Read: Sally Somerville

Intercede: Simon Bader

Welcomers: Jacqueline, Simon and Ben

Coffee: Kim and Jeanette

Our church is floodlit at night.

This week the flood lighting has been sponsored by:

Neil and Sue Maclean

To mark 40 years of singing in St Luke's choir



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 6.00pm, Epiphany Carol service
Tuesday 9th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 7.45pm, PCC meeting
Wednesday 10th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 10.00am, Holy Communion

Thursday 11th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 9.30am, Baby and Toddler Group 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 January	Epiphany Carol Service, in church at St. Luke's
21 st January	Night Prayer with reflection, on zoom Led by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
4 th February	Taizé service for Candlemas, in church at St Luke's
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 will re-start in the new year, dates are as follows: 2nd February, 1st March, 30th March, 3rd May, 7th June, 5th July, 6th September, 4th October, 1st November, 29th November

Alpha course: we have committed to running an Alpha course next year and are now recruiting the team to run it. If you feel called to help in leading small group discussion, catering or prayer ministry please speak to Revd Sally asap. And, of course, we will all be able to pray for the Alpha course – team and guests. Our first training session will be on Wednesday 17th January at 7pm.

The course will start on Wednesday 31st January. Please speak to Revd. Sally if you think you would like to join the course.

Refugees and Rough Sleepers / homeless in town:

A group is working on what can be done to support these people over the winter months. Thanks to Jeanette for attending on behalf of Street Angels and keeping us updated too. Nigel Cohen offers this summary:

We are establishing three streams. One is a temporary homeless shelter for rough sleepers, ideally every night for the three months from Jan to March if we can get enough support. The second is temporary hosting for refugees through the Gift-a-Room scheme. The third is a Drop-in Centre to provide basic support for people living on the streets, such as food and shower facilities. We are planning for the Drop-in Centre to be a much more significant centre for community support, one of its roles being to provide basic support for rough sleepers. For ease, I have started to refer to the three streams as the Homeless Project (in Maidenhead, where it needs to be explained).

It seems (hot off the press) that the Council may be able to offer some support, but in the meantime, volunteers are being sought for:

- Offers of a room for a refugee for up to two months
- Volunteers to help with the homeless shelter for rough sleepers for a variety of tasks, such as cooking, cleaning up, welcoming people and/or occasional overnight stays either once a week or once a month.
- Volunteers at the Drop-in Centre for tasks such as making teas/coffees and making guests feel welcome either once a week or once a month.

Further information can be found at:

- The Brett Foundation website: there is a full page devoted to each of the streams, as well as an introductory page with links to each of the streams:
<https://www.brettfoundation.charity/homeless-project>
- Flyers (attached): one for each of the schemes. The flyers are also available to download from the respective pages on the Brett Foundation website.

For anyone who wants it, this is a link directly to the Gift-a-Room scheme:

<https://www.brettfoundation.charity/homeless-project/gift-a-room-scheme>

Or have a word with Jeanette or Revd. Sally.

**Windsor and Maidenhead
Community Forum
Women's Group**

**Ladies of all beliefs and none
are warmly invited to our next meeting
from 7.30 - 9.00 pm
on
Monday 29th January 2024
at
The Alexander Devine Children's Hospice
Snowball Hill, Maidenhead SL6 3LU**

**Spiritual care for children and
families at the hospice**

*Further details from:
sally514@btinternet.com
www.wamcf.org*

WAMCF

Below the text, there is a row of religious symbols: a person, a sun, a Star of David, a gear, a Khanda, a cross, a crescent moon, and a wheel. To the right of these symbols is an illustration of three women in traditional attire walking together.

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 February 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 January

Thursday Teas meets in the community hall offering tea, cake and conversation. Second Thursdays monthly. Next is 11th 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. 4th Thursdays monthly. Next is 25th 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/85378796960?pwd=dUNTtnRZVFJBY2xiS3QyVHlYZ1BaZz09> Meeting ID:

853 7879 6960 Passcode: 386635