



St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

Church Office: 01628 622733

admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

**Weeks Commencing: 21st December
and 28th December-
Advent 4 and Christmas 1**

A very Happy Christmas to everyone, and prayers for a peaceful and healthy new year.

This Sunday (21st December) we have a 10.00am Parish Communion all are warmly invited to worship with us. At 6pm it is the Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight. We hope to see many of you there for this beautiful service.

Just a reminder of our forthcoming Christmas services. On Tuesday 24th December there is a Crib Service at 4.00pm At 10.00pm the Archdeacon will be presiding for our 'Midnight Mass' service. On Christmas Day there will be a 10.00am Holy Communion

On Sunday 28th December there will be a 10.00am Word Service and details for this service are included in this weekly sheet.

Prayers and Readings for Sunday 21st December

The Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our
saviour, so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy
will and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

First Reading

10The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. 12But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. 13Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 14Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 15He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Isaiah 7. 10-16

Gospel Reading

¹⁸The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Matthew 1. 18-25

Hymns for Sunday 21st December

P: 45	O come, o come Emmanuel
G: 30	Come thou long expected Jesus
O: 315	Sing we of the blessed mother
HC: 313	For Mary, Mother of our Lord
R: 75	Long ago, prophets knew

Prayers and Readings for Sunday 28th December

The Collect

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our
humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the
life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in
heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading

7I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. 8For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour 9in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Isaiah 63. 7-9

Gospel Reading

13After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' 14Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 15and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' 16When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. 17Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

18'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

19When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 20'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' 21Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.

23There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

Matthew 2. 13-23

Hymns for Sunday 28th December

P: 80 (omit v3-5)	Of the Fathers heart begotten
G: 144	How deep the Fathers love for us
O: 68	In the bleak midwinter
HC: 88	What child is this?
R: 64 (omit v3)	God rest ye merry, gentlemen

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- That all who pass through the church this Christmastide might meet with God.
- For our PCC and church officers, and for those covering the vacancy.
- For the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, nominated as the next Archbishop of Canterbury
- For the strengthening of our efforts to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.
- For a just and sustainable peace in Ukraine and Russia, Palestine and Israel, and Sudan
- For our local schools and teachers and all children and young people in education.
- Giving thanks for our Christmas Tree Festival and all those who visited and helped
- For all those who live and work in Sheephouse Road and Simpson Close
- For those baptised recently

- For all those whose anniversary of baptism falls in December: Arlo, Charlie, Keeon, Cole.
- The sick and their carers : Valerie Bosley, Bridget Morris, Angela Baldwin, Baby Keeon, Aram Hakobian, Joan Lynch, Alicia Little, Ralph Hinchliffe, Harry, Andrew Sheppard, Jenny, Adam, John Cotterill, Barbara Romaker, Howard Baxter
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in December: John Sheppard, David Sawyers, Patricia Walker, Roy Goff, Jean Judd, David Jesson, Dorothy Chalk, Steven Robinson, Carol Kharas, Joey Colton, Joyce Parry.

Rotas for the next two weeks

Sunday 28th December: Christmas 1

Reader: Ruth S Intercede: tbc Chalice: n/a Sound: Simon
 Welcomers: Clare, Isobel, Fiona

Sunday 4th January : Epiphany

Reader: Jean Intercede: Dorothy Chalice: Kim Sound: Simon
 Welcomers: Clare, Ben, Fiona Coffee: Sally and Lucy

Our church is floodlit at night.

The church floodlighting this week has been sponsored by Jacqueline Lewis
"In memory of my dear mum, Barbara Lewis"

To sponsor the floodlighting please fill in the form at the back of church or email:
admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

It is suggested the minimum donation for weekly sponsorship is £15.



What's on.... This week:

Please note the Parish office will be closed from Friday 19th December to Tuesday 6th January. Emails and phone messages will be checked intermittently throughout that time. For anything urgent please contact the church wardens

Sunday 21 st	10.00 am, Parish Communion 6.00 pm, Carol Service
Tuesday 23 rd	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom
Wednesday 24 th <i>Christmas Eve</i>	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom 4.00 pm Crib Service 10.00pm Midnight Mass
Thursday 25 th <i>Christmas Day</i>	10.00 am, Parish Communion for Christmas Day
Friday 26 th	No services including morning prayer
Sunday 28 th	10.00 am, Word Service

Monday 29 th – Tuesday 30 th	No services
Wednesday 31 st	10.00 am Holy Communion
Thursday 1 st - Saturday 3 rd Jan	No services
Sunday 4 th	10.00 am, Parish Communion

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

21 st Dec. 6.00 pm	Carol Services at each church
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Morning Prayer on zoom

Our zoom Morning Prayer will have a break over the Christmas and New year. The last one of 2025 will be Wednesday 24th December and we will restart on Tuesday 6th January.

The service can be followed on-line each day on the Church of England website for anyone interested:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Christmas Tree Festival – Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered, sponsored, decorated the church and helped out in so many ways at the Christmas Tree Festival. Final totals will be announced soon.

The tree voted 'best dressed' in church was the tree decorated by **the Café by the Lake – Thames Hospice**. Many congratulations to their volunteers!

Missing Christmas tree festival decorations. A set of small 12 days of Xmas paintings in tiny frames has gone missing. These may have inadvertently been picked up with the trees. If anyone comes across them please return them to the church. Many thanks.

Parish survey

'The PCC's Steering Group has been working away to prepare all the documentation that we need to compile for advertising for a new vicar. We met with the Diocesan adviser, have considered examples from other parishes and have undertaken a community consultation at the Christmas Tree Festival. Now it is your turn to get involved and tell us your thoughts on where St Luke's is heading next! The Group has put together an online survey that you can find here:

<https://oxforddiocese.typeform.com/to/t1H6flnA>

It's anonymous and you don't need to answer all the questions! Paper copies will be available - just ask us. Jacqueline and Clare, Church wardens.'

EMBRACE reflections and vigils for Advent

Embrace is the Christian development charity tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East. This Advent, Embrace invites us to journey with them in a series of reflections delivered weekly by email. They will also offer on-line vigils at 7pm on Monday evenings.

The reflections look at passages from Isaiah and are shaped by the theme Building the Kingdom of the Prince of Peace. The on-line vigils will be a time of prayer, music, and reflection, introduced by the Dean of the Community of the Cross of Nails. They will feature video reflections from Embrace partners, exploring how we can live out the themes of peace-building in our communities and world. Sign up for the reflections and/or vigils at <https://embraceme.org/advent-reflections>

Christmas Lights

Richard and Ann Burdett are holding their "open house" on:

- Saturday 20th December from 1:30pm to 9:30pm
- Sunday 21st December from 1:30pm to 5:00pm and 8:15pm to 10:00pm

at 30 Mallow Park, SL6 6SQ (off Cranbrook Drive). Please feel free to drop in for coffee/tea and a mince pie/cake, and to see and hear Richard's Christmas Illuminations. Children's lucky dip and games, raffle, and the famous unlucky dip! Donations in aid of Thames Hospice and Alzheimer's Dementia Support will be gratefully received.

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.

admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk to book a place. Starts again in the new year

Keeping Company is our monthly meeting for those bereaved (at any time). Third Thursday at 3pm, in church.

Thursday Teas meets in the community hall offering tea, cake and conversation. Second Thursdays monthly, 1.30 pm.

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.

Please note that for 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 (no Saturday during the vacancy)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81459090925?pwd=Y2hKZkFYZ04zbGZBd1BHcmllldU5Hdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 5909 0925

Passcode: 180609