



# St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

[www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk](http://www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk)

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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## Week Commencing: 2<sup>nd</sup> February, Feast of Candlemas

This Sunday we have a service of All Age Holy Communion and Christingle at 10am. At 6pm we have a Taize service for Candlemas. Everyone is very warmly invited to worship with us.

### The Collect

Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son  
was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by 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, you fulfilled the hope  
of Simeon and Anna,  
who lived to welcome the Messiah:  
may we, who have received  
these gifts beyond words,  
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes  
to bring us to eternal life;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

### Gospel Reading

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

<sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many

in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

<sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

*Luke 2. 22-40*

### **Sunday's Hymns:** (all on screen)

P: Shine, Jesus, shine  
G: The Servant King  
O: Christingle song  
HC: The light of Christ  
Like a candle flame  
R: This little light of mine



### **Thought for the week:**

This Sunday, in the story of the presentation of Jesus in the temple we meet Simeon and Anna – two revered and elderly Jews who had been waiting for the Messiah. Mary and Joseph brought the 40 day old baby Jesus into the Temple to carry out the ritual purification offering required by the Old Testament law. And the waiting Jews both saw that their hopes were now realised – this tiny helpless baby was the Messiah. Simeon uttered the beautiful words that we know today as the Nunc Dimittis - he could now die because he had seen the saviour – and he prophesied that Jesus would be a light for all nations. But his death is clearly hinted at too as Simeon warns Mary of the sword that will pierce her heart.

Over the years this service has become called the feast of Candlemas after the candles used to symbolise the light of Jesus to the nations. That light is crucial for us on our journey through the labyrinth of life. We certainly need a guide to our journey and the light of Christ seems to be the very best. Our hymns on Sunday morning will remind us of that. And the focus of our worship will move from the Christmas Tree and Crib to the font and we will think of the waters of baptism, symbolising death to the old life – and being raised up to a new one. And we will have lighted candles (on our christingles) as a reminder of the light of Christ which guides us through life.

As we brace ourselves spiritually for the next stage of the journey through the church year, and our own lives – for we never know what is round the corner - let's resolve to keep the light of Christ firmly as our guide – through worship, prayer and reading of his word – and to live the journey in the light of the experiences we have had of the Christian faith and of life itself – but always looking forward to what new things we will learn and experience, building on, but not living in, the past. And we can bring all of that to enrich our liturgy each week as we worship Jesus – the light to all nations, so that one day we can each truly say with old Simeon:

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation  
Amen*

**Prayer suggestions for this week:**

- For those remembering the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz
- For the new president and the people of the USA.
- For our Church leaders and those selecting a new Archbishop of Canterbury
- The Revd. Canon Mary Gregory, as she prepares to become Bishop of Reading (and the Revd Canon Dave Bull who will be the Bishop of Buckingham).
- That the ceasefire between Israel and Palestine might hold and further hostages be released.
- For survivors of abuse and those who support them.
- For our sisters and brothers in the Jewish and Muslim communities of our own town.
- For peace in Ukraine and Russia, and of Sudan, and also in Armenia and Ethiopia.
- For all those who live and work in Kidwells Close
- For Isabel Nixon, Keeon Obianwu and Cole Brooks who were all baptised in December
- For Madison Dixon to be baptised here today
- For all those whose anniversary of baptism falls in February: Harry Ford, Oscar Ford, Zara Mean, Lucy Walwyn Salisbury, Harriet Walwyn Salisbury, Daniel Hulse
- The sick and their carers : Monica Olley, Valerie Bosley, Bridget Morris, Emily Buckwell, Jacqueline Lewis, Angela Baldwin, Baby Keeon, Aram Hakobian, Joan Lynch, Alicia Little.
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them: Bill Bowyer, Laurie Holloway, Pauline Norris, John Francis.
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in February: Daphne Lewis, Edward Dobson, Robert Crick, Peter Sharp, Valerie Merkel, Doreen Leverkus, Monica Macaulay Brown, Jean Glossop, Doreen Palmer, Melanie Stuij, Rodgers Murwisi, Peter Curtis, Joan Bartholomew, Harvey Lovegrove, Stanley Swansborough, Christine Dawson, Walter Horwood, Judy Galvin, Oliver Mercer, Barbara Stevens, Douglas Thomson, Julienne Grobler, Leslie Timmins, Beryl Sankey

**Readings for Morning Prayer for the week beginning Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025:**

Sunday	Psalm 48	Exodus 13. 1-16	Romans 12. 1-5
Monday	Psalm 1	Malachi 1.1, 6-end	John 13. 1-11
Tuesday	Psalm 5	Malachi 2. 1-16	John 13. 12-20
Wednesday	Psalm 119. 1-32	Malachi 2.17 – 3.12	John 13. 21-30
Thursday	Psalm 15	Malachi 3.13 – end of 4	John 13. 31-end
Friday	Psalm 19	Nahum 1	John 14. 1-14
Saturday	Psalm 23	Obadiah	John 14. 15-end

**Rotas for next week**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February: Parish Communion**

Read: Ian Gilchrist    Intercede: Jacqueline Lewis    Chalice: Jamie Harle    Sound: Simon  
Welcomers: Jacqueline, Simon and Jeanette    Coffee: Kim and Marc

## Our church is floodlit at night.

The flood lighting has not been sponsored this week:



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

It is suggested the minimum donation for weekly sponsorship is £15. There are lots of weeks available.

## What's on.... This week:

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00 am, All Age Holy Communion – Christingle 6.00pm Sundays at Six: Taize Service for Candlemas, here
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom 7.45 pm, PCC
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom 10.00 am, Holy Communion 7.30 pm, Christian Enquirers course
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom 9.30 am, Baby and Toddler Group
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom 4.00 pm, Messy Church
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am, Morning prayer on zoom
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 am, Holy Communion 10.00 am, Parish Communion

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

2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Taizé service for Candlemas, at St Luke's
16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Evensong and Benediction, at All Saints
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Eucharist for St. David, at All Saints
16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Iona service with reflection, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
6 <sup>th</sup> April	Stations of the Cross, at All Saints
13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Taize service, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Eucharist of Wholeness and Healing, at All Saints
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Choral Sung Evensong, at St. Luke's
1 <sup>st</sup> June	Desert Island Hymns and Readings, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
15 <sup>th</sup> Jun	International Taizé service, at St. Luke's
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Evensong and Benediction, at All Saints
20 <sup>th</sup> Jly	Prayer walk on Ray Mill Island

## Eco Church Silver Award

We are delighted to announce that St. Luke's has been awarded the silver Eco Church award. Very well done and huge thanks to Phyl and the Eco Team for all of their work on this – and to each of you for helping to live out a better way of caring for the environment as a church. Find out more about the award at:

<https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/how-eco-church-works/>

**Messy Church.** Messy Church dates for 2025 are as follows: 7<sup>th</sup> February, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 28<sup>th</sup> November

**Church Breakfast:** the first breakfast of 2025 will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February from 8.45 (doors open) to about 10.30 am. We are delighted that Mrs Sam Stevenson, Headteacher of our Primary School will speak (and answer questions) about: St. Luke's School today. Tickets at £5 pp are now available after services or from the Office. Includes a hearty breakfast! All welcome.

### **Electoral Roll 2025: 6 year complete update: last few days to sign up**

Every six years we have to draw up an entirely new Roll and this is one of those years. **Everyone who wishes to be on the Roll must fill in a fresh application form and return it by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February** at the latest. You need to be on the Electoral Roll if you wish to vote at the Annual Parish Meeting (Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March this year) or to be considered for the PCC or Deanery Synod.

Ruth Humphreys is our Electoral Roll Officer (i.e. it is maintained by the parish Office).

Anyone can apply to be on the Roll – provided they live in the parish or have been attending this church regularly for at least 6 months.

Forms are available from church or can be emailed on request from the parish office.

The new Electoral Roll which will be on display from 14<sup>th</sup> February onwards when you can check that your entry is correct. Please contact Ruth (Parish office) with any queries.

### **Revd. Phyl and Dave Sopp**

Phyl and Dave's last Sunday with us will be 16<sup>th</sup> February.

We would like to celebrate their ministry among us and thank them for their contribution to our church family. Individuals will wish to offer their own appreciation, but we will also have a whole church collection in order to give a cash/ token gift which will enable them to buy something that they need / like to remember us by. If you would like to contribute, please give cash/ cheque in an envelope marked Phyl and Dave gift to Jacqueline, Clare or Bev, or indicate the same on the card reader (use the 'message' action on the new reader).

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February we will have a parish lunch at which we can share memories and thanks with Phyl and Dave. This will be a formal two course meal, from 1pm (with a vegetarian option available). Please sign up in church or via the office if you would like to attend so that we can cater and lay sufficient places. Guests will also be invited.

There is no charge for the meal, but if you would like to make a financial contribution to the cost please do so in the same way as the gift, labelling it 'lunch contribution'.

### **Not the Alpha course! - Christian Enquirers**

Rather than run an Alpha course this year we have decided to run a shorter course for those wanting to know more about the Christian faith. It will run from 7.30 – 9.00 pm on Wednesday evenings, in the vicarage, starting 5<sup>th</sup> February, last session 19<sup>th</sup> March (week off for Ash Wednesday).

It will cover: God as Father, Jesus, Trinity / Holy Spirit, the Bible and prayer, and Church and sacraments. Coffee and biscuits and a chance to explore the basics of Christian belief.

Please sign up via an email to office or in church. Do tell others about this opportunity.

### **And also... Taking it Further...**

A day for those who attended Alpha or who would simply like to explore more about Christianity and living as a disciple of Jesus. Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March, 10 am – 3pm (with lunch) in church. Please sign up via the office or in church.

### **Marmalade for the 2025 Christmas Tree Festival.**

The merry band of producers have almost completed making lots of marmalade for this year's festival. Many thanks to those who donated Seville oranges and cash to defray the cost. The basket will be replaced later in the year for donations of fresh fruit, dried fruit, vinegar, sugar etc for jam/chutney.

We will also need Bonne Maman & Frank Cooper jars, and Christmassy patterned cloth. Any queries please contact Ann Darracott (07761 221937) or Dorothy Strack Hankey (07743 323635). Many thanks from the Produce Stallholders.

### **Spring and Summer Recital series**

We are planning a short series of recitals by young people at various times this year. Admission will either be free, with a retiring collection and refreshments to purchase, or by prior bought ticket if numbers are needed for catering. All proceeds will go to church funds.

Booked so far:

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March, pupils from Queen Anne's School, Caversham, 12.15 pm recital, lunch available to purchase from 1pm.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April, Andrew Gallacher on piano , following the last Lent Lunch (lunch donations to Christian Aid, recital to church)

More to come...

**New Bishop of Reading:** The Bishop-Designate Mary Gregory's Service of Welcome is planned for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 3pm in Reading Minster. Please save this date in your diaries.

More details to follow. This is also an open public service, all are welcome.

### **Lent 2025 – Come and See**

We will be using this diocesan course for our Lent course this year. You can join in a group on Wednesday mornings or receive daily emails yourself (or both). We will use the videos on Sundays. See more here:

#### **Come and See**

**Over the next few weeks we want to offer a warm, open welcome to everybody across the diocese to explore the Christian faith, or to look again at the foundations of your faith.**

**This year, Come and See looks at what it means to be human, exploring our baptism through the beautiful pictures of earth, water, wind and fire.**

**Bishop Steven invites you to join us for this year's Lent journey [in a special video.](#)**



What is Come and See?

Now in its fifth year, Come and See is a daily Lent course, joined by people in every corner of the diocese. Register below and we'll send you a short email to read/listen to each day, Monday to

Saturday, in Lent. Each Sunday you'll receive a short video from Bishop Steven exploring the themes in a bit more detail.

Who's it for?

Come and See is for everyone, whether you're exploring these themes for the first or 50th time. It's great to do alone or in a small group – or a bit of both!

How do I get involved?

Sign up for the Come and See emails using one of the buttons below. You'll then receive daily emails starting on Ash Wednesday, 5 March.

Come and See is completely free and all are welcome. Sign up: [Sign up for Come and See 2025](#)

### **Our Regular activities:**

**The 8.00 Holy Communion service** will continue to be monthly, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
[admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk](mailto:admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk) to book a place.

**Pram Service** is a monthly simple service of songs and story for ages 0-4 and their carers. Followed by coffee for adults, snack and crafts for little ones. Second Friday, 9.30am- 10.30am. Next one 14<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**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](mailto: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. 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays monthly. Next is 27<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Church Calendar for the Spring (apart from regular activities)**

### **February**

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 10 am	Christingle and All Age Holy Communion service
6pm	Taize service
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> , 8.45 am	Church breakfast
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> , 1pm	Church lunch to say farewell to Revd. Phyl and Dave Sopp
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> ,	Consecration of the Bishop of Reading (details to come)

### **March**

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> ,	11.15 am (ish) Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday: 10 am and 8 pm services of Holy Communion with Ashing
Sundays 9 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lent lunches
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am, Lent course starts (5 weeks)
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	12.15 pm Recital and lunch
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> , 10 am	Mothering Sunday service (Word)

## **April**

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> , 11 am	School service
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Last Lent lunch, Recital
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Church Care session (maintenance)
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday, start of Holy Week
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Day
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	St. Luke's School in all day
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	PCC planning morning

**Please note that for Zoom services the links below are being used:**

### **Sunday Morning Worship:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87358197400?pwd=MTFxVINad1R6NEI6cVZ6TVJ5bGlzdz09>

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