



St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Week Commencing: 3rd December, Advent Sunday

This week our 10 am service is an All Age Holy Communion to which everyone is warmly invited as we start Advent. Do bring along your calendars, wreaths, candles etc to be blessed.

If you have not yet signed up to host our travelling Knitted Nativity set as it makes its way round the parish during Advent do call or email Revd Sally or the office to do so.

Last week stewardship thanks and renewal letters were sent out. If you have not received one please contact the office. We are encouraging regular givers to do so using the Parish Giving Scheme which enables us to receive gift aid more quickly. There are forms about this with the letter or from church. The church code that is needed on the form is:

Please note that the midweek Holy Communion for this week and next has moved to Tuesday at the usual time of 10 am.

The Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace
to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us
in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again
in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a

filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people. *Isaiah 64.1-9*

Gospel Reading

Jesus said to his disciples: ²⁴In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’ *Mark 13.24-37*

Sunday’s Hymns:

S: How lovely on the mountains
502 Restore, O Lord

S: Light of the world
S: Arise, shine

49 Soon and very soon

Thought for the week:

It is not today as fashionable to stand in the market with a placard declaring ‘The end is nigh’, but there are still those who preach that. I don’t think that is what Jesus wants us to do. Jesus himself did not know when the end will come – he told the disciples that in this week’s gospel reading. Dates are irrelevant. What matters is living in the light of the end, and as people who serve a risen and glorified Christ. And so, what matters is being alert to the fact that as followers of Jesus we live in his way and his time - and as his hands and feet. Christ the king reigns from heaven, and until he returns, he calls us to act on his behalf in the world. Someone has written: ‘the signs are reminders in the midst of history of the coming Lord’.

And so, as we enter Advent, we need to be awake and alert - and particularly we need to be aware - in every sense: spiritually we need to be really aware of who we are as children of God; morally we need to be aware of the standards by which we live and examples we set to others; and physically we need to be aware of the signs of the times and of the needs of the world around us.

Advent is a good time to be reminded that we have responsibilities to God and to others and we should not live with half an eye open but be fully aware of what is happening around us. We need to live every day as if it were our last. Jesus’ little parable at the end of the gospel reading about being awake and alert – prepared for the return of the master – is I think a call to us all to live on the edge of our seats, as it were.

Have a happy, and possibly slightly uncomfortable Advent!



Prayer suggestions for this week:

- For our keeping of a holy Advent and joyful Christmas
- For all that is involved in our Christmas Tree Festival – smooth practicalities, lots of volunteer help, stamina, and that those who visit might meet with God.
- 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 Sam, as she develops our work with children and families.
- For peace in Ukraine and Russia, and of Sudan, and also in Armenia and Ethiopia.
- 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 next year.
- For all those whose anniversary of baptism falls in December: Herbie Prater, Lily Edmonds and Arlo Ridley.
- For all those who live and work in Clappers Meadow.
- The sick and their carers : Monica Olley, Ann Hockham, Valerie Bosley, Pat Botting, Phyllis Sigsworth, Jean Jackson, Ken and Lucy Young, Mark Lemon.
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them: Dorothy (June) Stanley, Val Scott
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in December: John Sheppard, Denis Rayfield, Beryl Jenkins, Evelyn Rose, Roy Horsham, John Norris, Margaret Swanborough, Joan Parker, Dorothy Scott, Penelope Hutchings, Peter Brown, John Dickson, Anne Seagrove, Max Neale, Eileen Pond, David Sawyers, Robert Gardener, Peggy Harris, Colin Bowerman, Robert Gill, Sheila Mayers, Joyce Bryant, Isabella Monk, David Jones, Bernard Bowdery, Patricia Walker, Roy Goff, Jean Judd, David Jesson, Dorothy Chalk, Steven Robinson and Carol Kharas.

Readings for Morning Prayer for the week beginning Sunday 3rd December 2023:

Sunday	Psalm 44	Isaiah 1.1-20	John 3.1-21
Monday	Psalm 50	Isaiah 25.1-9	Mathew 12.1-21
Tuesday	Psalm 80	Isaiah 26.1-13	Matthew 12.22-37
Wednesday	Psalm 7	Isaiah 28.1-13	Matthew 12.38-end
Thursday	Psalm 42	Isaiah 28.14-end	Matthew 13.1-23
Friday	Psalm 25	Isaiah 29.1-14	Matthew 13.24-43
Saturday	Psalm 9	Isaiah 29.15-end	Matthew 13.44-end

Rotas for next week:

Sunday the 10th December: Parish Communion

Read: Bridget Morris

Intercede: Jacqueline Lewis

Welcomers: Jacqueline, Simon and Ben

Coffee: Lisa and Kim

Our church is floodlit at night.

This week the flood lighting has been sponsored by:

Ruth Sheppard

In loving memory of John



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 3rd	10.00am, All Age Holy Communion for Advent Sunday
Monday 4 th	10.30am, Funeral of June Stanley 6.30pm, St Pirans Carol Service
Tuesday 5th	8.30am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 10.00am, Holy Communion
Wednesday 6th	8.30am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 10.00am, Christmas Tree Festival Set up day
Thursday 7th	8.30am, Morning Prayer, on Zoom 10.00am, Schools (only) day, Christmas Tree Festival 5.00pm, Evening prayer, in Church 7.45pm, Carol Service Rehearsal (choir)
Friday 8th	8.30am, Morning Prayer on zoom 10.00am-7.00pm, Christmas Tree Festival open to public
Saturday 9th	9.00am, Morning prayer on zoom 10.00-7.00pm, Christmas Tree Festival open to public
Sunday 10th	8.00am, Holy Communion 10.00am, Parish Communion, 12.00pm-6.00pm, Christmas Tree Festival, <i>closing service starts at 6.00pm</i>

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

3 rd December	Christ Child Market at All Saints 12.00 – 3pm
10 th December	Christmas Tree Festival Service, at St. Luke's
17 th December	Carol Services at each church at 6.00 pm

Coming up..

Messy Church our Messy church will re-start in the new year, dates are as follows: 5th January, 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.

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

Wednesdays in Advent: 9pm, Compline on zoom. Everyone is warmly invited to join in this very short service offering space at a busy time. Use the Morning Prayer link.

The order of service can be found here (or download the daily prayer app):
<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/daily-prayer/night-prayer-compline>

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: 8th – 10th December (set up day Weds 6th)

Catering for the Christmas Tree Festival

Just a reminder about cakes that we need for the festival. The three basics are Lemon drizzle, Victoria Sandwich and any chocolate cake. The Victoria sandwich must have just jam through the middle and caster sugar on the top. Please do not cut your cakes as we have to standardise the portions. Speak to Sally Somerville for more details: 01628 783618.

Help staff the CTF we need lots of volunteers from Wednesday through to Sunday to staff the door, refreshments, raffle and other needs. Please sign up in church to say when YOU can help. The more people help the less time all need to give!

TREE VOTING POTS – NO CASH PLEASE!

As many people no longer carry cash we are moving to a token system in the tree voting pots. Bags of tokens may be bought in advance from the parish office (Tue – Fri 9.30 – 11.30 am) or after church services using a card. Bags of 10 tokens cost £5 (ie tokens are worth 50p). They will also be available for purchase on the door – but buy in advance and save queuing! For this year cash will also be accepted in the voting pots (but not encouraged!).

Diocesan Bible study courses



The next group will be looking at Opening up the Bible. Our aim is to start people on the journey of making the most of biblical scholarship in an easy-to-relate-to and approachable way.

The pre-registration page (deadline 8 December) has all the information required. Please do consider being part of the group.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/study-group-opening-up-the-bible-tickets-758958905517>

Advent and Christmas at St. Luke's Church

Christmas Tree Festival 8th – 10th December

Friday 8th December

10.00 am - 7.00 pm, Church open to view decorated trees;
stalls and refreshments

Saturday 9th December

10.00 am - 7.00 pm, Church open to view decorated trees;
stalls and refreshments

Sunday 10th December

midday – 6.00 pm, Church open to view decorated trees;
stalls and refreshments

6.00 pm 'Christmas Tree' Service

Sunday 17th December

6.00 pm, **Nine Lessons and Carols, by candlelight**
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Thursday 21st December

3.00 pm, **Keeping Company**

Tea, cake and reflection for those bereaved at any time

Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th December

4.00 (younger families) and 5.00 (older families) pm, **Candlelit Crib Services**

10.00 pm **'Midnight Mass'**

Christmas Day, Monday 25th December

10.00 am, All Age Christmas Holy Communion

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 5th January 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 21st December

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

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 26th 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=Y2hKZkFYZ04zbGZBd1BHcmllU5Hdz09>

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