



St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Week Commencing: 5th January, the Feast of the Epiphany

A very happy new year to everyone. This Sunday we have an All Age Holy Communion service, and all are warmly invited to worship. At 6pm we have 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.

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 (all on screen):

P: Come and join the celebration
G: The First Noel
O: We three kings
HC video: Epiphany worship
R: See him lying on a bed of straw



Thought for the week:

The story of the visit of the magi is so familiar that we face the danger of complacency in reading it (or often, not reading it from the Biblical text but assuming that we know the story).

Here are some common mis-assumptions:

- THREE wise men – the text does not give a number but the three name gifts have led to the idea that there were three
- Wise MEN – to be fair the text uses the male pronoun but in a group of the size it must have been there may well have been women (and we all know the joke about what sensible gifts wise women might have brought!)
- The STABLE – the eastern visitors enter not a stable (which is not mentioned by name anyway in Luke's gospel) but the 'house' ...
- TWELFTH NIGHT - ... and not 12 days after Jesus' birth but about two years later when the family will have moved into a house of some sort, (Joseph's relatives?) Bethlehem having emptied after the census.

We could go on, but why not re-read the text above for yourself and discover the story as it is told by Matthew. There are a number of modern tellings of the story, as it captures the imagination – The Other Wise Man by Henry Van Dyke, for example, or the twentieth century spiritual writer Evelyn Underhill's short story for Epiphany called the Threefold Quest.

Perhaps at the start of a new year it might be helpful to spend some time with this story and reflect on how it speaks to me and how that might impact on my journey through the year.

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- For a healthy and peaceful New Year.
- For the Alpha team and participants.
- 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).
- For the people of the whole Middle East, for an end to the violence there.
- 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 Horton Close.
- For Isabel Nixon, Keon Obianwu and Cole Brooks who were all baptised in December

- 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.
- The sick and their carers : Monica Olley, Valerie Bosley, Bridget Morris, Emily Buckwell, Jacqueline Lewis, Angela Baldwin, Baby Keeon, Joan Harnby, Bill Bowyer, Katharine and Millie, Aram Hakobian, Faith Powley.
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them: Tony Barber, Joyce Parry.
- 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, Joey Colton.

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

Readings for Morning Prayer for the week beginning Sunday 5th January 2025:

Sunday	Psalm 87	Isaiah 12	1 Thess. 2.1-8
Monday	Psalm 132	Jeremiah 31.7-14	John 1.29-34
Tuesday	Psalm 99	Isaiah 63.7-end	1 John 3
Wednesday	Psalm 46	Isaiah 64	1 John 4.7-end
Thursday	P 78.1-39	Isaiah 65.1-16	1 John 5.1-12
Friday	Psalm 67	Isaiah 65.17-end	1 John 5.13-end
Saturday	Psalm 33	Isaiah 66.1-11	2 John

Rotas for next week

Sunday 12th January: Parish Communion

Read: Nicola Buckland Intercede: Jeanette Lock Chalice: Don Luff Sound: Simon
 Welcomers: Jacqueline, Simon, Ben Coffee: Lisa and Jenny

Our church is floodlit at night.

This week the flood lighting has been sponsored by:

Rhidian Jones and Sally Somerville



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 5th	10.00 am, All Age Holy Communion 6.00 pm, Epiphany Carol service
Tuesday 7th	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom 7.45 pm, PCC meeting
Wednesday 8th	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom 10.00 am, Holy Communion

Thursday 9th	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom 9.30 am, Baby and Toddler Group 1.30 pm, Thursday Teas 7.30 pm. CTF de-brief on zoom
Friday 10th	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom 9.30 am, Pram service 5.00pm, Evening prayer on zoom 8.00 pm Choir practice
Saturday 11th	9.00 am, Morning prayer on zoom
Sunday 12th	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

5 th January	Epiphany Carol Service, at St. Luke's
19 th January	Night Prayer with reflection, on zoom, led by the Church of the Good Shepherd
2 nd February	Taizé service for Candlemas, at St Luke's
16 th February	Evensong and Benediction, at All Saints
2 nd March	Eucharist for St. David, at All Saints
16 th March	Iona service with reflection, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
6 th April	Stations of the Cross, at All Saints
13 th April	Taize service, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
4 th May	Eucharist of Wholeness and Healing, at All Saints
18 th May	Choral Sung Evensong, at St. Luke's
1 st June	Desert Island Hymns and Readings, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
15 th June	International Taizé service, at St. Luke's
6 th July	Evensong and Benediction, at All Saints
20 th July	Prayer walk on Ray Mill Island

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

Alpha 2025

We will be running our second Alpha course next year. This course is an opportunity to explore big questions in life and faith. The course will start on Wednesday 22nd January. Please speak to Revd. Sally if you think you would like to join the course. All welcome. Sessions are Wednesday evenings 7-9pm and start with a two course meal. If you would like to join the helpers team please speak to Revd. Sally asap.

CTF de-brief meeting: on Zoom, 7pm, Thursday 9th January. All welcome:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81712707293?pwd=AEkRzcrDMWWWh2ej9xaTbj1zFbfTtd.1>

Meeting ID: 817 1270 7293

Passcode: 352571

WAMCF Ladies group: our next interfaith ladies meeting is from 7.30 – 9.00 pm on Tuesday 28th January here at St. Luke's. our speaker will be T/Superintendent Louise Warbrick about women in Policing today.

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 January 2025
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 10th Jan.

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. Next is 25th January 2025

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, 9 am Saturday

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81459090925?pwd=Y2hKZkFYZ04zbGZBd1BHcmllU5Hdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 5909 0925

Passcode: 180609