



# 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: 9<sup>th</sup> March, the First Sunday of Lent

This Sunday we have a service of Holy Communion at 8am and a service of Parish Communion at 10am. Everyone is very warmly invited to worship with us. There will be an activity for children at 10 am. At midday we have our first Lent Lunch (soup, bread and cheese) with donations to Christian Aid. All are welcome.

### The Collect

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted  
forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves  
in obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
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,  
you have renewed us  
with the living bread from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith,  
increase our hope,  
and strengthen our love:  
teach us always to hunger  
for him who is the true and living bread,  
and enable us to live by every word  
that proceeds from out of your mouth;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### First Reading

Moses spoke to the people, saying: <sup>1</sup>When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.' <sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, <sup>7</sup>we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup>Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

*Deuteronomy 26. 1-11*

## Gospel Reading

<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' "

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, 'It is written,

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

<sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you",

<sup>11</sup>and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

<sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time. *Luke 4. 1-13*

## Sunday's Hymns:

P: 121      Forty days and forty nights  
G: 330      Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you  
O: 464      Sweet sacrament divine  
R: 646      God is working his purpose out



## Thought for the week:

In Sunday's gospel Jesus is wrestling with both theology and practicality. He has to work out for himself how, in the middle of the reality of everyday life, he is going to bring God to his people. What sort of Messiah will he be? How will he display God's power and might? To what is God calling him?

In the desert, at the start of his ministry, Jesus was face to face with the material realities of life – or rather, the lack of them.

Each of the three temptations as Luke records them focuses on a different aspect of human need. Food is a basic need and after 40 days of fasting Jesus would have been starving. Acceptance by others, adulation even, matters to most of us. Jesus could have world wide acclaim if he played his cards right. Safety is crucial to our survival. A display of God's power to save in a set up performance-jump off a high profile place would be impressive and haul in the crowds. But, as Rowan Williams writes, 'all the temptations of Jesus seem to be about resorting to magic, instead of working with the fabric of the real world'. Jesus lived in a real, material world. So do we.

Jesus came through his desert experience with flying colours (well, he was God!) and he countered all the physical, material temptations with scripture and a deeper spiritual response. Humans don't simply live on bread / food, we need the Word of God to sustain us and nourish us, to guide us and help us. Great public demonstrations of personal prowess and power lead to egotism and dictatorship – we have seen the consequences of that throughout history- and we see it even now. Worship of God alone brings good and peace for all people

Through the very real material and physical temptations of the desert, Jesus realised the deeper

spiritual need which underpins all of life. His ministry was based not on power and might, but on humbly meeting people's deepest spiritual needs through prayer, forgiveness and friendship. Yes, there were miracles, but they were always done in love for the recipients and they are far fewer than the accounts we have of the everyday contacts with people in their ordinary lives – affirming their humanity and their worth but being a friend to them – as well as challenging others who abused their positions for their own power and comfort at the expense of others.

Out of his desert experience Jesus taught, modelled and affirmed the value of every person – the aliens in the land and the people into whose race he was born. He encouraged a deeper spirituality – in the midst of humanity and everyday life. He models for us, a way that this Lent we might seek to follow more closely.

***Prayer suggestions for this week:***

- For our own keeping of Lent and growth in personal and corporate faith.
- For our new PCC and church officers
- For our Church leaders and those selecting a new Archbishop of Canterbury
- For Bishop Mary Gregory, our new Bishop of Reading.
- That the ceasefire between Israel and Palestine might hold and further hostages and prisoners 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 Leighton Gardens
- For all those whose anniversary of baptism falls in March: Lola-Rose Watkins, Isala Hughes, Christopher Hickman
- 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, Mandy Salter, Mair Bright, Tina Botting, Ralph Hincliffe, Paul Bader.
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them: Marina Andrian.
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in March: Sandy Raffan, Anthony Wright, Lilian Vizard, Edgar Walford, Anna Meredith, Christine Sawyers, Caroline Wood, Robert Russell, Jacqueline Mundy, Alan Moss, Beryl Bintcliffe, Francis Garnett, Jillian Sinclair- Hill, Eileen Herbert, Stella Lee, Andrew Curtis, Susan Robinson, Jill Cotterill, John Marshall, John Cox, Christopher Druce, Frederick Dawson.

***Readings for Morning Prayer for the week beginning Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025:***

Sunday	Psalm 50. 1-15	Micah 6. 1-8	Luke 5.27- end
Monday	Psalm 11	Jeremiah 4.19 -end	John 5. 1-18
Tuesday	Psalm 44	Jeremiah 5.1-19	John 5. 19-29
Wednesday	Psalm 6	Jeremiah 5.20 -end	John 5. 30-end
Thursday	Psalm 42	Jeremiah 6. 9-21	John 6. 1-15
Friday	Psalm 22	Jeremiah 6. 22-end	John 6. 16-27
Saturday	Psalm 63	Jeremiah 7. 1-20	John 6. 27-40

## Rotas for next week

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March: Lent 2: Parish Communion

Read: Faith Powley Intercede: Jeanette Lock Chalice: Bev Botting Sound: Raja Mani  
Welcomers: Rachel, Helen and Carl Coffee: Jenny, Sally Children: Bev

### 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 9 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 am, Holy Communion 10.00am, Parish Communion 11.30am, Flower arrangers meeting 12.00, Lent Lunch
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom 10.00 am, Holy Communion 11.00 am, Lent course 7.30 pm, Christian Enquirers course
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom 9.30 am, Baby and Toddler Group 1.30 pm, Thursday Teas
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am, Morning prayer on zoom 11.00 am, Pram Service 5.00 pm, Evening Prayer 8.00 pm, Choir
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am, Morning prayer on zoom
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am, Parish Communion 6.00 pm, Sundays at Six : Iona Service at the Church of the Good Shepherd

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

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> July	Prayer walk on Ray Mill Island

**Messy Church.** Messy Church dates for 2025 are as follows: 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 displays & decorations

You are warmly invited to join us at the next meeting of the 'flower-power' team, to help plan our displays and decorations for the coming year.

**Date:** 9 March

**Time:** 11.30 (after service, before Lent lunch)

All are welcome – no previous experience needed.



### Basic Safeguarding Training

A number of people are required to do the Church of England Basic Safeguarding course (e.g. welcomers, pastoral team...). To make that easier Barbara and Revd. Sally will lead a session on this course after church on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March. It will not take long but will fulfil our legal requirements and it will be good to do the course together. You will be notified if you must do this but it is open to anyone at all.

### 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...

### Lent 2025

**The Church programme for Lent...** is now available as a leaflet – attached to this weekly sheet – and a hard copy can be found in church too. Do join in with some ways of keeping Lent.

**Lent Lunches,** are held on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Lent. Please do sign up to help provide lunches – see the sign-up sheet in church.

**Lent course** we are following the diocesan course: Come and See which explores our baptism. Wednesdays at 11 am in church. All welcome.

### **Come and See...**

A diocesan daily email during Lent and out Lent course this year. Come and See is completely free and all are welcome. Sign up: [Sign up for Come and See 2025](#)  
We will also be watching the Sunday videos in place of a sermon during Lent.

**Eco Church...** thanks to Katty for these tips...

### **Eco-Friendly Gardening Tips for Everyone**

Inspired by BBC Gardeners' World, here are some fun and eco-friendly gardening tips to help you get started:

#### **What is Eco-Friendly Gardening?**

Eco-friendly gardening means creating a garden that supports nature and uses resources wisely. It's great fun and anyone can do it, regardless of age or experience!

#### **Create a Wildlife Habitat**

What: Making your garden a friendly place for wildlife.

**How:** - **Bird Feeders:** Hang bird feeders to attract birds.

- **Insect Hotels:** Set up insect hotels to give insects a safe place to live.

- **Flowers for Pollinators:** Plant flowers like lavender and sunflowers to attract bees and butterflies.

Why: Encouraging wildlife helps maintain a balanced ecosystem and makes your garden livelier.

### **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> March 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> March

**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.

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

### March

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=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