

Inspire

Spring 2022



www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

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Welcome!

Welcome to this edition of Inspire.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue and please keep sending in items for the next.

Ruth

Ruth Humphreys, Editor

March 2022

Cover painting credit: Jean Jackson

Prayer for Ukraine

Holy and Gracious God

**We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia;
for their countries and their leaders.**

**We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting
arms hold them in this time of great fear.**

**We pray for all those who have the power over life and death;
that they will choose for all people life,
and life in all its fullness.**

**We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember
that you direct your people to turn
our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.**

**We pray for leaders on the world stage;
that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.**

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

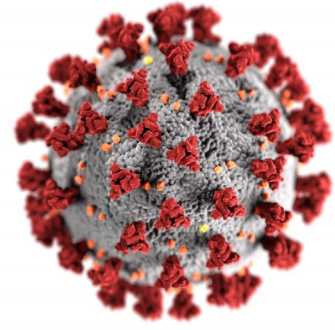
Lord have mercy.

Amen

This prayer was originally printed in the Selly Oak Methodist Church newsletter.

Seasonal thoughts from the Vicar ...

Two years ago, we started Lent in uncertainty – the world was on the brink of the covid pandemic, clergy and people had been ‘locked out’ of their churches and no one knew quite that to expect – although ‘the worst’ was widely proposed.



I remember writing at the time that whatever the world threw at us, our God was so much bigger and would be with us all the way. I quoted Hebrews 13.8, ‘Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and for ever’.



Two years on, and the pandemic is easing (it seems) as another, even greater fear engulfs us as the prospect of war looms. Our hearts weep for the people of Ukraine, and many of us literally weep as we watch scenes unfold on our TV screens. We welcome sanctions against Russia – knowing that they will impact on our everyday lives, yet fully aware that our privations are nothing compared with the appalling suffering of so many people just a short air flight away.

Where is God in this new evil?

Has anything changed in the world?

The particular evil has changed, and there is a different type of fear, but Hebrews 13.8 stands firm – Jesus Christ remains the same. And where is he in all this?

Jesus – God – is right in the middle of it all. He is in every life lost, every missile launched, every home destroyed, every uniform put on, every political speech, every penny of aid given. That is incarnation.

God knows what it is like to go through this time, this terror. God does not magic it all away – He is not a dictator God – instead God walks through it with every single person. And that feels very fitting as we make our way through Lent.

In the desert Jesus wrestled with evil and he overcame so that by His race we too can overcome the evils in the world. He can inspire and empower those who seek to bring aid or negotiate for peace. And he can give us hope too.

In the epistle that we heard on Ash Wednesday, St. Paul wrote:

‘...as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything’. (2 Corinthians 6.4-10).

We might find it helpful to keep re-visiting those words as we journey through Lent as international events unfold. God IS with us and we can grow closer to Him through His grace and our trust.



Looking ahead to Holy Week...

The Eucharist with the Blessing of Oils and Renewal of Ministerial Commitment is also known as the Chrism Mass and takes place every Maundy Thursday at the cathedral of each diocese.

It is a lovely time for all the bishops, priests, deacons and LLMs in a diocese to meet together and to renew their ministerial vows. At this service the bishop also blesses fresh oils to be taken for use in the parishes in the coming year.

Three jars of oil are blessed:

- The oil of catechumen is used at baptisms to make the sign of the cross on the candidate
- The oil of the sick is used for anointing the sick and dying.
- The oil of Chrism is used for anointing deacons, priests and bishops at ordination.

This beautiful morning service leads us into the Triduum (the three services from the Eucharist of Maundy Thursday through to Easter Eve/ Day).

Having been away from the cathedral for 3 years (it was under renovation in 2019) we are delighted to be back there this year on 14th April at 11am. The service is open to anyone. Do just turn up or speak to one of the Ministry team to arrange a lift.



Ruth Humphreys painted this beautiful picture, which reflects the poignancy of the season.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter, at St. Luke's

Lent Course

This year we are following the diocesan *Come and See* course, focussing on the Lord's Prayer. Wednesdays at 11 am in church or Thursday at 7.30 pm on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5194847421>

Meeting ID: 519 484 7421

Mothering Sunday

27th March, an All Age Service of the Word, with flowers for mums at 10 am

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, 10th April, 10.00 am, Procession of Palms,
and Holy Communion with presentation of the Passion



*Morning Prayer (8.30 am) every day on zoom,
or join Revd. Sally in the chapel*

Church open daily for prayer and reflection, check noticeboard for times

Monday 11th April, 8.00 pm Compline, with reflection

Tuesday 12th April, 8.00 pm, Compline, with reflection

Wednesday 13th April 10.00 am, Holy Communion with address

8.00 pm Compline, with reflection

Maundy Thursday, 14th April, 8.00 pm, Holy Communion with footwashing,
and Watch, 11.45 pm, Compline

Good Friday, 15th April, 11.00 am, Walk of Witness, town centre

1.00 pm, an Hour at the Cross, 2.00 pm, The Liturgy of the Last Hour

3.15 pm, Evening Prayer and church sealed

Holy Saturday, 16th April, 4.00 pm, Easter Egg hunt and tea

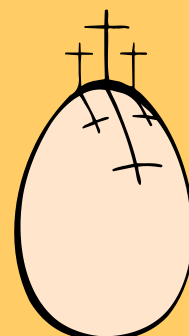
Easter Sunday, 17th April

8.00 am, Service of Light in Kidwells Park

8.45 am, Breakfast in church—for ALL

9.45 am Lighting of the Paschal candle, leading to ...

10.00 am, Holy Communion, and blessing of the Easter Garden



Seasonal Thoughts from Jean Jackson

Was there ever such a tsunami of bad news on opening the daily newspapers? Along with severe winter storms, it is easy to feel depressed.

As children, many of us will have learnt Robert Browning's poem Pippa's song, which ends with the words "Gods in His heaven- All's right with the world".

Well, of course, not ALL is right with the world, due to our own mismanagement.

However, there is much that is right. I have found much kindness – not only from family, friends and neighbours, but from strangers too, easing our worries and uncertainties.

With the promise of Spring, the pulse of life is beating all around us. Step outside. The flowers that slept in darkness are now awakening. Sending green shoots into the light. A winter sun shines on all new creation, bringing hope and promise.

I saw a cluster of snowdrops braving the cold wind, despite their fragility. We, too, must be brave and face the winds of change. We give thanks for we can call upon our Lord to sustain and comfort us when we are feeling fragile from forces outside ourselves. Easter will soon be here. Conquering death, we rejoice in our own risen Lord, for he is with us always, "even into the end of the world".

Words and art by Jean Jackson





A Messy Church theme on St. Peter produced some beautiful painted stones— Peter was the rock.

All Ages are welcome here at St. Luke's and we are thrilled to see our Messy Church numbers growing as we develop our All Age worship again following the pandemic.



Holy Teddy dressed in purple for Lent as we thought about what we need and what we would like on the first Sunday of Lent.

Room for Zoom

What a wonderful invention! All through the long months of the pandemic, Zoom has brought St. Luke's close and into our very home. It has enabled us not only to feel a sense of presence at the Church services but also to receive their full value, benefit and support as though we were there. It has meant being able to take part in the prayers and even sing along with the hymns. It has preserved our connection to the life of the Church and to our friends and colleagues there, and, by doing so, it has provided stability and confidence in anxious times. How marvellous it is still to see and feel the beauty of the interior of the Church building and to hear the music. The only slight disadvantage is that the sound quality on the live transmission is not of the best, but that seems a small price to pay for the chance to join in the worship. Many thanks are due to Dave and others who have grasped the technology and deliver it to us so well. We can't imagine being without it now, and there will always be room for Zoom in our house!

John and Jill Cotterill

This article was written before Jill's sad passing in March .



Notes on Morning Prayer in a Time of Plague— and the Joys of Zoom

I grew up in a Vicarage family with 7 younger siblings, so Sunday mornings were a furore of trying to get us all ready, and the Sunday joint in the oven, before we walked/panted the very steep 3/4 mile up our Devon hill to MATTNS. I cant say we were enthralled by the repetitive Canticles and the long Psalms set for the Day. Though the hymns and people watching were a diversion to childish minds. And like many children, we played Funerals and Christenings at home.

Then at my secondary boarding school, we 'had' House Prayers twice and Chapel Service daily. with more than that on Sundays and in Lent. Ash Wednesday was a Scripture Exam for the whole school. How many people nowadays work their way through the Benedicite or the whole of the Litany I wonder.

Those years felt like an overdose of a fairly boring repetitive nature. However I have always loved singing, and particularly enjoyed learning new settings of those tedious old Canticles.

BUT NOW these many decades later, we have THE JOYS - and hiccups - OF ZOOM. My parents both grew up on farms without electricity or running water, with a noisome outside privy. But they would have relished this brave new world of keeping in touch one with another.

For nearly 2 years now, we have been fortunate enough at St Lukes to be able to join daily in the half hour Morning Prayer Zoom led by Sally, Terrie and Phyll. We follow the Church of England Daily Prayer App - another boon of which I would have been ignorant, and which also provides orders of Evening and Night Prayer.

For most of this I have lived alone , restricted both by Covid and the passing years. Morning Prayer Zoom has brought a daily pattern of worship into my life, whether followed after or before breakfast or from my bed.

Every day we rejoice in the revised version of those canticles and psalms that were so tedious in childhood, follow sometimes not so familiar Old Testament readings, more familiar New Testament ones with a short thoughtful appropriate Meditation . Our Prayers comprehend in turn a particular diocese of the worldwide Anglican Church, a Parish of our own Oxford Diocese, particular roads in St Lukes Parish, particular members of our own church family and particular needs of the day. And we rejoice in the many blessings we receive.

Whenever I enter a cathedral or church, I feel surrounded by the souls of those who have worshipped there sometimes over many centuries . And of the prayers which have been said or sung every day. Our Morning Prayer Zoom is a different way of including those of us far and wide in whatever personal circumstances who benefit from the opportunity to be part of this continuity of prayer.

Our plague has brought us to embrace new ways of worship. For this we are very thankful.

Helen Petter

So much beauty to look after

Many Christmases ago, my son said, “The older you get, the fewer the presents around the Christmas tree. It’s not much fun anymore.” I had to laugh! However, as we know, one gift alone can make Christmas special. That one gift for me this year was receiving Charlie Mackesy’s book, *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*. You may already know it. Initially, I thought this was just for children. However, as I read through the opening pages, I was taken aback by the powerful impact of what I call, ‘the little words.’

They are so profound and deeply thought-provoking in their simplicity, that I am obliged to read this book slowly! The words of one page stand out:

“So much beauty we need to look after.” *A sentence reminiscent of our first commandment in Genesis Chapter 2, verse 15, “Work it and take care of it.”*

If truth be told, humanity has not been doing a good job looking after God’s creation as this quote from the Guardian newspaper on the 10th January this year, reveals:

Planet-heating emissions roared back in the United States in 2021, dashing hopes that the pandemic would prove a watershed moment in greening American society to address the climate crisis, new figures have shown ... US emissions rose by 6.2% last year, compared to 2020. While emissions were still 5% down from 2019 levels, the jump in pollution as people returned to previous rhythms of life was greater than last year’s overall economic growth. (The Guardian, 10 Jan 2022).

“So much beauty we need to look after.” As I mulled over these words, I thought, “there’s a great deal of beauty that actually doesn’t need us to look after it: it looks after itself...it looks after us.” I’m talking about the natural occurring phenomena in the world around us, such as photosynthesis, the carbon cycle with its reservoirs of atmosphere, oceans, soil and land, and the Greenhouse Effect which as we know creates a global Earth temperature and climate that are perfectly suitable for all life to flourish.

However, our increasing planetary imprint is destabilizing the Earth System and destroying its ecological balance. Balance in the environment is important. We have a responsibility to help maintain this balance as part of our biblical mandate to creation care.

In his book, *Global Warming*, John Houghton states:

Humans are an important part of the global ecosystem; as the scale and size of human activi-

ties continue to escalate, so can the seriousness of the disturbances caused to the overall balances of nature. It is important that we recognise these balances, in particular the careful relationship between humans and the world around us. It needs to be a balanced and harmonious relationship in which each generation of humans should leave the Earth in a better state, or at least in as good a state as they found it. The word that is often used for this is sustainability...however, many of the attitudes that we commonly have towards the Earth are not balanced, harmonious or sustainable...(Global Warming, p. 219)

How then do we live in a way that is in harmony with the world around us?

Can we find hope in God's words located in the Book of Isaiah, Chapter 43, verse 19?

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"

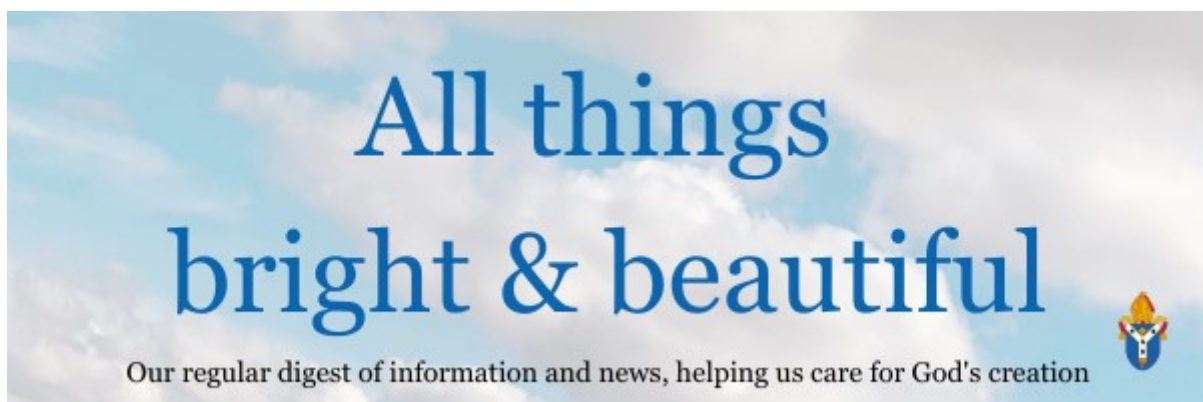
Whatever we discern God's 'new thing' to be, might we do a new thing at the start of 2022? Could we exchange our rhythm of life for Jesus' rhythm? In Matthew's Gospel Chapter 11 verses 28 to 30, Jesus invites us to do just that:

"Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me — watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." (Mt 11:28-30)

Keeping company with Jesus, one way of letting nature do what nature does best and to be what God created it to be: beauty. One way to let beauty, so much beauty, look after us. What does that look like in your context?

Revd Joyce Addison

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Newsletter www.canterburydiocese.org/newsletters



Love Christmas– Love Your Neighbour



For the second year running, St Luke's church has joined the Love Christmas national initiative, coordinated locally here in Maidenhead by St Peter's Church. From generous financial donations, approximately £10 worth of luxury Christmas treats (usually from Marks & Spencer and Waitrose), are packed into Bags of Kindness to be delivered to anyone needing a little bit of love.

On the Saturday before Christmas, I joined together with Christians from various churches in Maidenhead to pack up the Love Christmas bags. Revd. David, vicar at St. Peter's, led us in prayer before setting us off on the challenge of packing over 1,100 bags. With an efficient packing system in place, it didn't take long to complete the task.



Then a group of us from St Luke's church delivered over 30 bags to members of the St Luke's church family.

Small acts of kindness like these can make such a big difference to people. This Christmas 2022 we hope to deliver even more Love Christmas bags as a way of sharing God's love with those in our church family and our local community. If you know anyone who might enjoy receiving a bag or would like to know more about how to get involved, please speak to myself or Revd. Sally.

Jeanette Lock

Christmas Tree Festival 2021—The Winning Trees



Woodlands Park Primary School

Claremont and Holyport Practice Nursing Team





Messy Church



Children's Society



Church Choir

Barbara Joan Stevens 1921-2022



Last summer we celebrated Barbara's 100th birthday and it was with great sadness that we learned of her passing. At the Thanksgiving service held in church on 9th March, her son, Christopher, gave this eulogy.

Barbara Joan Stevens, Mother, was born on 2nd August 1921 in Woolwich, as we discovered from her birth certificate, three years younger than her sister Irene, to Ben and Bertha Lillian Claxton. The family lived at 350 Finchley Road in London, which was a rather quieter road in those days, although the house is still there in a rather altered state.

It was appropriate that we had the funeral service earlier at Slough, as this was where she spent some of her school days at St. Bernard's Convent, again still going strong as a Grammar School. When war broke out Mother was just 18 and moved out of London to take up a secretarial job as personal assistant to a gentleman named Mr Mann in Marlow. She always loved Marlow and drawing and painting by the river.

Before the war it seems that the various families in the story – the Claxtons, Slapps, Webbs, Phillips and Stevens were all friends and even went on holiday together on cruises and the like, so Mother got to know Edward (or Teddy) Stevens while they were still in their teens. However it was after the war that the dashing ex-naval officer proposed and they married in August 1947 when she was 26. They set up home in Eastcote in Middlesex and did the best they could with post-war restrictions and rationing. Mother became a professional housewife and ran the home with uncomplaining loyalty and love. Her skills in the kitchen, baking and cooking Sunday roasts the Norfolk way, were remarkable. Our brother Alan, who died young, came along in 1949, followed by me in 1952 and Brian in 1954. I think I can safely say that we were not the easiest of children.

But family life went on and we moved to Northwood, then Gerrards Cross and later to Maidenhead. Brian and I went away to boarding school and then university and they managed to take holidays together, often abroad, especially after Father took early retirement in

1968, besides our family holidays each August. Later they shared a love of the river Thames and kept a motor cruiser at Windsor Marina. Having a view of the river from Lockbridge Court was always very important to them.

Mother developed a great love and knowledge of nature and particularly of birds. I think that was linked to her simple but strong Christian faith, which they shared. Earlier we sang 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' which was her favourite hymn and I think sums it up well.

In thinking about qualities to sum her up today, I came up with calmness, fairness, kindness, love and humility. Even when, towards the end, suffering from frailty and dementia, she was always concerned to do the right thing and not be a burden. Perihan Collyer, who was the family doctor for some 30 years, called her the sweetest dementia patient she has known and there must have been quite a few!

Mother was very much the last of a generation, and by quite a margin, Irene having died ten years ago at the tender age of 93. Father died nearly ten years ago, at which time they had been married for almost 65 years. We are so glad that we managed to keep her in her own home and when we celebrated her 100th birthday with her at the flat last August around the customary greetings card from the Queen, she clearly maintained her dignity as well as her sense of enjoyment. She was a very gentle lady.





M2M Events

M2M Events is a new business offering face to face events for real life parents. From informative talks and practical workshops on parenting challenges to girls' nights out and inter-PTA sports competitions, M2M Events provides event opportunities to suit you.

Our aim is to bring together real-life parents from all walks of life to help them cope with the pressures of parenting and to have some fun. Come along to one of our events to spend time with local like-minded parents.

Inter-PTA Netball Tournament Saturday 26 March – Braywick Leisure Centre, Maidenhead

This netball tournament offers a great opportunity for fun-loving mums to get together and to bring out that competitive side that's in all of us. Teams from schools across the borough will compete in a quick-fire tournament to battle it out for a cash prize of £750 for their PTA courtesy of Ewe Move Estate Agents. The after-party, taking place a few steps away from the changing rooms in The Avenue Cafe, will allow mums to cross battle lines and mingle with friends from across their networks.

Whether you're a regular player or someone who hasn't even thought about netball since primary school, this tournament is for you.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/m2m-events-inter-pta-netball-tournament-tickets-194422532027> for further information.



Clueless About Gaming - Wednesday 6 April – The Lord Grenfell, Maidenhead

Are you a parent that struggles with anything more advanced than a platform game? This informal session offers a helping hand for parents who are bewildered by the world of gaming and how to ensure their kids keep safe while they enjoy playing on their devices.

Our expert panel including a Mobile Phone Expert, Gamer and Cyber Crime Expert will ensure you leave with a stronger grip on what games are appropriate for different ages and the issues to watch out for. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/clueless-about-gaming-tickets-264143318777> for further information.

Nicky Curley

Creativity Corner

When people talk about child care they assure that the problems of combining work and motherhood vanish when children go to school. They do not. They become different and harder to solve satisfactorily if the parents want to keep a firm grip on a child's development.

There are, of course, people who can juggle with the school run, find the socks in the morning, dish out philosophy when a best friend has been beastly, try and inspire a child with enthusiasm for French and make a wasp costume at an evening's notice. They are all called Mummy.

Some thoughts for Mother's Day . Jean has submitted this old newspaper cutting. Source unknown

St. Theresa's Prayer

May today there be peace within you.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born in faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.

Amen.

In a time of pandemic...

When will we be free of masks?

Each to the other asks

They stifle my breath from you

And hide your smile from me.

Just your eyes I see

They offer welcome and recognition

They are the light of your face

Not the bared teeth of your smile.

The eyes tell all.

SS

PRAYERDLE BYRDLE

Bored of Wordle? Have you tried Prayerdle and Byrdle?

Similar to the original word game online you have to work out an unknown word by guessing letters.

In Byrdle all the words are choral themed and in Prayerdle the words are linked to prayer or the Bible

<https://graceupongrace.org.uk/prayerdle/>

<https://www.byrdle.net/>

We welcomed into God's family by baptism:

Abigail Dagma Porro

Jazmin Sofia Porro

Jesse Jude Padraig Linley- Barker

Lily Robyn Myra Webber

Archie George Marosi

Katty Louise King

Daisy Olivia Trillow

Harper Rose Hutchinson

Arlo Joseph Ashley Ridley

Arthur Garth Smith

From the Registers...



We celebrated the marriages of:

Matthew Croxford and Kim Bedwell

James Bellaera and Emma Lucas

Stephen Barker and Gemma-Rose Linley

Jamie Piercy and Lauren Cooper

We commended into God's care at their funerals:

Christine Dawson

Susan Robinson

Michael Curley

Irene Daniells

Enid Barber

Johanna Raffan

Robert Roberts

Raymond Pullin

Alix Burnage

Betty Himmonds

Sheila Whitfield

Tom Parfett

Kenneth Rivers

Jean Judd

David Jesson

Walter Horwood

Oliver Mercer

Barbara Stevens

May they rest in peace, and rise in glory

Who's who

and how to contact us

All numbers prefixed with Maidenhead 01628... unless otherwise stated

Ministry Team



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783033



Associate Priest
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634017



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781390

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Maidenhead
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St Luke's is part of
Inclusive Church
Find out more at

www.inclusive-church.org.uk



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Assistant churchwardens

Mike Mason 628013
Aaron Wilson 07411 692662

Flowers

Rita Salter 634439

Electoral Roll Officer

Parish Office 631486

Gift Aid Secretary

Kim Rumble 07973 294082

Director of Music

Adam Went 01753 643974

PCC Secretary

Jeanette Lock 07769 655507

PCC Treasurer

treasurer@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

Parish Administrator

Ruth Humphreys 622733

Parish Office open Tuesday and Wednesday
mornings 9.00am-11.30am