



St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Week Commencing: 18th February, the First Sunday of Lent

This week we have a 10.00am Parish Communion, with activity for children. All are warmly invited to join us for worship. There is a soup, bread and cheese Lent lunch at midday (ish) preceded by the first Come and See film, over coffee.

The Sundays at Six, Evensong and Benediction, will take place in church (or on zoom) at All Saints, Boyne Hill.

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

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' ¹²God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' ¹⁷God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Genesis 9.8-17

Gospel Reading

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Mark 1.9-15

Sunday's Hymns:

702	Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
121	Forty days and forty nights
464	Sweet sacrament divine
727	May the mind of Christ my saviour
646	God is working his purpose out

Thought for the week:

In Sunday's gospel, Jesus goes into the wilderness, the desert, not by own volition but by Holy Spirit. Mark tells us that 'immediately, he drove him out'. Jesus had no time to revel in glory after his baptism – he had to get on with the next step straight away and he was forced into it. We could suggest that any human being would need some power to force them into the conditions which Jesus was about to endure for the few weeks. Most people in their right mind would not choose to spend a long period of time isolated from human contact, with burning heat during the day from an unrelenting sun and blistering wind, and possible bitter cold at night, with little if any water or food. But it would not have been right for Jesus to go straight from his baptism into his ministry – it was important that he was very clear in his own mind how he was to exercise the ministry that God had sent him for. He needed space before the world crashed in. He needed a clear mind to be able to see what God his Father was already doing in the world – and to join in with it, taking it further.



Mark tells us that in all this Jesus was not totally alone – there were angels alongside him – to support and sustain. I recall my time in Ethiopia a few years ago. The orthodox have a strong belief in the presence of angels among peoples – supporting and being alongside. We saw many pictures of angels in churches – and our leader told us about the need to stay still in worship – so that you don't tread on angels wings.

Through his time with God and his reflections in the desert Jesus was very clear of his calling. And God the father, through his angels, ensured that Jesus had the strength and support that he needed to carry out his mission. That was true for the next three years and when Jesus was wrestling once more with himself – in the garden of Gethsemane the night before his death – Luke tells us that an angel also appeared to strengthen and enable Jesus to bring his father's work to fulfilment.

May we know the strength and support of God's angels, as we journey in self -discovery through Lent.

What's on.... This week:

Sunday 18th	10.00am, Parish Communion 12.00pm, Lent lunch, in Church (Video from 11.30) 6.00pm, Evensong and Benediction, All Saints Church
Tuesday 20th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom
Wednesday 21st	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 10.00am, Holy Communion 11.00am, Lent course, in Church 7.00pm, Alpha Course, in Church
Thursday 22nd	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 9.30am, Baby and Toddler group 12.00pm, Thursday Lunch, Toby Cavery 3.00pm, Gaynor's gifts
Friday 23rd	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 5.00pm, Evening prayer, on zoom
Saturday 24th	9.00am, Morning Prayer, on zoom 10.00am, Baptism Stay and Play session
Sunday 25th	10.00am, Parish Communion

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

18 th February	Evensong and Benediction, in church at All Saints
3 rd March	Eucharist for St. David, in church at All Saints
17 th March	Stations of the Cross, in church at St. Luke's (Passion Sunday)
24 th March	Taizé service at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green (Palm Sunday)
7 th April	Stations of the Resurrection, on zoom Led by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
21 st April	Eucharist of Wholeness and Healing, in church, at All Saints

The funeral of Julienne Grobler will take place in church at 11 am on Friday 8th March. Please do remember Julienne's family and friends in your prayers.

Coming up..

Messy Church our Messy church dates are as follows: 1st March, 30th March, 3rd May, 7th June, 5th July, 6th September, 4th October, 1st November, 29th November

Thursday Lunches Our next monthly lunch at the Toby Carvery will be on Thursday, 22nd February at 12.00. For further information please contact Jean Tyrwhitt-Drake on Jeant-d2@outlook.com

Alpha course: please be praying for the Alpha course – team and guests. The course has just started but it is not too late to join. Please speak to Revd. Sally if you think you would like to join the course.

World Day of Prayer: This year, by coincidence, the service is planned by the women of Palestine. It will be held at the High Street Methodist Church on Friday 1st March at 2pm, followed by refreshments. This service is always held on the first Friday in March, beginning in Samoa and making a wave of prayer across the world throughout the day, finishing in American Samoa 24 hours later. All are welcome at this beautiful service. It is planned by the women but we are hoping that more men will attend as well. You can contact Gill Curry or Ruth Sheppard if you need to know more.

LENT

Lent Lunches are back this year! Sundays at midday (or just after) in church: 18 February, 3rd March and 17th March. All are welcome to come along for a soup, bread and cheese lunch. We collect the money we would have spent on a full Sunday lunch and donate it to Christian Aid. Please sign up at the back of church to help – providing soup, bread or cheese, or serving / washing up. There will be a short film before the first and last, and an IT talk before the second, starting at about 11.30 am.

Lent Course: this year our Lent course will run from 11.00 – 12.15 pm on Wednesdays in church. We will be using the video course: Unanswered Prayer, by Pete Grieg. There is a book from which this is taken. There will be no online or evening course as Alpha is running at this time. If you cannot make the Wednesday session you may like to follow the course alone, or get together with a friend or two: <https://unanswered.prayercourse.org/sessions/>. Or read the book.

A Lent leaflet is available now with more ideas for Lenten activities.

Come and See

In three of the four gospels, Jesus is asked which commandment is the most important. He answers not with one commandment but with two: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and you shall love your neighbour as yourself. How can these two commandments give a rhythm and a shape to our lives? Come and See...

We will be using the weekly films in church and you can also sign up for daily emails:

- Come and See - for groups and individuals (daily content)
<https://mailchi.mp/oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see>
- Come and See - for families (weekly content, each Sunday)
<https://mailchi.mp/oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see-for-families>

BBC Question Time is coming to Maidenhead on 22nd February, this is the link

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006t1q9>

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 01 March 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 March

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

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 22nd February

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=Y2hKZkFYZ04zbGZBd1BHcmllldU5Hdz09>

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