

St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

Church Office: 01628 622733

admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

Vicar: sally514@btinternet.com



Week Commencing: 1st December, Advent Sunday

Happy New Year! In Advent Sunday the new church year begins. This week there is a 10.00am All Age Holy Communion to which everyone is warmly invited. During this service baby Keon Obwianu will be baptised; we hope you will join the celebration of welcoming him into the Church.

If you have Advent calendars, wreaths, candles that you would like blessed please bring them to the All Age service and they will be blessed during the service, along with our church Advent Ring.

Just a gentle reminder that the Wednesday service will move to Tuesdays for two weeks due to the Tree Festival and School Carol services: Wednesday 4th to Tuesday 3rd December and Wednesday 11th to Tuesday 10th. Both at 10 am as usual, followed by coffee. We will still need to set up for Baby and Toddler group on Wednesday 11th, following the morning Carol services. If anyone is available to help from 1pm it would be much appreciated. Thank you.

Exciting news from the diocese that the new Bishop of Reading as announced on Wednesday. The Revd. Canon Mary Gregory is currently Canon for Reconciliation and the Arts at Coventry Cathedral. She will be consecrated bishop in late February and a welcome in the area will follow. After the announcement Canon Mary visited three areas of Reading Archdeaconry, and her first stop was this church, where she met with local clergy and interfaith leaders. Bishop Stephen (Bishop of Oxford) also joined us here (and stayed on to join in impromptu with pupils from Riverside school on a planned visit). Please pray for Canon Mary as she prepares to join the diocese.



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 Prayer

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

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'
Jeremiah 33.14-16

Second Reading

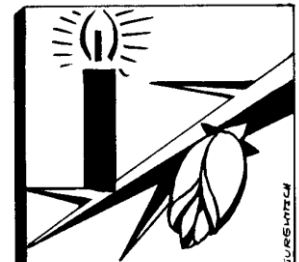
Jesus said to his disciples: ²⁵'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

²⁹Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, ³⁵and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'
Luke 21.25-36

Sunday's Hymns – all on the screen

Soon and very soon
Hills of the north rejoice
Across the lands



Thought for the week...

The candles on our Advent Ring stand for four values (hope, peace, joy and love) and for people in the story of salvation.

The first candle is for the patriarchs and matriarchs – our ancient Hebrew ancestors: Abraham (Ibrahim) and Sarah and their family after them. Without them we would not be here. From them spring our Jewish and Muslim sisters and brothers as well as our own heritage. They are the bedrock of our faith. They heard and heeded God's call and spread the faith.

When we look to the homeland of faith today – the land we call 'holy' – we see war, violence, bloodshed and fear. Christians are fleeing the land – they make up just 1% of the population. In the Christmas story the magi would not be able to enter Bethlehem because of the separation wall. This beautiful land and its beautiful people of faith, and of no faith, needs our prayers for peace.

So on the first Sunday of Advent, in the words of Psalm 122.6 we 'pray for the peace of Jerusalem' (and the whole Middle East).

This week the floodlighting has been sponsored by

Ruth Sheppard

*In loving memory of John
and*

The Kershaw Family

Thanking God for the safe arrival of Stephanie Josie Elisabeth Kershaw



To sponsor the floodlighting please fill in the form at the back of church or email:

admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

The donation for weekly sponsorship is £15.

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- Our keeping of a holy Advent
- 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 a successful Christmas Tree Festival and for stamina and lots of helpers!
- 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 High Street
- For Isabel Nixon who was baptised recently and for Keeon Obianwu and Cole Brooks to be baptised in December
- For all those whose anniversary of baptism falls in December: Arlo Ridley and Charlie Galvin.
- The sick and their carers : Monica Olley, Valerie Bosley, Bridget Morris, Lucy Young, Emily Buckwell, Jacqueline Lewis, Angela Baldwin, Baby Keeon, Joan Harnby, Bill Bowyer, Katharine and Millie, Aram Hakobian.
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them: Jean Fuller, Cherry Lanyon, Tony Barber.
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in December. 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, Carol Kharas, Joey (Josephine) Colton.

Readings for Morning Prayer for the week beginning Sunday 1st December 2024:

Sunday	Psalm 44	Isaiah 1.1-20	John 3.1-21
Monday	Psalm 50	Isaiah 42.18-end	Revelation 19
Tuesday	Psalm 80	Isaiah 43.1-13	Revelation 20
Wednesday	Psalm 7	Isaiah 43.14-end	Revelation 21.1-8
Thursday	Psalm 42	Isaiah 44.1-8	Revelation 21.9-21
Friday	Psalm 25	Isaiah 44.9-23	Revelation 21.22-22.5
Saturday	Psalm 9	Isaiah 44.24-45.13	Revelation 22.6-end

Rotas for next week, 8th December, 10.00am Parish Communion

Read: Joan Harnby Intercede: Dorothy Strack-Hankey Chalice: Ben D
Welcomers: Jacqueline, Simon & Jeanette Coffee: none (CTF)

What's on.... this week:

Sunday 1st 10.00am, All Age Holy Communion and Baptism
Tuesday 3rd 8.30am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
Trees arrive
10.00am, Holy Communion
Wednesday 4th 8.30am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
10.00 am – 7.00 pm, Christmas Tree Festival Set up
Thursday 5th 8.30am, Morning Prayer, on Zoom
Schools Day only Christmas Tree Festival
1.30 pm, Thursday Teas
Friday 6th 8.30am, Morning Prayer on zoom
10.00- 7.00pm, Christmas Tree Festival
Saturday 7th 9.00am, Morning prayer, on zoom
10.00am-7.00pm, Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday 8th 8.00am, Holy Communion
10.00am, Parish Communion
12.00-6.00pm, Christmas Tree Festival
6.00pm, Christmas Tree Service

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

8 th December	Christmas Tree Festival Service, at St. Luke's (Tree Festival 6 th - 8 th Dec.)
22 nd December	Carol Services at each church

Bishop Steven spoke helpfully about the issues raised by the Makin review, and the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury at last Saturday's Diocesan Synod. The whole text can be found here:

['The time is fulfilled' - Presidential Address - Bishop Steven's Blog](#)

The funeral of Tony Barber, RIP, will take place in church in Thursday 12th December at 1pm. Thursday Teas will move from that day to 5th December to allow all those who wish to to attend.

Mid week Holy Communion in December

Advance notice that the Wednesday service will move to Tuesdays on two weeks due to the Tree Festival and School Carol services:

Wednesday 4th to Tuesday 3rd December

Wednesday 11th to Tuesday 10th

Both at 10 am as usual, followed by coffee. We will still need to set up for Baby and Toddler group on Wednesday 11th, following the morning Carol services. If anyone is available to help from 1pm it would be much appreciated. Thank you.

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

**Christmas Tree Festival 2024: 6th – 8th December
set up on Wednesday 4th and Schools day on Thursday 5th.**

Last minute ...

- Please take flyers and posters to share and out up
- Don't forget to make cakes (and let Sally / Lisa know)

The Alexander Devine Children's Hospice has launched its Christmas appeal – find out more about this valuable community resource here:

<https://alexanderdevine.org/2024/11/help-us-unlock-a-magical-christmas-for-children-like-elikai-this-year/>

Thames Hospice also has a Christmas appeal: <https://www.thameshospice.org.uk/christmas-at-thames-hospice/>

And both hospices are offering a **Christmas Tree collection service** after Christmas – see the flyers below for details.

Christmas Cards

With the spiralling cost of post and of cards, and in an effort to be an eco church, you are invited to send greetings in lieu of cards to friends at church via a giant church Christmas card.

After the Christmas Tree Festival slips will be available in church for you to write a general greeting to the congregation and place in a box to be pinned on the brown boards at the back. You may also wish to make a donation to a charity of your own choice.

Open Vicarage

Members of the congregation are warmly invited to call into the vicarage any time between 6pm and 9 pm on Saturday 21st December for mulled wine / fruit juice and light seasonal refreshments.

All are welcome!

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.

Keeping Company is our monthly meeting for those bereaved (at any time). Third Thursday at 3pm, in church. The next is 19th December

Thursday Teas meets in the community hall offering tea, cake and conversation. Second Thursdays monthly, 1.30 pm. Next is 12th December

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. The next is Thursday 28th November.

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

Advent and Christmas at St. Luke's Church 2024

Sunday 1st December

10.00 am **All Age Holy Communion for Advent Sunday**

Christmas Tree Festival 6th – 8th December

Friday 6th December

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

Saturday 7th December

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

Sunday 8th December

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

6.00 pm 'Christmas Tree' Service

Sunday 22nd December

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

Thursday 19th December

3.00 pm, **Keeping Company**

Tea, cake and reflection for those bereaved at any time

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December

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

10.00 pm '**Midnight Mass**'

Christmas Day, Wednesday 25th December

10.00 am, All Age Christmas Holy Communion

The Feast of the Epiphany – Sunday 5th January

10.00 am All Age Holy Communion service

6.00 pm Epiphany Carol Service

Registered with
FR
REGULATOR



Alexander Devine
Children's Hospice
Service

Proudly sponsored by



Alexander Devine
Christmas Treecycling
Supporting your local children's hospice service



Recycle Your Christmas Tree and
Keep the Holiday Spirit Green!

Let Alexander Devine Children's
Hospice Service make tree
disposal easy this festive season!
Our volunteers will collect and
recycle your used tree, helping
you give back to nature and your
community.

Collection Areas:
SL6, SL7, SL8, and RG10 Postal
Areas

Scan here to book your tree collection



For a donation to our charity, our volunteers will collect and recycle your
Christmas tree between **Thursday 9th and Saturday 11th January 2025.**

www.alexanderdevine.org/trees

**Book your Christmas Tree
Collection TODAY in Aid of**

Thames hospice



Scan the QR code to
donate AND email
nicholas@riversidetreecare.co.uk
to arrange your
collection TODAY

SCAN ME

Collections will be available at the following:
Maidenhead, Bray, Fifield, Holyport, Marlow,
Windsor, Cookham, Bourne End and Taplow



Riverside Tree Care