

# 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: 25<sup>th</sup> August, Trinity 13

This week we have a 10.00am Parish Communion with activity available for children. All are warmly invited to worship.

Many thanks to those who participated, and volunteered, at the More than Sparrows Activity week. It was a great success and we still have two days (Friday and Saturday) to go – come and join in the fun!

### The Collect

Almighty God,  
who called your Church to bear witness  
that you were in Christ  
reconciling the world to yourself:  
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,  
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;  
through him who was lifted up on the cross,  
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Post Communion Prayer

God our creator,  
you feed your children with the true manna,  
the living bread from heaven:  
let this holy food sustain us  
through our earthly pilgrimage  
until we come to that place  
where hunger and thirst are no more;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### First Reading

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

*Ephesians 6.10-20*

### Gospel Reading

Jesus said to the crowd: <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors

ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.’<sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?’<sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, ‘Does this offend you?’<sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, ‘For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.’ <sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’ <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’ *John 6.56-69*

### Sunday's Hymns

780(i)	Soldiers of Christ arise	631(i)	Fight the good fight
648(ii)	God of grace and God of glory	663	How shall I sing that majesty
595	Be thou my vision		

### Thought for the week...

We have just had four weeks of gospel readings from one chapter of John's gospel in which Jesus has hammered home his point that he is the Bread of Life. He is the basic necessity; it is in him that all our sustenance can be found. And by linking this teaching to what will come later in the Last Supper and at his death, Jesus found that some of his hearers were offended. Indeed, many of those who had become disciples – followers of his new teaching – fell away and made the choice to leave. They just could not stomach his teaching any more – if you will excuse the pun!

So, Jesus asked his inner circle – the twelve – what about you lot, do you want to leave as well? Do you want to give up and find something more palatable to find your purpose of life in?

And Peter replied for all of them: ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God’.

What an amazing statement – where else can we turn? Who else can we go to? What other hope is there? As I hear him speak, Peter is almost incredulous that Jesus is suggesting this – there just is no one else they can turn to. Jesus is the promised Messiah, and he offers life eternal. That is not worth turning away from. His experience with Jesus so far had shown him that.

In all the changes in society, in the world that we live in, for me there is simply no other way that offers hope, purpose and life to the full. Elsewhere in John's gospel Jesus says: ‘I am the way, and the truth and the life...’ The world may change, and the church must change with it – but the single, simple truth remains always the same: Jesus offers life eternal, free and gratis, and for all.



### Prayer suggestions for this week:

- For rest and re-creation for all on holiday over the summer and for our schools, staff and children, for safety and refreshment.
- For peace on our streets and in our towns
- For the people of Israel and Palestine, for an end to the violence there and for strength for all those who are suffering loss and fear.
- 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 a new church music leader.



6 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Songs of Praise, in church, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Sung Evensong (BCP), at St. Luke's and on zoom (Sunday morning link)
3 <sup>rd</sup> November <b>NB: 4 pm:</b>	Memorial services, in church, at St. Luke's, and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
10 <sup>th</sup> November At 6pm	All Souls Eucharist at All Saints
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Taize service, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Tree Festival Service, at St. Luke's (Tree Festival 6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec.)
22 <sup>nd</sup> December 6.00 pm	Carol Services at each church

### Administration of Holy Communion

As was announced in church recently, we have received a letter from the Bishop informing churches that the practice of intinction at communion (dipping the wafer into the wine) that became widespread as a result of the pandemic should now stop. Bishop Olivia writes, that intinction... *... should only ever be an exceptional practice. The sharing of the common cup is one of the foundation stones of Anglican sacramental practice, dating back to Cranmer's Prayer Book and part of our heritage, and which in normal times should be normal practice.*

She continues:

*... no one needs to drink from the chalice if they do not feel comfortable doing this, as receiving the bread alone is sufficient to receive the Sacrament. But for those who do wish to receive the wine, the common cup is there. Drinking from a silver vessel is extremely safe as germs do not survive contact with the metal for long and the chalice is always wiped.*

From 1<sup>st</sup> September we will therefore cease to offer intincted wafers (except at home communion) and will revert to, usually, having to chalices and two ciboria. This will be at all services.

### Coming up...

**Garden party, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September.** 3pm, in the vicarage garden. Tickets £15 pp, to include a glass of prosecco, available now from the parish office or after services.

As is usual, it would be great to have offers of cakes made for the event – please let Sally Somerville **know if you can make a cake** or sign up the list in church We will also need **teams of helpers**:

- On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to help erect gazebos in the vicarage garden, and carry over tables.
- On Saturday from 10 am to help make sandwiches (in church). Thank you!

### Looking ahead to this Autumn:

**The Thanksgiving service for the life of Phyllis Sigsworth, RIP,** will be held in church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm. all are warmly invited to give thanks for this amazing lady, who played a key role in the life of our church family for so many years.

**Heritage weekend: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September.** We are participating in this national event by opening the church for people to visit and see our rich Christian heritage through our architecture and history. The current 'living stones' of the church will also be evident through other activities going on concurrently.

The church will be open from 10 am – 4pm each day, with guided tours available 10 am – 1pm and 3pm – 4pm. If you are able to give some time to help guide please let Ann Darracott know asap (information will be provided).

If you are able to help serve refreshments, on sale all day, please speak to Sally Somerville.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> is also **Valuation Day**, when local company Dawsons Auctioneers will be in church to talk about and value (without an audience) your personal treasures and curiosities. Please do come along and take advantage of this offer – and maybe make a small donation to church funds.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> is also **Ride and Stride Day**. This national event happens every year across the country, and is a great way to raise funds for the support of our historic churches.

Any mode of transport is fine – you could walk, cycle, ride between different local churches: simply choose a route and find lots of sponsorship from all your friends and family. Half of the sponsorship goes to the Historic Churches Trust, and half to our own church. Our local co-ordinator is Peter Goford who can tell you more, or look at the BHCT Ride & Stride website

<http://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk/ride-and-stride>

Sponsorship forms are now available in church.

There will also be a **Baptism Play and Stay**, preparation session in church that morning.

Our next church breakfast is on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September** when Claire Sherrin, our neighbour, will speak about her life as a dancer and performer. Doors open 8.45 am and tickets at £5 each will be available soon.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, the annual Johanna Raffan Memorial Lecture.** We are alternating recitals and lectures by young people in memory of Johanna. This year will be a lecture at 1pm that day by scientist Matthew Price, who grew up through this church and sang in our choir. Do book the date to come along.

On **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September** all who are able to help with a **church care time** are invited to join us that morning to do maintenance jobs in the church and grounds. (NB not 14<sup>th</sup> as previously stated)

The next **WAMCF Dialogue** is on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm at Taplow Court.

**The Bishop of Reading, Bishop Olivia**, is retiring at the end of September. We have a card and small gift for her from this parish. Everyone is warmly invited to her farewell service on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September, at 3pm in Reading Minster. We will put out a list soon for folk to sign up so that we can let the Minster know numbers, and arrange shared cars for those who wish.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October is our Church Harvest Festival**, the All Age Holy Communion service will be followed by bring and share **lunch for all**.

**On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30 pm, Springs Dance Company are performing A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance**, here at St. Luke's. This event is shared with All Saints and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green. It will be a beautiful event and worth bringing friends to. Book the date now – tickets £5 pp, available soon via Eventbrite.

Our **Patronal Festival** is on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October. It would be great to see as many of church family as possible gathered to celebrate together at the 10 am service.

**The annual Memorial Service**, for those who have been bereaved at any time, is at 4pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. We particularly remember those who have died in the last year and read out all names of those we love and miss.

Our **Autumn Quiet Day will be on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**. Details to come... save the date!!

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November is **Mitzvah Day**, when we are invited to join different faiths across town at a time of good deeds, based on and organised by the synagogue. Details to come.

And... **our Christmas Tree Festival is 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December**, with set up on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Schools day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>. More details to come. Save the dates!

## **Nurture and learning opportunities this Autumn**

The **Bible Study** working through Matthew's gospel continues on alternate Wednesdays at 8pm in church: 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November.

We are offering a **Pastoral Course**, aimed particularly at contactors but open to anyone, on the other alternate Wednesdays, at 8pm in church: 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October, 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November. Please sign up for this course so that we can provide the materials you will need.

And for those who would like a daytime study, **Soup and Psalms** - will run on alternate Thursdays, midday – 1.30 pm: 26<sup>th</sup> September, 10 and 24<sup>th</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November. All welcome.

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## **Baby and Toddler group / Pram serviced ... help requested...**

Are you good at making tea and coffee?

Do you enjoy chatting to young parents / carers?

Might God be calling you to help out with our ministry to young children?

Baby and Toddler group starts again on 5<sup>th</sup> September and we need at least one more person to help out with the coffees... it is a lovely session with lovely people! Most helpers offer one Thursday (9 am - 11.30 am including set up and clear away) once every three weeks (two more people and it will be once a month).

From October we plan to start a monthly Pram service – second Friday, 9.30 – 10.30 am. We will also need some coffee makers (and service helpers if you feel called) here.

Please speak to Sam or Sally if you would like to offer help in this really important ministry. Thank you.

**Messy Church** our autumn Messy church dates are as follows: 6<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> November, 29<sup>th</sup> November

**Windsor Pantomime Trip:** Ann Burdett is again organizing a trip to the Theatre Royal Windsor to see Dick Whittington on Sunday 5th January 2025 at 4:30pm. Tickets are £16.00 per person. If you would like to come please ask Richard for a booking slip or call us on 07860 814998.

**Working groups:** we have four church working groups meeting to support the mission of the church. Every PCC member is on one group and anyone else is warmly invited to join a group if you think you could offer support, advice or just join in.

Eco group: find out more from Revd. Phyl

Churchyard Committee: talk to Simon Bader or Anne Child

Nurture group: Revd Sally leads this group, which will meet on 17<sup>th</sup> September

Zero Carbon Project Committee (heat and light): find out more from Clare Price

### **Christmas Tree Festival 2024- the Produce Stall Appeal**

We would like to repeat the success of the produce stall last year by again appealing for help in stocking the stall.

If you have fruit and vegetables to donate, please let us know and collection can be arranged. We would also be grateful for ingredients, such as white and soft brown sugar, sultanas, and malt vinegar. Donations can be put in the cupboard behind the pews at the back of church. At present we don't need more jam jars unless they are Frank Cooper jars. For those making produce, Spire Brand labels will be put in a small box in the cupboard soon. Do not worry about putting decorated covers on the filled jars, a work party nearer Christmas will do it.

Many thanks. Ann Darracott (phone 07761 221937) Dorothy Strack-Hankey (phone 07743 323635)

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
[admin@stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> August

**Thursday Teas** meets in the community hall offering tea, cake and conversation. Second Thursdays monthly, 1.30 pm. Next is 8<sup>th</sup> August

**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. Next is 22<sup>nd</sup> August

**Please note that for Zoom services the links below are being used:**

#### **Sunday Morning Worship:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87358197400?pwd=MTFxVINad1R6NEl6cVZ6TVJ5bGlzdz09>

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