

St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Week Commencing: 28th April, Easter 5



This week we have a 10.00am Parish Communion with activity for children during the service, all are warmly invited to worship.

The Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus
Christ have overcome death
and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ
is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

First Reading

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 8.26-40

Gospel Reading

Jesus said to his disciples: ¹'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

John 15. 1-8

Sunday's Hymns:

194	Alleluia, alleluia, hearts to heaven
164	You are the king of glory
454	Love is his word, love is his way
788	Take this moment, sign and space
453	Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour



Thought for the week

A schoolboy was very upset when his father, for economic reasons, stopped him travelling by train to school because he could not get a free bus pass. Little did he know that one of the schoolgirls he befriended on those bus journeys would later become his wife! Sometimes something quite ordinary can change our lives completely. At the time it didn't appear to be a nudge by the Spirit as happened to Philip in our Acts reading. However, in retrospect, both saw the hand of God at work. We do not know what a journey can bring us or who we will meet that will profoundly affect our life and purpose. Perhaps this will encourage us to pray before we set out on a journey – not simply for safety in our travels, but for those whom we might meet on the way.

Perhaps one of the most famous stories is of an invitation to Billy, a young farm boy, to drive a vegetable truck packed with youth to a tent crusade. He joined the others inside and the evangelist made such an impression that Billy felt called to become an evangelist, even though he had had very little formal education. Little did he know that he – Billy Graham – would preach to millions, including presidents and world leaders, and many churches would be reinvigorated by those who responded to his call to get out of their seats and come up front.

Probably our own encounters will not be so dramatic as that, but you never know what the God of surprises has in store for you. However, if the journey we take this week will forge a new friendship, give you fresh insight through a chance conversation, or simply bring solace or hope to a lonely person, that journey will have been worthwhile.

From Roots on the Web

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- For our new PCC, that members may lead well
- That we may accept the touch of God upon our lives.
- For those who are living on the breadline and on our streets, for shelter and support
- 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 the King and the Princess of Wales as they are treated for cancer
- For a de-escalation of the situation in the Middle East.
- For peace in Ukraine and Russia, and of Sudan, and also in Armenia and Ethiopia.
- For our ministry with children and families.
- For a new church music leader.
- For our Alpha guests as the course ends.
- For all those whose anniversary of baptism falls in April: Lucy Traut, Abigail Porro, Jazmin Porro, Iris Bithell, Albert Bithell
- For all those who live and work in the Dalby Gardens.
- The sick and their carers : Monica Olley, Ann Hockham, Valerie Bosley, Pat Botting, Phyllis Sigsworth, Iris Brown, Lorraine, Ken Young, Olu Rowe, Bridget Morris, Albert Murray, Lucy Young, Pat Brooks
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them.
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in April: John Rogers, Vivienne Sewell, Roy Howton, Helen Poynter, Alma Rookie, Roger Bevitt, Diana Philps, Elsie Cummings, Pamela Neville, Bertha Selby, Dorothy Main, Philip Davies, Alan Coombs, Keith Morris, Ernie Thomas, Brenda Clark, Brian Pitts, Patricia Lovering, Brian Beard, Rita Redhead, Maureen Williams, Reginald Jacobs, Francis (Frank) Hepburn, Alice Smith, George Hayward, John McLean, Barbara Lewis, Eileen Daniel.

Readings for Morning Prayer for the week beginning Sunday 28th April 2024:

Sunday	Psalm 44.16-end	Deuteronomy 4.1-24	Luke 16.19-end
Monday	Psalm 145	Numbers 9.15-end; 10.33-end	Luke 4.38-end
Tuesday	Psalm 19	Numbers 11.1-33	Luke 5.1-11
Wednesday	Psalm 1	Job 23.1-12	John 6.1-14
Thursday	Psalm 57	Numbers 13.1-3 , 17-end	Luke 5.27-end
Friday	Psalm 138	Numbers 14.1-25	Luke 6.1-11
Saturday	Psalm 146	Numbers 14.26-end	Luke 6.12-26

Rotas for next week Sunday 5th May: All Age Holy Communion

Read: Michael Masango
 Intercede: preacher
 Welcomers: Jacqueline, John and Rita
 Chalice: Ben
 Coffee: Jeanette and Jenny

Our church is floodlit at night.

The floodlighting 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

Given rising fuel prices, it is suggested the minimum donation for weekly sponsorship is now £15. There are lots of weeks available.



What's on.... This week:

Sunday 28th 10.00am, Parish Communion
 Tuesday 30th 8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom
 Wednesday 1st 8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom
 10.00am, Holy Communion

Thursday 2nd	8.00pm, CCJ Talk, Grenfell Lodge, Ray Park Road, further details below 8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 9.30am, Baby and Toddler group 8.00-9.00pm, Bible Study group, in Church
Friday 3rd	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 4.00pm, Messy Church
Saturday 4th	9.00am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
Sunday 5th	10.00am, All Age Holy Communion 6.00pm, Evensong and Benediction, All Saints

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

5th May	Evensong and Benediction, at All Saints
19th May	Choral Sung Compline, at St. Luke's
2 nd June	Eucharist of wholeness and healing, at All Saints
16 th June	International Taizé service, at St. Luke's
7 th July	Evensong and Benediction, at All Saints
21 st July	Prayer walk on Ray Mill Island, led by St. Luke's

Coming up..

Churchyard Community Project: Sunday 12th May, 11.30 am – 3.00 pm.

We have been granted some funding from Partners for Heathrow to work in partnership with Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust on a community project on our churchyard. We will be roping off an area to create some wildlife areas, planting and other aspects of care for creation. Please do come along on 12th May to help make a start. Bring a packed lunch with you, drinks provided.

Our next Church Breakfast... is on Saturday 18th May. Jacqueline Lewis will speak about the charity Children Reachout Uganda, following the usual delicious breakfast. Doors open 8.45 am, tickets £5 pp, now available after services or from the parish office.

Ascension Day this year is on Thursday 9th May. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 8pm, followed by refreshments. All welcome.

Church Planning morning: Saturday 11th May. The new PCC will meet at 9.00 am to explore what it means to serve on the PCC and all members of the church are warmly invited to join us from 10.30 am for coffee and a chance to draw up our new Mission Action Plan for 2024-2027. The key priorities identified are:

- a. CYP & families
- b. Being a hub at the heart of the community – awareness of needs
- c. Environment/ churchyard/ heat and light
- d. Inclusive underpinning

WAMCF women meeting, Tuesday 21st May. 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm at St, Edmund Campion church. Details below.

Confirmation

There will be a Deanery confirmation on the evening of Wednesday 17th July. If you are interested in being confirmed (or would like to ,know more about confirmation – making our baptismal promises

for ourselves) please speak to Revd. Sally.

Holy Communion Before Confirmation: our church has a policy for the admission of children to communion before confirmation, with preparation. We have not put this into practice for some time and are keen to do so. The initial plan is to have two short sessions after the All Age Holy Communion services in June and July and a party in the summer with a view to admission on 1st September (AAHC). If you know of children who might be interested please speak to Revd. Sally.

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

Bible study: our journey exploring together Matthew's gospel continues again soon. All warmly invited from 8-9pm, in church. Thursday 2nd, then Wednesdays 15th May, 5th, 19th June, 3rd, 10th, 24th July.

CCJ Talk: You are invited to meet TV presenter, Sean Fletcher, at a Berkshire Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) event in Maidenhead on Wednesday 1st May at 8.00 pm. Numbers will have to be limited, so please book in advance by emailing admin@maidshul.org with your name and postal address if you wish to attend. There is no charge, but there will be an optional donation for the work of CCJ.



It will be held at Grenfell Lodge, Ray Park Road, Maidenhead, SL6 8QX (please do not park on the road, there is ample parking inside the Synagogue car park)

Saying Goodbye, (part of the Mariposa Trust) is coming to Oxford in May with a very special Baby loss remembrance and support service (part of a UK, Ireland and USA chain of events). The Mariposa Trust's core objective is to support people who have lost babies at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in infancy.

On the **18th May at 1pm, in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford,** we will be hosting one of our Saying Goodbye Services

So who is the service for? Anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in early years, or who has been affected by family members' or friends' loss. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend. We have also extended the services, and gladly welcome anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven't had children. This may be due to circumstance, infertility, or for other reasons - but all are welcome. Babies and children are also invited to come with their families, as the Saying Goodbye service is truly a family event for all. To read more on the charity, please see the Saying Goodbye website, which you can find at:

www.sayinggoodbye.org

Looking further ahead:

Save the dates....

Sunday 23rd June: Not the Summer Fair day (donations and possibly shared lunch)

Saturday 7th September: Garden Party

Friday 13th/ Sat 14th September: Heritage weekend

Sunday 20th October afternoon: the Johanna Raffan Memorial Lecture.

Summer Holidays (dates to be confirmed) Arts project for all ages.

Consultation of proposals to improve road safety in the church area

RBWM is currently consulting on a series of proposals to help improve safety on the streets around the church. These include 20 mph speed limits and continuous pavement crossings for pedestrians. To find out more and to respond, go to:

<https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/norfolk-park-improvements>

From Burchetts Green :

We are holding a music and arts festival in Hurley from 3rd to 5th May which is celebrating the diversity of local musical and artistic talent. There are concerts at 7pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening with music ranging from home-grown Bluegrass to a Chamber Choir! There is also an art show taking place from 11:30am on Saturday 4th. More information on all these events and how to book tickets is available at www.hurleymusicarts.com. We look forward to celebrating with you the richness of music and arts in our local communities.

If you would like any more information, please get in touch with Tom Etherton (Vicar of Burchetts Green) on 01628 822974 or vicar@burchettsgreenparish.org

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 May 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 16th May

Thursday Teas meets in the community hall offering tea, cake and conversation. Second Thursdays monthly. Next is 9th May

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 23rd May

**Windsor and Maidenhead
Community Forum
Women's Group**

Ladies of all beliefs and none
are warmly invited to our next meeting
from 7.30 - 9.00 pm

on
Tuesday 21st May 2024
at

St. Edmund Campion Church Hall
Altwood Road, Maidenhead, SL6 4PY

Talk and discussion groups:

The Dignity and worth of women

Further details from:
sally514@btinternet.com
www.wamcf.org



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