



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 January, Epiphany 4

This week we have a 10.00am Parish Communion. All are warmly invited to worship. There will be an activity available for children during the service

The Collect

God our creator,
who in the beginning
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:
we pray that the light
of the glorious gospel of Christ
may dispel the darkness
of ignorance and unbelief,
shine into the hearts of all your people,
and reveal the knowledge of your glory
in the face of 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

Generous Lord,
in word and eucharist
we have proclaimed the mystery of your love:
help us so to live out our days
that we may be signs of your wonders
in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

First Reading

Moses spoke to the people; he said: ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: 'If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.' ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: 'They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak - that prophet shall die.'

Deuteronomy 18.15-20

Gospel Reading

²¹The disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' ²⁶And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching - with

authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. *Mark 1.21-28*

Sunday's Hymns:

520 Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old 698(i) King of glory, king of peace
512 Christ's is the world in which we move 522 We cannot measure now you heal
588 And can it be

Thought for the week:

This week's reading from Mark tells us that the people who heard Jesus teach in the Capernaum synagogue 'were astounded at his teaching.' 'Astounded' is a very strong word. When were you last astounded by the teaching you heard in church? What on earth did Jesus say to create this effect? The problem is, the Gospel reading doesn't tell us. Are we supposed to know from what we have read so far? But this is only chapter one! Did the first readers already know from what they'd heard about Jesus elsewhere? Or were the hearers astounded not so much by what was said as by the manner in which it was said?

We are not told about Jesus' words, but about how he spoke them: 'as one having authority'. What does that mean to you? Have you ever met someone who seemed to have a special authority and, if so, what was it about them that produced this effect on you?

It is often said that a person who craves high office is probably the least appropriate to take it. When Jesus suspected the crowd were about to 'make him a king', after he had fed them with the loaves and fishes, he withdrew to the mountain to be alone (John 6:15). Perhaps it was this kind of humility coupled with sound teaching that was so astounding: someone who clearly knows what they are talking about but doesn't want great accolades as a result. We might ask how this kind of humility is regarded in today's world and Church? Where do we find it? If we only listen to those who push themselves forward and shout loudest, we lose the wisdom of the quieter and more reflective voices. It is interesting to note that the one who shouts loudest in our Mark reading is 'the man with the unclean spirit'.

From *Roots on the Web*



The Synagogue at Capernaum today

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- 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, especially those worried for loved ones.
- 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 more children and families to come along to Sunday services / children's activities. And for Sam Fiordelisi as she leads our children and family ministry.
- For a new church music leader.
- For our growth in faith and for the developing Alpha team. For God to be moving guests to join the course.
- For all those whose anniversary of baptism falls in February: Harry Ford, Oscar Ford, Zara Mean, Lucy Walwyn Salisbury, Harriet Walwyn Salisbury.

- For all those who live and work in College Rise.
- The sick and their carers : Monica Olley, Ann Hockham, Valerie Bosley, Pat Botting, Phyllis Sigsworth, Iris Brown, Lorraine, Emily Holmes, Ken Young.
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them.
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in February: Peter Sharp, Valerie Merkel, Doreen Leverkus, Monica Macaulay Brown, Jean Glossop, Doreen Palmer, Rodgers Murwisi, Peter Curtis, Joan Bartholomew, Harvey Lovegrove, Stanley Swansborough, Christine Dawson, Walter Horwood, Judy Galvin, Oliver Mercer, Barbara Stevens, Douglas Thomson.

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

Sunday	Psalm 71.1-6,15,17	Genesis 1.1-2.3	John 1.1-18
Monday	Psalm 57	Genesis 18.1-15	Matthew 27.11-26
Tuesday	Psalm 93	Genesis 18.16-end	Matthew 27.27-44
Wednesday	Psalm 95	Genesis 19.1-3, 12-29	Matthew 27.45-56
Thursday	Psalm 110	Genesis 21.1-21	Matthew 27.57-end
Friday	Psalm 144	Genesis 22.1-19	Matthew 28.1-15+
Saturday	Psalm 147	Genesis 23	Matthew 28.16-end

Rotas for next week

Sunday 4th February: All Age Holy Communion with Christingle

Read: Margaret Gibbons

Intercede: Preacher

Welcomers: Clare, Kim and Anne

Coffee: Sally and Jenny

Our church is floodlit at night.

This week the flood lighting has been sponsored by:

Eunice Goodman

In support of Berkshire Vision



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
Monday 29 th	7.30pm, WAMCF Ladies meeting at ADH
Tuesday 30th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom
Wednesday 31st	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 10.00am, Holy Communion and Healing 7.00-9.00pm, Alpha Course, in Church
Thursday 1st	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 9.30am, Baby and Toddler Group
Friday 2nd	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 4.00pm, Messy Church
Saturday 3rd	8.45-10.30am, Church Breakfast, tickets available from office and/or after service
Sunday 4th	10.00am, All Age Christingle Holy Communion 6.00pm, Taize service for Candlemas, St Luke's Church

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

4 th February	Taizé service for Candlemas, in church at St Luke's (also zoomed)
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

Coming up..

Christingle service: this year our Christingle service will be part of our celebration of Candlemas (which closes the Christmas season) at the All Age Holy Communion service next Sunday. All ages are welcome to come along and receive a Christingle.

If you would like to help make them please join a working party at 11 am on Saturday 3rd, after the church breakfast.

Messy Church our Messy church will re-start in the new year, dates are as follows: 2nd February, 1st March, 30th March, 3rd May, 7th June, 5th July, 6th September, 4th October, 1st November, 29th November

Alpha course: please be praying for the Alpha course – team and guests. The course will start on Wednesday 31st January. Please speak to Revd. Sally if you think you would like to join the course.

The Children's Society: Did you know that you can sign up to receive The Children's Society's monthly prayer email which has prayers for each week that support their work? See here: <https://bit.ly/48reRun>. You can, of course, unsubscribe at any time. Terrie, who is a volunteer speaker for The Children's Society, has written the prayers for January. You can find them here: <https://bit.ly/48IfMGI>. If you would like to know more about The Children's Society's vital work among children and young people, have a word with Terrie at any time.

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.

Church Breakfast: Saturday 3rd February, doors open 8.45 (end around 10.30 am). All are welcome to come along to enjoy fellowship over a hearty breakfast and to hear our speaker, Ruth Humphreys, talk about her work as a Storyteller in what is National Storytelling week. Tickets are £5 each and available now from the parish office or after church.

Ash Wednesday, 14th February: we will offer services of Holy Communion and ashing, with reflections, at 10.00 am and 8.00 pm.

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 two 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 will be available soon with more ideas for Lenten activities.

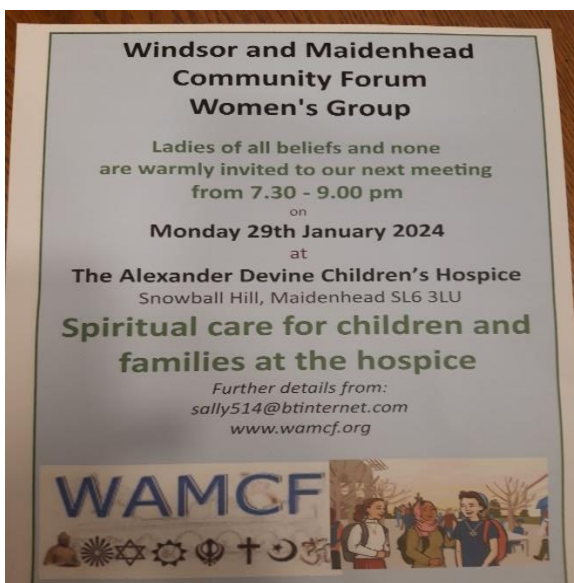
Fake emails: a reminder to be vigilant about opening emails that do not ring true. There will be a talk about online protection by James Ellins on Sunday 3rd March, at 11.30 am before the Lent lunch.

Online Lenten Retreat from the Church Times and St. Martin's in the Fields: 'Jesus was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.' Mark 1.13

Lent is demanding. It strips us back, asks us to set aside the amusements that distract us and the comforts that cushion us in order that we may be more truly known. But it never asks us to be alone. Whether disturbing, strange or assuring, there will be company on our journey through Lent. Our speakers reflect on who they would choose as a spiritual companion for the season and reveal that even the most unexpected or unwelcome companion can draw us nearer to God.

A Lent retreat offering a morning of worship and reflection. Speakers include Jay Hulme, Rachel Mann, Rob Marshall and Nick Papadopoulos. Opening and closing worship with Richard Carter and the St Martin's Voices. In association with Canterbury Press.

Details, and to book: [Companions on the Way: A retreat in preparation for Lent \(churchtimes.co.uk\)](https://www.churchtimes.co.uk)



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 2nd February 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 15th February

Thursday Teas meets in the community hall offering tea, cake and conversation. Second Thursdays monthly. Next is 8th February

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

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=dUNTtnRZVFJBY2xiS3QyVHlYZ1BaZz09> Meeting ID:

853 7879 6960 Passcode: 386635