



St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Week Commencing: 4th February: The Feast of Candlemas

This week we have a 10.00am All Age Holy Communion Christingle service which will be part of our celebration of Candlemas (which closes the Christmas season). 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.

The Collect

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son
was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All

Post Communion Prayer

Lord, you fulfilled the hope
of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received
these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus
when he comes to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Gospel Reading

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Luke 2.22-40

Sunday's Hymns:

42	Longing for light/Christ be our light
screen	Light of the world, here I am to worship
screen	Christingle carol
719	Shine, Jesus shine

Thought for the week:

In the story of the presentation of Jesus in the temple we meet Simeon and Anna – two revered and elderly Jews who had been waiting for the Messiah. Mary and Joseph brought the 40 day old baby Jesus into the Temple to carry out the ritual purification offering required by the Old Testament law. And the waiting Jews both saw that their hopes were now realised – this tiny helpless baby was the Messiah. Simeon uttered the beautiful words that we know today as the Nunc Dimittis - he could now die because he had seen the saviour – and he prophesied that Jesus would be a light for all nations. But his death is clearly hinted at too as Simeon warns Mary of the sword that will pierce her heart.



Over the years this service has become called the feast of Candlemas after the candles used to symbolise the light of Jesus to the nations. That light is crucial for us on our journey through the labyrinth of life. We certainly need a guide to our journey and the light of Christ seems to be the very best. At this time, the focus of our worship moves to the font and we think of the waters of baptism, symbolising death to the old life – and being raised up to a new one. And we have lighted candles as a reminder of the light of Christ which guides us through.

As we brace ourselves spiritually for the next stage of the journey through the church year, and our own lives – for we never know what is round the corner - let's resolve to keep the light of Christ firmly as our guide – through worship, prayer and reading of his word – and to live the journey in the light of the experiences we have had of the Christian faith and of life itself – but always looking forward to what new things we will learn and experience, building on, but not living in, the past. And we can bring all of that to enrich our liturgy each week as we worship Jesus – the light to all nations, so that one day we can each truly say:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation.

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- For light for those living 'in darkness'
- 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.
- For our school, keeping Theology week this week.
- For a new church music leader.
- For our growth in faith and for the developing Alpha team. For God to be moving more 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 Road.
- The sick and their carers : Monica Olley, Ann Hockham, Valerie Bosley, Pat Botting, Phyllis Sigsworth, Iris Brown, Lorraine, Ken Young, Olu Rowe, Brenda Windass.
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them: Audrey Ellins
- 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 4th February 2024:

Sunday	Psalm 29	Genesis 3	Mark 9.33-end
Monday	Psalm 2	Genesis 29.31-30.24	2 Timothy 4.1-8
Tuesday	Psalm 5	Genesis 31.1-24	2 Timothy 4.9-end
Wednesday	P119.1-32	Genesis 31.25-32.2	Titus 1
Thursday	Psalm 15	Genesis 32.3-30	Titus 2
Friday	Psalm 19	Genesis 33.1-17	Titus 3
Saturday	Psalm 23	Genesis 35	Philemon

Rotas for next week

Sunday 11th February: Parish Communion

Read: Isobel Davies

Intercede: Shula Tajima

Welcomers: Jacqueline, Simon and Lisa

Coffee: Helen and Carl

Our church is floodlit at night.

This week the flood lighting has been sponsored by:

Jeanette Lock

In loving memory of my husband Stephen



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 4th	10.00am, All Age Christingle Holy Communion 6.00pm, Taize service for Candlemas, St Luke's Church
Tuesday 6th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 7.30pm PCC Standing Committee, zoom
Wednesday 7th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 10.00am, Holy Communion 12.30pm, Deanery Chapter, in Church 7.00-9.00pm, Alpha course, in Church
Thursday 8th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 9.30am, Baby and Toddler Group 2.00pm, Thursday Teas
Friday 9th	8.30am, Morning prayer on zoom 5.00pm, Evening prayer, on zoom
Saturday 10th	9.00am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
Sunday 11th	8.00am, Holy Communion 10.00pm, Parish Communion

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 this 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: 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 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.

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.

LENT

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 next week 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.mpxford.anglican.org/come-and-see>
- Come and See - for families (weekly content, each Sunday)
<https://mailchi.mpxford.anglican.org/come-and-see-for-families>

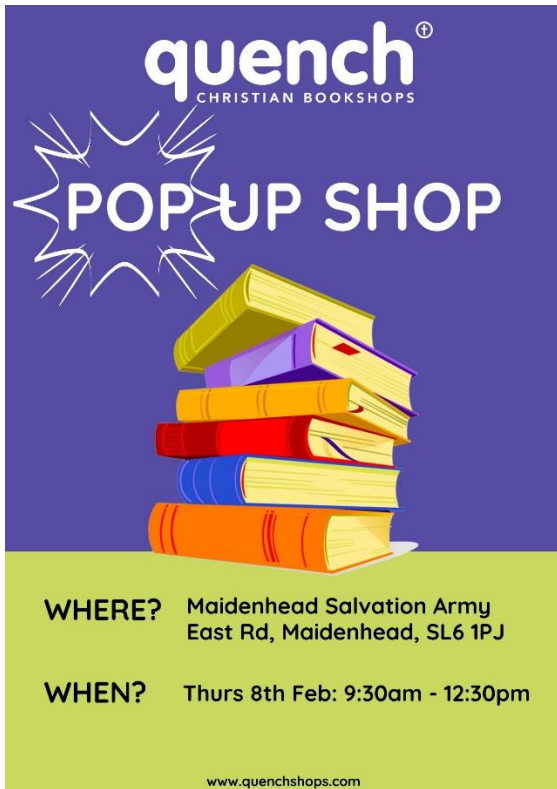
Online Lenten Retreat from the Church Times and St. Martin's in the Fields: 'Jesus was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.' Mark 1.13

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)

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.



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 1st 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 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 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=MTFhVjNad1R6NEl6cVZ6TVJ5bGlzdz09>

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