

St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead

www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Week Commencing: 8th December, Advent 2

It is Christmas Tree Festival weekend. Don't forget to come and see the trees (details below). On Sunday we have an 8.00am Holy Communion service, and a 10.00am Parish Communion, both in among the trees. Sunday is also the last day of our Christmas Tree festival for which we will have a closing service at 6.00pm. We hope to see many of you there to see all the wonderful trees and celebrate the end of a successful event.

Just a reminder that our midweek Holy Communion this week will take place on Tuesday at the usual time of 10.00 am to facilitate Claires Court Carol services on Wednesday. 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 2.45pm it would be much appreciated. Thank you.

The Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading

Thus says the Lord God: ¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. *Malachi 3.1-4*

Gospel Reading

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Luke 3.1-6

Sunday's Hymns

46 On Jordan's bank

319 Sing we the praises of the great
forerunner

75 Long ago, prophets knew

Taize 2 Wait for the Lord

38 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding



Thought for the week...

The second candles on our Advent wreath remind us of the Prophets such as Isaiah and Jeremiah. The value we might associate with them is Hope. The prophets were God's mouthpieces, they gave the people of Israel messages from God – sometimes encouraging and often challenging. Prophecy is not the same as predicting the future. Some prophets did hint at events that might happen, very often these prophecies can be interpreted both for their contemporary time and for future times, such as our own. The most important role of the prophets then, and now, is to speak God's word into the world. They can therefore encourage people with the hope that God offers – especially when people recognise his way of living.

Where might we hear prophets speaking to us today? Do we hear and heed their message?

This week the floodlighting has been sponsored by

Bridget Morris

*In loving memory of my mum Winnie and my dad Graham
(2nd and 10th December)*

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 Holly Drive
- For Isabel Nixon and Keeon Obianwu who were baptised recently and for Cole Brooks to be baptised this month.

- 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, Faith Powley
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them: Tony Barber, Joyce Parry.
- 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 8th December 2024:

Sunday	Psalm 80	Isaiah 5	John 5.19-40
Monday	Psalm 44	Isaiah 45.14-end	1 Thessalonians 1
Tuesday	Psalm 56	Isaiah 46	1 Thessalonians 2.1-12
Wednesday	Psalm 62	Isaiah 47	1 Thessalonians 2.13-end
Thursday	Psalm 54	Isaiah 48.1-11	1 Thessalonians 3
Friday	Psalm 86	Isaiah 48.12-end	1 Thessalonians 4.1-12
Saturday	Psalm 145	Isaiah 49.1-13	1 Thessalonians 4.13-end

Rotas for next week, 15th December, 10.00am Parish Communion

Read: James Ellins Intercede: Shula Tajima Chalice: Ben D
 Welcomers: Rachel, Helen and Carl Coffee: Simone and Season

What's on.... this week:

Sunday 8th 8.00am, Holy Communion
 10.00am, Parish Communion
 12.00-6.00pm, Christmas Tree Festival
 6.00pm, Christmas Tree Service

Tuesday 10th 8.30am, Morning Prayer, on zoom
 10.00am, Holy Communion

Wednesday 11th 8.30am, Morning Prayer, on zoom

Thursday 12th 8.30am, Morning Prayer, on Zoom
 9.30am, Baby and Toddler group (Party – bookings only)
 1.00pm, Funeral of Tony Barber, in Church

Friday 13th 8.30am, Morning Prayer on zoom
 10.00am, St Luke's School Nativity, in Church
 5.00pm, Evening Prayer on zoom

Saturday 14th 9.00am, Morning prayer, on zoom

Sunday 15th 10.00am, Parish Communion
 12.00pm, Baptism of Cole Brooks

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 6.00 pm	Carol Services at each church

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 attend.

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

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.

From Sunday, 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.

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 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=Y2hKZkFYZ04zbGZBd1BHcmllldU5Hdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 5909 0925

Passcode: 180609

Advent and Christmas at St. Luke's Church 2024

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
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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

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