

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

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Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

I am writing this on 21st June, the longest day of the year. And what a sunny and warm summer day it is too. So I wish you a very happy summer whatever that may bring, and whatever your plans are.

For me, I am looking forward to our pilgrimage to Walsingham in September (which is often a lovely month), and I am watching for my newly planted flower beds to mature – in the hope that the flowers prove more vigorous than the weeds ! The bees and butterflies are busy amongst the flowers on my lavender plants, and



the beginnings of a first crop of apples are there on my four new apple trees. All this reminds me of the fruitfulness and the inter-connectedness of the natural world. We thank God for the wonders of creation and rejoice in the opportunity he has given us to be co-creators with him, and stewards and guardians of all he has made. May we find refreshment and relaxation in simply spending time noticing and enjoying this beautiful, fascinating and delightful world.

The summer solstice also reminds us of John the Baptist, whose birth we celebrate each year on 24th June. Luke 1:26 tells us that the Annunciation to Mary occurred when Elizabeth was already six months pregnant with John the Baptist – hence the two births, of Jesus and John the Baptist, were six months apart. So if the nativity of Our Lord is celebrated on 25th December it is appropriate for the birth of John the Baptist to be celebrated in June.

However, this midsummer date for the festival of John the Baptist is entirely appropriate for another reason. In John's Gospel (3:30) we find John the Baptist saying of his own place in relationship to Jesus: "He must increase, I must decrease." John the Baptist's role as the forerunner of Jesus had been completed. So, as we hit the longest day and the day length begins to shorten again, we are reminded of John the Baptist's incredible humility in understanding that it was time for his own ministry to diminish in order to make way for the greater ministry of Jesus.

And there is similar humility in our own journey, too, as we progress on our Christian pilgrimage: the self-assertive 'I' inside us needs to give way to the greater wisdom of the knowledge and love of God growing in

our hearts and minds, the very Spirit of Jesus Christ within us. As Paul puts it “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20).

With my love and prayers,

Fr John.

RESOURCES THIS WEEK

- Thursday 23rd June** **9.15am Morning Prayer**
3.00pm Open the Book at All Saints School
8.00pm Choir Practice in the Church
- Friday 24th** **9.15am Morning Prayer**
10.00am Tiny Saints in the Parish Centre
- Saturday 25th** **2pm Marriage of Daniel Almassi and Zoe Carter in Church**
- Sunday 26th** **10.00am The Parish Eucharist for the Second Sunday after Trinity**
Celebrant: Fr Jeremy Preacher: Fr John
- 12 noon Holy Baptism**
Please pray for Gary David Edwards (father) and for Chloe Mia Edwards, her parents and godparents
- Tuesday 28th** *9.00am Open the Book at Larchfield School*
7.30pm Churchwardens Swearing-In at Newbury
- Wednesday 29th June** **10.00am Eucharist (BCP)**

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We give thanks and praise to God for the wonders of his creation. We pray that we would be able to find time to enjoy it and find refreshment and relaxation in creation. We pray for all those who care for our natural environment, and who draw attention to ways in which we are damaging it. We pray for the development of agricultural and food distribution policies that enable all the world’s population to be properly fed whilst protecting the riches of the natural world from damaging exploitation. We pray for the adoption of humane methods of farming and fishing that protect the well-being of animals and prevent unnecessary suffering.

We pray for those engaged in managing the economic well-being of our world, and especially in our own country. We pray for economic policies that protect the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalised. We pray for the work of the UK charity Christians Against Poverty, and other organisations that seek to help those in financial difficulty. We pray for Maidenhead Foodshare, those who work there, those who support it, and those whom it serves.

We continue to pray for the people of the Ukraine, that they would be able to live in peace and for their common life to flourish once again. We acknowledge with pain and anguish the sinfulness of humanity that causes such suffering, and we acknowledge other places of violence and warfare, including Sudan, Afghanistan and the Middle East, and for displaced peoples everywhere. We pray that the leaders of nations would seek the common good and work for peace with justice.

We pray for the worldwide Church, that the Gospel of Jesus Christ would be heard and that the hearts of many would be turned to love and compassion. We pray for the mission and ministry of our Church here in the Parish of All Saints Boyne Hill.

For our Churchwardens Ken Smith and John Bolodeoku as they prepare to be sworn into office by the Archdeacon on 28th June. We give thanks for their commitment to this important office and pray for their work in the coming year.

We pray for Daniel and Zoe who are to be married in church on Saturday, and for Chloe and Gary Edwards to be baptised on Sunday.

Also for Elsie Roberts, Joseph West, James Tudor, Skylark Knight and Riley Howard as it nears the anniversaries of their baptisms.

Among those who have asked for our prayers, we pray for Suzette, Danielle, Fr John Chadwick, Dave Hill, Eliza, Dave's parents and Anne and Chris, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Mikhail, John Hicks, Roger and Jane Baldery, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner, Carol Atkin, Harrison Hawkes, Heidi Webb, Florence Harrison, Rene Wilson, Roderick Maclennan, and Rachel. May they know God's loving and healing presence. We pray for any in our parish who need God's loving grace and healing touch at this time.

We remember the recently departed including David Buckland, Maureen McTavish and Doreen Hill and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 26 JUNE THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

COLLECT

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth; send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

EPISTLE Galatians 5: 1 & 13 - 25

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,

kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

GOSPEL Luke 9: 51 - 62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village. As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another Jesus said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

MUSIC

Prelude: Cantique *E Elgar*

Opening AM 450 Jesus calls us here to meet him

Gradual: AM 595 Be thou my vision

Offertory: AM 510 Will you come and follow me

Communion Anthem: A Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Closing Hymn: AM 704 Let all the world in every corner sing

Postlude: Pomp and Circumstance March No 4 *E Elgar*

SUNDAYS AT 4

Please note the next Sundays at 4 service in the Quadrangle with barbecue following will now be on 3rd July, not 26th June as previously advertised.

FOODSHARE

In these hard times Foodshare are more in need of our help than ever. Each week in the Maidenhead Advertiser there is a list of items most wanted.