

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

PARISH NEWS

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Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,



I often enjoy a May Bank Holiday. This year was no exception as I experienced a wonderful walk with Mike and Jan Moss through Bray and then making a circular journey around the new Thames Hospice. On the route Mike spotted two different herons and we saw Canada Geese. Watching one heron carefully catch some late morning brunch in the still and beautiful surroundings of the lake at the back of the Hospice was a lovely experience. Enroute we came across walkers with excited dogs enjoying the forested areas alongside cyclists and others enjoying the relaxation of nature.

This weekend we are sharing our Worship for All, and the Sustainability group have asked me to focus on flowers, animals and birds as we discover God in nature. Pope Francis in his pastoral letter to the worldwide church, on the environment, 'Laudato Si' (Praise to you), wrote about 'The Gaze of Jesus'. 'Jesus was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder. As he made his way throughout the land, he often stopped to contemplate the beauty sown by his Father and invited his disciples to perceive a divine message in things.'

Although the Bible doesn't say that Jesus withdrew from the crowds to enjoy the flowers, he surely enjoyed looking at the flowers, listening to the birdsongs, viewing the pale blue water of the Sea of Galilee. Yesterday on our walk we saw some poppies, and I am told that in March or April and Springtime in Galilee the vivid green grass can be dotted by bright red poppies and mustard plants that burst into yellow flower. For people living in biblical times there would have been an awareness of God's presence and awe and wonder.

One of the joys of going on Pilgrimage in 2013 to Santiago in Northern Spain was the opportunity (I didn't realise this until I experienced it) of being taken out of myself, to be confronted by the beauty of the natural world. I enjoyed too the Rioja and the tapas as well as the conversations with people from around the world, but it was the stepping back from the self-absorbed and hectic life, to experience God in nature and in people that impacted me most. Dare I say to calm my inner self (it took at least two weeks!) to be a little bit more the person God wants me to be.

This experience is discovered by people who enjoy walking perhaps hills or mountains, rearing pets who give unconditional love, tending the garden, admiring wildlife, stargazing or standing at the side of the sea

watching the waves come in and crash against the rocks. These are not as John Bell writes ‘romantic pursuits for those with time on their hands, they are means by which we affirm our connectedness with all living things...’ (Living with the Psalms – John Bell)

To use a personal experience of my love for dogs. Samuel Wells in his book ‘Incarnational Ministry’, obviously enjoys the company of a dog too. He describes being in participation with creation when we consider the dog. ‘Here is presence, constant, abiding, trusting, affectionate presence. Here is attention, devoted, unwavering, perhaps a little self-interested, but nonetheless unblinking attention. Here is mystery, a creature that serves no purpose but companionship, solves no problem but loneliness, brooks no estrangement without immediate reconciliation, holds no grudge, turns to no other master, lives for no joy beyond cherishing and exercising and food.’ Wells description continues to highlight just one way we can experience in partnership with creation. (Those that attend Tuesday Club talks will reflect dogs can serve blind and deaf people too).

Finally, nature can calm and delight us. In nature we can experience a powerful spiritual experience (James Martin – Learning to Pray) as our slower breathing, lower heartrate can be a way God draws us into spending time with, and meditating upon, nature. You may not delight in a barking dog, but you may enjoy a sunset, a storm, clouds, trees, flowers, insects (I recall many things about the Revd Roy Taylor that I admire but his love of insects will stay with me), rocks can all lead us to giving thanks for creation and life.

PARISH WALK SUNDAY 15 MAY

MEET AT 2.30pm IN THAMES HOSPICE CAR PARK, WINDSOR ROAD, MAIDENHEAD SL6 2DN

The Sustainability Group invite everyone for a walk around the lake at the rear of Thames Hospice on Sunday 15 May leaving at 2.30pm from the hospice car park. We will enjoy a circular route around the peaceful lake and reflect on the fact that this private land was given for use for a hospice, a place that offers wellbeing to people facing life limiting illnesses. For patients and their families to experience compassion, emotional support, complementary therapy and well-being programmes in a space providing the view of creation. We will finish our 3 mile walk at their Café by the Lake at about 4.00pm over coffee, tea and cakes.

All welcome to join the Sustainability Group on this walk enjoying God’s creation, but please let me know if you would like a lift to the start.

THANK YOU

To all those kind people who have provided clothes, trainers, footballs, cycles etc to support the Iranian Refugees who are worshipping with us. These are the items still welcomed:

1. Find spare clothes and shoes (ladies trainers sizes 37, 38 and 40)
2. Supplementary food – People at the hotel are being fed but it is poor in quality and made with spices. People of Iran use herbs more than spices in their cooking. We will host a meal on the lunchtime of Thursday 5 May to provide a meal that they will enjoy

If you can help in a simple practical way, please let myself, Sue Wright or Ken Smith know.

RESOURCES THIS WEEK

Thursday 5 May

9.15am Morning Prayer

10.00am English Class in the Birinus Room
3.00pm *Open the Book at All Saints School*
8.00pm Choir Practice in the Parish Centre

Friday 6

9.15am Morning Prayer

10.00am Tiny Saints in the Parish Centre
1.00pm Marriage of Harry Chapman & Suzie Weeks

Sunday 8

10.00am The Parish Eucharist The Fourth Sunday of Easter Worship for All

Celebrant: Fr John Talk on God's Creation: Fr Jeremy
6.00pm *Sundays@Six Taizé Service at St Luke's*

Tuesday – Thursday Assemblies on Wellbeing and Compassion at Altwood School

Tuesday 10

9.00am *Open the Book at Larchfield School*

Wednesday 11

10.00am Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr John
2.30pm *Senior Saints meet at Stella Horne's house*
3.00pm *Assembly on Relationships & Respect at All Saints School*

PRAYER INTENTIONS

United and whole, show us the way of peace that is your overwhelming presence.

We hold before you the peoples of Ukraine and Russia, Every child and every adult.

We long for the time when weapons of war are beaten into ploughshares, when nations no longer lift up sword against nation.

We cry out to you for peace; Protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security and safety

Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of loved ones, be with those who are bereaved.

Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression and fill leaders with the wisdom that leads to peace.

Kindle again in us a love for our neighbour, and a passion for justice to prevail

And a renewed recognition that we all play a part in peace.

Creator of all hear our prayer and bring us peace. Make us whole. Amen.

We pray for the Iranian people sharing our community at this time and for all refugees seeking help and support at this time. May we be compassionate people offering hope to all who seek integration into our community.

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, Doreen Hill, John Hicks, Roger and Jane Baldery, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner, Carol Atkin, Harrison Hawkes, Heidi Webb, and Florence Harrison. 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 Richard Coxwell, Daisy Florence Keysell, Anna Beadman, Trevor Woodwards, Ben Russell and Richard Engleman and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Lord, you walk with us through all kinds of terrains of life: mountains, hills, valleys, clifftops, deserts, woods, town centres, playing fields. When life gets tough we try to sort our problems out alone and then despair when our burdens overwhelm us. Forgive us these times when we do not rest in you and persevere in faith. Lord forgive us too when we are not thankful for the many blessings in our lives. Forgive us for taking you and others for granted. We pray we that we may be more aware of your presence in creation and all living beings.

May we all be blessed with God's love this Eastertide,

Fr Jeremy

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 8 MAY THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever. Amen.

NT READING Acts 9: 36 - 43

In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

GOSPEL John 10: 22 - 30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

MUSIC

Prelude: Sheep May Safely Graze *J S Bach*

Opening Hymn: AM 671 I will sing the wondrous story

Gradual: AM 800 The Lord's my shepherd

Offertory: AM 563 Jesus Christ is waiting

Communion: AM 794 The King of love my shepherd is

Closing Hymn: AM: 494 I, the Lord of sea and sky

Postlude: Processional *W Mathias*

SENIOR SAINTS WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2.30pm

All welcome to join us at Stella Horne's home, 33 Altwood Road

Margaret Hill & Wendy Channon

PCC ELECTION RESULTS

At the APCM held on Monday 25 April at Boyne Hill Cricket Club the following were elected:

Ken Smith elected Churchwarden and Vice Chairman of the PCC

John Bolodeoku elected Churchwarden

Ken Smith elected Deanery Synod Lay Representative

Stella Harding re-elected as Deputy Churchwarden and member of the PCC

Jeremy Nordberg re-elected as Member of the PCC

Greg Hurst elected as Member of the PCC

Sue Stannett re-elected as Electoral Roll Officer

Ann Rawlings and Ursula Hutchinson stood down as Churchwarden and Deanery Synod Lay Representative respectively. Fr Jeremy thanked Ann and Ursula for their contribution to the PCC.

The new PCC comprises the following members

The Revd Jeremy Harris

The Revd John Ainslie

Ken Smith, Churchwarden and Deanery Synod Lay Rep

John Bolodeoku, Churchwarden

Rod Broad, PCC Treasurer & Deanery Synod Lay Rep

Elected PCC Members

Stella Harding, Deputy Churchwarden

Dianne Farmiloe, Jo McMullen, Brian Graves, Sue Stannett, Greg Hurst, Jeremy Nordberg, Nick Kirk,

David Morgan PCC Secretary