

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**
www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk
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Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

On Sunday we will mark the festival of the Presentation of the Lord. This beautiful feast fittingly concludes the forty days of Christmas with the ceremony of candles – and hence the old English name of Candlemas. Simeon and Anna, the two prophets who have prayed and waited faithfully for the coming of ‘Yeshua’ the Saviour, now recognise that saviour in Christ. Simeon embraces Jesus whom he proclaims as the light and glory not just to Israel but to all peoples. As we hold our candles at Sunday’s Eucharist we will greet the light of the world, Jesus, and then go into the world to walk in God’s light, to rejoice in God’s love and to reflect God’s glory.

It is with sadness that I share the news that Gwen Burkitt and Janet Emerson died last weekend. It seems appropriate to me that as we reflect upon the story of Simeon and Anna, who prayed and waited faithfully upon the Lord, that we remember Gwen and Janet who both shared the hope of the Christian faith within this community over many years.

Gwen, who lived to the incredible age of 101, matching John Elliott in terms of age, was a lady who loved worshipping here, and played a large role running the Mothers’ Union alongside Ena Jones, Wendy Channon, and Kath Horne to name but a few. The Mothers’ Union, in my early years at All Saints, invited excellent speakers to address the group, acted as Senior Saints still do, by playing a pastoral role making sure everyone is keeping well and praying for folk when they are unwell. To this day Senior Saints continues to provide friendship and hospitality as the Mothers’ Union did in the past.

One of the areas of ministry Gwen and the Mothers’ Union played a large part in developing is now one of the main areas of church life when we are able to keep contact and build relationships with young families and that is the Friday morning Tiny Saints. Gwen, Ena, Rene, and Margaret were some of the early helpers from Mothers’ Union that welcomed young families into Tiny Saints. They would enjoy playing the piano, teaching and singing nursery rhymes with the children and, in those early days, helped the group flourish. Gwen, alongside other members of the Mothers’ Union, also played her part in providing hospitality following services and events in church. They were part of the early group of people that went on pilgrimage to Walsingham to share worship and hospitality.

Janet Emerson, alongside David, gave vibrancy to our church community by planning and organising Parish holidays from 2009 to 2013. These holidays grew out of Messy Church when we encouraged a good number of families to worship and share food at All Saints School. Janet and David saw the opportunity to return to Fr Norman’s era when parish holidays brought much joy to our congregation. In my time Janet and David organised trips to The Lake District, Scarborough and three to Devon and Brunel House. These holidays brought great joy to those that shared in the experiences. They enabled families and more senior members

to enjoy holidays together. We would share worship, sports, swimming, games and meals and as a consequence our church community grew.

Janet and David were two of the group that went with me and Fr Kevin Scully on an incredibly moving pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2009. As Fr John mentioned in last week's Parish News seeing the places where the stories of the bible took place brought the scriptures alive for us. As with Gwen, Janet's faith was strong, and this was witnessed by me last September when I visited Janet in hospital. Janet had been living with leukaemia but on visiting her to share communion with her I realised how deep her faith was and how much it gave her strength. As I said to Katie, her daughter, that deep spiritual strength brought encouragement to me as we shared the sacraments. Both Gwen and Janet are members of our community who have brought joy and support to my ministry. Some of the activities they led and took part in have been some of the high points in my time here.

In the coming weeks we will share the Christian hope at Gwen's and Janet's funeral services. Like Simeon and Anna, they both waited patiently for the Lord in their lives and they may with Simeon say:
*'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared: before the face of all peoples;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.'*

May we all be blessed by God this week,

Fr Jeremy

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

- Thursday 25 January** *2.00pm Class on Pilgrimage at Desborough School*
3.00pm Open the Book at All Saints School
6.00pm AllSorts at St Mary's
8.00pm Choir Practice
- Friday 26** *Multi-faith Assembly at Boyne Hill School*
10.00am Tiny Saints Toddler Group in the Parish Centre
- Sunday 28** **10.00am Parish Eucharist for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple**
Celebrant: Fr Jeremy Preacher: Fr John

4.00pm Sundays@4 Play rehearsal with songs & hotdogs. All welcome
- Monday 29** **9.30am Morning Prayer**
7.30pm PCC Meeting in the Birinus Room
7.30pm WAMCF Ladies Group See p 6 for details
- Tuesday 30** *9.00am Assembly at Altwood School on the Theme of Respect*
9.30am Morning Prayer
- Wednesday 31** **10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)**
Celebrant: Fr John
3.00pm Open the Book at Larchfield School
7.30pm Welcome Group meet in the Birinus Room

ADVANCE NOTICES:

Sunday 4 February 10.00am Eucharist for The Second Sunday Before Lent

Fr John will celebrate the Eucharist for us for the last time before moving to take up his new post as Associate Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Maidstone.

Fr John's licensing will be on Thursday 21 March. We will share more information for those wishing to support Fr John by attending the service at a later date.

Friday 16 February 11.00am The Requiem Mass for Gwen Burkitt in Church followed by cremation service at East Hampstead Park, Bracknell at 1.00pm.

Saturday 10 February The annual big match at the vicarage and, of course, at Twickenham 4.45pm England v. Wales. Food will be served at half time.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We give thanks this Sunday as we mark Candlemas as the prophecy of a saviour that would go through suffering to bring New Life and a light to the nations is fulfilled. We ask that the divine light will shine on all our nations. In our families and friendships and through the church make us a light to lighten the lives of others. This week we remember all those who suffered through the evil of the Holocaust. We pray for those who stood up against evil and made great efforts to transport children to Britain to give them the hope of life and freedom. From Maidenhead we give thanks for the life of Sir Nicholas Winton and his efforts in partnership with others to save the lives of 669 children.

We continue to pray for peace, that there may be an end to bloodshed in Gaza, Israel and other countries of unrest including Ukraine, Sudan and South Sudan, Iran and other places of violence and oppression. We remember all our asylum seekers and refugees in our town and at All Saints and we pray that they may find homes to live in and jobs for them to find fulfilment.

In this cold and damp winter weather we pray for the homeless and those suffering poverty, and we give thanks for those who give assistance, including the homeless charities and Maidenhead Foodshare.

We continue to pray for our church community as we seek to become an Eco Church. We pray for our link charity, the Ripple Effect as they continue to support sustainable farming in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia. We look forward to our Lent soup lunches as we try to raise money to support sustainable farming.

We pray for Fr John, giving thanks for his ministry to us as priest over the last two years and as a loyal and committed member of this church over many years. We give thanks for his ministry within the liturgy, pastoral care in homes, helping us to become a more welcoming community, and his support of individuals at home. We pray that Fr John may find the people of his new parish in Maidstone supportive and that he, with their support, will bring new life to their church community.

WE pray for Noah Velczenbach, Clementine Smith Collins, Stefan Lungu on the anniversaries of their baptisms.

We pray for those of our parish and congregation in any kind of need or distress at this time, and especially for Daneille, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Birmta Zadinane, Edite Zadinane, Heid Webb, Tadeusz, Christopher, Sylvia Denison, Cheryl Brookes, Gordon Kerrison, Sylvia Telford, Eddie Sheppard, Carol Sheppard, Barbara Bannister, Hugh Boulter, Simon Cowdrey, Joseph White, Morieza Seraj, Scopas Lado, Mageret Ego, Jim Goff, Gill Deane-Williams, Simon Fullarton, Vera Shaw, Abbas Heidari, Audrey Burch, Anne Pennock, Doreen Bramble and Helen Jackson.

May they all know the healing peace and presence of Christ. We pray for those who bring help and healing to those in need, those caring for loved ones at this time and for staff and residents of care homes in our parish.

We pray for the recently departed; Ann Sheppard, Kathleen Williams, Gwen Burkitt and Janet Emerson, and all who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time.

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 28 JANUARY THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

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. Amen

EPISTLE Hebrews 2: 14- 18

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

GOSPEL Luke 2: 22 - 40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus 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 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.

MUSIC

Prelude: Mit Fried' und Freud' BWV 616 *J S Bach*

Opening hymn: 80 Of the father's heart begotten

Gradual hymn: 111 Light of the world, true light divine

Offertory hymn: 113 When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day

Communion Anthem: Lift up your heads *W Mathias*

Closing hymn: 719 Lord, the light of your love is shining

Procession: Nunc Dimittis *E Bairstow*

Postlude: Solemn Melody *H Walford Davies*

CHURCH FLOWERS FOR 2024 – JUST A FEW DATES LEFT!

The Flower Sponsors' Board for 2024 is available on the table at the back of the Church; and we would be pleased if you would like to add your name against a week you would like to sponsor. It's a very appropriate way to remember loved ones we no longer see or to celebrate anniversaries, that special birthday or occasion. Sponsoring a week ensures that we can have flowers in the church on that Sunday and relieves the PCC funds of any cost whatsoever. We are sure you are aware of the pleasure the flowers give to everyone and would like to thank you in anticipation for your continued support.

Would you please give your Sponsor donation, prior to your chosen week, to Stella Harding and inform her of any colour or flower preference you might have, and we will do our best to accommodate. If Stella is not available, please feel free to use one of the envelopes with the board and hand it into the Church Office.

The Flower Team



LUNCHTIME RECITAL IN CHURCH GIVEN BY THE DRYADS DUO 1.00pm WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY ADMISSION FREE

We are pleased to welcome the locally-based Dryads Duo to All Saints who will present an attractive and accessible programme of music for violin and piano.

Formed in 2010 by violinist Carla Santos and pianist Saul Picado, in recital the Dryads Duo aim to create a coherent combination between the lesser known and the standard repertoire providing the audience with a sense of ownership and freshness, always conveying their engaging sensibility, complicity and love for the music performed (www.dryadsduo.com).

In this recital they will play the 3 Romances Op 22 by Clara Schumann; Sonata BWV 1017 by J S Bach, and the well-known Sonata by César Franck.

As it also Ash Wednesday it will be preceded at 12.15pm by the first of our Lenten Soup lunches with donations going to Ripple Effect, the charity we supported last year. <https://rippleeffect.org/>



AND SPEAKING OF LENT - HOW ABOUT SOME FILM EVENINGS?

We will be showing films with a sustainability theme on four Wednesday evenings during Lent (21 and 28 February and 6 and 13 March). If you are interested, please put the dates in your diary and more details will follow shortly (ie timings and venues). We haven't finalised the films yet, so please let Jenny Wilks or Jo McMullan know if you have any suggestions.

The Sustainability Group.

DO THE SMALL THINGS WELL

It's the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch this weekend. If you can find an hour, why not see what birds you can spot in your garden and record them for the RSPB's research? More details here:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches. Psalm 104:12

Anne Sweeney

WAMCF LADIES' GROUP MONDAY 29 JANUARY 7.30pm

For the next ladies' meeting we have been invited to the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice, Snowball Hill, Maidenhead SL6 3LU.

Julie Hughes, Lead for Quality and Governance, will talk a little about what a children's hospice offers and how it differs to an adult setting. She will also address our perceptions and those of our faith communities of the work of a children's hospice.

The staff will also talk a little about memory-making in its widest context across the child's life span and after death.

As usual there will be refreshments and the opportunity to chat with each other. Further details from:

sally514@btinternet.com

Sally Lynch, Vicar of St Luke's, Maidenhead

CARE4CALAIS TOILETRY APPEAL

Asylum seekers face many challenges even after arriving in the UK. They are not allowed to work so do not have money, even to spend on what we would see as basic essentials.

One practical action we can take to help is to donate toiletries.

If you are able to support, please bring your donations and leave them in the box at the back of church.

Claire Foley claire.foley@fit2live.me.uk

