

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**
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Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

This Friday marks Holocaust Memorial Day and Norden Farm are showing Nicky's Family – One Act Of Kindness By One Man Changed The World. It tells the remarkable story of Maidenhead resident Sir Nicholas Winton, who rescued 669 children mostly Jewish from Czechoslovakia on the eve of WW2.

Sir Nicholas helped to rescue children at risk of being murdered by Nazi Germany. He made the legal requirements to bring children to Britain and to find them homes and sponsors. It was called 'The Children's Transport' and his role went unnoticed until 1988 when he appeared on 'That's Life'. His wife had found documents showing the amazing work of her husband which he had never spoken of. In 2003 he was Knighted by the Queen.

The story is an amazing one as he managed to get the children to Britain, many of whose parents perished in Auschwitz concentration camp a place I visited with my wife, Monika, and my mother a few years ago. Auschwitz is an example of humanities potential for evil. It is hard as you go around the buildings that remain to find many signs of hope. You read only about the horrific suffering that people were put through.

It's said that Sir Nicholas regretted that he couldn't save more children. The last group of children, due to leave Prague on 1st September 1939 was unable to depart as Hitler's invasion of Poland on the same day the 2nd World War had begun. Of the 250 children who were due to leave, only 2 survived the war.

In 2010 Sir Nicholas was named a British Hero of the Holocaust by the British Government. You can see memorials in Liverpool Street Station in London where the Kindertransport children arrived in London. Maidenhead station has a memorial too opened by Theresa May when she was Home Secretary. In 2017 the then Prime Minister Theresa May opened the memorial garden for Sir Nicholas in Oaken Grove.

In a book 'Caste' – 'The Lies That Divide Us' by Isabel Wilkerson the author describes 'The Euphoria of Hate.' She describes film footage projected onto a Berlin museum wall showing Hitler returning to Berlin after Germany has seized Paris on July 6 1940. The images show soldiers holding back smiling and crying crowds much like a few decades later fans would cheer The Beatles from Liverpool. Church bells are ringing as children, men and women flutter their own Nazi flags. There is a silhouette of Hitler set against a million dots which are his supporters.

The scene described writes Wilkerson puts us face to face with the force of 'Willing susceptibility of evil'. The Nazis could not have risen to power without support. The mass of husbands, wives mothers, fathers and children all gathered were surely not all evil but celebrating what we know to be horror says Wilkerson. How many people go against the tide? How many fight evil? Perhaps this highlights the uncomfortable truth that evil is not one person. We can focus on the darkness of despots and bigots but harder to focus on the darkness of ordinary people.

One man who did was an evangelical pastor, theologian and anti – Nazi. He was vocal in his resistance to Hitler and Nazi dictatorship and opposed the euthanasia program and genocidal persecution of the Jews. He was arrested in April 1943 and imprisoned at Flossenburg concentration camp and executed in the last month of the War. He is quoted as saying 'Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless .' Bonhoeffer was not fearless (Read his poem 'Who Am I?' to see that while others saw a man of great bravery and integrity, he himself knew 'a contemptibly woebegone weakling.')

I suspect Bonhoeffer was one of the bravest men born and his response to evil alongside the great acts of Sir Nicholas Winton are the people we should give thanks for this week alongside remembering those lives that were lost in the evil of the Holocaust.

Also, this week Wednesday 25 marks the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

John 17: 21 – Jesus prays that we will be one as he is one with the Father, so that the world may believe that God has sent his Son into the world. Unity makes the church a more effective sign of God's kingdom. One of the joys of ministry in Maidenhead is the coming together of Christians from all denominations to share in projects like Street Angels, Open the Book, All Sorts, Maidenhead Care, Food Share, Love at Christmas and in the past Larchfield Open Table. Our Gospel message on Sunday was answering our call and vocation. Let us celebrate those who seek through unity to share Christ's light within the communities of our town.

SAD NEWS

It was with great sadness that we heard last Friday of the sudden death of Giles Haslam. I had visited Giles only last Monday and shared communion with him. He had settled well into life at Meadowbank on the Braywick Road and had enjoyed a good Christmas with fellow residents and through the Stroke Club. During his long time of service at All Saints Giles had been a regular member of the church serving teams. Once a month for many years Giles served at the altar as thurifer. We pray for his family at this sad time and we pray that he rests in peace and rises in glory.

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Thursday 26 January

8.50am Assembly on the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day at Altwood School

11.30am Funeral of Gerald Newth in church

3.00pm Open the Book at All Saints School

6.00pm ALLSorts First Meeting of 2023 at St Mary's

NO 7.00pm Class in the Birinus Room for those seeking Baptism and Confirmation

8.00pm Choir Practice

Friday 27

9.00am Assembly on Dreams, Goals and Endurance at Boyn Hill School

10.00am Tiny Saints Toddler Group in the Parish Centre

Sunday 29	10.00am Parish Eucharist for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple Celebrant: Fr Jeremy Preacher: Fr John
	4.00pm Sundays@4 an All Age service followed by Hotdogs and activities in the Parish Centre. The theme will be Dreams, Goals and Endurance.
Sunday 29	<i>6.00pm Sundays@Six Live Taizé at St Luke's</i>
Monday 30	9.30am Morning Prayer <i>7.45pm WAMCF Ladies Group meet at Maidenhead Mosque (see p 5)</i>
Tuesday 31	9.30am Morning Prayer <i>7.30pm Planning Meeting for 2023 Christ Child Market at the Vicarage</i>
Wednesday 1 February	10.00am Requiem Eucharist Celebrant: Fr Jeremy 9.00am Hatha Yoga in the Parish Centre 11.00am Bible Study in the Birinus Room 11.00am Tai Chi in the Parish Centre <i>11.30am Service at Clara Court Nursing Home: Fr John & Jeanette Lock</i> <i>3.00pm Open the Book at Larchfield School</i> <i>7.30pm PCC Meeting in the Parish Centre</i>

ADVANCE NOTICES

Wednesday 8 February We are hosting the Deanery Synod here from 7.30pm when refreshments will be served. The evening's main agenda item will focus on the resources Parishes across the Deanery are using for Bible studies. We hope that a good number of people from our congregation will attend to hear about the other parishes and to offer a welcome to people from Windsor and Maidenhead.

Saturday 25 February Wales v England 6 Nations. For the first time since 2020 we will be able to watch the rugby together at the Vicarage, and share a curry afterwards.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

On this Sunday 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 nations. In our families and friendships and through the church make us a light to lighten the lives of others.

We remember all those who suffered through the evil of the Holocaust. We pray too 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 369 children.

We continue to pray for peace across the world and the release from all kinds of evil and injustice. We pray for peace in the conflict in Ukraine and for the oppression in Afghanistan and Iran to end.

We give thanks for our friends from Iran who have brought a vibrancy and joy to our congregation. May they receive encouragement this year as they seek a new life to offer their gifts in this country.

We pray for our welcome, sustainability, Young Saints, All Sorts and Sustainability groups that are returning this week. May each group in their own way bring light to the people they reach out to. May we seek more people to offer their time and talents to share a light with others.

We pray for those of our congregation and parish in need at this time. We pray by name for Michael, Kirsten and Maddy; for Suzette, Danielle, Paul Latham, Jenny Chua, Doris Winn, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner, Harrison Hawkes, Heidi Webb, Florence Harrison, Tadeusz, Teresa, Leigh Hutchison-May, Silvia Denison, Cheryl Brookes, Marnos, Gordon Kerrison, Lorraine Ansell, Emilia Clark, Ruby Doughty and Mike Wilkinson. May they all know God's healing and loving presence in their lives.

We pray for the recently departed, Larisa Stephenson, Ramon Lobb, Gail Brown, Gerald Newth, Akram, Daniel Smith and Giles Haslam. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray for their families and friends and for all who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time.

May we all be blessed by God's love this week.

Fr Jeremy

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 29 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' ich fahr' dahin BWV 616 *J S Bach*

Opening Hymn: AM 80 Of the Father's heart begotten

Gradual Hymn: AM 74 Like a candle flame

Offertory: AM 113 When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day (omit vv 7-12)

Communion Anthem: Nunc Dimittis

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

Postlude: Overture to the Occasional Oratorio *G F Handel*

GOOD NEWS ABOUT QUENCH CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP

On the last Thursday of each month (26 January, 23 February & 23 March) Quench will have a pop-up shop from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the Salvation Army, East Road, Maidenhead. You can get a coffee there too!

WAMCF LADIES GROUP MEETING MONDAY 30 JANUARY AT MAIDENHEAD MOSQUE 7.45pm

Our sisters at the mosque have invited us to join them there and will share with us the role of women in faith development in Islam and lead discussion and questions on that.

Please note that we start at 7.45pm to allow evening prayers to end (so please do not arrive early!)

There is some parking there but with the closure of the Magnet car park if you struggle to park you can always park at St Luke's and walk over if that helps. *Revd Sally Lynch*

FLOWERS FOR 2023

There may still be a few weeks available on the Flower Sponsors' Board on the table at the back of the Church. This is 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

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.