

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

PARISH NEWS

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Issue 51 17 March 2021



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

Today we look at the fifth part of our Lent course using James Martin's book 'The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything.' This week we focus on chapter thirteen 'Be Who You Is!'

The way of Ignatius was to try to live a life of compassion, generosity and freedom. It can be seen in people who radiate peace. At the heart of James Martin's chapter on this theme is to 'Be who you is'. He quotes a spiritual director of his. 'You gotta be who you is and not who you ain't. Because if you ain't who you is, then you is who you ain't. And that ain't good!'

Our Calling.

1. What should I do?
2. Who should I be?

Ignatian spirituality is discovering who we are meant to be. Martin looks at the meaning of vocation. I remember a Jesuit priest once saying to me when I described a teacher having a vocation saying that only priests and religious had vocations. James Martin is from another school of thought. Vocation is something we feel called to be. Work is not just about pay but is purposeful activity (thankfully seen in abundance in churches). Career is developing skills over time and vocation is about becoming the type of person we hope to become.

At the heart of this journey is the inner desire within each of us. Marriage can at its best enable two people to flourish and become who God meant them to be. By bringing out the best in each other they can grow together. We can discover an attraction for a type of work. A teacher, artist or physician discover gifts that enable them to flourish. Often, we do well in things we enjoy. Martin tells the story of a colleague who he worked in finance with. He found his work mate reading the Wall Street Journal in his own time. Why? said James Martin. Because I enjoy it said his friend. James realised that finance was anguish for him but a vocation for his colleague!

We need to distinguish deep desires from shallow wants. If as an accountant, you enjoy working with figures then that is great. If however you long to work with people then perhaps you need to think again. I had that very conversation with a priest and head teacher thirty years ago that led to my vocation. The teacher who prefers the solitary life may have a desire to write. Equally though we might not have control over our type of work. Then perhaps volunteer work offers that fulfilment we desire.

James Martin asks us to use the stilling exercise using a glass and dirty water and allowing our thoughts and feeling to arise. As the water clears we may notice our desires. Of course we need to be realistic too. We need to discern our talents, needs, interests and circumstances. It's no good desiring to be a footballer if you lack the skill.

Maintaining a spiritual life in the working world is important. The modern world is filled with stress as we work around the clock receiving emails, cell phone calls etc. There is also a growing job insecurity which has grown during the pandemic. How can we make space in our lives for prayer? Easier to do if we are comfortable. We can push back from full on work if we do not have the pressures of supporting family or people unwell etc. However, the examen which takes 10-15 minutes a day can help us build in time to reflect on our day. Work and prayer are important. Work without prayer can be work without God. Prayer without work can be prayer without humanity.

Another problem of life can be overwork. This can lead to less time with family and friends. We can get frustrated when things go wrong. Visiting some families at their doors last week I heard of the pressures of home schooling along side daily employment! The need for finding God in the everyday life becomes important. Finding God in everything is helpful. Eric Liddle, the Gold medal winner from the 1924 Paris Olympic Games said 'When I run I feel God's pleasure.' However, how might we find God in a job that has gone stale? Even more difficult when we live in times when the job market is tight, when we may have financial hardships and family demands.

Can we then find God around us?

1. In people – James Martin writes about his early jobs when he was a young man and a student. Newspaper delivery roles, washing dishes and the worst of working on an assembly line. He said he was clock watching after 10 minutes of his day! However, he noticed three women who despite their work became good friends to each other. They discussed family, their husbands, they shared social times together and shared the struggles of life too. Perhaps they found God in their friendships.
2. Another important factor in seeing God in what we do is to see the bigger picture. This might mean seeing your small part in the production line going towards the final product. It might also mean that your job goes to support your children achieving their hopes and dreams. I found it moving on Top Gear last evening that Freddie Flintoff, the outstanding former England cricket allrounder was taken to games when young by his dad in his Ford Cortina car. He only found out recently that his dad slept in the car when Flintoff was in a hotel room. He didn't have the money to stay but was seeing the greater good or bigger picture for his son. Matthew 13: 33 the tiny yeast that helps bread rise. The women in the terrible jobs helping each other.
3. It is hard though in our world of phones on trains or planes not allowing us time to notice God. Stephen Cottrell asking commuters on Reading railway station to receive a three minute egg timer to slow down come to mind. We need that time to discover 'The still small voice of God'. Solitude and silence can help us connect not only with God but rediscover our joy for each other.

James tells us of a walk through a park in New York. He notices Eastern European music being played. He stops to listen and notices he is in the middle of a street market. He sees the fruits and vegetables being sold. He smells fresh peaches being handed over to customers. He hears music, he sees the sunshine, the smell of the peaches. A woman rushes through on her Blackberry, listening to her ipod missing the experience.

Another side to solitude is physical health. Rest and exercise are important to our wellbeing. It means saying no at times, but we need to eat good food, exercise and take care of our bodies.

Business Ethics

Questions raised are:

Would you bribe someone or would you pollute the environment? Would you discriminate on basis of race or sex? Standing up to an employer on behalf of a employee you feel has been wronged. Can you stay true to your moral, religious and ethical values in work? By doing the small things well we can make a difference. St Peter Claver never stopped slavery but did care for African slaves by feeding them and offering spiritual care. We can stand up for the 'least of our brothers and sisters' by being thankful for what we have, helping a church community or charity and by stretching ourselves with our charitable giving.

How to bring yourself to work. We should value work however menial. We can imagine ourselves doing even menial tasks for God. There will be people doing hidden work to put their children through school or taking an extra job to help elderly relatives. Cleaning floors can be seen by God. I recall a couple cleaning the church floor at All Saints on cold Friday evenings with no one watching.

We also, writes Martin, need to accept failure. Even if we work our hardest in life there is no guarantee that we will be successful. There are great Christian saints like Francis Xavier who point to this apparent failure during their life.

Be who you is!

God loves us. We need to be our true self and knowing self-acceptance. Read psalm 139 or even better listen to Bernadette Farrell's music to the words. If we compare we despair writes James Martin. If we compare, we make everyone else's life perfect. We minimise our gifts and maximise other peoples gifts and talents. We maximise our problems and minimise other peoples. Others are clever, more attractive, more popular, more relaxed, more athletic and they lead charmed lives. Their problems do not compare with ours. As Charlie Mackesy writes in his lovely book 'The Boy, the mole, the fox and the horse' 'What do you think is the biggest waste of time?' 'Comparing yourself to others,' said the mole.

We need to become ourselves.

1. Know that God loves you – do the examen and notice things you are grateful for.
2. God loves you as an individual and as a friend. We experience this in our personal relationships and in prayer.
3. Accept your desires, skills and talents as God-given. For you to enjoy and others to enjoy.
4. Avoid compare and despair.
5. Move away from actions that stop us being compassionate towards actions that are compassionate and loving.
6. Trust that God will help you as God wants you to be who you are meant to be.
7. This process of being who we are meant to be is long.

Questions

1. Have you ever imagined yourself as having a vocation? How would you describe it? Or. What desires do you have that could help you discover your vocation?
2. The author spoke about the challenges of developing a spirituality at work. Finding time for God and you, finding God around us, finding time for solitude, working and living ethically and remembering the poor. In which areas could you grow?
3. Karl Rahner in a reflection 'The Dignity of Work' praises work that is hidden from public recognition. Who in your life does such hidden work? What kind of hidden work do you do?
4. Fr Martin gave us 7 ways of becoming ourselves. What insight was new to you? What might help you the most?

RESOURCES THIS WEEK:

NEW Thursday 18 March 10.30am – 11.30am Coffee Morning on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81404382998?pwd=Wkp0SmY3MGxhNFdHSTRJNTRWSDkvdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 0438 2998

Passcode: 466266

All you need is a cup of coffee or tea and perhaps a biscuit or two. Then feel free to share a conversation.

8.00pm Night Prayer

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75976544021?pwd=Q1pJVtIpTytOdHg0VXhSRGxWRzIzZz09>

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHziv

Psalm 132, Luke 2: 41 - end Hymn 145 It is a Thing Most Wonderful

Sunday 21 March

10.00am Morning Prayer for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89125977023?pwd=R0FaSjNMK2ExNnoyVGZXNTZ4cHhwdz09>

Meeting ID: 891 2597 7023

Passcode: 369388

For the Diocesan Link for the Eucharist please see the front page of our website. The Diocesan resources can be found without internet on 01865 920930. The Church of England's new resource 'Daily Hope' which includes comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections can be found on free telephone 0800 804 8044

6.00pm SUNDAYS@SIX

Performance of Riding Lights Passion Play – Please see email invitation.

Monday 22 March 7.30pm Prayer Group on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85011600714?pwd=Y0x2VWpMQ3JFUStsQ0plbEFLOEQrQT09>

Meeting ID: 850 1160 0714

Passcode: 553120

This group, following the example of our successful 'Church on the Move' from a decade ago, focusses on an area of mission that we would like to pray for. If you have anyone you would like us to pray for please let Fr Jeremy know.

Wednesday 24 10.00am Eucharist Live in the Parish Centre

7.30pm – 8.30pm Zoom Lent discussion group on David Martin's book 'The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything'. – 'The Six Paths'

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85193995613?pwd=S1MrNENDQlZEdlcyctUN0JQdlhDZz09>

Meeting ID: 851 9399 5613

Passcode: 429345

PRAYER INTENTIONS

On Tuesday 23rd March we pray for individuals and households to mark the beginning of the first Lockdown. We remember those who have died. We pray for those who care for others. We pray for all in need. We pray for hope for the future.

Lord God, the maker and redeemer of all,
As we come before you in thanksgiving for the gift of health and life,
We grieve for the thousands who have died:
Comfort us with your presence,
Sustain us with the hope of your Kingdom,
And give us grace to live lives well;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If you follow this link you will find some more special prayers:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/national-day-reflection>

We give thanks for the beginning of the work on the restoration of the floor of All Saints. We give thanks for the skill and love of their work demonstrated by the people of Cliveden Conservation. We give thanks to all those who have contributed and who are continuing to contribute to the funding of this project that will enable mission to continue from All Saints.

We pray for the NHS and give thanks for the vaccinations. We give thanks to Jeanette and Dianne as they play their part in offering the vaccinations.

We pray for Food Share as they provide food for all people struggling during the pandemic.

We pray for Quench Bookshop that strives to offer a Christian presence in the town of Maidenhead. We give thanks for those that act as trustees and that work within the shop to offer the Christian Gospel through word, music and film.

We give thanks for the continued recovery from Covid of Dianne's family and of Christine Pocock's brother Tony.

We continue to pray for Mandy Rogers, Danielle, Nick, Fr John, Sister Mary Philip, Roger Baldery and Mark. We pray too at this time for Kelly Bellman and for her family.

We pray for John Bolodeoku and his family as they mourn the loss of John's father Olufemi Bolodeoku who died peacefully in the presence of his wife Maria. We give thanks that Olufemi died singing and praising God alongside Maria. We give thanks for his faith and pray that he may rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Pray the Parish:

The list of streets in our Parish was attached to Issue 41: this week we remember the ones beginning with R & S.

From Charlie Mackesy: 'We often wait for kindness...but being kind to yourself can start now,' said the mole.

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

Fr Jeremy

IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT LIVE SERVICES IN THE PARISH CENTRE ESPECIALLY EASTER DAY

We are delighted to be offering some services in the Parish Centre as well as continuing with others via Zoom.

To help ensure we keep everyone joining services in the Parish Centre safe, we have made the following arrangements and ask you to please make sure you follow them:

1. You should enter via the main door; please ensure you have your face mask on when entering.
2. Register with the Sidesperson on duty in the entrance hall, and give them your contact number.
3. Please use the sanitiser and then move into the hall.
4. You will see that the chairs have been spread out across the hall with the altar at the end near Reg's studio; please go straight to a chair and sit down. The Parish Centre is obviously not as large a space as the Church so we will ask you to fill the chairs from the front by the altar to avoid people having to move past each other as much as possible.
Please do not move the chairs – they have been positioned carefully to ensure we maintain safe-distancing.
5. Please remain in your seat for the full service; Fr. Jeremy will bring the host to you.
6. At the end of the service, please wait in your seat for a Sides person to ask you to leave via the main door; we will call people to leave in row order, starting from the row nearest the door to the hall. Please sanitise and dispose of any unwanted items in the entrance hall on your way out. The collection plate and the contactless giving machine will also be in the entrance hall for those who wish to use them. Once you leave the Parish Centre, please move away from the building to help maintain safe distancing.

Please note booking will not be necessary for the Wednesday service at this stage.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10.00am, 11.30am & 6.00pm IN THE PARISH CENTRE. BOOKING ESSENTIAL!

The seating arrangement in the Parish Centre currently has space for up to 28 people. Given the limited number of places we have set up the following booking arrangements for these services:

- The three services in the Parish Centre on Easter Sunday can be booked through: Jeremy-harris@outlook.com or office@allsaintsboynehill.org.uk;

or by calling: Fr Jeremy on 01628 626921 or Melanie on 07484 214783

Please include your name and contact details if you leave a phone message.

- You will receive an email / phone call in reply to confirm your place; please ensure you have this before coming to the service so we can avoid people arriving when all the seats have already been taken.
- We will take bookings on a “first come, first served” basis, but will be checking to ensure that everyone who wishes to come to a service has the opportunity to do so at some time or other.
- Bookings must be received in good time and **by 12 noon on Good Friday at the latest.**

Worship for SUNDAY 21 MARCH THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sounds of Worship

Brian Graves

Lent 5 marks the start of Passiontide. The readings today foretell not only of the death of Jesus, but also, what his death represents to the relationship between God and His people on earth. The prophecy of Jeremiah in the Old Testament reading tells that God will make a new Covenant with people of Israel by remembering their sin no more. Also, in the Epistle, the writer to the Hebrews proclaims Jesus as high priest, the source of salvation, which ultimately leads to the comment in the gospel that Jesus will gather all people to himself.

The first hymn is “Unless a grain of wheat shall fall on the ground” AM 155 words and music by Bernadette Farrell (b1957). As a contemporary hymn writer, Farrell is finding new and memorable expression of the scriptures. The words of this hymn are based on today’s gospel, John: 12.

The hymn is structured as a call and response with everyone singing the Refrain and a cantor singing the verse. The melodic outline is very simple with some extended notes in the refrain which add emphasis and musical expression to the words “die”, “remains” and “life”. The cantor verses have an unexpected harmonic twist that makes the music sound as though it has shifted a gear, so that when the refrain returns it feels like the music has come home again. The melody of the refrain ends on the second note of the scale, which prepares the ear for the shift to the Cantor’s verse. However, when the hymn ends it can feel as though the music never quite reached a conclusion, possibly a metaphor for the hope of resurrection life.

Refrain:

*Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die,
it remains but a single grain with no life.*

1. If we have died with him, then we shall live with him;
if we hold firm we shall reign with him. *Refrain*

2. If anyone serves me then they must follow me;
wherever I am my servants will be.

Refrain

3. Make your home in me as I make mine in you;
those who remain in me bear much fruit.

Refrain

4. If you remain in me and my word lives in you,
then you will be my disciples.

Refrain

5. Those who love me are loved by my Father;
we shall be with them and dwell in them.

Refrain

6. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you;
peace which the world cannot give is my gift.

Refrain

“Unless a grain of wheat shall fall to the ground” Words and Music: Bernadette Farrell

© Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland OR 97213 USA

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Raised in West Yorkshire, Farrell studied at King's College London, and the Guildhall School of Music. Her first commission was from Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral for the National Pastoral Congress of 1980.

She released five collaborative collections with the St Thomas More Group from 1985, and seven solo collections from 1990.

A founding member of the St Thomas More Group, CHIME and the Music in Worship Foundation, she served on the Roman Catholic Bishops Liturgical Commission for many years. On the staff at Allen Hall Seminary from 1980-1986, her work in adult education encouraged the formation of lay liturgical ministries. She has been an adviser to two dioceses and a worship leader for organisations such as the Retreat Association and the Baptist Assembly. She is patron of the National Network of Pastoral Musicians (NNPM) and serves on the board of the Pratt Green Trust.

For three decades Farrell worked in London's East End, as an Advisor to Bishop Victor Guazzelli, a sponsor of The East London Communities Organisation (TELCO) and a community organiser. One of the founding organisers of London Citizens, she built the alliance across South London and authored a report on immigration (adopted by government), leading campaigns on safety, sanctuary, housing, wages and health. She was the first Deputy Director of Citizens UK.

Unless a grain of wheat AM 155

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2fR9fUD5bM>

The second hymn is “Just as I am, without one plea” AM 451 words by Charlotte Elliott (1789 – 1871) set to the tune Saffron Walden by Arthur Henry Brown (1830 -1926).

This hymn reflects on the themes of the readings. The final line of each verse encapsulates our response to Jesus gathering all people to himself. The nature of the new covenant of the forgiveness of sins pervades all the verse as does the promise of Jesus as the source of salvation.

1. Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

2. Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt;
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

3. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

4. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

5. Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

6. Just as I am, of that free love
The breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
Here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Charlotte Elliott was the daughter of Charles Elliott, of Clapham and Brighton, and granddaughter of the Revd H Venn, of Huddersfield. She spent most of the first 32 years of her life at Clapham. As a young woman, she was gifted as a portrait artist and a writer of humorous verse.

In 1823 she moved to Brighton where she remained until her death. In 1822 she met the Revd Dr Cesar Malan, of Geneva, who encouraged her Christian faith and they remained lifelong friends. Elliott suffered debilitating illness throughout her life interspersed with occasional short periods of recovery. She had a strong imagination and benefitted from having been highly educated, and developed, as a child which left her with a great passion for music and art. Her love of poetry and music is reflected in her verse. She wrote about 150 hymns, the best known of which is "Just as I am". Dr Billy Graham wrote that his team used this hymn in almost every one of their crusades, since it presented "the strongest possible Biblical basis for the call of Christ."

Henry Brown was almost completely self-taught. He began playing the organ at the age 10. He was organist of the Brentwood Parish Church, Essex (1842-53); St. Edward's, Romford (1853-58); Brentwood Parish Church (1858-88); St. Peter's Church, South Weald (from 1889); and Sir Anthony Browne's School (to 1926). A member of the London Gregorian Association, he helped assemble the Service Book for the annual festival in St. Paul's Cathedral. He supported the Oxford Movement and pioneered the restoration of plainchant and Gregorian music in Anglican worship. Such music was a staple of music at All Saints Boyne Hill in its early years

Brown edited various publications, including the *Altar Hymnal*. His other works include settings of the Canticles and the Holy Communion Service, a Children's Festival Service, anthems, songs, part songs, and over 800 hymn tunes and carols.

The tune Saffron Walden is named after the Essex village of that name. In the 16th and 17th centuries the saffron crocus (*Crocus sativus*) was widely grown, thanks to the town's favourable soil and climate. The stigmas of the flower were used in medicines, as a condiment, in perfume, as an expensive yellow dye, and as an aphrodisiac. This industry gave the town its present name.

Just as I am, without one plea AM 451 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TULYzdT4jAI>

COLLECT

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son 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 5: 5 - 10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL John 12: 20 - 33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

SERMON Fr Jeremy

Turning water into wine, feeding 5,000 – That's nothing compared with feeding the world!

Over the last five years or so the community of All Saints, Boyne Hill has contributed to a process of mission that has led us to a crucial stage if we are truly going to share the message of New Life to people within our community. Three particular areas of mission have been named as key areas.

1. Worship
2. Our desire to share links with our schools
3. Welcome

Street's buildings (not just the church) were designed for the first two. A glorious building for worship to the glory of God. A school that was built to enable the education of the young. The third of our areas of mission, is I suspect more challenging. To what extent is a grade one listed building welcoming and even more importantly how welcoming do we as a congregation want to be to share the news that Jesus offers in our gospel today?

The people who arrive to see and hear about Jesus are not all from a certain group of followers. Jesus is not only going to die for the chosen people of God but for the scattered children of God who we will bring into one community. The Greeks who are in our story today are some of these people. The Greeks come first to Philip and say 'Sir we want to see Jesus'. The Greek translation is important though. It states we wish (and Will) to see Jesus. The suggestion here then is that the Greeks don't just want to be spectators, but they want to live life with Jesus as active members. Philip excited by the news welcomes the Greeks and tells Andrew and then the two of them bring the inner desire of the Greeks to Jesus. Jesus says 'Times up. The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.' (The Message).

We now discover how Jesus will welcome and offer the gift of New and transformed life not just to the Jews and the Greeks but the whole world. John has told us that Jesus will turn water into wine. Wine that will taste better than the original. New life will produce wonderful gifts. Jesus then with the help of his disciples and a young boy and a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish will offer hospitality to the crowds. If that is not enough, Jesus says 'my time has come' and now he will lay down his life to welcome the whole world. Jesus tells us 'Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never anymore than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds onto life just as it destroys that life. But if you let go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal.' (The Message)

Tom Wright tells a childhood story of times during Autumn. He would watch the chestnuts falling and the prickly, green outer shell would spilt, revealing a dark chunky chestnut. I remember well the games played at school with the conkers. One year however Wright planted one of his fine conkers. The next year there was a tiny shoot and then the beginning of a small sapling. He didn't see the final outcome, but he hopes that it grew to a tree producing chestnuts of its own.

Jesus then answers the questions of Philip and Andrew about the Greeks by saying well if they want to benefit from my life then it is my time for the death and resurrection that will lead to new Life. The Greeks, The Jews and indeed all of us are welcomed into the powerful love of God. We are drawn into communion or oneness with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and with each other. We are drawn through our baptism to be adopted brothers and sisters of Christ to share his light to the world. We are called to offer mercy, compassion and welcome to all those who seek Christ. In chapter 13 of John's Gospel we will find as we experience on Maundy Thursday that we will be a servant people. We will wash one another's feet in service. In chapters 14-16 we will discover Jesus' teaching. We will discover that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. We will experience the power of the Holy Spirit of being part of 'The True Vine' and we will use our gifts to build the body of Christ.

How will we live this way of life? See Brian's choice of hymn within this parish news. He has chosen Bernadette Farrell's 'Unless a grain of wheat shall fall'. The music is beautiful and the words are powerful. 'Make your home in me as I make mine in you, then you will be my disciples'. That is the message the Greeks found in this story. They weren't just going to see Jesus, but they were going to live lives filled with his love. Jesus' death and resurrection will enable everyone to do his Father's work. Jews, Greeks will be equally welcome as will people of all backgrounds.

Finally, what can we learn about welcome? Our welcome group are shortly going to return to 'The Everybody Welcome' course. For this course to be of value we need the whole community of All Saints to understand welcome.

1. Helping people to discover the church's existence and character. How do we make contact with the community? How can we be more visible? Are we seen as active in the community?
2. Can we give people a good experience of the church premises? The church buildings can attract or deter people. How daunting is the physical business of entering our building? Can we develop our facilities to provide a positive and anxiety free experience? Can we provide that welcome and hospitality in church? Do our buildings looked cared for and loved?
3. Giving people a good experience of the church people. A newcomer's first experience of the church community usually determines whether they may wish to join it. How can we offer that friendly welcome? How can we offer divine welcome in our worship where people may come to know God's love. How can we offer welcome through our community events? Summer Fetes, Christmas Fayres, regular hospitality at services following groups like Tiny Saints.
4. The Greeks didn't just want to see Jesus. They wanted to be active members. This is belonging not just attending. How can we offer newcomers the opportunity to exercise their own Christian ministry. It has been wonderful seeing more people engaged in leading worship at our zoom morning prayer. Over the last twelve months people have been active in pastoral care. Hopefully this will continue when we return to some kind of normality.

Jesus died that we might have new and transformed life. As a community, returning to Street's glorious building as the gathered community let us pray that we might follow Christ and offer his welcome, walk in his light, rejoice in his love and reflect his glory.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

ALL SAINTS EASTER CARDS

Birinus Garden All Saints Easter cards are still available in packs of five for £5.00. Thanks to Reg Denison for allowing us to use the painting. So if you would like to help with the final push for funds for the floor whilst celebrating the Easter season then please buy some. All the proceeds go to the Floor fund as they have been donated. To place an order please send an email to Sue Stannett at sastannett@gmail.com giving the following details:

- (1) The number of packs required
- (2) Whether you are able to collect them from church at an arranged time or you need to have them delivered to your home
- (3) Your choice of payment - bank transfer, cash or cheque.

Please do celebrate Easter with our cards and help deliver the floor project. *Jeremy Nordberg*

FOODSHARE NEWS

Lockdown means an increasing need for Foodshare. Please see www.foodshare.today for places you can donate and what's most needed each week. The needs are also in the Maidenhead Advertiser each week.

PICTURE QUIZ COURTESY OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

For answers see attachment.

Tuesday 23rd March A WAMCF Zoom Webinar 7.00pm – 8.15pm Webinar opens at 6.45pm

Why do humans suffer?

A Christian, Humanist & Islamic perspective followed by a Q&A.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81429100228>

Christian Aid Week: 10th - 16th May

Roger Clarke, Acting Chair of Christian Aid, Maidenhead stood down from his role following a move with his wife to Somerset. Roger observed that with COVID-19, and the retirement of several other Committee members, we appear to have arrived at a natural crossroads as far as Christian Aid's work in Maidenhead is concerned. There is a question now as how that work should be taken forward in the future.

The Revd David Downing of the URC Church in Maidenhead & Marlow has offered assurance that Christian Aid's work will continue through 'Churches Together in Maidenhead', albeit perhaps in a new format in the future. For this year, as a 'house to house' collection will not be possible, it is very likely that a 'Just Giving' page will be set up again, and Revd David is already thinking about an online 'Zoom' service to mark Christian Aid Week.

We will let you have more details of the arrangements as soon as they are confirmed. Please do let me have any thoughts you may have about continuing Christian Aid's work in the future. *Stella Harding*

REFLECTION by Greg Hurst

It began with a ping from my phone: a forwarded message saying people aged 56 and over in Berkshire could book their coronavirus vaccination. I clicked the NHS link and took the first slot I could, at a pharmacy in Marlow a fortnight hence.

I began counting down the days. Next week came another ping: a text from my GP's surgery saying I could be vaccinated at Maidenhead town hall. If you want to cancel another booking, please do, it said.

I clicked another link and signed up eight days sooner. Subsequently I opened a blue NHS envelope that had arrived by post; I'd arranged to give blood and thought it was about that but it, too, was an invitation to book my jab. Three invitations!

It rained as I cycled to the town hall. It hailed as I chained up my bike. I didn't care. I queued on two-meter floor markings, thinking how rare it felt to be surrounded by people exactly my age – like a university year-group reunion. A volunteer told me I would have the Oxford / AstraZeneca vaccine.

Inside, the Desborough Suite had been adapted from amateur theatre to field hospital. When my turn came a nurse entered my NHS number into her computer, asked some questions and it was done. I was vaccinated!

I had a slightly sore arm but no other side effects. Within days Germany, France, Italy and several other European countries suspended Oxford / AstraZeneca vaccinations over remote fears about blood clots. What were they thinking? I'm thrilled I had mine!