



**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**

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Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

As a parish we have enjoyed a wonderful couple of weeks welcoming schools as they share their Christmas celebrations whether by services or with beautiful concerts. This weekend our Young Saints supported by adults and led by Sally Unwin and Elaine See presented, for the first time in many years, a Nativity play within the Eucharist. There seemed to be much joy from the children, the adults and the worshippers as we heard the story of the 'Grumpy Donkey' as he slowly began to realise the significance of the birth of Jesus. This coming weekend we will hopefully enjoy the return of the Crib service for children and Families at 4.00pm in the church on Christmas Eve. All these services enable young people to think about the birth of Christ and the impact his life has on the world.

At many of these services over the years I have sought to share a story. I frequently fall back upon two favourites which are Papa Panov written by Leo Tolstoy and another I first heard in my Bracknell days called 'Kris Kringle.' Both these stories pick up on the idea that when we support our neighbour, we are indeed helping Christ himself. The famous text from Matthew 25: 31-46 where we hear 'for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me,' although not a traditional Christmas reading is one that strikes at the heart of the message of compassion we perhaps need more this year than ever.

My colleague, The Revd Joan Hicks, asked me to write the story of Kris Kringle down on paper so by including it for our Christmas edition I can offer it to Joan as well.

The story begins in Germany on a cold freezing morning (which we can all connect with at this time) and a young beggar boy who is freezing cold, with no proper coat, with holes in his shoes, with nowhere to sleep and who is very, very hungry. The day is Christmas Eve, and this German town is preparing for the coming of Christ. Many of the large houses have prepared huge feasts of glorious food and have beautifully heated homes with warm log fires. Kris Kringle our little boy in need decides to visit one of the larger homes. He knocks at the door and is met by a servant who asks him what he wants? Kris, seeing the vast quantities of food and smelling the delights of the special Christmas offerings asks politely if they can offer him a little food. The servant at the door seeing the poverty of the boy takes a step back and tells him that his master



has prepared a meal fit for the coming of Jesus not for some beggar boy. The little boy is sent off into the cold with not so much as a crumb of food.

Desperate to find food and shelter Kris moves onto another home. Again, the food smells fantastic when the door of the home of wealthy people is opened by the servant. Kris can see the tables in the background bulging with delights and he can see the fires burning. Kris is once again sent away but this time with a piece of mouldy bread.

There is a smaller house in the distance and Kris wearily makes his way in that direction feeling so hungry, cold and exhausted. It is getting dark as he moves slowly without much hope towards the house. Within the house we find 6 people. Mum and Dad and four children who have been joyfully preparing for Christmas. Mum has prepared a hot winter stew that while simple is wholesome and tasty that will fill six hungry people. Dad has been working in his shed preparing four toys for his children that will be their Christmas gifts. They sit down for the Christmas Eve supper looking forward to sharing games in front of the fire once they have finished eating. As they begin, they hear a faint knock at the door. Mum runs to answer and as she opens the door a little boy falls to the ground in exhaustion. Mum cries out and dad runs to pick up the boy and brings him into their home and warms him by the fire. They find some clothes and try to help him warm up a little. Mum shares the food seven ways and dad heads to his shed to prepare another Christmas gift. They all eat together and enjoy the Christmas games. The little boy is thrilled to share the joy of Christmas with the family.

Kris Kringle falls asleep, and the family too go off to bed. In the morning mum gets up to make the fire expecting a cold, dark room. As she enters the room where the beggar boy was sleeping, she discovers instead a brilliant light and warmth. There are beautiful gifts and a fine tree. Then she catches sight of Jesus. She instantly falls on one knee and says, 'Forgive me Lord as we were not awake to greet you.' Jesus replies 'Oh yes you were, you fed me, you warmed me, you gave me clothes and you shared friendship with me. Let us go out into the town and greet other people. As Jesus leads the family onto the streets, they meet some of the people from the large houses of the town. When they see Jesus, they say 'Where were you last evening? We had a feast fit for a King.' Jesus replied, 'Yes you had feasts fit for a King but not for a beggar boy!'

May we all find compassion in our hearts this Christmas.

RESOURCES FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Saturday 24
CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Crib Service – please encourage children and their families to join us for this beautiful Christmas service with carols. The Open the Book Team will be presenting the Christmas story.

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Sunday 25
CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am Eucharist for the Nativity of Our Lord
Celebrant: Fr Jeremy

Wednesday 28

10.00am Eucharist for the Holy Innocents
Celebrant: Fr Jeremy



Sunday 1 January

10.00am Parish Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Christmas

Celebrant: Fr Jeremy Address: Brian Graves

Tuesday 3

2.30pm Tuesday Club New Year Quiz in the Parish Centre

Wednesday 4

10.00am Requiem Eucharist

Celebrant:

11.00am Tai Chi in the Parish Centre

3.00pm *Open the Book at Larchfield School*

PRAYER INTENTIONS

A Traditional prayer from New Parish Prayers:

We thank you, our heavenly Father, for the loveliness of the Christmas story: the child in the manger, the song of the angels, the homage of the shepherds, the tender love of Mary. But most of all we thank you for the meaning of the Christmas story: that you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son, that all might live through him. All praise and thanks be yours, O God, for so great a love, so great a gift, so great a Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Loving Father, as we thank you for the joy of Christmas, we bring to you those for whom this season is clouded by sickness or anxiety, by poverty or unemployment, by loneliness or bereavement. Keep people from despair as they remember the birth of him who for our sake became poor, that we might possess the true riches. May we all find the compassion needed to support those in need this Christmas.

We pray for peace and justice in the world. We pray for the people of Iran, Ukraine, Afghanistan, The Holy Land and all places of unrest. Give us our Father this Christmas, peace in our hearts, that we may create peace within our homes and help to spread peace in the world.. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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, David Stewart, Tadeusz, Teresa, Leigh Hutchison-May, Soheila, Silvia Denison, Cheryl Brookes, Marnos, Gordon Kerrison, Lorraine Ansell, and Gerald Newth. May they know God's healing presence.

We pray for the recently departed Dorothy Chalk, Peter Dyer, Larisa Stephenson and all our departed loved ones. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

*Fr Jeremy, Monika, Fr John, John and Ken, our Churchwardens
all wish you a Peaceful and Joyful Christmas*

WORSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through 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

O T READING Isaiah 9: 2 - 7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as



with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

GOSPEL Luke 2: 1 - 14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

MUSIC

Prelude: The Holy Boy *J Ireland*

Opening Hymn: AM 78 O come all ye faithful (Omit v 4 & 5)

Advent Candle: AM 26 v 5 Advent candles tell their story

Gradual: AM 79 O little town of Bethlehem

Offertory: AM 64 God rest you merry, gentlemen

Communion: AM 68 In the bleak mid-winter

Closing Hymn: AM 66 Hark, the herald angels sing

Postlude: Promenade en Traîneau *L Anderson arr T Trotter*

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 1 JANUARY THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

COLLECT

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

O T READING Isaiah 63: 7 – 9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.



GOSPEL Matthew 2: 13 — 23

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him. Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

MUSIC

Prelude: Prelude on 'Forest Green' *Philip Marshall*

Opening Hymn: AM 59 Angels from the realms of glory

Gradual: AM 77 Lully lulla thou little tiny child

Offertory: AM 83 See amid the winter's snow

Communion: Interlude on Coventry Carol; Es ist en' Ros' entsprungen

Closing Hymn: AM 86 The first Nowell

Postlude: Prelude on God rest ye merry, gentlemen *John Rutter*

FLOWERS FOR 2023

The Flower Sponsors' Board for 2023 is now 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. 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

TUESDAY CLUB 2.30pm 4 JANUARY IN THE PARISH CENTRE

We'll start 2023 with a quiz to get our brains back in in gear post-Christmas and New Year. If you plan to come along the quizmaster asks you to please bring a photo of yourself as a baby or small person.

Jan Moss

CHURCH POSTBOX

Please make a point of looking to see if there are still any cards for you



AND WE'RE STILL DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS

Enjoying God's Earth

Plan to get outside and enjoy nature – maybe a walk after your Christmas lunch!

Take time to de-stress and recognise how valuable and beautiful our world is and why we need to protect it.



The sustainability group wishes you a happy and sustainable Christmas and a New Year full of hope.

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.