

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

All Saints Christingle Service: Jesus – Light of the World

This coming Sunday morning is our All-Age Christingle Service, full of joy and hope – a Eucharist within which we celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World, using the now-traditional Christingle based on an orange (to represent the world) surmounted by a lit candle (representing Jesus the Light of the World).



There is much darkness in the world, and we need to find and celebrate the light of Christ, for it shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. The Hebrew people yearned for God to act – to ‘tear open the heavens and come down’: And God has done that, in Jesus of Nazareth. For those with eyes to see, the light of Christ is here, with us.

The words of the prophet Isaiah particularly resonate in this season: ‘The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who walked in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined’ (Isaiah 9:2) and ‘Arise, shine, for your light has come’ (Isa 60:1). Jesus, the Light of the World has dawned, he dawned on the world on that first Christmas 2,000 years ago, and the teaching that he gave and the victory that he won on the cross are there for us to read in the pages of the New Testament. As we walk in his light, we bring light to those around us – to spread the Light in the darkness.

But the season of Advent doesn’t just ask us to look backwards to that first Christmas, but more importantly to look forwards to the time when Christ’s work will be brought to completion – the time when darkness will be completely overcome. This is the work of Christ, humankind doesn’t have it within itself to achieve this unaided – and so Advent is a penitential season, a time when we remember our own part in prolonging the reign of darkness in our world, and a time when we hear once again the call of Jesus to walk alongside him and learn to be a people of light, shining in the darkness with the light that he gives to us.

So we in our day take up the prophets cry for peace and justice, the cry for release from pain and all that binds us – the cry of the Church from the earliest days after the resurrection of Christ down to our own time:

Alleluia – Maran’athah - Come Lord Jesus.

Fr John

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Thursday 7 December	7.00pm Online Baptism Class 8.00pm Choir Practice
Friday 8 December	10.00am Tiny Saints in the Parish Centre
Saturday 9	10.00am Christingle making in the Birinus Room (see p) <i>11.00am – 2.00pm Boyne Hill School Christmas Fair</i> <i>Please support this if you can.</i>
Sunday 10	10.00am Parish Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Advent & Christingle Celebrant: Fr Jeremy & Preacher: Fr John 12 noon Holy Baptism Fr John Please pray for Mae Anahera Haitana_Walker, her parents and godparents <i>4.00pm Confirmation service with Bishop Olivia at Reading Minster</i> See Intercessions p 3
Monday 11	9.00am Morning Prayer in Church 10.00am All Saints School Rehearsal 2.00pm All Saints School Christmas Service 6.00pm All Saints School Service for parents & governors
Tuesday 12	9.15am Visit of children from Larchfield School 2.30pm Tuesday Club in the Parish Centre (see p 6)
Wednesday 13	10.00am Eucharist Celebrant: Fr John <i>11.00am Tai Chi in the Parish Centre</i> <i>11.30am Service at Normanhurst Care Home: Fr John & Jeanette Lock</i> <i>1.00pm Senior Saints Christmas lunch at Stafferton Lodge (See p 6)</i> 12.30pm Rehearsal for Newlands School Carol Service 6.30pm Newlands School Carol Service in Church

ADVANCE NOTICES

Sunday 17 December 6.00pm Nine Lessons & Carols in the church followed by mulled wine & mince pies

CHRISTINGLE MAKING

Helpers are needed to make the Christingles between 10.00am and 11.30am on Saturday 9 December in the Birinus Room. Please sign the list at the back of the church and add your contact details if you can help, even for a short time.

New volunteers are always welcome, and the job is quickly completed with lots of help.

There will be a collection for the Children's Society at the Christingle service on Sunday 10 December. (Suggested donations of £1).

Anne Clark

CHRIST CHILD CHRISTMAS MARKET

A few, heartfelt “thank you’s” to everyone who supported our Christ Child Market last Sunday – the knitters and stitchers who produced such wonderful items for our handicraft stall, the bakers who made the delicious cakes for our cake stall, and the teams serving hot food and drinks – much appreciated given that the weather outside was frightful!

And a big “thank you” to all those who helped run our own All Saints’ stalls, to our very own Father Christmas, and the choirs and the Salvation Army who provided such beautiful Christmas music. Thank you too for the festive music in the Quad, and for Fr Jeremy’s PA!

We must also mention the gallant souls who put up (and took down), the gazebos and set out tables in dreadful conditions, as well as the teams who set up Santa’s Grotto and the children’s activities!

Whilst the weather did its best to cause an upset, it didn’t dampen spirits and we have received some lovely comments from the stallholders as well as those enjoying their visit to the Market.

For anyone who wasn’t able to join us at the Market, there are still a few of the beautiful handmade items to buy from the handicraft stall at the back of the church.

With our grateful thanks to everyone who helped make the Market a success this year.

*Fr Jeremy, Dianne Farmiloe, Jo McMullen, Tanya Fullarton, Sibo Veira,
Darren Pimm, John Gay and Stella Harding*

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for people living in darkness, wherever that may be: in places of war and repression; for those struggling to feed their families, find shelter, or find the medical care they need; for those whose relationships are in trouble; for the lonely, the anxious and the mentally ill; for the homeless and refugees. Lord of Light, we pray that you would bring the light of your consolation to those living in darkness.

We pray for those who bring comfort, compassion and practical help to those in places of darkness. For those who work to bring peace in places of violence; for those who feed the hungry, care for the sick, provide shelter for the homeless, and release from bondage for those who are imprisoned; for those who bring assistance to the poor, the weak and the marginalised.

We pray for governments and leaders of nations everywhere, that they would be agents of light in the darkness, caring compassionately for their people and seeking the well-being of all peoples.

We pray that we would respond to the cry of our natural world for release from the darkness of exploitation and our unthinking destruction of the very world that provides for our wellbeing. We pray for the COP climate change conference, that it would have deep and lasting positive effects.

We know as Christians that God in Christ is the Light that the world needs, so we pray that the world would find the silence and humility to hear the words of God speaking tenderly to us and to receive the Light of Christ. We pray for the example and teaching of the Church, the Body of Christ in the world, that all people would be drawn closer to God, to hear and respond, and to share the Light of Christ in the world.

We pray for all those to be confirmed by the Bishop of Reading on Sunday afternoon, and especially those of our own church community: Arash Rezaei, Elham Nekunam, Abbas Heidari, Azita Rezaei, Mahdi Yaghoubi, Mina Yaghoubi, Marzieh Hemad, Sama Hasseini, Fatemeh Khaksar, Arash Moradi, Afsaneh Rahimi, and Abbas Fouladi. We give thanks for their support within our community at All Saints. We pray that God’s Holy Spirit will come upon them with renewed power and that they would walk in the light and love of Jesus with joy and peace in their hearts all the rest of their lives, and be welcomed into heavenly glory. We pray that we too would be mindful of our baptism and confirmation and always seek to follow the way of Jesus:

We remember Emilia Lavine and Savannah Milne on the anniversaries of their Baptisms. And we pray for those of our parish and congregation in any kind of need or distress at this time, and especially for Michael, Kirsten and Maddy; for Suzette, Danielle, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Birmta Zadinane, Edite Zadinane, Heidi Webb, Tadeusz, Christopher, Sylvia Denison, Cheryl Brookes, Gordon Kerrison, Sylvia Telford, Eddie Sheppard, and Carol Sheppard, Barbara Bannister, Janet Emerson, Liz Holloway, Hugh Boulter, Simon Cowdery, Joseph White, Morieza Seraj, Scopas Lado, Mageret Ego, Jim Goff, Gill Deane-Williams, Simon Fullarton, Vera Shaw, Abbas Heidari and Sally Morgan.

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

We pray for the recently departed, amongst them Gerald Groffman, and for all who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time.

Grant almighty Father that when Christ comes again we may go out to meet him bearing the harvest of good works achieved by your grace. We pray that he will receive us into the company of the saints and call us into the kingdom of heaven. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COLLECT

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; 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 40: 1 -11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

GOSPEL Mark 1: 1 – 8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,"' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

MUSIC

Prelude:	Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland	<i>J S Bach</i>
Opening hymn:	39 Hills of the north, rejoice	
Advent Candle:	26 (v2) Advent candles tell their story	
Gradual hymn:	74 Like a candle flame	
Christingle lighting hymn:	Shalom, my friend, Shalom	
Offertory hymn:	42 Longing for light, we wait in darkness	
Communion hymn:	712 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us	
Closing hymn:	27 Colours of day	
Postlude:	Organ Concerto No 5; 2nd Movement	<i>G F Handel</i>

TUESDAY CLUB 12 DECEMBER 2.30pm IN THE PARISH CENTRE

Our annual floral afternoon making things for Christmas followed by mulled wine and festive nibbles.

SENIOR SAINTS CHRISTMAS LUNCH WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 1.00pm AT STAFFERTON LODGE

Please let Wendy know if you want to attend as soon as possible. Our next meeting will be in April 2024.

Saturday 16 December 6:30pm in Church *Christmas Joy*

A Christmas Concert by Renaissance Voices conducted by Paul Leddington Wright.

Renaissance Voices are regular visitors to All Saints and their Christmas Concert will be a welcome return.

Consisting of well-known carols for audience participation, interspersed with carols sung by the choir ranging from the Renaissance to the present-day including arrangements by Paul Leddington Wright and seasonal readings this will be a musical treat.

Tickets bought in advance £14.00 from renaissancevoices.co.uk or £15.00 on the door. Under 18s are free. The ticket price includes a light supper in the church after the concert.

CAROLS AT CARE HOMES WEDNESDAY 20 DECEMBER

If anyone would like to join Fr Jeremy, Fr John and Jeanette singing Carols you will be very welcome! At either Clara Court at 11.30am or Larchfield Care Home at 2.00pm. Or why not do both! Christmas jumpers are optional!

DO THE SMALL THINGS WELL IN ADVENT

Reuse wrapping paper. No, it's not skinflint! It really does help the planet to reduce our non-essential use of paper. Likewise we can reuse gift bags - also that brown paper that comes in acres inside boxes of on-line purchases these days is perfect for wrapping things up to post. And, of course, tying it all up with reusable string or ribbon is the icing on the cake!

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Eco-team is putting large Christmas cards for Fr Jeremy & Fr John at the back of the Church. We are inviting people to sign this card and put a small donation into the Ripple Effect collection rather than sending them individual cards. The purpose of this is three-fold: to give them both a lovely memento that they can keep (as it's impossible to keep every card they get each year!), to support our fellow humans who are really struggling right now and to reduce tree felling to make paper that is quickly thrown away. It would be really heartwarming to our priests if as many of us as possible joined in.

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.

Thank you!

Claire Foley claire.foley@fit2live.me.uk

PARISH NEWS NEWS

The Wednesday 20 December edition will be a double one. The next one will be Wednesday 3 January.