

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

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Issue 124 5 OCTOBER 2022



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**Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints,
Boyne Hill,**

St Francis – A Saint for our Time ?

On Sunday we celebrated our Harvest Festival, and today as I write this (Tuesday 4 October) the Church celebrates St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226). Francis is noted, of course, for his care for the poor, call to the renunciation of wealth and simplicity of life, and the appreciation and care of the whole of creation (sun, moon, plants, animals, and everything else besides).

Pope John Paul II declared St Francis Patron Saint of Ecology and Ecologists, he is widely regarded as the patron saint of animals, and the current Pope took the name Francis because, he said, “Francis was particularly concerned with the well-being of the poor”.

This year we celebrate harvest-tide against the backdrop of economic pressures on the poorest in society, worldwide shortages of energy and food, and the massive challenge of 3 billion-plus people already at risk from the effects of global Climate Change (desertification and crop failure; and at risk from rising sea levels. Those at most risk are overwhelmingly in poorer parts of the world, and the effects will dramatically worsen existing levels of poverty and disease, and high levels of migration are likely as a result).

As long ago as 1980 the internationally produced and respected report of the Brandt Commission into world development issues concluded that:

“The North-South debate is often described as if the rich were being asked to make sacrifices in response to the demands of the poor. We reject this view. The world is now a fragile and interlocking system, whether for its people, its ecology or its resources... The world can become stronger by becoming a more just and humane society. If it fails in this, it will move towards its own destruction.....The search for solutions is not an act of benevolence, but a condition of mutual survival.”

St Francis’ close affection for the whole of creation, as well as his call to simplicity of living and care of the poor and the marginalised makes him almost uniquely important as a Saint for our times. He was not a sentimental

nature-lover or a hippie-dropout. His life was tough and sacrificial, totally devoted to his Lord Jesus. When he saw what needed to be done, he acted.

The Gospel set for the Feast of St Francis is Luke 12:22-34, where Jesus tells his disciples not to worry about material things: "Look at the birds of the air...consider the lilies of the field...". The equivalent passage from Matthew's Gospel (Matt 6: 25-33) is one of the possible readings for Harvest that we didn't use on Sunday. In the Matthew passage, Jesus says: "do not worry, asking what shall we eat, or what shall we drink, or what shall we wear?"

Suddenly, this Harvest-tide, those words have a different edge for me – for to be able to meaningfully ask the question "What shall I eat" or "What shall I wear" means that we are among the most fortunate on the planet – for we have the ability to make these choices. We are able to open the fridge door and ask ourselves "What shall I have for lunch?" or to open a wardrobe door and ask "Which of my pairs of shoes goes best with these trousers?"

But what of those who simply couldn't comprehend asking such a question? To have a meal of any sort might be their only aspiration for today. And what of future generations who look at the choices we are making that have resulted in their climate being all but impossible to live with?

Maybe we need to live simply in order that others may simply live. Perhaps we can get more satisfaction from knowing we have helped someone else to have some choice (perhaps the "choice" of clean water, or release from treatable disease) than in increasing the already wide range of choices that we have. Perhaps there is more joy in giving than in receiving, after all?

Maybe we do indeed need a fresh outpouring of the spirit of St Francis – radical simplicity, compassion for the poor, and care for the whole of creation.

May we learn how to live simply, in order that others may simply live.
St Francis, Patron Saint of ecology, devoted carer of the poor and the sick – Pray for us.

If you would like to join a small group thinking about how we might campaign to raise awareness amongst our politicians of these issues, do let me know. I have no idea where to begin, but I'm sure we can try.

Fr. John

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Thursday 6 October 3.00pm *Open the Book at All Saints School*
7.00pm Adult Confirmation Course in the Birinus Room
8.00pm Choir Practice

Friday 7 **10.00am Tiny Saints in the Parish Centre**
3.00pm *Harvest Assembly at All Saints School*

Saturday 8 **9.00am Sustainability Course in the Birinus Room – breakfast followed by discussion on the last week of the course 'Tenants of the King'.**

- Sunday 9** **10.00am The Parish Eucharist The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Worship for All**
Celebrant: Fr Jeremy who will also lead a discussion on 'Giving Thanks for Creation'
with the children's confirmation group.
- 4.00pm Children's Confirmation Class in the Birinus Room**
- 6.00pm Evensong & Benediction** led by Fr John
- Monday 10** **9.30am Morning Prayer in Church**
- Tuesday 11** *9.00am Open the Book at Larchfield School*
9.30am Morning Prayer in Church
- Wednesday 12** **10.00am Eucharist**
Celebrant: Fr John
11.00am Tai Chi Class in the Parish Centre
2.30pm Senior Saints meet at 19 Courtfield Drive
7.00pm Bible Study on St Mark's Gospel with Fr John in the Birinus Room
followed by Compline at 8.00pm
7.30pm Christ Child Market Planning at the Vicarage

ADVANCE DATES: There are sign-up sheets at the back of Church for anything which needs to be signed up for!

Sunday 30 October 10.00am Eucharist to celebrate our Patronal Festival of All Saints

Our Associate Archdeacon, The Revd Liz Jackson, will be our guest preacher as we give thanks for the marvellous floor restoration work that has taken place. Following the service, we will share hospitality with guests involved in the project. Following the drinks at the back of the church there will be a church community meal at the Gandhi Restaurant at 12.30pm. Please sign the list at the back of church if you wish to share in the meal; there are very few places left!

Sunday 20 November 10.00am Confirmation here with Bishop Olivia who will be baptising and confirming both children and adults. She will also present the Bronze Eco-Church award to the congregation.

Sunday 27 November Advent Sunday 12 noon to 3.30pm – The Christ Child Market in the Quadrangle. The Salvation Army Band are booked to play carols sharing the Christmas story from 3.00pm. We will require a good number of volunteers on the day to look after the stalls. See p 7 to see exactly how you can help.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

At our Worship for All Service this Sunday we pray for the members of our Children's confirmation group. We give thanks as young people show us the ways we may look after God's world. May we learn and discover ways to work in partnership with God to help people living in vulnerable parts of the world and respect the value of animals, plants, creatures of the sea and the wider eco-system. Pray for our confirmation candidates Nour, Aurelie, Tim, Ned, Ruth, Beatrice, Maxim, Tyler, and Konga. We remember those whose anniversary of baptism falls around now: River Hales, Bailey Rawlings, Grace-Rose Crussell, Maxwell and Charlotte Ferguson.

We learn from our story today about ten people healed from leprosy. We reflect on the one who made the effort to say thank you to Jesus the one who healed him. May we live life reflecting on the gift of creation, the idea that creation and its gifts belong to God and that we are stewards of his bounty. May we recognise our need to thank God by giving back in love to support those in need or those impacted most by the climate crisis.

We give thanks for the work of TearFund in supporting people in the world who need toilets and clean water to maintain good health. Through this work we see the opportunities for children and young people to flourish in good health to develop their gifts to play their part in God's world.

We continue our prayers to God as we seek peace and justice in all places of war, violence and aggression. We continue to pray for the people of Pakistan and the USA who have suffered through floods and hurricanes. We pray for the people in East Africa suffering a food crisis through failing rainy seasons, the people of Ukraine and Russia suffering through war. We pray for the people of Iran at this time of conflict and change, for a move towards freedom, respect for human dignity, and justice; we remember those who have left the country but are anxious for loved ones remaining in Iran, and we pray for them and for their relatives. We pray for the country of South Sudan and for Emmanuel, Laura, and Konga and the family they have in that troubled part of God's world.

We give thanks for those communities that collected food for our town's foodbanks. We think of the local churches and schools like Boyne Hill that provided donations of food to Maidenhead Food Bank. We pray for all those worried and concerned by the fuel and cost of living crisis.

We pray for Suzette, Danielle, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Mikhail, Brimta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner, Harrison Hawkes, Heidi Webb, Florence Harrison, David Stewart, Tadeusz, Teresa, Leigh Hutchison-May, Larisa Stephenson, Soheila, Sue Nordberg, Cheryl Brookes and Pat Tointon. May they know God's healing presence.

We pray for the recently departed: Carol Aitkin, John Hicks, Willie Kidimu, and Donald Moore. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

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

Fr Jeremy

THE PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO BERWICK

All Saints Boyne Hill were the first Town church to experience the remarkable restoration work at Berwick Church. The day included a talk on the paintings and sculpture behind the altar, a walk around the churchyard and viewing the magnificent views of the South Downs and a talk on the Bloomsbury Set paintings within the church. Some of us shared a picnic while others ate lunch at the delightful local pub. We made a short pilgrim walk from Berwick to Alciston finishing back at Berwick Church for a talk on pilgrimage, a short film on a character from one of the paintings and tea and cakes to finish. During the day we enjoyed excellent talks from the Revd Peter Blee and times of quiet and reflection. If anyone has any feedback from the day the following questions may help. Peter would like feedback and any pictures taken to help with his feedback to the Lottery who helped support this remarkable work.

How was the welcome and hospitality?

How much did you learn about the paintings?

To what extent did you find the visit spiritually refreshing?

Could you hear everything clearly?

Would you have more/less of anything?

You may want to think about Peter's use of nature and fruits, the amazing tree outside reflecting on the 70 years of the Queen's life since her Coronation. You may have enjoyed the informative talks and the amazing visuals of the paintings. Did you like me reflect on the use of colour. Orange or red used as a colour that comes towards you or the blue that withdraws. Christ on the blue cross and the surrounding space of orange drawing us forward in resurrection hope.

During the afternoon we enjoyed a short pilgrim walk sharing the journey together. At the church of Alciston the chance to sing the words of St Francis of Assisi together and allow oneself to be drawn into prayer as the sounding bell led slowly towards silence. We concluded with the Celtic circle prayer and the movingly reflective chant in the language of Christ.

Having led parish outings over many years this one will stay long in the memory for the powerful spiritual experience it provided.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

This year's Harvest Festival service, auction and lunch were for me a joy to be part of. Fr John's outstanding reflection began with the challenging and daunting future for our world. We were left though with hope by the powerful vision the Body of Christ (the Church) can offer.

The auction drew a good number of people to bid for some delightful offerings. Thank you to all who offered generous bids to support the TearFund Toilet twinning project and in so doing went home with lovely food and drinks. The total reached the remarkable figure of £752. This means we can purchase 12 toilets through the scheme.

Finally, thanks to Paul Lion's delightful ploughman's lunch 35 of us enjoyed a lovely Harvest Festival meal. Thank you to Paul, Tanya who set up and provided the wine, and Sue Wright for getting the apple pies and cream.

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00am

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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 forever. Amen

EPISTLE 2 Timothy 2: 18 — 15

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David – that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful – for he cannot deny himself. Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

GOSPEL Luke 17: 11 — 19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God

with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to Samaritan, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

MUSIC

Prelude: O Gott du Frommer Gott *S Karg Elert*

Opening Hymn: AM 563 Jesus Christ is waiting

Gradual: AM 639 Give thanks with a grateful heart

Offertory: AM 135 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said

Communion: AM 358 Be still for the presence of the Lord

Closing Hymn: AM 522 We cannot measure how you heal

Postlude: O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort *S Karg Elert*

6.00pm EVENSONG & BENEDICTION

Prelude: Vater unser im Himmelreich, BuxWV 219 *Buxtehude*

First hymn: 765 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Psalm 144

First Lesson: Nehemiah 6: 1-16

Office hymn: 602 Blest are the pure in heart

Second Lesson: John 15: 12-end

Benediction hymn: 422 Alleluia, sing to Jesus

Final voluntary: Contrapunctus I, Die Kunst der Fuge, BWV 1080 *J S Bach*

Fr John will be leading this service of Evensong and Benediction. The service follows Book of Common Prayer Evensong with traditional hymns, followed by a time of prayer in the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. It would be good to see a few new faces, as well as those who have already grown to love this quiet and reflective service.

SENIOR SAINTS WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2.30pm at 19 COURTFIELD DRIVE, SL6 6JG

Afternoon tea at Margaret Hill's home. Contact her on 07460 966797.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX HOLDERS

Calling all Children's Society Box Holders: It is time to collect in the boxes for counting. I can offer you a variety of options, so please choose whichever is most suitable for you.

- Send a cheque (made out to 'The Children's Society') to me at the address below
- Bring your box when you attend church service on Sunday or Wednesday. If I am not there either ask to leave it in the Parish Office or drop it at my house.
- Bring your box straight to my house.
- Phone me if you need your box collected from your house.

You all have my phone number on your box so please call if you need further clarification, assistance or want to discuss anything with me.

My address: 46 Boyn Hill Road SL6 4HJ

Many thanks for your continued support. It makes a real difference to hundreds of children and enables the Society to continue their work.

Anne Clark

ALL SAINTS CHRIST CHILD MARKET SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER

To help make this year's market another great success, we need to ask for your help with:

- providing cover for the main stall holders (so they can enjoy the Market too!),
- providing hot drinks to the stall holders during the afternoon
- setting up Father Christmas' grotto in the Vestry on the Saturday
- helping direct the external stall holders to their various pitches around the Quadrangle when they arrive

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church; it would be very helpful to get as many volunteers as possible.

List of All Saints Stalls:

Entrance to the Market

The Raffle

Tombola,

Handicrafts

Hot Chocolate and Mince Pies

Mulled Wine

BBQ

Spin the Wheel

Children's Activity Table

Please remember we would love some more **prizes for the Raffle and Tombola!** There is a collection box by the South Porch. New items only please.

Stella Harding

GOVERNORS SOUGHT AT ALTWOOD CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Neil Dimpleby, the Head Teacher of Altwood Church of England School, has asked me to write in this week's Parish News to see if there are people able to help take the school forward. Under the leadership of Neil, the school has made wonderful progress over the last few years. John Bolodeoku, our Churchwarden, is also a governor of the school. As a church we have always made good contact with the school and offer assemblies and a Christian Union discussion group. We now share partnership with The Revd Jo Ellington who has shared an excellent year of chaplaincy at the school.

I would be delighted if there are one or two people who may read this request and feel that they may be able to offer support as a governor. One of our key areas of mission at All Saints is our relationship with our church schools so please take time to pray and discern if you believe you can help.

SITE CONTROLLER NEEDED AT BOYNE HILL INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL

See advertisement attached to email.

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.