

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD PARISH NEWS

www.all saints boynehill.org.uk

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Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

I have just received a message from the Thames Valley Police for "Your New Six Day Challenge". I receive Thames Valley Alert messages and the Police are encouraging us to take one simple step for each day to secure our personal information on line. They are not the only people suggesting we take challenges of six in the coming weeks and months.

The Diocese of Oxford is offering the following;

1. Six months is the new horizon
2. Six days to work and a sabbath to rest
3. Six people to journey with
4. Six ways to be salt and light
5. Six percent for your church
6. Six people to pray for

You may have read about these challenges in the Bishop's letter that Jan kindly shared with you all. I thought I would look briefly at some of the themes raised. The new horizon asks us to think about the church's year. Over the next six months we celebrate Harvest which we shared on the 4th October. Thank you to all those who came to the service and supported Food Share. In November we will think about the theme of remembrance and resurrection. At All Saints we remember All Saints Day with our Patronal Festival, All Souls day which this year I think I will be asking people for names of Loved ones that I can remember in a recorded service. We will also be sharing Remembrance Sunday even if it will be with reduced numbers and The Royal British Legion will be represented at our service.

In December we will be celebrating God's presence with us and the promise of his Kingdom. Jeanette has offered to share some thinking with me over how we might offer Christmas services this year.

In January we will celebrate Christ the Light shining in the darkness and move on to look at what it means to be baptised people living the Christian faith in February. In March we will journey through Lent, experience Holy Week and the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil services. It is my hope that we will be able to celebrate the joy of Resurrection through these services in 2021.

The six people to journey with is an interesting challenge. Do we have people who would like to form a prayer group, a bible study group or an interest group? We have already had excellent groups offering pastoral care but we could look at sharing in more ways on-line. Jeanette and I are looking at hosting an on-line bible study from Bishop Steven based on Philippians in November. Do let us know if you are interested.

Six ways to be salt and light to the world. We are asked to think about what groups we are helping. We have already at Harvest and indeed on a regular basis helped support FoodShare. Can we help people this Christmas who may be isolated? Can we encourage our schools? We are already taking part in Zoom assemblies, planning recorded zoom Open The Book stories and offering recorded assemblies.

We need also to support people who have not been able to return to church. I am very aware of losing contact with some people. Many churches are aware of losing contact with families. We are keen to make contact with you and we need to find safe ways in which to achieve this.

The Bishop's letter asked us to think about our giving and the figure 6 %. This is a difficult challenge not least when many people are facing challenging and worrying times with employment issues. However, if you are in a position to support the mission of All Saints it would be a great help. All churches and indeed much of Society is facing a challenging time during the Pandemic.

Finally, Six people to pray for. At our night time Sundays at Six last weekend Sue Nordberg spoke about the 'All Sorts Group' that supports adults with learning difficulties. This is a wonderful group that has met for the last 16 years offering activities, hospitality, bible stories and themes, Christian support and encouragement. Sadly, since last February we have not been able to meet with people who gain so much from this group. I personally can't wait for this group to re-start and share those All Sorts sweets with folk again. Other groups to pray for would be Street Angels who cannot at the moment support people on the Streets of Maidenhead and also those who are suffering isolation at this time. If anyone would like to start a prayer group with me, please let me know. I am happy to begin a zoom prayer group to pray for community and individuals.

If you are able to help the church as we move towards Christmas you might like to purchase All Saints Christmas cards to share with family and friends this year. All proceeds will go to the Church Floor Fund.

Resources

Sunday 11th October Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion BCP Our second service since Lockdown of this much loved Anglican Communion Service.

10.00am Eucharist

2.30pm – 3.30pm A walk for Families at Ockwells Park, Cox Green. We are limited to 15 people. Please let me know if you would like to walk.

Sundays@Six via Zoom led for us by Revd Sally and members of St Luke's community.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82362755135?pwd=bmZYRkdIbW1SUjhtaHINMnBDTzF1QT09>

Meeting ID: 823 6275 5135

Passcode: 737489

Wednesday 14th October 10.00am: Eucharist St Teresa of Avila

Night Prayer Thursdays 8.00pm – 8.30pm on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75976544021?pwd=Q1pJVTIpTytOdHg0VXhSRGxWRzlzZz09>

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHzIV

Thursday 8 October

This week we celebrate the feast of St Francis of Assisi and also the end of the season of Creationtide, both of which fell on 4th October.

Psalm 148

Reading Luke 12. 22-34

Hymn 725 Make me a channel of your peace

If you have internet access, please continue to use the Church of England and Oxford Diocesan resources. 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.

We'll be using the simple service from the Church of England prayer books we've been issuing. It begins on page 24 and finishes on page 30. Or use this link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer>

You should have received a copy of this helpful blue book but if you haven't please let me know.

Prayer Intentions

God our Father as Christ invites us to the wedding feast, we dare to approach your presence this day in faith, hope and love, humbly bearing the prayers of your people.

We pray Lord that we may be people who rejoice in our faith. We pray Lord that in our times of heartache and doubt and suffering we may know your loving presence.

We pray for this community at All Saints as we face the challenge of keeping our community together in these difficult times. We pray too for the challenges we face next year as we undertake the floor project and face the challenge of finding a place to praise and worship God.

We pray for people suffering isolation, mental health issues, infections, loss of employment and worries for the future. We pray too for students and teachers at our local schools trying to meet the challenge of helping young people learn in a safe environment.

We pray for organisations within our community with whom we are struggling at this time to support. We remember All Sorts, Tiny Saints, Young Saints, The Street Angels and all those groups of people where sharing community is proving challenging.

We pray for those who feel neglected. Please speak into their lives so that they may be assured of your loving presence.

We pray for those who have suffered illness. We remember Fr John Chadwick, Nick Moss and Mark. May your loving and healing presence be with them at this time.

We pray for our care workers and NHS staff and all the people who serve on the frontline. We pray for John, Helen, Joanne, Karen, Carole, Richard, Ricky, Dagma, Emmanuel, Magda and Eleanor.

We remember the departed including Adam Harris whose funeral rites take place at All Saints this week. We remember all our departed loved ones and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

Father, as we approach your Holy Table this day may we receive your gift of New and Transformed life joyfully and may we rejoice in the Lord always by living lives that reflect your light to the world.

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

Fr Jeremy

Today's readings revolve around the idea of constantly working on maintaining our faith through which we receive the protection of God. In the Epistle, Paul urges his readers in Philippi in Greece to put into practice everything he had taught them especially to pray to God, who is always near and elevate their thoughts and actions to do the very best of deeds. The Gospel which is the parable of the guests invited to the wedding feast, reinforces the requirement for constant effort on our part. As with so many of the parables of Jesus, the message is encapsulated in a memorable summary phrase. In this case how many times have we quoted (or possibly mis-quoted): "For many are invited but few are chosen"?

The first hymn is derived from the Psalm set for this Sunday, which is Psalm 23. "The Lord is my shepherd, I'll not want". AM 800 words and music by Stuart Townend (b1963).

The Psalm needs little introduction and its words of comfort provided by the strength and protection of God is a clear encouragement to continue to follow God's guidance to the paths of righteousness.

This setting of the Psalm by Townend was published in 1996. He uses the first part of the psalm in full but uses the refrain to summarise the last two verses of the psalm. Thus, there is the constant reminder of the reward of salvation through faith and trust in God.

Townend grew up in West Yorkshire, the youngest son of an Anglican vicar. He started learning piano at a young age and began writing music in his early twenties. He has released eight solo albums to date. Some of his better-known songs include "How Deep the Father's Love," "The King of Love," and "The Power of the Cross." He continues to work closely with friends Keith and Kristyn Getty and is currently a worship leader in Church of Christ the King in Brighton.

1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

Refrain

*And I will trust in you alone,
and I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.*

2. He guides my ways in righteousness,

And He anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

Refrain

3. And though I walk the darkest path,

I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.

Refrain

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

An anthem that suits the theme of constant focus on faith in God is "O for a closer walk with God" music by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852 – 1924). It is an anthem that the choir has sung fairly regularly over the years and expresses the mood of the words perfectly.

The words are taken from a hymn by William Cowper (1731 – 1800) as follows:

O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heav'nly frame,
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy Dove, return,
sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
and drove thee from my breast.

So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.

William Cowper was an English poet and hymnodist. One of the most popular poets of his time, Cowper changed the direction of 18th-century nature poetry by writing of everyday life and scenes of the English countryside. In many ways, he was one of the forerunners of Romantic poetry. One gets the sense of a walk in the country in the words of this hymn.

The hymn is set to the tune Caithness which was published in a book "Scottish Psalter" in 1633. Stanford uses this tune in the anthem and weaves different textures and harmonies to paint the words.

Stanford was a composer, music teacher, and conductor. Born to a well-off and highly musical family in Dublin, Stanford was educated at the University of Cambridge before studying music in Leipzig and Berlin. He was instrumental in raising the status of the Cambridge University Musical Society, attracting international stars to perform with it.

While still an undergraduate, Stanford was appointed organist of Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1882, aged 29, he was one of the founding professors of the Royal College of Music, where he taught composition for the rest of his life. From 1887 he was also Professor of Music at Cambridge. Among Stanford's pupils were rising composers whose fame went on to surpass his own, such as Gustav Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Stanford composed a substantial number of concert works, including seven symphonies, but his best-remembered pieces are his choral works for church performance.

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

The final hymn continues the peaceful quality to today's music. It is "The love of God comes close" AM 466 words by John Bell (b1949) and Graham Maule (1958 – 2019).

Each verse emphasises a key theme on the continuous journey of belief. Covering the **love** of God, the **peace** which that love can bring, the **joy** of God to enable us to overcome all fears, the receipt of grace and finally all these gifts are derived through the community of the **Son of God**. It is also interesting how Bell and Maule use the metaphor of walking in their hymn almost as an echo of Cowper's words in the anthem.

1. The love of God comes close
where stands an open door
to let the stranger in,
to mingle rich and poor:
The love of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.

2. The peace of God comes close to those caught in the storm, forgoing lives of ease to ease the lives forlorn: The peace of God is here to stay, embracing those who walk his way.
3. The joy of God comes close where faith encounters fears, where heights and depths of life are found through smiles and tears: The joy of God is here to stay, embracing those who walk his way.
4. The grace of God comes close to those whose grace is spent, when hearts are tired or sore and hope is bruised and bent: The grace of God is here to stay, embracing those who walk his way.
5. The Son of God comes close where people praise his name, where bread and wine are blest and shared as when he came: The Son of God is here to stay, embracing those who walk his way.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17S_yWefNnw

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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 Philippians 4: 1 - 9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL Matthew 22: 1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to

the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’

SERMON Fr Jeremy

Towards the end of July, Bishop Steven in the final part of his podcast on Paul’s letter to The Philippians said that Paul is inviting the Philippians and us to ‘Rejoice in the Lord Always’. It is an invitation to joy. Steven started the podcast by playing some of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony the ‘Ode to Joy’. I am not an expert on classical music although we have people like Brian, Relf and Simon our organists and many others of you who enjoy this wonderful music who appreciate and understand the meaning behind the words.

I decided to try and see why the Bishop had chosen this music for his podcast. I discovered that the words of Friedrich Stiller, a German poet are an examination of the emotion of human joy. Beethoven’s 9th Symphony offers perhaps through the beauty of the music as much as the words, the attempt to create a feeling and appreciation of the human emotion of joy. The interesting point for me as I was reading though was the fact that Beethoven (Perhaps the greatest of classical composers) wrote Ode to Joy towards the end of his career. He was deaf, ill and had suffered much in his lifetime and yet he was able to compose this famous piece of music by hearing it in his head. He never heard it played!

My interest increased as I read about Beethoven’s ‘Ode to Joy’ being used as a protest anthem. Some examples are demonstrators in Chile singing the piece during demonstrations against Pinochet’s dictatorship, Chinese students broadcasting the music at Tiananmen Square and it was performed (conducted by Leonard Bernstein) on Christmas Day after the Berlin Wall fell.

Bishop Steven doesn’t explain why he has chosen the music, but I guess to the person who appreciates Beethoven that would have been all too clear. Paul is offering encouragement to the Philippians by telling them to rejoice even in a time of uncertainty. Paul is saying it is ok to be afraid of dark and difficult times. Paul however says rejoice even in this time of uncertainty. Paul himself has faced arrest, shipwreck, is probably at this point speaking from a prison and will face a martyr’s death and yet he still says, ‘Rejoice in the Lord always’. The Philippians were a group of people full of fear as they faced life without Paul and his co-workers to support them in their early days as a Christian community.

Bishop Steven asked in his podcast ‘but how in these challenging times of the Pandemic can we accept the invitation to joy?’ How can we rejoice in the Lord when we are facing people suffering mental health issues, increasing numbers of infections, loss of jobs (As I write I see the loss of many jobs in the cinema industry and have been told by an engineer from ADT alarm company that many of his colleagues have been laid off), churches have been closed and perhaps we face that prospect again, we cannot even rejoice by singing together. If I am speaking honestly I would add that as a church community, All Saints is facing the prospect of doing a major floor project, attempting to make the building safe for future generations to praise God but knowing that the building will be closed for up to six months next year. Will the congregation still support and worship together in perhaps another building? Will we centre our lives on Christ and engage with our communities and the world and live as good citizens? Will we walk away from this community and try to find solace in a different way?

Paul is clear about what path we should take. He is not saying rejoice in the suffering and thank God for all the bad things that are happening. Paul instead asks to give thanks in the midst of our suffering. We should be honest to God about the suffering and doubts. In doing this we form a relationship with the God who cares, and our joy comes through knowing that our song is one of protest just as many people have used Beethoven's music before. We know that Christ through his incarnation came to share our struggles and experienced pain, suffering and desolation on the cross. In so doing he shares our struggles and offers us hope of New and transformed life through his resurrection. The joy of the Christian faith is knowing Christ is present in this life through his Holy Spirit and of the hope of knowing him in the Kingdom to come. We must live life as if the best is yet to come. It will be challenging as we worry about our closest relationships and our own personal weaknesses and vulnerability but we should have faith and joy to believe that we share this journey as Baptised Christians together, supporting one another and doing so in the presence of Christ.

As Eucharistic people we know too that we are invited to share the greatest gift the most wonderful act of love in the breaking of bread. We are reminded that we look back to the movement of the people from suffering in Egypt to the joy of the promised land and Passover. We look back to for the Last Supper when Jesus offered us the hope of New Life through his death and resurrection and a way of living that challenges us to be humble servants. That meal reminds us too of communion, the oneness with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the oneness as baptised Christians of sharing this pilgrim life together. That journey as our Gospel suggests is an invitation to the Heavenly Banquet. Will we say yes to this invitation and rejoice in the joy of knowing resurrection life? If we live Christlike lives, we will be wearing the correct clothes (as the Gospel suggests) for the future and we will know that we are not alone in these times of suffering. Bishop Steven offers us a hope too from the prophet Habakkuk 3: 17-19. The prophet pointing to trust and joy in the midst of trouble. Remember then the 'Ode to Joy' and rejoice in the Lord always.

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

ALL SAINTS CHRISTMAS CARDS

The delightful "Quad in Winter" picture by Reg Denison is available again this year on Christmas cards in support of the Floor Appeal. They have the simple message "Best wishes for a joyful Christmas and peaceful New Year" and a quote from Luke 2: 10-11. The initial run of cards has been donated so all profits go to the appeal

To keep things simple this year and adhere to Covid rules the cards will be available at the rear of the church in packs of five (£5.00 for five cards) and can be collected after services on Sundays and Wednesdays from Sunday 18 October.

There will be an "honesty box" where cash or cheques can be deposited (please note change will not be available so please bring the right denomination for your purchases) Please make cheques payable to All Saints Church Fund.

To help us with ordering it would be helpful if you could let us know how many you intend to buy so we can keep reordering from the printers. To do so email Jeremy at nordbergjs@aol.com

They are beautiful cards (thanks again to Reg Denison) and will help us to complete our floor restoration.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

Hello to all box holders,

I hope you are all keeping well during these difficult times. I have been sent information from the society enabling us to proceed with box opening. However, in order to keep us all safe things need to be done differently this year.

Please DO NOT bring your boxes to church.

I will arrange either collection from your home or for those able, to drop off to my home.

You all have my telephone number on your boxes so please call to discuss your preferences. If I am out then please leave your name and phone number and I will call back. I live in Boyn Hill Road and will let you know which house when you call. I do not have your phone numbers only your addresses.

Boxes must either be wrapped in newspaper or placed in carrier bags. They will be quarantined for 72 hours before opening. All monies will be handled using disposable gloves.

Your empty box will be returned to your home. Please put aside for 72 hours before using. They will be cleaned with a disinfectant wipe before returning.

I will write to anyone who does not respond within 4 weeks to try and make contact.

Should you wish to send a cheque this year to avoid social contact please give me a ring and I will pass on my address. You are probably aware that many charities are struggling this year and particularly need our help.

The Children's Society are very grateful for your continued support; however your health and safety must be your number one priority.

Anne Clark, Honorary Local Secretary, Children's Society

REFLECTION by Greg Hurst

So many restrictions and limitations crowd around us with this wretched virus that we risk overlooking things to be thankful for. We live close to Norden Farm Arts Centre in Maidenhead and were pained to see its gate closed throughout the spring and summer because of coronavirus restrictions.

When we received a notice of a pared-down programme of autumn events at Norden Farm it was therefore a moment of great optimism. One event caught my eye: a talk by a mountaineer about his adventures. I bought two tickets and invited a neighbour. An email confirming my booking talked about Covid-safe measures.

When we arrived for the performance, a one-way system was in operation. In the foyer was a digital box to scan my electronic tickets; it was a little like the self-scanning till at Sainsbury's as I stood swiping and re-swiping my e-ticket until it bleeped. The bar was open but drinks could only be consumed at tables. Once in the theatre we found our seats, surrounded by others that had been taped off to separate us from other members of the audience. The capacity of around 220 seats had been reduced to about 80 of which staff told us 55 had been sold, with a smaller number who preferred to stay at home having paid to watch on a streaming link.

The atmosphere was somewhat subdued owing to the limited numbers and we emerged afterwards to find the bar had shut at 9.00pm. And yet we had enjoyed an evening of live performance. How heartening.