

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

PARISH NEWS

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Issue 23 19 August 2020



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

As an adult do you like disruption? Yvonne Morris, the Diocesan children's adviser mentioned in a meeting with Deborah Firth, Ian Macdonald (Youth Adviser) and myself, that children cope with it brilliantly. They are put in classes and asked to learn with lots of things going on around them. I have this morning tried to write this newsletter having been disrupted by various pastoral and practical issues that have interrupted my train of thought. Holding a coherent line of thought has never come easy to me (Try following a sermon of mine!) and so I need every little bit of concentration. Even when I succeed, I see the pleading eyes of Lilly the Dog seeking her long-awaited walk, that is the highlight of her day.

Ian and Yvonne are listening to parishes struggling to form relationships with families and young people. They listened to our story at All Saints and felt encouraged. We know the language of PMC, we try to notice God at work, we try to listen to each other and the wider community so that we have tried to become a more welcoming community and one that is reaching out to the schools. They know that we understand through the ethos of Boyne Hill Infant school what the word compassion means. To walk in another person's shoes even when that person is from a different culture, faith and generation. These two people are offering excellent resources for parishes to use however they are not offering quick fix solutions to problems. As PMC noted they encourage adoptive change. Are we willing to offer intergenerational opportunities to walk alongside people that might disrupt our normal way of living as Christians? Relating this to children and families, can we find a way where young children and families can ask and share questions of faith with other generations of people.

As I write this Melanie has forwarded me two emails. One from a young man who Stella and Ken listened to after the service and I became the third member of that group that tried to offer him support. That young man has sought professional help and has been received by health care professionals who will hopefully walk alongside him. I do not know whether he would have sought that help had he felt no one was sharing his journey. The second email is from a lady who is pleased on receiving an anniversary card (Thank you, Anne Sweeney) for her daughter Poppy's baptism last year. The mother goes on to write 'We have been trying to teach our children about the importance of Christianity and respecting other faiths and beliefs throughout the Lockdown. Can you advise in websites that may help?'

This highlights that people are seeking to join the journey of faith. This will mean we might have to be disrupted from our cosy journey of faith. Please don't disrupt our way of doing things. Please join us and do things our way. Pippa and Jeremy Nordberg have given us time and talent in putting together a branding project at All Saints. We heard that young families loved community events like the Salvation Army singing carols in the Quad, some put off family holidays until they knew the date of the community fete that brings 300 – 400 people together in the summer and they love the relational Tiny Saints on a Friday. The majority though felt that it was difficult and challenging to find a sense of belonging in a Sunday service. When I spoke about the value of community to Ian Macdonald at the meeting he said as long as you are creating community and not just proximity. At the moment with two metre spacing, masks etc we are not even offering proximity, but I get his point.

We are then as we journey forward following Lockdown going to need to discern how we can find ways of making small shifts in our thinking. We may have to find ways both virtually and physically on occasions other than Sundays to allow opportunities of discovery. The first steps may not be in worship but Godly Play via Zoom for adults and children, walking together and listening to one another, using Dwelling in the Word as we listen to each other. We do not have any answers at the moment. Perhaps we need a time of discernment to find out the mix of worship and activity that we may need to offer to allow all ages of people to feel valued and accepted so that they can contribute to the community. My sermon this week reflects on possible potential of the internet but only if it creates community and does not encourage individualism. We can rejoice too that many of the people who came forward to offer support during Lockdown were young families who wanted to share the Christian journey with us.

Whatever the future holds for All Saints and the wider Christian Church let us pray that people searching value and support in their lives may find people listening to their needs who are willing to be disrupted that together may share the journey.

Happy Birthday to Mrs Joan Poolman, a longstanding member of our congregation and before that of St George's, Larchfield, who celebrates her 95th birthday on Saturday 22nd August. Love and congratulations from all of us.

Resources

Eucharist 10.00am 23rd August – The Eleventh Sunday After Trinity using The Family Service.

Eucharist 10.00am 26th August – Eucharistic Prayer G

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.

I am continuing to offer a recording. Last weekend the recording for the Assumption of the BVM was posted. This can be found via the direct link sent by Jan Moss or the web-site.

Night Prayer Thursdays 8.00pm – 8.30pm on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75976544021?pwd=Q1pJVlplTytOdHg0VXhSRGxWRzIzZz09>

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHziv

Thursday 20th August Psalm 8, Mark 4: 1-20 and

Taizé Chant

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid;

lift up your voices the Lord is near,

lift up your voices the Lord is near...

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

We pray and give thanks this day for leadership in the Church. We pray for The Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop Steven and Bishop Olivia as they continue to support and encourage us. We pray too for unity within the church.

As the Body of Christ and a pilgrim people journeying together we pray that we may be open to the needs of people seeking support in their lives. May our community be a place of welcome and belonging and a place where people may ask questions of faith.

We pray for people who are struggling with their faith through self-doubt, through difficult circumstances, through bad things happening to them in their lives.

We pray for those of us that feel in the dark and locked into challenging circumstances. We pray Lord for your loving presence to guide us and that the church community may support us.

We pray for all generations of people that we may be able to create a community where listening, noticing, learning and compassion can be found.

We pray for people in need, remembering Nick Moss, Fr John Chadwick who are both recovering from the virus and for Mark, the grandson of Anita, needing God's loving assurance at this time.

We pray for our schools and children and teachers who have had worries over examination results. We pray for all students and teachers as they prepare for a return to school in September.

We continue to pray for the NHS and Care Workers and all those in the frontline. We pray for John, Helen, Joanne, Karen, Carole, Richard, Eleanor, Ricky, Dagma, Emmanuel and Magda.

We continue to give thanks for our pastoral care team as they support nursing homes and people at home through phone calls.

We pray for the recently departed, Brenda Mullins and all those known to us on anniversary of death.

We give thanks Loving Father, the Holy Spirit that has revealed your son Jesus to us and blessed the Church with his abiding presence.

Seeking support

People are beginning to ask the church whether we can be open for activities again. We have already received an enquiry asking about when Tiny Saints can re-open. There have been requests from our established groups like Senior Saints and Tuesday Club too. The reply is that we do need to risk-assess to make sure people are safe. Folk are asked to wear face masks indoors at this time. Also, we need to clean buildings before and after events. We have been fortunate to find eight new cleaners who volunteer to clean the church each week. We will need going forward volunteers, possibly from the groups themselves to offer to clean following the activity. Please give this some thought as we move forward towards trying to re-engage with community.

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

Fr Jeremy

Worship for Sunday 23 AUGUST THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sounds of Worship

Brian Graves

The Gospel story today describes how Simon Peter claims that Jesus is the 'Messiah, the Son of the living God.' Jesus tells us that Peter's assertion has been revealed to him by God and as such, Jesus declares that Peter is the rock on which he will build His church. Peter's faith is an example for all Christians and a role model for the personal

responsibility we should all aspire to achieve. The Epistle today is taken from Paul's Letter to the Romans where he describes Christian behaviour. In particular, he refers to the unity of the Christian community in the body of Christ. The hymns today reflect on the both gospel and the Epistle.

The first hymn is "Firmly I believe and truly" AM 634 words by John Henry Newman (1801 – 1809) to tune Halton Holgate composed by William Boyce (1711 – 1779). The text is part of Newman's longer poem "The dream of Gerontius" and appears in the opening sections of the poem where Gerontius prepares himself for his impending demise. The words are in effect a creed and represent a clear declaration of the nature of the faith that Peter used to describe his understanding of Jesus as the Son of God.

William Boyce is best remembered today for his church music but he also composed many secular pieces. In 1757 he was appointed Master of the King's Musick and as such was responsible for writing music for major royal occasions. For the coronation of George III in 1761, he refused to make a new setting of Zadok the Priest on the grounds that Handel's setting of the anthem was unsurpassable - as a consequence of which Handel's setting has been played at every subsequent British coronation.

1. Firmly I believe and truly
God is Three and God is One;
and I next acknowledge duly
manhood taken by the Son.
2. And I trust and hope most fully
in that manhood crucified;
and each thought and deed unruly
do to death, as he has died.
3. Simply to his grace and wholly
light and life and strength belong,
and I love supremely, solely,
him the holy, him the strong.
4. And I hold in veneration,
for the love of him alone,
Holy Church as his creation,
and her teachings as his own.
5. Adoration ay be given,
with and through the angelic host,
to the God of earth and heaven,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMcWvVLFN6g>

The second hymn relates to the Epistle and is based on the 9th century Latin hymn Ubi Caritas, translated by James Quinn SJ (1919 – 2010) "God is love, and where true love is, God himself is there." AM 168 Music by Anthony Gregory Murray (1905 – 1992).

The Ubi Caritas hymn is normally used as an antiphon for the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday. However, the gathering of the community in the unity of Christ makes these words equally appropriate for today's epistle.

Both James Quinn and Dom Gregory Murray were dedicated to making hymns and other music more accessible to the Roman Catholic church after the liturgical reforms of Vatican II. Indeed, their influence has been felt much more widely.

God is love, and where true live is, God Himself is there.

1. Here in Christ we gather, love of Christ our calling.
Christ, our love, is with us, gladness be his greeting.
Let us all revere and love him, God eternal.
Let each other love Christ in sisters and in brothers all.

God is love, and where true live is, God Himself is there.

2. When we Christians gather, members of one Body,
Let there be in us no discord, but one spirit.
Banished now be anger, strife and every quarrel.
Christ, our God, be present always here among us.

God is love, and where true live is, God Himself is there.

3. Grant us love's fulfilment, joy with all the blessed,
when we see your face, O Saviour, in its glory.
Shine on us, O purest Light of all creation,
be our bliss while endless ages sing your praises.

God is love, and where true live is, God Himself is there.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6j-mbONxi0>

We conclude with a hymn written specifically to celebrate St Peter, it is "Thou art the Christ, O Lord" AM 321 words by William Walsham How (1823 – 1997) to the tune Love Unknown by John Ireland (1879 – 1962).

The first verse makes the point that faith of Jesus is a fundamental to achieving eternal life. The second verse refers specifically to today's gospel reading. The third verse recalls Peter's denial of Christ and his own subsequent death. The fourth verse has the interesting feature of starting each line with an exclamatory "O" and summarises the key characteristics of a Christian life and sainthood.

Walsham How was ordained in 1846 and worked in various parishes in Shropshire until 1879 when he was appointed the first suffragan Bishop of London, under the title of the Bishop of Bedford. His province was the East End where he initiated the revival of the church in the area and did a great deal to support the poor. In 1888 he was made the first Bishop of Wakefield where he continued to promote the gospel and establish new churches.

How wrote several commentaries on the gospels and liturgy more generally which were published by the SPCK. He also published his sermons and wrote a significant number of hymns including, in addition to the one we have today, "For All the Saints who from their labours rest".

The tune by John Ireland "Love Unknown" was written in 1925 for the passion-tide hymn "My song is love unknown". This tune has proved to be a very versatile tune because it is also set to "Christ is the one who calls" AM 487, which we had for Easter 6, as well as this hymn.

1. Thou art the Christ, O Lord,
The Son of God, most high:
forever be adored
that name in earth and sky,
in which, though mortal strength may fail,
the saints of God at last prevail.
2. Surely he was blest,
with blessedness unpriced,
who, taught of God, confessed
the Godhead in the Christ;
for of thy Church, Lord, Thou didst own
thy saint a true foundation-stone.

3.

4. Thrice fallen, thrice restored,
the bitter lesson learnt,
that heart for thee, O Lord,
with triple ardour burnt.
The cross he took he laid not down
until he grasped the martyr's crown.

5. Bright triumphant faith,
O courage void of fears,
O love most strong in death,
O penitential tears!
By these, Lord, keep us lest we fall,
and make us go where thou shalt call.

COLLECT

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 Romans 12: 1 - 8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

GOSPEL Matthew 16: 13 – 20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

SERMON Fr JEREMY

In an interview printed in the Church Times edition 7th August, Vicky Walker speaks about her book 'Strange Rites: New Religions for a godless world.' The theme of her book interests me as it refers to an idea that I read about when studying sociology of religion at Heythrop College, London in 2003-5. Walker doesn't use the word, but she is talking about the sacralisation of religion. This is put simply the idea that we can find answers to our religious belief within ourselves. We do not need or desire institutional religion anymore. If you go to a bookshop like Waterstones in Reading and look for religious books you will find a few but the majority will be self-help books. Many people today think we live in a secular world, but I wonder actually if it is sacralisation rather than godlessness that is equally something the Christian faith is dealing with in these times.

My thoughts at this time of Covid 19 and the movement towards more choice and internet and virtual church is where might we be heading? Walker writes 'we're seeing a re-imagining of religion as individualised, or of the self

where people want to mix and match where people want to play around with different traditions, belief systems and practices.’ There can be a positive side to this where we find ourselves in tune with the universe and perhaps with God (Ignatius of Loyola – Finding God in everything) as long as we do not forget the value of community or communion.

I, on the other hand, write about communion because as this week’s lectionary so clearly highlights, the Bible points us to a faith that through our baptism means we die to self and live in the community of Christ’s body. We are a people who are adopted brothers and sisters of Christ journeying together as pilgrim people towards the Kingdom. On the way it might be good if we can live lives that reflect the Trinity relationship of love and bring a little of God’s light to the world.

There is a massive challenge to this communal view. The printed book helped advance the Protestant Reformation which enhanced people’s ability to read scripture for themselves. This was and is a good thing. However different people’s interpretations did lead to splits in the church and indeed appalling deeds. Just read Sansom’s Shardlake novels. In the 21st century we have another step to take. The internet. The idea that you can take an idea and add your own spin to it, that as Walker says, ‘everything should be tailor-made to you, and individualised.’

Two points I want to take from Walker’s interview that may help with the text. 1. Churches need to preserve their distinctiveness and 2. Christianity is at its best when it is counter-cultural.

In the gospel from Matthew today we find the text that has been used to make Peter the rock on which the church is founded. Some people view this as an idea that we can have Popes, Bishops and priests who are management. Rather let’s look at Peter’s response ‘That Jesus is ‘The Son of the Living God’. This leads us to the belief that we are all, ordained and lay, part of the Body of Christ or the People of God, journeying as pilgrim people together towards the Kingdom. The role of the Pope or the Archbishops and Bishops and even clergy is for me one of unity. How do people in leadership offer the chance for people to discern their God given gifts to respond as individuals with the community and be inspired by the spirit.

Peter with his declaration of faith is the starting point of this community. Jesus did not come to build a temple but to build a community of believers or people of the way. The reading from Romans is one of two passages alongside 1 Corinthians 12 that speaks about the community as a body with limbs and organs in order to stress that the church is a unity with quite different members. We are to live counter-culturally by living sacrificial lives that are offered for the community. This is the key role of leadership discerning people’s gifts and allowing opportunities for those gifts to flourish. Our new welcome team is following a course ‘Everybody Welcome’. This course has at its heart the need for new people to feel a sense of belonging. This over time means that they can feel a part of the community that will value them as individuals empowered by the holy Spirit. Read Paul’s list of giftings. Paul is saying that offering time to this community is not a hobby. It is hard work and sometimes we do this work or ministry when we do not feel like it because we are doing it in the name of Christ and for each other empowered by the Holy Spirit. It means giving time to roles so that we do them to the best of our ability. It also means encouraging others to give of their gifts within the church.

To return to the start of this sermon I do believe that the ability of the laity to read the scriptures for themselves was a positive side to the Reformation. I do believe that modern technology via the internet will offer us new ways of communicating that can help people grow in community. However if we are encouraging individualism and the desire to find the answers within ourselves without the call as baptised members of the body of Christ to share the pilgrim journey and encourage one another to use gifts to reflect God’s love then we maybe journeying away from the biblical model laid down by Paul and Matthew and Christ himself.

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This will take place in church at 7.00pm on Monday 28 September.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2020

Heritage Open Days this year will comprise virtual tours only from Friday 11 - Sunday 20 September. This will benefit All Saints as we have our own virtual tour which is also on our website <http://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk/welcome-about-all-saints/3d-virtual-tour-all-saints-church/> but see www.heritageopendays.org.uk for all participating buildings.

RIDE & STRIDE SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

Ride+Stride for 2020 is fast approaching and whilst we will not be opening the Church to "ride and striders" this year, we will have a sign in-sheet and will provide water for those visiting All Saints.

Last year the event raised over £20,000 for Berkshire Churches Trust. In the past the Trust has supported a number of key All Saints' building projects with grants and donations, and importantly this year, has already pledged a further £10,000 to go toward the floor repair fund.

We are very keen to continue to take part in the event and Fr Jeremy has offered to lead a group of walkers to visit one or two of the other Maidenhead churches who are involved this year, taking in some of our lovely open countryside on the way. Please contact Stella Harding, either on Maidenhead 632374, or at sdhardinghouse@aol.com to let us know if you would like to join the group - safe-distancing rules will be adhered to!

We will ask for sponsorship or donations for the group's efforts - half of whatever we raise will be returned to All Saints. You will be able to donate either directly at the Church, or through the following just giving link if it is easier for you:

<https://www.justgiving.com/berkshirechurchestrust> (using this method of donating also allows the Trust to claim gift aid on behalf of any tax payers); please remember to nominate All Saints Boyne Hill when you give to make sure we receive half of all donations.

More information is available on the BCT website: <http://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk/ride-and-stride-2/>

Please contact Stella (details as above) if you have questions about any of these arrangements.

YOUNG SAINTS AT HOME

See Issue 17 for the summer programme.

REFLECTION by Greg Hurst

Be careful what you wish for. Having spent the previous week desperate for rain, my prayers were answered. It rained. It rained some more. And it rained again.

Several days after the heat wave was broken by violent thunderstorms and tumultuous rain I was sitting alone one evening in our kitchen. A drip-drip-drip sound began to irritate me. Was a tap not turned off? Had we over-watered a house plant? I walked to the corner of the room from where the sound came and, with a start, realised water was dripping from the ceiling. A long crack had opened up next to our Velux window from which water was running, before dripping onto the floor. A leak!

Did I regret, then, my previously longing for rain? Truthfully I did not. Within a couple of days a builder traced the source to broken roof tiles and replaced them. We will leave the cracked ceiling to dry out and repaint it. And I am still pleased we had rain.

In adulthood I had to revise one of my childhood memories after realising I misunderstood its meaning. In primary school we would start one of our hymns with this opening line: *"We plough the fields and scatter"* My poor understanding of punctuation meant I thought the sentence stopped there. I imagined anxious farmers finishing their ploughing and running away to hide, terrified. But I remember the rest of the hymn, too. We thanked the Lord for all good gifts around us, including "soft refreshing rain".

That childhood memory still holds true.

TUESDAY CLUB NEWS

The Tuesday Club AGM will take place via Zoom at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8 September. Members with no computer access will receive hard copies of the paperwork in time to make any comments known to the Secretary ahead of the meeting.

WAMCF Women's Group Monday 21 September 7.30pm via Zoom

Meeting ID: 825 4902 9323 Passcode: 358536

Ladies of all faiths and none are welcome to join the discussion on our **Creation Season: How do we care for our world?**

QUENCH REOPENING HOURS

Quench Bookshop in Queen Street is owned by a local Christian charity. It provides active Christian witness and stocks a great selection of cards, books and gifts. The shop is subsidised by regular donations from Christians in Maidenhead. The shop has now reopened on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10.30am until 3.30pm. Do please give Quench as much support as you can.

Foodshare Needs

The Maidenhead Advertiser always has a list of things most needed each week, and there are food drop-off points all over Maidenhead; **see attachment [foodshare drop-off](#) on Newsletter Issue 8** to find one near you.

On the Web + YouTube

There is a growing library of music to be accessed through our website. Please save this link in your browser

<https://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk/information-children-and-familie/services/holy-week-2020-easter-services-use-home/>

And if you're missing the church why not take a virtual tour by going to

<http://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk/welcome-about-all-saints/3d-virtual-tour-all-saints-church/>

Catch up with Fr Jeremy's videos at:

<http://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk/welcome-about-all-saints/what-we-believe/fr-jeremys-video-reflections-vicarage/>

All Saints YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnPQFuQQ-Yb0ffFuT1Mjv8A/>

There are lots of recordings plus six music tracks in the channel.

Raise donations for All Saints Church, Maidenhead, at no cost to yourself, whenever you shop online:-

A few years ago, All Saints signed up with easyfundraising who collect small donations from selected on-line shopping, at no cost to the shopper.

During this time the Church has raised £256 and has 15 registered supporters.

If you have not registered please do consider doing so, especially with the current amount of on-line shopping taking place – it is very easy at:-

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allsaintsboynehill/>

A wide range of on-line shops are signed up to this. More information can be found above or on our website at:-

<http://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk/welcome-about-all-saints/giving/easy-fund-raising/>

A big thank you to those who are already registered and contributing, at no cost to themselves, we hope that more people will join.

Rod Broad Treasurer