

# ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

## PARISH NEWS

[www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk)

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

In this newsletter you will find a sermon based on a Gospel reading that suggests our lives and the world in which we live are not something we can take for granted. We are called to live as disciples called to use our gifts to the best of our ability knowing that Christ has won for us the Kingdom of Heaven. We try to live as if the best is yet to come. I refer also at the beginning of the sermon to a novel by Robert Harris called 'The Second Sleep' which takes on the idea of what might cause the end of civilisation. Within the novel we discover that the Church of England has regained prominence in the world but sadly it is viewed as an organisation that tries to dismiss and hide scientific views and advancement.

This week's news brought the new hope of a vaccination that has, we are told, a 90% success rate. We can all take the opportunity to celebrate scientific advancement and I hope the belief that we can live life believing that the best is yet to come. The Archbishops, as I shared last week, have asked us to set aside time in November to pray for the Nation. You will find a daily focus for prayer and at All Saints there will be opportunities to gather for prayer either via zoom, by quiet and private prayer in church on Wednesday's and Sunday's and quietly within our own homes.

I know that many are finding this second lockdown difficult with many people missing the social interaction and many concerned about the future for themselves and for their families. The Christian Faith alongside scientific advancement offers, I believe, hope. We are still facing a challenging winter ahead (The vaccine / vaccines will not change our lives overnight) but we can support one another by helping each other practically and by praying for the needs of this country.

On Monday evenings a small group of us are meeting informally between 7.30 and 8.00pm praying for subjects that are close to our heart. Last week we prayed for Street Angels and this Monday we listened to Jenny Wilks give us a wonderful example of a story of hope that came from a small beginning. If ever there is an example of a view of the Kingdom of Heaven breaking into this world like the story of the mustard seed, then this is it. Jenny shared that Operation Christmas Child was the vision of David Cook who in 1990 from somewhere in North Wales decided to help Romanian Orphans. From small beginnings Samaritans Purse took on the project and it has led to 178,000,000 children receiving Christmas boxes since 1990. As Jenny said to us over zoom on Monday this is surely a tangible expression of God's love, of people using their gifts to bring a little light into the world. One year in a large church in Charlotte, America 11,000 boxes were donated! We are more modest, but our 100 boxes last year played their part in this wonderful story. I am pleased to report that people are supporting this year. We do not expect to make 100 donations, but we know for certain that 35 have been made without knowing how many people have donated by going straight to the web-site. It is not too late to donate but we will close this year's giving next week. Finally, Jenny said that at All Saints we have been blessed by one of our parishioners saying first-hand how much this project meant to them as they received a box when they were a child.

Finally, before moving on to offer the resources for the week I would like to thank those that shared the first Sunday zoom morning prayer last week as we commemorated Remembrance Sunday. It was moving too that Ted Carpenter

from the Royal British Legion came to All Saints to quietly lay the wreath at 11am on Sunday morning and kept the two minutes silence.

## **Sad News**

It was very sad news that we heard of the death of Meg Widdicombe over the weekend. Meg was a long-time member of the Mother's Union and more latterly the Senior Saints. Meg, alongside her husband Eric, were two of the early members of Open the Book teams in Maidenhead and their contributions were much loved by pupils and teachers. The Church of the Good Shepherd, St Luke's and All Saints have for many years shared marriage preparation on Saturday mornings. Many couples have enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about each other and from other couples. It is true to say though that Meg and Eric's 'Double act' which in both an amusing and heartfelt way highlighted how a Christian marriage can share life's joys and sorrows with humour and commitment and was perhaps the most significant element of those sessions. I am sure that Revd Joan and Revd Sally would agree that their contributions will be remembered by many couples who have been married in our churches over the last decade or so. Meg and Eric would have been married 60 years at the end of this month and although Meg didn't quite make their Diamond celebrations, she did reach 90 years of age recently. May the Widdicombe family be in our prayers this week.

## **And some Good News!**

In a year when we have all come to realise how much we rely upon the NHS I was thrilled to read that Rod Broad has been elected as The Frimley Lead Governor for the NHS. This is a very important position and when, as Christians, we speak about offering our gifts it is wonderful to hear of a member of All Saints Church contributing to the welfare of the British Public in such a prominent way. Congratulations, Rod! And some even better news: Rod will still be continuing as our Treasurer!

**Resources – please note the new Zoom service on Sunday morning.**

## **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

### **7.00pm Bible Study**

Bible Study on part two of Bishop Steven's course on Paul's Letter to the Philippians called 'Living is Christ, Dying is Gain'. Thank you to the participants last week who offered such interesting discussion.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83701228145?pwd=M3RhaTQveThWWW5WN0prYmt2L1Jidz09>

Meeting ID: 837 0122 8145

Passcode: 654973

### **8.00pm Night prayer on Zoom led by Jeanette**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75976544021?pwd=Q1pJVtIpTytOdHg0VXhSRGxWRzIzZz09>

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHziv

Psalms 42, Matthew 5: 38-end Hymn 592 As the deer pants for the water

## **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

### **9.00am Morning Prayer on Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89671088057?pwd=RVpQZ3JtRmpaL1UvbDV6VkJFS3N4dz09>

Meeting ID: 896 7108 8057

Passcode: 335673

This service will be the full Church of England morning prayer for Sunday. It will include the Sunday morning readings for the Eucharist including Psalm 90: 1-12, 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 and Matthew 25: 14-30. There will be a talk on prayer but if you are looking for the sermon for the day you will find this within this newsletter. Brian's chosen hymn for our service will be 'We have a Gospel to Proclaim'

### **10.00am-11.00am Church open for Private Prayer**

For those people who would like to join the Diocesan Eucharist please see the link. The Diocesan resources can be found without internet on 01865 920930.

### **Sundays@Six**

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 823 6275 5135

Passcode: 737489

Shared Night Prayer with the communities of St Luke's and The Church of the Good Shepherd. Jeanette and I will be leading the act of worship. We hope that you will join us to pray this beautiful office and share the examen to look back over our day and look forward to the start of another week in God's loving presence.

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.

### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm Prayer Group via Zoom Theme: Open the Book**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85011600714?pwd=Y0x2VWpMQ3JFUStsQ0plbEFLOEQrQT09>

Meeting ID: 850 1160 0714

Passcode: 553120

This group, following the example of our successful 'Church on the Move' from a decade ago, focusses on an area of mission that we would like to pray for. This week Mike and Jan Moss will be sharing the wonderful story of Open the Book. Please come and join us on zoom to hear and view a typical Open the Book presentation.

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 10.00am – 11.00am Church open for private prayer**

#### **Prayer Intentions**

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and senior church leaders have called for a month of Prayer for the Nation during the second lockdown. The suggestion is that as many of us as possible unite to do this at 6.00pm each day. These prayers and themes are offered as tools to enable all to participate and are intended simply as suggestions. Use the link below:

[https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/15348%20PftN%20Booklet\\_6th%20PROOF.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/15348%20PftN%20Booklet_6th%20PROOF.pdf)

We remember Antonictas and Malcolm Saunders on the loss of Cruz Portillo, the mother of Antonictas. We keep the family in our prayers.

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer we pray for Fr Jeremy & Jeanette. For our Churchwardens, Ann & Ken and our Deputy Churchwardens, Stella & John. For our Communion Assistants that they stay safe and that it won't be too long before their services are required once more!

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

*Fr Jeremy*

## Worship for SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

### Sounds of Worship

Brian Graves

As we approach Advent, today's readings remind us of God's mission for us on earth. They also provide an inkling of the nature of the season of Advent as a time of preparation and anticipation of God's incarnation and our salvation through the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ. In the Epistle, Paul writes about the unpredictable nature of life and that we should live life in the light of God's love. We should reflect that light and love to all around us. The gospel amplifies this point through the parable of the talents. Those who use their skills and talents for the service of God will receive their reward, but whoever stifles that talent, by ignoring or suppressing the word and love of God will suffer the consequences.

The two hymns I have chosen speak to the theme of mission the first of which is "We have a gospel to proclaim" AM 507, words by Edward Joseph Burns (b1938) set to the tune Fulda by William Gardiner (1770 – 1853). This hymn arose out of the Burns' involvement in the life of the Blackburn Diocese where he served all his ministerial life. The Bishop of the Diocese made a call to mission to focus the parishes on their responsibility in this field. The call centred on four meetings in every area which focused on the four key facets of Christian understanding, the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection and the Ascension. The hymn was written for these meetings with the four points being taken up in turn in the four inner verses. The composer of the tune Fulda, William Gardiner, was renowned for being an advocate of the music of Beethoven which led to the first performances of Beethoven's music in England. The tune was published in Gardiner's first collection hymn tunes called "Sacred Melodies" in 1815. He published a second collection in three volumes between 1838 and 1853.

1. We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for all throughout the earth;  
the gospel of a Saviour's name:  
we sing His glory, tell his worth.
2. Tell of his birth at Bethlehem  
not in a royal house or hall  
but in a stable dark and dim,  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.
3. Tell of His death at Calvary,  
hated by those He came to save,  
in lonely suffering on the cross;  
for all he loved his life he gave.
4. Tell of that glorious Easter morn:  
empty the tomb, for he was free.  
He broke the power of death and hell  
that we might share His victory.
5. Tell of his reign at God's right hand,  
by all creation glorified.  
He sends his Spirit on his Church  
to live for him, the Lamb who died.
6. Now we rejoice to name Him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel message we proclaim:  
We sing his glory, tell his worth.

We have a gospel to proclaim AM 507

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXlojQCipg4>

The second hymn for this Sunday is "Here I am, Lord" AM 494 words and music by Daniel Schutte (b 1947).

Schutte wrote the song at the age 31 when he was studying theology at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, California. He was requested to compose, on short notice, a piece for the ordination mass of a dean, using words from Isaiah 6:8 and 1 Samuel 3:4 as his inspiration, the lyrics incorporate the themes of God's word, of Jesus as the light, and the bread and wine of the eucharist. The hymn was published in 1981.

Schutte is an established composer of contemporary Christian songs for the Catholic church, but their appeal has led to wide-spread use outside the catholic church.

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin,  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?  
*Chorus:*  
*Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?*  
*I have heard you calling in the night.*  
*I will go Lord, if you lead me.*  
*I will hold your people in my heart.*

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?  
*Chorus:*

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide,  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them,  
Whom shall I send?  
*Chorus:*

I, the Lord of sea and sky AM 494

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgLwH5RdtPk>

## COLLECT

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen**

## **EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11**

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

## **GOSPEL Matthew 25: 14 - 30**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

## **SERMON Fr Jeremy**

Sue Stannett, knowing my enjoyment for reading novels, gave me a Robert Harris book called 'The Second Sleep' recently. He is an excellent author and I particularly enjoyed his novel 'Conclave', the story of the election of a new Pope. This particular story centres on the idea of civilisation collapsing due to a number of possible causes, among them climate change, a nuclear exchange, a super-volcano eruption, an asteroid strike, a failure of computer technology due to some warfare, virus or overuse of zoom and finally the possibility of a pandemic resistant to antibiotics!

The final possibility offered by Prophet Robert didn't get more than a brief mention. Instead as we look to the world of the future in his book, civilisation appears to have gone back to a cruel medieval church, with most of us living as peasants whilst the prayer book and the BCP have become best sellers again. Unbelievably the Church of England is flying high again, but unfortunately wicked Bishops are holding onto scientific knowledge as it might be a threat to religious belief. Sadly, electricity, decimal currency and zoom have disappeared and my wife's favourite TV programme Top Gear with Freddie Flintoff and the boys has vanished due to a lack of petrol engines (and even steam engines) to return to the old fashioned horse.

We never really find out how the world went belly up causing the demise of the car industry and the loss of Trump's tweets, but we do discover findings of plastic and glass that have survived for years suggesting we didn't look after the world very well.

The text that we have before us from Matthew and indeed in Luke 19: 11-27 both speak of end times. If the end of the world is close upon us what is the point of seeking a just society? Why spend time on peace and reconciliation or indeed energy on trying to protect and preserve the natural world?

Both the Matthew story and Luke story challenge us to live as disciples of Christ living as if we believe the best is yet to come and praying in and acting upon the challenge of 'Thy Kingdom come on Earth as it is in Heaven.' If we can see the gifts bestowed upon the servants as free gifts from a generous master to use in the worrying times before the Master's return. The gifts that are received by the faithful servants are not enlarged bank balances or comfortable pensions but even more responsibility. These parables are about faithful servants not profitable ones. The people who seek to serve in a world where there is great doubt as to whether the master will ever return and in the meantime suffer rejection and sometimes abuse and worse for believing in their Lord and Saviour.

Kenneth Bailey whose book 'Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes' has helped a number of us at All Saints and says that he once taught at a Lutheran College at Riga in Latvia. He observed the interviewing of people for the academy. They were asked the question 'When were you baptised?' Bailey asked why was this significant? The response was that if a student was baptised in the time of Soviet rule, they risked their lives and compromised their futures. If they were baptised after the liberation from the Soviets the interviewers would have further questions to ask. The parable says Bailey is about a master who challenges the servants to use their gifts given out of love confident of the future and unafraid of the enemies.

During the time of the Pandemic we have had our faith tested. Equally though people who believe that we control our own destination in the 21<sup>st</sup> century have had their confidence knocked. These are testing times for all of us. Do we still believe that the world we inhabit has meaning and do we have confidence that our Lord who has won the Kingdom for us will return to see how faithful we have been? As Tom Wright writes in his commentary on Matthew, 'people have been given the law of Moses, they have been given the temple as a sign of God's presence and how God will bless Israel and the whole world'. We have God incarnate in Jesus Christ, the creator and lover of the world and yet we still doubt and bury our treasure in the ground as we secretly doubt that our master will return.

We need to notice too, write both Wright and Bailey that the Gospel stories in Luke and Matthew on the master and the servants do not give a final answer. Just as we are not told if the elder son finally agreed to go to the party, or whether the wounded man helped by the Samaritan survives or that the workers in the vineyard accept the gracious man who gives everyone the same reward even if it would appear unfair. What does happen to the man who hides his talent? Again, we do not know but if we continue reading Matthew's gospel, we find in chapter 20.28 that the Son of Man gives his life as a ransom for many. Wright says 'That when we hear someone is thrown into darkness outside where people weep and grind their teeth we must remember that Jesus went there too and even cried 'My God, My God, why hath thou forsaken me?' In Luke 6. 35-36 we discover that we are to love our enemies and do good and lend expecting nothing in return and your reward will be great. Jesus here is asking us to be kind to the ungrateful and unselfish so surely he will follow his own advice. Yes, Jesus does announce in this gospel what we deserve, if we reject our gifts and lack faith to believe, but He still offers us the hope of New life through his grace.

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

Amen

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL UPDATE**

To date we have donated 35 boxes. See the attachment for how to donate. The collection point at Braywick Nursery will be open from Saturday 5 - Monday 14 December.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [jwilks@jwa-consultancy.co.uk](mailto:jwilks@jwa-consultancy.co.uk).

## REFLECTION by Greg Hurst

When my mother died, my siblings and I had initial discussions about funeral arrangements: rules in Windsor and Maidenhead allowed 30 mourners at the ceremony and 15 at a gathering or wake afterwards.

The next day the prime minister announced a month-long lockdown. For some the implications for funerals remained unclear until the government clarified that 30 people could still attend a ceremony but no events afterwards were permitted.

My dad's mood was bleak when we met to discuss plans. He hoped for a big memorial church service next year for our extended family and their many friends, with choral music and a party afterwards. For now he wanted a minimal funeral in Slough Crematorium chapel with prayers but no flowers or tributes.

We encouraged him to think of what was still possible. He relented. We arranged a traditional service in All Saints' Church in Windsor, where our parents worshipped in their retirement. Three granddaughters read poems. My brother read from Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4: 8. Our sister's friend provided lovely flowers and made a beautiful, intricate wreath. A soloist sang Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus* and two hymns.

The sun shone for our mum's funeral. The music and poetry were uplifting and poignant. It was a great sadness that social distancing rules meant we could not hug members of our family in our grief. It felt unnaturally abrupt to go our separate ways afterwards with no gathering to console one another.

But it was a lovely funeral. Even in darkness there is hope.



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - 2020



*Operation Christmas Child was formed in 1990 when Dave Cooke from Wrexham saw the horror of children in Romanian orphanages. He asked his friends to help fill a truck with toys and drive it to Romania.*

*OCC is now the world's largest Christmas project run by Samaritan's Purse. Since 1990, more than 168 million children in over 160 countries have experienced God's love through the power of a shoebox of gifts.*

Packing shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal has become an important part of our ministry in recent years and, speaking with Father Jeremy and others in our community, we agreed that we don't want to stop the support we give to these children. Last year, our 7<sup>th</sup> year of taking part, we donated over 100 boxes. We aren't going to be able to contribute in the same way as previously, because of the impact of Covid-19, but have come up with some alternatives.

In the midst of a global pandemic, the lives of children and families have been turned upside down and, now more than ever, boys and girls around the world need to experience hope and joy, and a shoebox gift offers just that!

There are 3 ways that you can contribute this year:

**Shoebox Online** - If getting out is tricky at this time, you can select your gifts online and Operation Christmas Child will pack and send your shoebox for you. Click on the link in the picture below or go to <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and choose 'Shoebox online'. It costs £20.



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - 2020

**Donation** –If you're not keen on the online option, you can make a monetary contribution. You can do this by making an online bank transfer or writing a cheque to the church - or by giving cash. Cheques or cash will be collected from church on Sundays and Wednesdays. **Please mark any donations clearly as being for the 'Shoebox appeal'**. (Cash involves visiting the bank, so the other options are preferred for Covid-19 reasons).

**Your own shoebox** –You could pack your own complete shoebox. Some of you have done this previously. Click on the link in the picture below or go to <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and choose 'How to pack a shoebox' for more information. As you may remember, there are some items not allowed and these are listed on the website – and it may give you some inspiration too! The nearest drop off point is Braywick Nurseries, 41 Braywick Rd, Maidenhead SL6 1DX. Dates to be confirmed but likely to be 7 – 13<sup>th</sup> November. Please don't bring your shoeboxes to the church.



## A reminder of the project

There are a number of videos on the Samaritan's Purse website which give stories about the children who receive the boxes, but here is my favourite. You may remember it, as we've shown in several times in church.

**WOW! video** <https://youtu.be/i7g4C4k7UTw>

A simple heartfelt gift, packed with love and fuelled by prayer can mean so much to a child and their family – and enables us to share God's love and bring joy to children around the world.

We hope that you can support this project again this year – and please let me know if you send a box online or drop one off, so I can let you all know the number of boxes we donate.

Thanks, Jenny Wilks

[jwilks@jwa-consultancy.co.uk](mailto:jwilks@jwa-consultancy.co.uk)