

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

PARISH NEWS

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Issue 24 26 August 2020



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

In last week's newsletter I tried to share some of the ideas that Yvonne Morris, The Diocesan children's adviser and Ian MacDonald the Diocesan Youth Advisor offered to Deborah Firth and myself. One of the many challenges it would appear facing the church at this time of the pandemic is keeping contact with people. Some people have returned to church on Wednesdays and Sundays but clearly there is more to community life than the worship on the Sunday for a healthy church. In the near future Deborah and a few other interested parties will be trying to discern how we might share the journey of faith with families and young people but hopefully too in a way that is intergenerational. One simple idea that has already arisen is the thought of walking together and listening to one another and praying together.

Of course, many of you reading this will know that I have benefitted from going on pilgrimages to Walsingham (for many years), to the Holy Land twice and also to Santiago de Compostela. These are wonderful opportunities as I have shared through blogs to experience times when we can withdraw from the business of life and try to notice and reflect upon God's presence within the world and in each other. When we moved into Lockdown, I tried to write a blog that reflected more on my inner journey. Not all of these reflections have been religious but have been my inner journey of the things impacting upon myself both in the present and from my past. The writing of a blog also allows you to try to notice what is happening in the world around you. What I am trying to communicate is that all of life can be viewed as a pilgrimage and that there is a link between the outer and inner journey.

Of course, it can be a wonderful experience to go on pilgrimage, but it is important to see life itself as a pilgrim journey. Andrew Jones, The Archdeacon of Meirionnydd on the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales has written an excellent book 'The Journey to remembering our Story – Pilgrimage' which explores the hope that the shared journey can offer meaning in our lives. Jones writes 'that all of life is a pilgrimage that starts with God and ends with God.' He reflects upon the Gospel of St Luke and points out that Luke begins and ends his gospel in the temple. At the opening of Luke's story, we find Zechariah busy performing his duties in the temple and in the very presence of God. (Luke 1. 5-10). Jones stresses the fact that as the story of Jesus unfolds it will be rooted in the divine presence. At the end of the gospel following the amazing walk to and then supper at Emmaus we find Luke taking us back in the presence of the disciples to praise God in the Temple. (Luke 24.50-53) We discover that Christ blessed the disciples before his Ascension and confirms his presence with them as they die to self that they might live transformed lives for Christ.

Viewing our lives in this way perhaps helps us to realise that we are not trying merely to get more people through church doors by strategies but rather that we want people to share the journey to the heavenly banquet. When we go on pilgrimage we reflect upon this spiritual journey and indeed the ups and downs of life. We realise that we can share our journey, our concerns and worries and our hopes and joys. Jones points out that Christ's life begins with God and returns to God as do ours.

In the book Jones reminds us too that life has the inner and outer journey and that there is a link between the two. The outer journey is what we feel and experience physically through the days of our life. The inner journey 'is the

hidden journey of the heart - those longings and yearnings that cannot be seen but are only held silently by the pilgrim.' By going on physical journeys particularly to a sacred space of place (But anywhere we notice God at work) the physical journey can help us connect our outer and inner feelings. I can affirm this particularly on my journey to Santiago. Perhaps most movingly when taking that picture of Burgos that in fact became a picture of my shadow journeying down the way or Roman path. I was at one with God in that experience internally as well as externally. The pilgrim journey should lead us to reflect that our lives can be spent in the presence of Christ and live lives of loving service.

Stella and I are going to walk on Saturday 12th September for Ride and Stride. This time walking supports the Berkshire Churches Trust an organisation that helps us maintain places like All Saints for people to gather, praise God and form communities that can reach out in mission. It may offer an opportunity too to share fellowship and listen to one another at this time. Once we have a list of walkers, we will plan a route that will cover some of the churches in Maidenhead.

As we consider the inner journey Mike Moss helpfully highlighted the St Aldate's church website. This church site is worth exploring. For many years they have been a community that worships God and reaches out in mission. Mike directed me towards their excellent Benedictine rule of life document. Some of you may be interested in looking at this well-written document. I will write in future newsletters about some of the ways we might find of praying alone and together which is of course an important part of the pilgrim journey.

Resources

Eucharist 10.00am Sunday 30th August: The Twelfth Sunday After Trinity: Eucharistic Prayer B

Eucharist 10.00am Wednesday 2nd September St Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne: 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, with the help of Monika on camera, Rod on sound, visuals and putting on the web and Jan promoting, offering a recording each week. The next one will focus on St Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne.

Night Prayer Thursdays 8.00pm – 8.30pm on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75976544021?pwd=Q1pJVtIpbTytOdHg0VXhSRGxWRzIzZz09>

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHzIV

Thursday 27th August

Psalm 121, Luke 7: 11-17 St Monika mother of Augustine of Hippo

Hymn: 21 in Ancient & Modern

1. O strength and stay upholding all creation,
Who ever dost thyself unmoved abide
Yet day by day the light in due gradation
From hour to hour through all its changes guide;
2. Grant to life's day a calm unclouded ending,
An eve untouched by shadows of decay,
The brightness of a holy death-bed blending
With dawning glories of the eternal day.

- Hear us, O Father, gracious and forgiving,
Through Jesus Christ thy co-eternal Word,
Who with the Holy Ghost by all things living
Now and to endless ages art adored.

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

Challenged by Jesus to take up the cross, we intercede for one another and present the needs of our church and our world to the God who transforms suffering into salvation.

Lord God, we pray this week that we may have the faith to follow your way and to stand up for those in need. We pray for people the world over who find themselves in difficult situations. We pray that they would all have someone to care for them and lift them up before you.

We pray for all who are persecuted for their faith; for all who are misunderstood. We pray for asylum seekers who flee real danger in their homeland. We pray for those who work tirelessly to address wrongs.

We pray for people in our lives who need your protection Lord.

We pray that we may together walk the pilgrim way of life through this life. May we find the faith to walk your way and stand up for people in need.

We continue to 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 hold within our prayers the teachers, children and all the staff of our schools as they return following the summer holidays.

We pray for our care workers and NHS staff and all people who continue to work on the frontline. We by name for John, Helen, Joanne, Karen, Carole, Richard, Ricky, Dagma, Emmanuel and Magda.

We give thanks to all the members of All Saints community who are keeping contact with people on the electoral roll. We give thanks too for the pastoral ministry that people offer to the nursing homes.

We pray for the recently departed including Brenda Mullins, Patricia Holmes, and Ann Johnson. We pray for all our departed loved ones and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

Father of Mercy, you place the fire of truth within us. Grant us the courage to follow your way and model our lives on you.

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

Fr Jeremy

Worship for Sunday 30 AUGUST THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sounds of Worship

Brian Graves

Today's Epistle which is taken from Paul's Letter to the Romans in which he discusses the nature of Christian love towards all mankind. He provides advice on how to treat our friends, strangers and enemies. This advice is based on our equality in the eyes of the Lord and service towards anyone in need.

The gospel builds on this theme. It describes how Jesus forewarns his disciples about the trials and suffering that lay ahead for him in Jerusalem. He also challenges them that to be a true follower, they must take-up their own cross and subsume themselves in the life and love of God.

The first hymn today is "Brother, sister, let me serve you" AM 604 words by Richard A. M. Gillard (b1953) to the tune Servant Song also by Richard Gillard. There are various biblical references in the course of this hymn but the basic theme of servant discipleship is key to the Epistle and a key aspect of the gospel challenge.

Richard Gillard is British born, but he and his family emigrated to New Zealand when he was 3 yrs old. He trained as a primary school teacher but is largely self-taught as a musician, he wrote this hymn in 1977. Such is the power of the words and effective step-wise nature of the tune that it rapidly gained recognition and publication in many hymn books.

1. Brother, sister let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.
6. Brother, sister let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

The recording I have used for this hymn has a particular significance for me. It is taken from a BBC Songs of Praise broadcast from St Botolph's Church Colchester. I was brought-up in Colchester and was for a short time assistant organist at St Botolph's. The organist who you will see in the clip is Colin Nicholson who was my first organ teacher.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttW9oQ-yiuU>

A hymn that is especially appropriate for the gospel reading is "Father, hear the prayer we offer" AM 629 words by Love Maria Willis (1824 - 1908) Tune Sussex, an English folk tune adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958). The words are a prayer for courage and strength to confront the challenges of life and to do so rejoicing in the strength of God.

Love Maria Willis lived for many years in Rochester, New York. The words of the hymn first appeared in 1859, in Tiffany's Monthly which was a publication devoted to "The Investigation of Spiritual Science". Willis's husband was a Medical Doctor and an advocate of the Spiritual Science movement. Subsequently the hymn was published in "Longfellow & Johnson's Hymns of the Spirit". Willis herself is not attributed in this book instead the words are ascribed to "Anon". It is probable that the words were significantly revised by Samuel Longfellow, co-editor and the younger brother of the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Vaughan Williams was an avid collector of English folk tunes in the early twentieth century. He adapted a number of them for use as hymn tunes. I assume from the title that the tune was collected in Sussex!

1. Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.
2. Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.
3. Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.
4. Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

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

The final hymn today is "Father, Lord of all creation" words by Stewart Cross (1928 – 1989) set to the tune Abbot's Leigh by Cyril Taylor (1907 – 1991).

The words reflect on the Epistle. The first verse grounds us in the fact that our very existence is built on the creation of the world around us and the love of God. The second verse tells of our Christian duty, as described for example by Paul in the Epistle, to love and care for all people in the way that Jesus became man to demonstrate the ultimate love for humanity. The final verse describes animating spirit of the Pentecostal fire, which is the legacy provided to us to build our lives in Christ.

David Stewart Cross was the second Bishop of Doncaster who was later translated to Blackburn. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and ordained in 1955. His first post was as a curate at Hexham. From 1960 to 1963 he was Precentor of St Albans Cathedral then moved to Manchester to serve St. Ambrose Church in Chorlton-on-Medlock.

From 1968 to 1976 he was a producer and broadcaster for the BBC religious broadcasting at Manchester, which included a TV Songs of Praise from Blackburn Cathedral, whose diocese he would later serve as bishop.

In 1976 he became the suffragan Bishop of Doncaster. Then in 1982 he was appointed diocesan Bishop of Blackburn, serving until his premature death from cancer in 1989.

It is interesting to note that Stewart Cross worked for the BBC, because Cyril Taylor, the composer of Abbot's Leigh also worked for the BBC but at an earlier period. He was a producer in the religious broadcasting department of the BBC (1939-1953). During the war, the department was based in Bristol and in 1941, Taylor wrote the tune Abbott's Leigh which is named after the village where he was living.

1. Father, Lord of all creation,
ground of being, life and love;
height and depth beyond description
only life in you can prove:
you are mortal life's dependence:
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
yours is every hour's existence,
sovereign Lord of time and space.

2. Jesus Christ, the Man for others,
we, your children, make our prayer:
help us love – as sisters, brothers -
all whose burdens we can share.
Where your name binds us together
you, Lord Christ, will surely be;
where no selfishness can sever
there your love the world may see.

3. Holy Spirit, rushing, burning
wind and fire of Pentecost,
fire our hearts afresh with yearning
to regain what we have lost.
May your love unite our action,
Never more to speak alone:
God, in us abolish faction,
God, through us your love make known.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyguLv5A_b4

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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 Romans 12: 9 - 21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

GOSPEL Matthew 16: 21 - 28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

SERMON Fr JEREMY

Last Saturday morning I received an email from Sue Stannett telling me that a film she thought I wanted to see was viewing on Sony Classics. I found the film but only watched the first 40 minutes or so due to poor reception however I got the message. 'On the Waterfront' starring among others Marlon Brando, Karl Malden (Streets of San Francisco from the 70's), Rod Steiger and Eva Marie Saint. For those of you more interested in music the score was by Leonard Bernstein. The film is based on Budd Schulberg's own original story and focusses on union violence and corruption amongst longshoremen, while detailing corruption, extortion and racketeering on the waterfronts of New Jersey.

Early in the film we discover the mob-connected union boss Johnny Friendly gloating about his iron-fisted control of the waterfront. The police know that he is behind a number of murders, but witnesses play D&D (Deaf & Dumb) accepting their lowly position rather than risk danger. Terry Malloy (Marlon Brando) is a dockworker whose brother is Friendly's right-hand man. Terry was a promising boxer who has been forced by his brother to throw a fight so that Friendly can win money on a bet. The beginning of the film shows Terry coax a popular dock worker Joey Doyle into an ambush preventing him from testifying against Friendly before the Crown Commission. Terry is shocked to realise that Joey would be killed. Emotions rise when Terry falls in love with Edie (Eva Marie Saint) the sister of Joey. In anger she shames the priest Fr Barry (Karl Malden) into taking on the mob.

Terry has to decide whether to stand up against his brother and Friendly and in so doing gets savagely beaten. Fr Barry nurtures his conscience and supports Terry. I discovered too when writing a sermon on St Ignatius of Loyola that the spiritual exercises (Seeing God in all things) inspired the work of John Corridan an American social scientist who worked for labour reform in 1940's New York and whose work partly inspired 'On the Waterfront'.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a much-quoted poem 'Who am I? Am I a weakling or a hero? That is the question for the character Terry Malloy who has had his hope of glory banished by his brother and Friendly. Look up the famous speech 'I coulda been a contenda' He now has to decide whether to be a different kind of hero.

Peter would have known some of the feelings depicted in the film and in Bonhoeffer's life. Last week's gospel has Peter as the hero and the rock on which Jesus will build the church. The man who said, 'You are the Messiah, the son of the living God.' Peter with his declaration of faith as I said last week led to the start of the community. Jesus had

come not to build a temple but a community of believers that would live counter-culturally living sacrificial lives encouraging each other to use their gifts for the benefit of each other. This is in a sense what Fr Barry is shamed into fighting for in the film. The rights of humanity to live with self-worth and dignity.

This week though has Peter in a very different light. He is no longer depicted as the one who points towards the People of God, The Body of Christ, dying to self and living with Christ. Jesus has said that he will suffer many things and be killed on a cross before rising on the third day. Peter then takes Jesus aside and tells him that's the last thing God would have wanted. Jesus turns to Peter and says, 'Get behind me Satan.' Peter has gone from being the rock to the personification of evil. What does this mean for us? Do we as Christians want a cosy life or a challenging one?

We are in this time of the Pandemic living in challenging times. Do we want, as we discerned during our time of Partnership in Missional Church to engage with families and become a welcoming church for all? Does our worship allow for difference? Do we listen to God? Do we notice where God might be at work? Do we ask God what he might want us to do with our lives?

We have Street Angels, Open the Book, helping Tiny Saints, Pastoral Support Teams, volunteers who can assist with on-line services and streaming, helping share with young people and families, offering teaching and nurture through courses for enquirers. Bonhoeffer called this response 'Costly Grace'. Cheap grace is preaching forgiveness without repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, grace without discipleship, grace without the cross. It's living without recognising Jesus Christ in our lives.

Bonhoeffer knew this, Marlon Brando's character came to know this in his own way and with the help of Fr Barry, St Ignatius of Loyola knew it and Peter most certainly came to understand 'If anyone wants to come after me, they must give themselves up, and pick up their cross and follow me.' Maybe this week we should all reflect on the words of John Bell and Graham Moule found in their song 'Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?'

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

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. But budding poets aged 11 and under might like to enter the Quench bookshop poetry competition for a chance to win a new book.

Email your poem entitled "God's Wonderful World" to admin@quenchbookshops.com but you'll need to be quick – the closing date is Monday 31 August!

REFLECTION by Greg Hurst

I have popped down to Devon to savour the final days of the summer. During the drive here we stopped at a motorway services that we last visited in the first stage of the easing of lockdown restrictions when we travelled to meet our son in a park. Back then I was shocked at how near-deserted it was, with most of its shops and take-away restaurants closed. This time I was taken aback by how busy it was. We queued to buy coffees and found fellow customers lining up close together, all notions of social distancing apparently forgotten.

I am pleased to see signs of recovery in economic activity but the picture is mixed. In our Devon seaside town, one of the few pubs has not reopened. Several businesses have printed notices in the windows requiring potential customers to do all sorts of things if they want to come in.

A hairdressers' salon has a yellow and black notice headed 'Covid 19 precautions' which gives the feel of a crime scene. The Post Office has oddly limited opening hours. The fish and chip shop has a faded notice saying: 'Although the government guidance has been eased slightly, we are only willing to have two customers inside at any time.'

I sympathise greatly with people whose businesses have suffered – and continue to suffer – due to the pandemic. But we are all being tested by this experience. Some have responded with resilience, enterprise and imagination; some are muddling through; some have given up.

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 REVISED OPENING 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.

From Tuesday 1 September, Quench will be open 6 days a week from Monday to Saturday 10.30am – 3.00pm

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.