

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**
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Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

Feast of The Ascension



This Thursday is Ascension Day, a Principal Feast of Our Lord and one of the days which the Canons of the Church of England declare should be kept in every Parish Church by the celebration of Holy Communion, putting it on a par with Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, so a very important Festival. We shall be keeping this Feast Day on Sunday rather than Ascension Day itself in order that more people may be able to gather together for this celebration.

I remember attending an Ascension Day service many years ago at which the Priest began his sermon by sweeping his hand over the Easter garden, scattering the figures including that of Jesus, and declaring that the disciples must have been distraught by the absence of Jesus from their lives so soon after his resurrection. He had once again left them comfortless and leaderless.

But the Gospel accounts tells a different story. Rather, the disciples leave the mountain of the Ascension filled with joy:

“While Jesus was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.” (Luke 24: 51-53)

This is not the story of disciples distraught or saddened by the removal of their Lord from them, but rather a picture of believers rejoicing in God and all that he had done, and was going to do (Jesus had just spoken of the mission to 'all nations').

Chapter 1 of the Acts of the Apostles is similar:

"As they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight." (Acts 1:9) The disciples immediately go into Jerusalem where "they were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the Mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers." (Acts 1:14)

The effect of the Ascension on the disciples is for them to be filled with joy, blessing and praising God, going back to Jerusalem and meeting together in prayer. The very next action of the disciples is to appoint (with prayer and divine inspiration) one of their number, St Matthias, to replace the disgraced Judas Iscariot. They are already preparing for the future.

Pope Benedict XVI puts it like this:

"The disciples do not feel abandoned. They do not consider Jesus to have disappeared far away into an inaccessible heaven. They are certain that he is now present to them in a new and powerful way....they know that he is now permanently among them, in the way that only God can be close to us....He has not 'gone away' but now and forever by God's own power he is with us and for us."

Jesus's 'going away' is in fact his 'coming to us in a new, more complete and continuing way', Benedict insists, quoting the apparently contradictory words of Jesus in John 14:28 ("I am going away, and I am coming to you").

The cloud into which Jesus is taken, Benedict says, is a reminder of the cloud of God's presence with his people in the wilderness – it represents not Jesus' departure into some distant part of the universe, but his immersion into the divine reality of God.

God is beyond all creation – he stands in relation to it as Lord and Creator, so his presence is not spatial but divine. "Because Jesus is with the Father" Benedict says "he has not gone away but remains close to us. Now he is no longer in one particular place in the world as he had been before the Ascension: now, through his power, he is present and accessible to all – throughout history and in every place." Jesus is closer to us than ever, as our living, life-giving Lord and Saviour.

Fr John



Christian Aid Week finishes on Sunday 21 May. If you have not yet had a chance to donate there are envelopes at the back of Church; if you are a UK

taxpayer please use Gift Aid if you can. Or donate online at www.christianaid.org.uk

RESOURCES THIS WEEK

Thursday 18 May	<i>8.50am Ascension Assembly at Altwood School</i> 11.00am Baptism class in the Birinus Room <i>3.00pm Open the Book at All Saints School</i> 8.00pm Choir Practice
Friday 19	<i>9.00am Ascension Assembly at Boyne Hill School</i> 10.00am Tiny Saints Toddler Group in the Parish Centre
Saturday 20	<i>12.30pm Coach departs for Keble College trip</i>
Sunday 21	10.00am Eucharist for Ascension Day Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Jeremy
Monday 22	9.30am Morning Prayer <i>7.30pm WAMCF Ladies Group at St Luke's See p 5</i> 7.30pm PCC Meeting in the Birinus Room
Tuesday 23	9.30am Morning Prayer <i>7.30pm Deanery Synod Meeting at St Michael's, Bray</i>
Wednesday 24	10.00am Eucharist Celebrant: Fr Jeremy 11.00am Bible Study looking at the Acts of the Apostles in the Birinus Room <i>11.00am Tai Chi in the Parish Centre</i> <i>3.00pm Open the Book at Larchfield School</i> 7.00pm Bible Study in the Birinus Room with Fr John

PRAYER INTENTIONS

On the mountain just before his Ascension, Jesus said to his disciples "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the witness of the Church from the first disciples down to our own day, and especially for those who first taught us the faith. Help us to be witnesses in our own time and place, and to continue that unbroken chain of faith, prayer and worship into the future.

Jesus, you promised the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit for your people. We pray that we would be open to the power of the Spirit in our lives and in our Church community, to be built into your Body the Church and to serve you in the world.

We pray for your Church throughout the world, for its mission and its ministry, its witness and its service. We pray especially for our Bishops Steven and Olivia and all who serve you in this Diocese.

We continue to pray for the repair and renewal of your creation, for a just distribution of the world's resources, and for courage and determination in the drive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We pray for those who bring relief to parts of the world suffering from drought, famine, disease and flooding, often exacerbated by climate change. And especially this week we pray for the work of Christian Aid.

We ask for your blessing on all those preparing for Baptism at Pentecost, and we remember Tallulah Fry, Maxim Fullarton, Georgia Hathaway, and Reggie Craythorne Lee on the occasion of the anniversaries of their Baptisms.

We pray for those of our congregation and Parish in any kind of need. We pray by name for Michael, Kirsten and Maddy; for Suzette, Danielle, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner, Heidi Webb, Florence Harrison, Tadeusz, Teresa, Sylvia Denison, Cheryl Brookes, Gordon Kerrison, Lorraine Ansell, Emilia Clark, Ruby Doughty, Andrew Collins, Jeremy Nordberg, Sylvia Telford, Eddie Sheppard and Carol Sheppard.

May they all know the healing peace and presence of Christ. We pray for those who bring comfort and healing to those in need, and those who care for loved ones in need at this time.

We pray for the recently departed especially Jai Panaser and Richard Jones. We pray for their families and friends and for all who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time.

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 21 MAY ASCENSION DAY

COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever. Amen

NT READING Acts 1: 1 – 11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This,' he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

GOSPEL Luke 24: 44 – 53

Jesus said to the disciples, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be

proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.' Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

MUSIC

Prelude: Llanfair A V Fish

Opening Hymn: AM 228 Hail the day that sees him rise

Gradual: AM 225 Clap your hands all you nations

Offertory: AMNS 223 All hail the power of Jesu's name

Communion: AMNS 732 My Jesus, my Saviour; & AMS 844 Laudate omnes genetes

Closing Hymn: AM 232 The head that once was crowned with thorns

Postlude: Heut' triumphiret Gottes Sohn BWV 630 J S Bach

CARE4CALAIS TOILETRY APPEAL



We have had the pleasure of getting to know some refugees from Iran in our congregation over the past year. At our APCM recently, Sam Jonkers from Care4Calais spoke to us about the fantastic work the charity does in welcoming and supporting refugees.

Asylum seekers face many challenges even after arriving in the UK. They are not allowed to work so do not have money, even to spend on what we would see as basic essentials.

One practical action we can take to help is to donate toiletries.

If you are able to support, please bring your donations and leave them in the box at the back of church.

Thank you!

Claire Foley claire.foley@fit2live.me.uk

WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD COMMUNITY FORUM WOMEN'S GROUP 7.30pm MONDAY 22 MAY

Ladies of all beliefs and none are warmly invited to the next meeting at St. Luke's Church, Norfolk Road Maidenhead, SL6 4HZ

Anita Sawal, Outreach Co-ordinator at Thames Hospice will speak about the work of the Hospice

Further details from: sally514@btinternet.com www.wamcf.org

PARISH NEWS NEWS

Next week's edition may be a double one so just in case if you have anything to publicise before 31 May please make sure I have it by Tuesday 23 May jan.moss@btinternet.com

FOODSHARE

In these hard times Foodshare are more in need of our help than ever. Each week in the Maidenhead Advertiser there is a list of items most wanted.