



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

I had a discussion with John, one of our Churchwardens, following the Eucharist on the first Sunday of Christmas. “Jeremy, why didn’t you like ‘Gavin and Stacey?’” I explained that it hadn’t made me laugh in the way that the programme used to. I felt that the Christmas special that was the final part of the wonderful British sitcoms that I think will be measured alongside some of the best like ‘Only Fools and Horses’ and ‘Porridge’ to name a couple of my favourites was slightly disappointing. Why? It may have been fatigue following the Christmas services that I wasn’t fresh of mind to enjoy ‘Smithy’ and ‘Nessa’ get married after 17 years! Both had previously arrived at the altar (Smithy in the finale) but not with each other! It may as John said to me that I had too high expectations. I had wanted the show to make me laugh in the way it had used to but instead it basically retold the story and characters of past times. It perhaps touched people through nostalgia rather than the joyful, funny series that began in 2007. However, 12.3 million watched it (The highest viewing figures since 2008) and according to the critics it was superb. Yes, it was only me out of 12.3 million who did not experience the joy!

However, the program gave me a sermon. I can hear the groans from those reading this (perhaps 13 of you as against the 12.3 million). Here are my thoughts as we journey into 2025.

‘I watched alongside 12.3 million other people the final instalment of Gavin and Stacey. The girl from South Wales and the boy from Essex. The program will be remembered as one of the great British sitcoms due to the comic genius of Ruth Jones and James Corden and their ability to observe traits in their family and friends. I love observational comedy and have laughed through the years at the joy and vitality brought to us through this program. I was saddened because the final part on Christmas evening didn’t make me laugh. However, everyone else loved the show so why? Was it funny and I was too tired to appreciate? Or did people love it for another reason maybe nostalgia?

Nostalgia is when we look back on the best things or times of our lives and feel a sense of both warmth and loss. I am nostalgic and not only when watching TV programs. I can be nostalgic about Christmas itself. When I was a child, I can remember genuine excitement of finding presents at the end of my bed, Father Christmas had remembered to call in on me and eaten my mince pie and glass of sherry. I can remember the joy of being with family some of whom are no longer alive. We sometimes remember not just a sense of nostalgia but loss.

When I looked at the readings on the first Sunday of Christmas, I felt I noticed a connection. In the gospel Jesus has decided to discuss faith in the temple with the religious scholars while mum and dad have assumed he is with the extended group of family and friends. This story tells us I think of a young person



finding his vocation and developing his own mind 'I have been busying myself in my father's work.' Mary and Joseph are filled with horror at the potential loss of their son who has been missing for three days. Jesus is no longer a baby and may only be a year or two younger than Mary was when she gave birth. Jesus is less vulnerable and can and will stand on his own two feet. This is perhaps the first time Mary realises that she will have to allow Jesus to follow his own way through life in answering God's call and this will lead to his mother experiencing a sword piercing her soul. Jesus' vocation has begun which will lead to baptism, teaching, miracles, sacrifice, death and resurrection leading to new life for us.

Tom Wright pointed out to me in his commentary something I had not before noticed. The link between Jesus as a twelve year old in the Temple with the Jesus on the road to Emmaus and supper at Emmaus. I had never noticed the three days Jesus was lost and the three days in the tomb link. The two disciples experience anguish, loss and nostalgia on the road following Jesus' death. Their great hope has died on a cross and they long for the times that he shared his physical presence with them. Wright links the apostles in the climax of Luke's gospel with Mary and Joseph experiencing loss for Jesus in the Temple. Jesus on the Emmaus Road says 'did you not believe what the prophets foretold? I am doing my father's will, I will die and after three days rise to new Life. Just as he was in the Temple, Jesus is continuing God's work.

At the supper at Emmaus Jesus took, blessed, broke and gave bread. We partake of the Body of Christ to become his body to the world. In the second text of the day St Paul describes baptism and our entry into Christ's body through wearing new clothes and we will use our spirit filled gifts to bring light to the world. The baptism service used to reflect this change of clothes. Sue Stannett and I were present at a Greek Orthodox baptism a couple of years ago as a screen was placed around the font at All Saints as the child's clothes were changed into spotless white garments.

Celebrating Christmas and looking towards Easter means adults should not just experience nostalgia for past Christmases' but celebrate God with us (Incarnate) who grew to show us the way of living that would enable us to be an Easter or resurrection people. A people finding their vocation wearing clothes of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness and love.

As human beings it is natural to feel nostalgia and we will all experience loss, but the three days Jesus spent in the Temple and the three days he lay in the tomb lead us to joy. His learning would lead to his parables of how to lead life and his New Life would lead us not to live with a sense of nostalgia but rather lives transformed, full of hope for the future as we shine a light into the dark places of the world.

Wishing you all a Happy New year

*Wishing you all a happy and blessed New Year*

*Fr Jeremy, Monika, the Churchwardens and the PCC*



## RESOURCES FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

**Wednesday 1 January** **NO TEN O'CLOCK SERVICE THIS MORNING**

**Saturday 4** **10.30am** Baptism Preparation in the Birinus Room

**Sunday 5** **10.00am** Parish Eucharist for the Epiphany Young Saints meet in the Birinus Room  
Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Jeremy  
Congratulation to Paul & Laura Lion as they celebrate 40 years of Christian marriage

**Monday 6** **9.30am** Morning Prayer  
**11.00am** Baptism/Confirmation Class on Zoom Week 4  
**7.30pm** Safeguarding Group meet in the Birinus Room

**Tuesday 7** **9.30am** Morning Prayer  
**2.30pm** Tuesday Club in the Parish Centre see p 6

**Wednesday 8** **10.00am** Eucharist  
*11.30am* Service at Clara Court Care Home with Jeanette Lock & Mike & Jan Moss  
*3.00pm* Open the Book at Larchfield School

**Thursday 9** *3.00pm* Open the Book at All Saints School  
**8.00pm** Choir Practice

**Friday 10** **10.00am** Tiny Saints in the Parish Centre: *The Wise Men's Story*  
**12.30pm** Funeral of Althea Wade in Church

**Sunday 12** **10.00am** Parish Eucharist for the Baptism of Christ including the Holy Baptism of Aryan Samuel Singh Seda  
Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Jeremy  
Please pray for Aryan, his parents and godparents

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

At Epiphany we recall the Wise Men who were Gentiles from afar.

God of the Whole World, you call everyone to know Jesus, to receive his forgiveness, peace and love. We bring before you those places where there is violence, hatred and suffering.

God of all creation, you have provided enough in this world so that everyone can be fed and cared for. We offer you today our prayers for those who have been deprived of what they need, those who have left their homes and livelihoods for safety and for those who have been oppressed by unjust systems and governments. We give to you our pain and concern that all your people should be free, fed and cared for. God of generosity and care, you have given each of us gifts, talents and material goods so that we can live and thrive. As you continue to lead us on our journey of faith, would you direct how we use our gifts to bless and build up those around us. Make us ambassadors of your Kingdom, sharing your gifts of peace, love and hope.

At this Epiphany tide may we pray for the gift of peace. We pray for Ukraine, The Middle East and for Sudan and South Sudan and all those areas of the world where there is war and unrest.



We pray for those in need of God's healing. Daneille, Christopher, Sylvia Denison, Gordon Kerrison, Sylvia Telford, Barbara Bannister, Hugh Boulter, Scopas Lado, Margaret Ego, Vera Shaw, Nick Kirk, Heidi Webb, Masouma Hassani, Akram Taj-eddin, Mahmoud Saimi, Mahmoud Tabkhi, Diana Monari, Abdul Ghader Tajeddini, Barbara Ann-Bourne, Beryl Dorton, and Ella and Amelie, two young children that are slowly recovering from illness. May they all know God's healing and loving presence.

We pray for all who are coming to the end of their journey on earth and all our departed loved ones whose anniversary of death falls at this time. We pray for Catherine at the loss of her mother and Jane Donavan, Althea Wade and Cyril North who died recently/ May those we have loved and lost rest in peace and rise in glory.

We remember at this time Rita North and her family as they grieve for the loss of Cyril. Cyril was the brother of Kath Horne and Doris Winn who were both much loved members alongside Rita of our congregation.

## **WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 5 JANUARY THE EPIPHANY**

### **COLLECT**

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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: Ephesians 3: 1 - 12**

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 2: 1 - 12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its



rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## MUSIC

Prelude:	Wie Schön Leuchtet' Uns Der Morgenstern Op. 65 No 44 <i>S Karg-Elert</i>
Opening hymn:	94 As with gladness men of old
Gradual hymn:	95 Bethlehem, what greater city
Presentation of gifts:	105 We three kings of Orient are
Offertory Hymn:	99 Hail to the Lord's anointed
Communion hymns	88 What child is this & 844 Laudate omnes genetes
Closing hymn:	96 Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning
Postlude:	Epilogue on 'Dix' <i>W Harris</i>

## WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 12 JANUARY THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

### COLLECT

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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

### N T READING Acts 8: 14– 17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

### GOSPEL Luke 3: 15 – 17 & 21 – 22

In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance. As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

## MUSIC

Prelude:	O Lamm Gottes unschuldig BWV 618 <i>J S Bach</i>
Opening hymn:	42 Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Gradual hymn:	107 The sinless one to Jordan came
Offertory hymn:	337 Source and fount of all creation
Communion hymns:	330 When you walk through the waters & 334 In the Lord I'll be ever thankful
Closing hymn:	484 You shall go out with joy
Postlude:	Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam BWV 684 <i>J S Bach</i>



**TUESDAY CLUB 7 JANUARY 2.30PM IN THE PARISH CENTRE**

If you feel that a surfeit of mince pies and chocolates have dimmed your cognitive powers why not come along to see what our Secretary, Janet, has dreamed up to stir us into 2025. There's bound to be some time too for a chat and some appropriate refreshment.

*Jan Moss, Group Leader*



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

This year, you have donated 51 shoeboxes full of gifts for children in need in countries where there is war, famine, drought or poverty. We are not sure where the boxes have gone yet. If you contributed online and get an email saying where your box went, please let me know.

In addition, donations for the congregational Christmas Card raised £231, which will go to the charity. It is likely to go to their work on international humanitarian aid, if it is late for delivering shoeboxes.

Thanks to everyone who donated.

*Jenny Wilks*



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP DONATING TOILETRIES TO CARE FOR CALAIS.**

**THIS APPEAL IS ONGOING SO DO HELP IF YOU CAN.**

*Claire Foley*