



# ALL SAINTS CHURCH | VISION

TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST IN WORD & SACRAMENT

**Parish Church of All Saints Boyne Hill Maidenhead**

## **Electoral Roll Newsletter Winter 2019**



**Encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament**

As I write this letter we are moving rapidly towards Christmas and if you are anything like me (badly prepared) wondering where you will find the time to buy those presents and write the cards. It is the theme of giving time that I need to focus on in this letter. Recently the community of All Saints, Boyne Hill has pledged the remarkable figure of £140,000 towards the floor restoration in 2021. This is a wonderful mark of how much the community values Christian worship and discipleship at All Saints and communities that we serve. We now need though the time and talents that you all possess to share with the community.

At Christmas we reflect upon God's love for us by coming among us as a vulnerable baby boy who grew to be the man that gave his life that we might live a life transformed by his love. The Incarnation, or God with us, means that the Christian believes that we are created for a purpose, that God came among us to redeem us and that he won new life for us. We believe too that new and transformed life through his Holy Spirit and marked through our Baptism leads us to become members of his body that we might be a light to the world - The ripple effect. We are called to be Christ Like in all that we do, living compassionately, courageously and contemplatively.

It is living in communion, one with God and one with each other that I reflected on recently in a service focussing on 2 Thessalonians ch3: 6-13. Paul asks that we lead lives that mirror who God meant us to be, using our gifts to the best of our ability. I will use Saturday night television to highlight ordinary lives of goodness. Strictly Come Dancing highlights the skills involved in dance. When you dance well (So I am told!) you listen to the music and the rhythm of the beat and you move in step with your partner to the tune. If we think about being in step with the creator, listening to the Holy Spirit and recognising that we are in in partnership then our relationship with God works. We may think too of singing our part in a choir or playing a role in a team.

Paul in his letter challenges us to support and encourage one another by playing our part, using our time and gifts. When we view a great dance or a great play, or perhaps a great match we feel drawn into the action. We are no longer spectators but participants and desire to play our part.

This Advent and Christmas we have those services that have traditionally enabled people to feel part of the community. On the **8<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm in the Quadrangle we host the Salvation Army** whose band will lead us in carol singing. Come and join us to enjoy the singing and a hot drink of mulled wine and a mince pie. Other highlights are the **Christingle service on the 15<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am, The Nine Lessons and Carols on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6pm** again followed by mince pies and mulled wine, **the family Crib service at 4pm on Christmas Eve** and then the **first Eucharist of Christmas at 11.30pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> December** and the **morning services at 8.00am and 10.00am Christmas day.**

There are many challenges ahead of us at All Saints and we will be listing roles that we need to fill on our prayer intentions in the New Year. Please reflect this Christmas on the sacrifice God made for us by sharing his life with Us. I pray that all of you may take time to visit All Saints this Christmas and think, how in the New Year we may offer our gifts to support the church and the wider community. May you all enjoy a Peaceful and Happy Christmas.

With my prayers,

*Fr Jeremy*