

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**
www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk
Issue 170 20 September 2023



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

The Wonder of God's Presence in the World



Sometimes we can be stunned by the night sky on a dark, crystal-clear night. The more we look, the more we can see the pin-pricks of light from stars millions and millions of light-years away, and soon the whole sky seems to be filled with stars and galaxies. We can be overwhelmed by a sense of the beauty and sheer boundless scale of the created universe, set alongside the smallness of ourselves and our day to day lives. There is the apparent simplicity of it all, just points of white light against dark-black darkness – and then we remember the complexity hidden even within our own little planet, the complexity of chemical reactions, of weather systems, mountain-building and ocean depths; of life from the smallest cell to the largest mammal;

and of course, the complexity hidden within each one of us, the chemical and biological systems that cause us to grow and develop, to keep ourselves alive, and to enable us to be sentient, thinking and feeling human beings capable of so much creativity and goodness. Many, many people find the sight of the night-sky a moving, thought-provoking and compelling sign of God's presence.

As the Psalmist says:

"What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?" (Ps 8)

I am writing this piece the day after we had a service of Benediction, where we particularly focus on the presence of Jesus Christ with us in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar – the bread and wine which, at the command of Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit, becomes the living presence of Jesus Christ in our midst, and which we take into ourselves when we receive Holy Communion. Hence, we keep a candle perpetually lit alongside the place in All Saints Church where the Sacrament is reserved – the presence with us of Christ in this unique and special way. Another sign of the wonder of God's presence with us.

Jesus Christ longs to be close with us throughout our day, from the moment we wake to the time we lay our head down on our pillow. He loves us so much that he died on the cross for us – how could he not want to be with us? The God who created absolutely everything, the stars and the planets, the birds and the bees, and you and me – he offers himself to us in love and compassion, not judging us but wanting to lift us up and help us to be the best person we can be. The purpose of worship, especially the Eucharist and receiving Holy Communion, is to set time aside to more consciously be in the presence of Christ so that we can be sustained

and strengthened by him and encouraged and guided to share that love and compassion and joy to those around us. To try and live the Christian life without being grounded and sustained through worship in this way is to live life with one hand tied behind our backs.

As we go out into the world, we don't leave God behind but we go with him into the world; the more we know him in worship, the more we can recognise him with us in our daily prayers and bible reading, in the ways in which we share love with those around us, the ways in which we bring care, love and compassion to those who need it today, the ways in which we find God's presence in the awe and wonder of creation.

Being touched with the presence of God in our worship, we are made aware of how wonderful it is to be in his presence. And the more we share in worship, the more we can notice the wonder of God's presence with us in the rest of our lives – and finding it, we can celebrate and enjoy.

PERSONAL PRAYERS AND INTENTIONS

You may not be coming to Walsingham yourself, but those on our parish pilgrimage next week will happily pray at Walsingham for any particular people or situations you would like us to pray for whilst we are there. Please let me know of any prayer intentions by email revjohnainslie@gmail.com, or by a note on Sunday morning or via the Parish Office, and we will include those prayers in our devotions at the Shrine. If you want names or other details kept confidential, just say so when you leave the details for me. We will of course include in our prayers in Walsingham all those named on our parish intercessions list.

Fr John

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 21 September | 11.00am Confirmation Class in the Birinus Room
2.30pm <i>Open the Book at All Saints School</i>
8.00pm Choir practice |
| Friday 22 | 10.00am Tiny Saints in the Parish Centre |
| Sunday | 10am Parish Eucharist for the Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity
Celebrant: Fr Jeremy Preacher: Fr John

12 noon Holy Baptism
Please pray for Lisa Pereira Caporali Campos, her parents and godparents

4.00pm Sundays @4 service to celebrate St Francis of Assisi and his love of animals. Please bring your pets along to be blessed. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the service and the BBQ afterwards. |
| Monday 25 to Friday 29 | The Annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham led by Fr John. |
| Monday 25 | 9.00am Pilgrim Mass in church with the blessing of pilgrims Fr John
The Mass is open to all who would like to attend. |
| Tuesday 26 | 9.30 am Morning Prayer
1.30pm <i>Christian Union at Altwood School</i>
3.00pm <i>Tea Party for Almshouse Residents & Trustees in the Birinus Room</i> |

Wednesday 27

10.00 am Eucharist for St Vincent de Paul

Celebrant: Fr Jeremy

11.00am Tai Chi in the Parish Centre

3.00pm *Open the Book at Larchfield School*

ADVANCE NOTICES

Sunday 1 October 10.00am Harvest Festival Eucharist with our guest speaker, Margaret Watson of Ripple Effect. Following the service there will be an auction of Harvest gifts and a ploughman's lunch in the Parish Centre. Please sign the sheet at the back of the church if you would like to share in the Ploughman's.

Monday 2 October 7.30pm PCC Meeting in the Birinus Room

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We give thanks to God for the many ways in which we can feel his presence with us – in worship, in prayer and scripture, in the beauty of creation, in love and friendship, and in serving the needs of others with care and compassion. We pray that God would help us to appreciate his presence in the world, and the tenderness of his love for us.

We pray for the people of Morocco, Libya and other places of natural disaster, famine and drought. We pray for aid agencies, charities and Governments as they respond to these crises, and we give thanks for those who freely give of their time and skills to travel to places of disaster to give help.

We pray for concerted action to reduce carbon emissions and to combat the effects of climate change, which are now causing famine, drought and disease across many parts of the world. We pray for our own sustainability group at All Saints and for all that we are doing to care for creation and live more sustainably. We pray that God will show us how we can respond personally and as a church in ways that will help to care for creation and help preserve the livelihoods of those living under the threat of climate change, and we pray for our Ripple Effect charity.

We pray at this time for those living in our town, and especially refugees and asylum seekers in the Holiday Inn, who are under the threat of being homeless and jobless. We pray that our local authority, churches and other religious communities, and charities will find ways of working together to provide for their well-being – food, shelter and meaningful employment, and a sense of belonging and of being cared for.

We pray for Celeste Wagstaff and Dylan Deeley on the anniversaries of their Baptisms.

We pray for those from our congregation and parish in any kind of need. We pray for Michael, Kirsten and Maddy; for Suzette, Danielle, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner, Heidi Webb, Tadeusz, Christopher, Sylvia Denison, Cheryl Brookes, Gordon Kerrison, Ruby Doughty, Sylvia Telford, Eddie Sheppard, and Carol Sheppard, Barbara Bannister, Janet Emerson, Liz Holloway, Hugh Boulter, Simon Cowdery, Charlie & Jess, Joseph White, Morieza Seraj and Abbas Heidari, Scopas Lado, Mageret Ego, Elizabeth Smiglewska and Jim Goff.

May they all know the healing peace and presence of Christ. We pray for those who bring healing to those in need, those who are caring for loved ones at this time and for staff and residents of care homes in our parish.

We pray for the recently departed, and especially Tessa Armstrong, and for the departed members of our own families and those who first showed us the way of Christ. We pray for all who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time.

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

COLLECT

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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 forever. Amen

EPISTLE **Philippians 1: 21 - 30**

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

GOSPEL **Matthew 20: 1 - 16**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

MUSIC

Prelude: Prelude No 2 *F Mendelssohn*
Opening: 676 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Gradual: 790 Teach me, my God and King
Offertory: 710 Light's abode, celestial Salem
Communion: 489 From heaven you came
Closing: 709 Light of the minds that know him
Postlude: Fugue No 3 *F Mendelssohn*

GREEN NEWS

As St James said 'Faith without works is dead' (James 2: 26) and one of the many ways we as a Church are demonstrating our faith is through gaining the Eco-Church Bronze Award. What do we mean by this? As a congregation we are showing our love for God through our care and respect for the people and world that He so loves.

We are all becoming very familiar with what we as a Church body are doing, but we are also very aware that all of us as individuals are doing a huge amount in our daily lives. It would be great to share these things with each other and so inspire each other. With that in mind we are planning to put out a short survey so we can let you all see the 'big picture' of all the great things going on. It'll take the form of four short questions to fill in (anonymously) at the start or end of a Sunday/Wednesday service. We want to know what you're doing to reduce waste (eg use a re-fillable water bottle rather than wasting plastic by buying a single use one); what you're doing to reuse or repurpose things (eg the old wardrobe is now a cupboard in the garage); what you recycle (eg taking books & clothes to the charity shop); and what charities you support to help the planet (eg water-aid).

These suggestions are just the tip of the iceberg to get you thinking!

When we have noted all the wonderful things you're doing we'll put a summary into the Weekly Newsletter. Maybe there will be some things you never thought of! We'll also use the summary to help us in our application for the Eco-Church Silver Award.

Keep up the good work!

The Eco-Committee team

HELP FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS URGENTLY NEEDED

You have probably heard that the government is in the process of mass-granting asylum to asylum seekers. This is good news but presents a short-term problem. People granted asylum have to leave their accommodation within 7 days of the grant. It means we are expecting up to 100 people to become homeless in Maidenhead in the next few weeks. It has already started and we expect to have around 30 people on the streets by next week.

Nigel Cohen is trying to arrange places for people to get food. This is what is arranged so far:

<https://openarms.charity/asylum-residents>

1. Can anyone offer to help cook and/or serve food at the Salvation Army once a week on any of the following days:

Sundays 12:30-1:00pm

Mondays 6:00-6:30pm

Fridays 11:00-11:30am

If you are able to help please speak to Fr Jeremy.

WAMCF LADIES MEETING MONDAY 2 OCTOBER AT MAIDENHEAD SYNAGOGUE FROM 7.30pm

As part of her series on *Biblical Women in Art*, Rosalind Luper will present an illustrated talk around the story of Ruth & Naomi.

Her slides will include examples of illustrated manuscripts, paintings, mosaics and stained glass. Rosalind will explain the story as she goes along so no prior knowledge is needed.

Since this talk will take place around the time of the Jewish festival of Succoth, the themes of home and harvest will also be explored.

CARE4CALAIS TOILETRY APPEAL



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

PARISH NEWS NEWS

Please send any items for next week's Parish News to the Parish Office: allsaintsboynehill@gmail.com.

Tanya has kindly agreed to produce and distribute it.