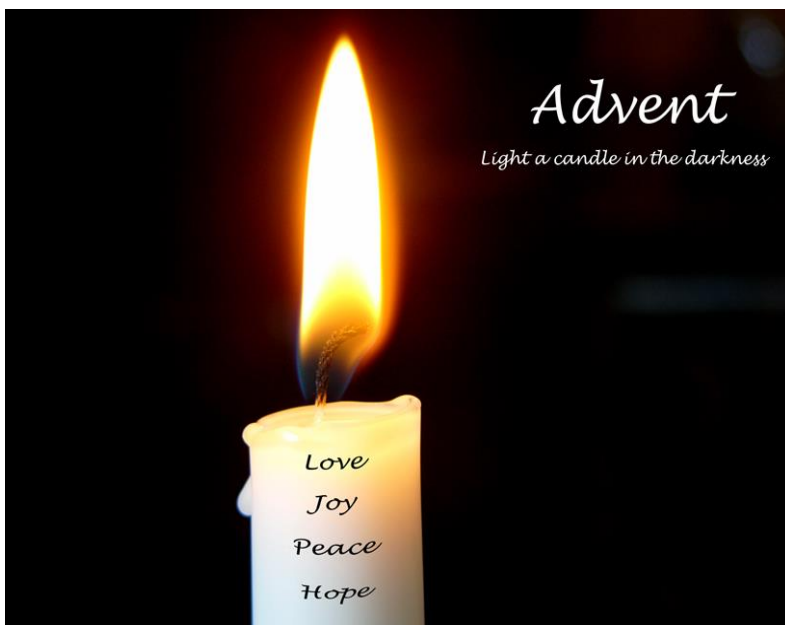


**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**
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Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,



On Sunday morning we lit the first candle on our Advent Wreath, marking the beginning of our journey through Advent. But a journey – towards what? What are we really hoping for, trusting God for, this Advent?

The season of Advent has always had a penitential flavour, recalling the darkness of sin (and our part in it) which leads to a yearning for God to intervene. Many of the best bible readings used in Advent come from the Old Testament, where this yearning for ‘something better’ is expressed through the poetry of the prophets, especially Isaiah. There should always be something uncomfortable

about beginning Advent, something of that yearning, something of that desire for something better than the world as it is; and a weeping for our own shortcomings.

As we travel through Advent, as we listen to the words of the prophets, this yearning turns into a growing sense of hope, expectation and excitement. For we realise that God shares this yearning. Our yearnings can only be met in God, and in the person of Jesus: God-made-Man; God come amongst us, to love us back into life.

One of the lessons, I think, of the Advent Season is that God is in charge and really does know best; that we can have the humility to sit at his feet and listen and trust. That way we can lament for the failings of ourselves and others, but also have hope and trust that God holds all things in his loving and merciful arms. We can ‘let God be God’ once again. And then God will come, as he came at that first Christmas, as he will come at the end of time, and – more critically for us today – as he seeks to come and enter our own hearts this and every day.

Isaiah wrote “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Is 43: 19). And the psalmist wrote: “This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes” (Ps 118: 23)

ADVENT QUIET DAY FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER

There will be an Advent Quiet Day in Church on Friday 16 December, starting at 10.00am. There will be three short addresses reflecting on an Icon of the Annunciation, ending with a Eucharist at 12.30pm followed by a simple lunch for those who would like to stay. An ideal opportunity for pre-Christmas peace and reflection !! It would be helpful to have an idea of numbers, so please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of church if you think you will be coming.

Fr John

LOVE AT CHRISTMAS

In conjunction with St Peter's and a number of other churches across the town we are looking to offer support to people at Christmas. This year All Saints is focussing on the people at the hotel including our friends from Iran. We are hoping to purchase hats and scarves as a Christmas gift. There 256 adults and we are told by St Peter's that each gift will cost £15. If you would like to support 'Love at Christmas' this year please send donations to All Saints Church Fund.



CHRIST CHILD MARKET

Thank you to all those who contributed so much time to prepare for the Christ Child Market, and to those who looked after the stalls on the day and attended the event.

There was a lovely atmosphere, and good numbers of people enjoyed the afternoon. Boyne Hill School attracted a full church for their choir; thank you to the children for singing their Christmas songs.

The climax to the day was provided by the Salvation Army Band who led us in Christmas worship.

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Thursday 1 December

12 noon Maidenhead Care Christmas Gathering in the Parish Centre
2.45pm Open the Book at All Saints School
8.00pm Choir Practice for our Nine Lessons & Carols

Friday 2

10.00am Tiny Saints Toddler Group
2.00pm Boyne Hill School Christingle service in the Church

Saturday 3

10.00am Baptism Preparation in the Birinus Room

Sunday 4

10.00am The Parish Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Advent
Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Jeremy

Monday 5

5.00pm Rehearsal for Young Saints Nativity Story
1.30pm Claires Court Junior School Rehearsal

Tuesday 6

9.00am *Open the Book at Larchfield School*

10.00am Claires Court Carol Service for Years 3 & 4

2.30pm Claires Court Carol Service for Years 5 & 6

Wednesday 7

10.00am Requiem Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr John

11.00am *Tai Chi Class in the Parish Centre*

3.00pm Almshouse Christmas Tea in the Birinus Room

7.00pm Bible Study with Fr John

7.30pm PCC Meeting in the Parish Centre

ADVANCE NOTICES

Sunday 11 December 10.00am Eucharist including Christingle and the annual support of the Children's Society. See p 5 for how you can help make the Christingles

The weekend of 9th – 11th December marks St Luke's excellent annual Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 18 December 6.00pm Nine Lesson and Carols in church followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Details of the Christingle and Crib Services are in the attachment to the email.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We give thanks to God for the wonderful opportunities to work and worship together, especially our All Saints Sunday service and meal, our wonderful service of Baptism and Confirmation with Bishop Olivia, and the splendid Christ Child Market including the All Saints School Choir and Salvation Army.

We pray for the many ways in which we shall be welcoming people into our Church during Advent and Christmas; for the schools services; our Christingle and Crib Services; the service of Nine Lessons and Carols; and the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. We pray that through these services many will find a warm welcome into our church community and will be touched by God's love as revealed in the Christmas story.

In these times of dark days and long nights, may we be reminded of our calling to be a light in the world, to bring a message of comfort and hope into our community and to bring material and spiritual comfort to those in need.

We continue to pray for peace throughout the world; for those who are oppressed or live in danger; and for the poor and the marginalised. We pray for the homeless and the charities who help them and for all refugees and migrants.

We pray for those of our parish and community in any kind of need, praying by name for Suzette, Danielle, Paul Latham, Jenny Chua, Doris Winn, Mikhail, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner, Harrison Hawkes, Heidi Webb, Florence Harrison, David Stewart, Tadeusz, Teresa, Leigh Hutchison-May, Larisa Stephenson, Soheila, Silvia Denison, Cheryl Brookes and Marnos. May they know God's loving and healing presence.

We pray for the recently departed: Maria Bolodeoku and Tyrone Rahman. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

May we all be blessed with God's love this week.

Fr John

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen**

O T READING **Isaiah 11: 1 - 10**

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

GOSPEL **Matthew 3: 1 - 12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

MUSIC

Prelude: Voluntary on 'Winchester New' *C S Lang*

Opening Hymn: AM 38 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding

Advent Candle: AM 26 v 2 Prophet voices loudly crying

Gradual: AM 34 Earth was waiting, spent and restless

Offertory: AM 379 God has spoken – by his prophets

Communion: AM 143 Here is love, vast as the ocean

Closing Hymn: AM 75 Long ago, prophets knew

Postlude: Merton *M Archer*

CHRISTINGLE ADVANCE NOTICE

There will be a collection for the Children's Society at the Christingle service on Sunday 11 December. (Suggested donations of £1).



Helpers will be needed to make the Christingles between 10.00am and 11.30am on Saturday 10 December in the Parish Centre. Please sign the list at the back of the church and add your contact details if you can help, even for a short time.

New volunteers are always welcome, and the job is quickly completed with lots of help. Thank you.

Anne Clark

LAST WORD ON OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL 75 BOXES!

Well done, everyone, and thank you so much!

WE'RE STILL DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS

Each week of Advent our Sustainability Group will be sharing an eco- tip for a greener Christmas.

Week 2: CHRISTMAS TREES

The Christmas tree is often the focal point for the family over the Christmas period. Our tips this week are about trees and decorations.

Consider buying a Christmas tree from BBOWT's heathland management at Caversham Court open on the morning of **Saturday 3 December 2022** <https://www.bbowt.org.uk/events/2022-12-03-green-christmas-tree-sale-caversham-court>

If you have a real tree, remember to recycle it.

Or think about renting a Christmas tree - although if you haven't ordered already this year, you may be too late, as two local centres are not taking any more orders.

Some of the best Christmas decorations emerge year after year – making them instantly sustainable.

However, if you're looking to buy more, stick to designs made from brass, glass, and wood. Alternatively make your own with or without help from little ones!

You could switch to LED Christmas Lights, which are much more environmentally friendly than traditional twinkling lights and use up to 80% less energy. Although the bulbs might be more expensive, they should last significantly longer.



FOODSHARE

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

