



ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS
www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk
Issue 216 11 DECEMBER 2024
NEXT ISSUE 31 DECEMBER



Dear Friends and Parishioners of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

I do not know whether anyone reading this has ever thought about what decision you would have made as to whether you would have been bold enough to follow Christ in the 1st century? It is perhaps all too easy to think we would have had complete faith in Christ so as never to have shared Thomas' doubts or Peter's denials. From quite a young age I have doubted whether I would have had the faith to believe in Christ should I have lived in times of persecution. Since Easter 2022 we have had some people worshipping with us that have indeed experienced persecution and chosen to live the Christian faith. This was brought home to me recently by the testimony of an Iranian at the latest confirmation service in Caversham and on Remembrance Sunday when I warned the Iranian community about making videos at church as this may make them vulnerable. In this lead article I will repeat the Advent sermon I shared containing the response of Shadan, a young Iranian woman who worships with us.

Luke 21.25-36 First Sunday of Advent at All Saints, Boyne Hill

Today, the first Sunday of Advent, is a time when we look forward to Christmas. God emptying himself in the form of a servant/baby who would grow to be the man who through teaching would provide a window/icon into understanding God and who would bring the hope of transformed life.

That hope is not just about transformed life here on earth but the second coming that will mark the end time when all things are made new, the Kingdom of Heaven. It's that thrilling moment of what Christmas Eve was for me as a child waiting to see what presents I would receive. The end time or second coming is maybe the time when all things are made new, a place where we see each other made in God's image, where everyone has enough, no one fights for more, people and all living beings experiencing life with dignity in a place of timeless joy. 'The best is yet to come.'

The time Luke is speaking of is a time when Jesus' followers are under threat. The Jewish people too face the destruction of the temple which would come true in AD 70. Our world at this time seems no less threatening. Roger Towers was sharing with me recently the horrors of watching a BBC program about Iran from 2009. (At times it was too harrowing to watch said Roger). If we add the Middle East as a whole, parts of Africa (We think of Laura and her family from our community with family in South Sudan and bordering Sudan) and Ukraine. In the summer we experienced division on our streets in this country and in parts of Europe. However, at Advent we begin the new Christian year in hope, and I share a couple of stories that support that hope.

I met with the clergy of Windsor and Maidenhead recently at St Luke's church. We were introduced to Canon Mary Gregory, a woman who during her time at Coventry Cathedral has led the community in a journey towards a welcoming, safe and inclusive place for all. Canon Mary will be the new Bishop of



Reading ‘I am keen to understand how best to lead our church communities in sharing the hope that we have in God, and in all that God is doing amongst us.’ Steven Croft, the Bishop of Oxford added ‘Mary brings warmth, humility and a profound understanding of the healing power of reconciliation in God’s world. Given the tension and conflicts of the world, this will bring an area of focus as we pray for peace in our world.’ It was significant I believe that the new Jewish Rabbi, members of the Muslim faith, Karnail from the Sikh community were all present. In a recent conference at Windsor hospice the new Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Andrew Try had following a conversation with King Charles challenged people of faith to seek community cohesion.

Canon Mary has been a prison governor at Wakefield and Moorland prisons, and she spoke about hope, humility and the need for the church to speak up for people on the margins. I had the opportunity to speak with Mary and she does indeed bring ‘warmth’ as I shared the story of the Iranian asylum seekers.

Returning to the people from Iran. Recently I preached on successive Wednesdays on the texts from Luke about the challenge of having faith in Christ at challenging times. The sermon rebounded back to the preacher! I had warned the Iranian community about making videos of services for their own safety. One lady had over 500 responses asking her about the Christian faith. Here is her response to me.

‘I must share with you that after receiving the good news from my spouse and attending your classes, I have learned a lot. The path Christ chose for me to continue my life has been like a severe illness I was saved from. If this faith and path are truly mine, then it is my duty to share it personally within my understanding, and I must not deny it. Denying oneself, disavowing one’s faith, or retreating from one’s chosen path would be severing with my faith. Several of my posts have led to questions of Christianity. I have responded with great joy. The greatest danger we faced in Iran where our lives were threatened with execution for our faith.

I chose this path with complete joy and will continue to follow it. Someone who is afraid of sharing their faith is not a true Christian. As you mentioned in week three of your class ‘Do not choose the path of Jesus Christ for Asylum.’ I share my faith without fear because it might benefit someone else. I declare with joy that my spouse and I are both deeply happy with our new path in life, chosen through Jesus Christ. We wholeheartedly embrace and follow everything required of us in this faith. This path has brought blessings to our lives, and sharing awareness, even in small ways, is the least we can do. Your church community are incredibly important to both my husband and me.’

So, in conclusion we have a bishop who brings hope, people from Iran having experienced pain bringing hope and the vulnerable baby boy who grew to be a man who would give his life for the world bringing hope. Advent is always special but this year for me just a little bit more!

Several people have asked if the testimony from Sama, that I read following the Confirmation, could be published.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today, we gather to celebrate a journey of faith and courage, one that deeply resonates with me. I, too, was confirmed last year, and I know what it means to hold Jesus’ love close, even through life’s hardest trials. His love is a light that lives deep in my heart, giving me strength, and I am filled with gratitude to stand alongside my friends as they take this holy step.

For my friends (the names of candidates), their path has been a difficult one. In our country, choosing to follow Jesus comes with sacrifice. They knew that following Him could mean rejection from family, losing a familiar way of life, and even fleeing their homeland. Yet, just as Jesus said in Matthew 10:22, “You will be



hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.” They heard His voice calling, and His love, which knows no fear, became a power stronger than any hardship.

When they faced the weight of fear, they clung to His promise: “In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Through the trials, they carried the presence of Christ, their guide and protector. His love walked with them through every shadow and gave them the courage to stand firm.

As they confirm their faith today, we see the truth of Romans 8 alive in them: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” Their faith has proven that nothing—no hardship, no fear, no law—can separate us from the love of Christ.

We are also profoundly grateful to Father Jeremy and the family at All Saints Church. Your warmth, support, and open arms have shown them the love of Christ in action. It is a reminder that the family of Christ is everywhere.

I am overjoyed to share this moment with my friends, feeling the same love that has brought us all here. May their story inspire us to remember the depth, strength, and boundless love of Jesus that calls us forward, no matter the cost.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed Christmas

Fr Jeremy, Monika, the Churchwardens and the PCC

RESOURCES FOR THE NEXT THREE WEEKS

- Thursday 12 December** 8.50am *Christmas Assembly at Altwood School*
10.00am Baptism/Confirmation Class week 2 on Zoom
7.00pm Altwood School Carol Service in Church
8.00pm Choir Practice
- Friday 13** 10.00am **Tiny Saints in the Parish Centre Last one this term**
10.00am – 3.00pm All Saints School Rehearsal in Church
10.30am *Altwood School students singing at Larchfield Care Home*
- Sunday 15 December** 10.00am **Parish Eucharist for the Third Sunday of Advent**
Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Jeremy
- Monday 16** 10.00am All Saints School Carol Service
2.00pm All Saints School Carol Service for Parents & Governors
- Tuesday 17** 9.30am **Morning Prayer**
- Wednesday 18** 10.00am **Eucharist** Celebrant: The Revd Alan Dibden
11.30am *Christmas Service at Normanhurst Care Home with Jeanette, Mike & Jan*
2.30pm *Christmas Service at Larchfield Care Home with Jeanette, Mike & Jan*
6.00pm Newlands School Carol Service in Church
- Thursday 19** 8.00pm Choir Practice
- Friday 20** 7.45pm *Royal British Legion Meeting at the Conservative Club*



Saturday 21 December 6.30pm Renaissance Voices Concert in Church see p 8 & flyer with email
9.45pm Street Angels Please pray for the Street Angels as we journey through the Advent and Christmas season

Sunday 22 10.00am Parish Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Jeremy

6.00pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols in Church followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Centre

Monday 23 9.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 24 4.00pm Crib Service All welcome to come along to this enjoyable service and bring children and grandchildren
CHRISTMAS EVE

11.30pm Midnight Mass Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Jeremy

Wednesday 25 10.00am Eucharist for the Nativity of Our Lord
CHRISTMAS DAY Please join us for this family service which will be followed by hospitality.

Sunday 29 10.00am Eucharist for the First Sunday of Christmas
Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Jeremy

Monday 30 9.30am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 1 January 2025 No 10.00am Eucharist this morning

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday 5 January 10.00am Eucharist for the Epiphany

PARISH NEWS NEWS]

The next edition of the Parish News will be on 31 December.

ANY NOTICES FOR EVENTS UP TO AND INCLUDING WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2025 TO ME BY 12 NOON ON MONDAY 30 DECEMBER PLEASE jan.moss@btinternet.com

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Empowering God, the Advent candles shine out the light of your love; in that light we bring to you our hopes and worries, our gifts and our burdens. The Advent candles shine out the light of your strength; in that light we bring you those we love and those we miss. The Advent candles shine out the light of your promises; in that light we bring you our lives and our dreams for your blessing. In Jesus' name. AMEN. (Prayer from ROOTS)
Magnificent God, with Mary we praise your name. We honour your faithfulness through history; we celebrate your presence with us today; we trust your promises for the future, and we pray for the life-giving peace of your Son for all the world, this Christmas and always. AMEN. (Prayer from ROOTS)

Give us, our father, this Christmas time, peace in our hearts, that we may create peace in our homes and help us to spread peace in the world, for Jesus Christ's sake. AMEN From New Parish Prayers)



We pray for our schools as they share the Christmas message through their Carol services and concerts. May these occasions bring joy to students, teachers, parents and all those connected with schools.

We pray for peace within the world. We pray for the Middle East, and we hold in mind the people from our own congregation with families in Lebanon, Israel, and Iran. We pray for Gaza and for those at this uncertain time in Syria. We pray too for the people caught up in the conflict in Ukraine. We pray for peace for people of Ukraine, Russia and the Middle East.

We give thanks for the joy of families receiving the gift of a new child. We pray for Baby Emily Florence Leila and her parents Dom and Mary. We rejoice with Matthew and Deborah as they become grandparents and Father Norman and Rebecca who welcome their first great grandchild.

WE ask for your continuing blessings upon Octavia & Reginald Brown, Scarlett Downs, Oliver Graham, Emelia Lavine, Mae Haitana-Walker and Savannah Milne around the anniversaries of their Baptisms.

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 two young children unwell at this time Ella and Amelie. May they know God's healing and loving presence.

We pray for all who are coming to the end of their journey here 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 Donavon and Steve Pearce who died recently. May those we have loved and lost rest in peace and rise in glory.

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare the way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

EPISTLE Philippians 4: 4—7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Luke 3: 7 – 18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' 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.’ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

MUSIC

Prelude:	Voluntary on ‘Winchester New’	<i>Lang</i>
Opening hymn:	46 On Jordan's bank	
Advent Candle lighting:	26 v3 Advent candles tell their story: V3	
Gradual hymn:	108 When Jesus came to Jordan	
Offertory hymn:	45 O come, O come, Emmanuel	
Communion hymn 1:	29 Come now, O prince of peace	
Communion hymn 2:	53 Wait for the Lord, whose day is near	
Closing hymn:	38 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding	
Postlude:	On a Theme of Orlando Gibbons	<i>C V Stanford</i>

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COLLECT

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

O T READING Micah 5: 2 – 5a

The LORD says to his people: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

GOSPEL Luke 1: 39 - 45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

MUSIC

Prelude:	A Virgin Most Pure	<i>E Thiman</i>
Opening hymn:	384 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord	Woodlands
Advent Candle hymn:	26 v4 Advent candles tell their story: V4	Angel Voices
Gradual hymn:	395 With Mary let my soul rejoice	North Bailey
Offertory hymn;	313 For Mary, mother of our Lord	St Botolph
Communion hymn:	85 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came	Gabriel's Message
Closing hymn:	52 The people that long in darkness sat	Dundee
Postlude:	Fugue on the Magnificat BWV 733	<i>J S Bach</i>



WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

COLLECT

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

EPISTLE Colossians 3: 12 - 17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL Luke 2: 41 - 52

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

MUSIC

Prelude:	Chorale Prelude on 'Es ist ein Ros' Entsprungen'	
Opening hymn:	58 A Great and Mighty Wonder	
Gradual hymn:	59 70 Angels from the realms of glory	I
Offertory hymn:	70 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear	
Communion Organ music:	The Holy Boy	<i>J Ireland</i>
	Chorale Prelude 'In dulci júbilo'	<i>D Buxtehude</i>
Closing hymn;	72 Joy to the world	
Postlude 1:	Fanfare on 'Antioch'	<i>G Hancock</i>
Postlude 2:	In dulci júbilo BWV729	<i>J.S.Bach</i>

Doing the small things well

Recycle: Alexander Devine Children's Hospice is again offering to recycle trees for a small donation of your choosing. The trees will be taken to Berkshire College of Agriculture to be chipped and used in the grounds there and by the animals at BCA Zoo. Just book to schedule your collection through alexanderdevine.org/treecycling/. If you are feeling fit and would like to volunteer to help them you can call 01628 822777.
Have a lovely Christmas! *Your eco-committee*



RENAISSANCE VOICES CHRISTMAS CONCERT SATURDAY 21 DECEMBER

Once again we welcome Renaissance Voices to All Saints on Saturday 21 December at 6:30pm for their Christmas Concert. Conducted by Paul Leddington Wright, (former Director of music for the BBC programme "Songs of Praise" and Director of Music at Coventry Cathedral) and accompanied by Mirable Brass.

The programme features seasonal choral music and well-known Christmas carols with audience participation. The ticket also includes a light supper after the concert.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP DONATING TOILETRIES TO CARE FOR CALAIS.

THIS APPEAL IS ONGOING SO DO HELP IF YOU CAN.

Claire Foley