



**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**

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Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

We wish a very happy, peaceful and Joy-filled Christmas to all our readers, and to all members of our Church and Parish.

From Fr Jeremy and Monika, Fr John, our Churchwardens, Ken and John, and the Parish News Team



“To you is born this day a saviour, who is Christ the Lord!” (Luke 2:11)

This coming Sunday we travel from Advent (our 10.00am morning Eucharist celebrates the fourth Sunday in Advent) to Christmas (Midnight Mass at 11.30pm) via the ever-popular and enjoyable Crib Service at 4.00pm. We do hope you will want to share in this journey with us.

As we think of the events of 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem, our hearts are inevitably caught up in the present troubles of the Holy Land, with killings and destruction, kidnappings, and terrible fear and suffering. Without needing to apportion blame, we lament pain and suffering of the evil in our world. We join with the prophets, the people of Jesus’ own generation, and people throughout all generations, to pray and work for peace with justice – not just in the Holy Land, but around the world, in our communities and families, and in our own hearts.

Our celebration of the coming of the Christ Child at Bethlehem isn’t a distraction or a retreat from all that is wrong in the world, but is the medicine the world so desperately needs, the balm poured out on the wounds of the world. As St Luke tells us, the Christ Child who we celebrate is our saviour, the one born to save us from sin and evil. To be the saviour in our own hearts and lives, as we live out our lives in accordance with his just and gentle rule of love, compassion and forgiveness. To be the saviour of our world as the light of the Gospel message brings hope in the darkness and inspires countless millions around the world to work for peace, justice and the flourishing of all people. To be the saviour who promises to lead us to the New Creation where there will be no more weeping or crying.



If Advent is a time of looking forward with hope to the coming of God amongst us, Christmas is the celebration of the fulfilment of those hopes in the Christ Child. We pray that he would give us his love and compassion in our hearts, and that we would know and love him as our saviour and redeemer.

Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:
Grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,
we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Happy Christmas,

Fr John

RESOURCES FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Sunday 24 December
CHRISTMAS EVE

10.00am Parish Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: Fr Jeremy Preacher: Fr John

4.00pm Crib Service

Come and share in the joy of the Christmas story with families.

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Celebrant: Fr John Preacher: Fr Jeremy

Monday 25
CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am Family Eucharist for the Nativity of Our Lord

Celebrant: Fr Jeremy Preacher: Fr John

Wednesday 27
St John the Evangelist

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

Celebrant: Fr Jeremy

Sunday 31

10.00am Eucharist for the First Sunday of Christmas

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Jeremy

Wednesday 3 January

10.00am Eucharist
Fr John



PRAYER INTENTIONS

We give thanks and praise to God for the incarnation of his Son Jesus Christ, God-With-Us. May we see the face of God in his Son Jesus Christ and live according to the grace which he bestows upon us.

We pray for our Bishops, Priests and church leaders as they speak the word of Christ's love and message of redemption this Christmas, and we pray that all who attend Christian services would encounter Christ in Word and Sacrament and find healing, wholeness and peace.

We pray for all who are celebrating Christmas in difficult circumstances; for families divided by distance or alienation, for the children of broken homes, for those celebrating Christmas in care homes or hospital, for those who will feel the loss of a loved one especially at this time. We pray for the lonely, the homeless, and for those suffering from illness or addiction.

We pray that the Christ Child would be especially close to them, to bring his peace, consolation and healing.

We give thanks for the inspiration we find in the life and teachings of Jesus to bring hope and practical help to those in need, and we pray for those who help the poor, the homeless and refugees, and those who seek lasting solutions for these vulnerable groups. We pray for the work of Maidenhead Foodshare.

We pray for those of our parish and congregation in any kind of need or distress at this time, and especially for Michael, Kirsten and Maddy; for Suzette, Danielle, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Birmta Zadinane, Edite Zadinane, Heidi Webb, Tadeusz, Christopher, Sylvia Denison, Cheryl Brookes, Gordon Kerrison, Sylvia Telford, Eddie Sheppard, and Carol Sheppard, Barbara Bannister, Janet Emerson, Liz Holloway, Hugh Boulter, Simon Cowdery, Joseph White, Morieza Seraj, Scopas Lado, Mageret Ego, Jim Goff, Gill Deane-Williams, Simon Fullarton, Vera Shaw, Abbas Heidari, Audrey Birch and Anne Pennock.

May they all know the healing peace and presence of Christ. We pray for those who bring help and 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, amongst them Gerald Groffman, Gillian Richmond and David Davies, and for all who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Eco-team is putting large Christmas cards for Fr Jeremy & Fr John at the back of the Church. We are inviting people to sign this card and put a small donation into the Ripple Effect collection rather than sending them individual cards. The purpose of this is three-fold: to give them both a lovely memento that they can keep (as it's impossible to keep every card they get each year!), to support our fellow humans who are really struggling right now and to reduce tree felling to make paper that is quickly thrown away. It would be really heartwarming to our priests if as many of us as possible joined in.

DO THE SMALL THINGS WELL IN ADVENT

Reduce your food miles by having a go at buying local produce this Christmas. Maidenhead High Street hosts stalls of meat, fish and honey on Fridays and the farm in Bisham also sells directly to the public on Fridays. But best of all is to just buy what you know everyone will eat so there is no wasted food this year. Sprouts anyone? Happy Christmas from the eco-team!



WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER THE 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 2 Samuel 7: 1 – 11 & 16

Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.' But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

GOSPEL Luke 1: 26 – 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

MUSIC

Prelude	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Op 100	<i>Flor Peeters</i>
Opening hymn:	45 O come, O come, Emmanuel	
Advent Candle:	26 v4 Advent candles tell their story	
Gradual hymn:	395 With Mary let my soul rejoice	
Offertory hymn:	75 Long ago, prophets knew	
Communion hymn:	313 For Mary, mother of our Lord	
Closing hymn:	394 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord	
Postlude:	Fugue on the Magnificat BWV 733	<i>J S Bach</i>



WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 31 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 Galatians 4: 4 – 7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

GOSPEL Luke 2: 15 – 21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

MUSIC

Prelude:	Chorale Prelude 'In dulce júbilo'	<i>D Buxtehude</i>
Opening hymn:	59 Angels from the realms of glory	
Gradual hymn:	89 While shepherds watched their flocks	
Offertory hymn:	83 See, amid the winter's snow	
Communion music:	The Holy Boy <i>J Ireland</i>	
Communion music:	Chorale Prelude on 'Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen'	<i>J Brahms</i>
Closing hymn:	86 The First Nowell	
Postlude:	The First Nowell	<i>C P P Burton</i>



CHURCH KEYS

We are short of keys for the church and parish centre doors. If you are holding on to keys which you no longer need would you kindly return them to the parish office or me as it is expensive and time-consuming to have to have more cut.

Ken Smith



Don't forget to see if there are any cards for you in the rack at the back of Church, or maybe there are some for people who lie near you who can't get to church – could you drop them off?

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

