

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

PARISH NEWS

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Issue 53 31 March 2021

Note: No Parish News next week



EASTER COMMUNION

For those of you wanting to join the 11.30am and 6.00pm Easter Day Communion services in the Parish Centre it is essential to book before midday on Good Friday. Email jeremy-harris@outlook.com or allsaintsboynehill@gmail.com. **The 10.00am Service is fully booked.**

Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

On the 26th June, 1993 I was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Monmouth at the time The Rt Revd Rowan Williams who of course went onto become the Archbishop of Wales and then the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is a deeply moving moment in one's life when you are ordained to serve.

One of the gifts I received and cherish highly is a gift from a wonderful priest of Monmouth Diocese Fr Jeremy Winston. Fr Jeremy died in 2011 having only been in post as The Dean of Monmouth for a few months. His ministry had been a rich one of encouraging young people to discover their vocations in life and his support to me I will always give thanks for.

Fr Jeremy was also a pastoral priest. I remember watching him in the late 1970's and early 80's as a curate in Rogerstone, the village I lived in outside Newport, South Wales delivering food parcels in the snow to elderly people unable to get out and before the time of click and deliver. Jeremy's gift to me was a green stole with an embroidered passionflower. The stole is a sign of a deacon, priest being a servant to God and to his people and perhaps reminds us of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. The stole made by the Monmouth Guild of Needlework has a beautiful passionflower coming out of the cross. I have always viewed this as New Life from the death of Jesus. It has been a wonderful way of teaching children about Easter resurrection in schools over the years pointing them to the colour and vibrancy at springtime following the winter.

Discovering God in creation has been at the heart of many peoples' pilgrimage through life but also particularly through the pandemic. So many of you have told me stories of joyful walks around the local community seeing beauty all around you. One of the reasons I think that 'seeing God in all things' has happened is that we have been forced to slow down. We are not able to travel here, there and everywhere filling our time with being human doings. Instead, we are forced to slow down and contemplate. Read one or two of Greg Hurst's reflections in recent times and you will get the picture.

My Easter sermon tries to reflect resurrection hope through discovering God in nature. James Martin's latest book on prayer 'Learning to Pray – a guide for everyone' has a whole chapter given over to the theme of discovering God in nature. James Martin using Pope Francis' pastoral letter on the environment 'Laudato Si' ('Praise to You') highlights the Pope imagining Jesus as he seeks rest from ministry enjoying the scenes of the Holy Land. Although there is no evidence that Jesus withdrew from the crowds to enjoy the flowers writes Martin, he surely enjoyed the sound of birdsong, the glimpse of the Sea of Galilee, the impressive mountain scenery. As I walked feeling as 'Free as a bird' on the Camino I felt this closeness to God as I enjoyed the beautiful Northern Spanish countryside. These are the times when sometimes you experience 'Thin Places'. The place we feel the presence of the divine linking with earth.

If you do not perhaps connect with this experience think then about the health benefits derived from being outdoors. Martin quotes the lead author of a study looking at benefits of enjoying nature by the name of Caoimhe Twohig-Bennett. 'Spending time in, or living close to, natural green spaces is associated with diverse and significant health benefits, it reduces the risk of type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease, premature death, and increases sleep duration.' It can also reduce stress levels within us.

Returning to the spiritual side of nature, we discover by enjoying nature we connect with God at a deep level. When I experienced looking over the Cliffs of Moher with another two friends who encouraged my vocation, I recall a wonderful evening looking across the ocean, from an astounding height and the view was breathtaking.

One of the key passages in Laudato Si is that the environment is to be revered. Pope Francis reminds us that 'everything is connected'. Martin adds 'the decisions we make about natural resources and the decisions we make about economic policies will influence not only the planet, but also the well being of our brothers and sisters.' Care of the environment can be a prayer as we work in our garden, recycle and creating less waste can be just a few small ways we reverence creation.

This Easter as we reflect on the gift of new life given us by Jesus' death and resurrection may we contemplate new life in creation, attempt to live courageously by respecting creation and over the Easter season accept the offer to 'Come and Eat' at the Holy Eucharist where the Body of Christ gathers and prays in the spirit. Jesus' gift of new life is offered and the bread and wine stand for all the gifts of creation that are renewed by Christ to enable us to be nurtured. Remember 'Partake of the Body of Christ to become the Body of Christ.'

Each service in the Parish Centre can host between 25-30 people. At the time of writing there are just a few places left for the 10.00am service, but there is still plenty of space at the other two. The services will be short with a little recorded music and lasting only 40 minutes. Booking details are on the front page.

On Easter Sunday afternoon at 4.00pm in the Quadrangle we will share the Easter Story, a prayer time and an Easter egg hunt. All are welcome. It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible either on Zoom or in the Parish Centre over Holy Week.

RESOURCES THIS WEEK & NEXT:

Maundy Thursday 1 April Zoom service at 7.30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87413097088?pwd=Y1lEREk4eEtnNzdSTzdGaGxWS2pHUT09>

Meeting ID: 874 1309 7088

Passcode: 510166

Guest preacher: Fr Nicholas Cheeseman

This service will take us through the story of Passover, the Last Supper, Christ washing the feet of the disciples before we can spend time in person from 9pm until midnight keeping watch in the parish centre. The watch will conclude as Jeanette will lead us in Night Prayer at 11.50 pm. During the service you can participate by bringing a towel and water to wash your hands or feet as a sign that you are following Christ's example of servant ministry. You can share some bitter and sweet food to remind yourself of the suffering and joy that the Israelite people experienced in Passover. Fr Nicholas Cheeseman, someone I find valuable as a spiritual adviser and who is the Oxford and Berkshire Vocations adviser will preach live for us on Zoom. Thank you to Mike Moss for his excellent work in putting both this service and the vigil together.

9.00pm- Midnight – The Watch at the Altar of Repose within the Parish Centre

Good Friday 2 April Zoom Service at 3.00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83789516463?pwd=NWZuenhrUVJ3N2ZYXhUb3NsOURCUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 8951 6463

Passcode: 563418

Guest preacher: Fr Kevin Scully

Good Friday Liturgy including Stations of the Cross with music and visuals from Jeanette, The Passion Reading from John's Gospel, the sermon from Fr Kevin Scully before concluding with music as we meditate on the cross.

Holy Saturday 3 April The Easter Vigil Zoom Service at 8.00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83883647103?pwd=SkdwZzUwTko4TXJhTHdzckVBVTNKdz09>

Meeting ID: 838 8364 7103

Passcode: 918251

This most powerful of services has been brought to zoom. It is challenging to recreate a service that has so much movement within the buildings and grounds of All Saints but Mike, alongside numerous contributors, have made a wonderful effort. You will need a candle as the Revd Sally Lynch charges us with the Baptismal Promises and to mark the light overcoming the darkness and New Life defeating death. . At the end of the service, we hope that you will share a glass of fizz from home and perhaps some celebration snacks to remind us that Christ's light has overcome darkness, his goodness has overcome evil and his new Life overcomes death.

Easter Sunday 4 April Holy Eucharist at 10.00am, 11.30am & 6.00pm in the Parish Centre

Please see p 1 for booking details.

Bishop Steven Croft has invited the Diocese of Oxford to 'Come and Eat' over the coming weeks as we return (slowly) to become the church of word AND sacrament. Although the 10.00am service is fully booked, the 11.30am service has 10 places available and the 6.00pm Eucharist has 20 places still free. Please join us to receive Easter communion at a service that will last about 40 minutes with recorded music.

4.00pm Easter Egg Hunt in the Quadrangle – I have advertised this as a hunt for chocolate eggs!

However there will also be the opportunity to hear a Easter Story for children, to write a prayer to place on

the tree in the quadrangle, share some word searches for Good Friday and Easter Morning, and hear an Easter Song sung for us. Everybody welcome.

Holiday

I am taking the inside of the week off during Easter Week. The only service that week will be Night Prayer on zoom on Thursday 8th April. The next Edition of Parish News will be on Wednesday 14 April.

Thursday 8 April 8.00pm Night Prayer on Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75976544021?pwd=Q1pJVtIpTytOdHg0VXhSRGxWRzIzZz09>

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHziv

Psalm 106 and 1 Corinthians 15: 29 - 34

Hymn - Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the Risen Lord

Sunday 11 April 9.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom (note earlier time and new link)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87434475947?pwd=ZlJWOU9RZlFNaTVoYXZpYUR4Lzd1>

Meeting ID: 874 3447 5947

Passcode: 783477

11.00am Eucharist in the Parish Centre. (Booking Essential)

We will follow this pattern through Eastertide to see if this proves helpful to people. Please book either through Melanie via email allsaintsboynehill@gmail.com or through me on jeremy-harris@outlook.com or 01628 626921.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Diocesan Link for the Eucharist please see the front page of our website. The Diocesan resources can be found without internet on 01865 920930. The Church of England's new resource 'Daily Hope' which God of resurrection, ever renewing, ever reviving, we adore you for your life-giving presence. Son of Man, newly risen, sorrow made joy for your sacrificial living and dying. Holy Spirit, breezing among us this Easter morn, we adore you for breathing new life into us. AMEN

At this Easter time we give thanks for the gift of New Life offered to us in the Eucharist. In this year when so many of us have been denied this gift we pray and look forward to the return of the invitation to 'Come and Eat.' Lord we ask for your discernment to know when it will be right for each one of us to return to your table.

God of resurrection, ever renewing, ever reviving, we adore you for your life-giving presence. Son of Man, newly risen, sorrow made joy for your sacrificial living and dying. Holy Spirit, breezing among us this Easter morn, we adore you for breathing new life into us. AMEN

We pray for the NHS and give thanks for the vaccinations that are giving hope to this country and the wider world. We continue to give thanks to Dianne and Jeanette for their part in the vaccination roll out.

We pray for Food Share as they continue to share God's love with others.

We pray for all those who have lost their lives during the pandemic. We remember too all those who have served us on the frontline. We continue to hold in prayer those living with the impact of the virus physically and mentally. We pray this Easter for hope for the future.

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We hold in our prayers George Hutchinson, Mandy Rogers, Danielle, Nick, Fr John, Sister Mary Philip, Roger Baldery and Mark. We pray too for John Bolodeoku's family and Louise O'Dwyer Bernard's family. John, having suffered the loss of his father and Louise, the loss of her sister Kelly.

We pray for the recently departed among them Kelly Bellman and Olufemi Bolodeoku. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Pray the Parish:

The list of streets in our Parish was attached to Issue 41: this week we remember the ones beginning with Y.

Charlie Mackesy: 'I've discovered something better than cake.' 'No you haven't,' said the boy 'I have', replied the mole. 'What is it?' 'A hug - it lasts longer.' Let's hope the hug can return to everyday life someday soon!

This book 'The Boy, the mole, the fox and the horse' can be ordered through Quench bookshop at £15. The author I have discovered has become famous through Lockdown through offering this book and designed the illustrations for the Alpha Course in past times.

May you all be blessed by God's love and filled with his Holy Spirit this week.

Fr Jeremy

Worship for SUNDAY 4 APRIL EASTER DAY

Sounds of Worship Brian Graves

Holy week and Easter is the most eventful period of the church's year and ranges the extremes of emotion from despair to the exaltation, rather than trying to cover all the whole week in one issue of Sounds of Worship, I am focussing on the Easter Vigil and Easter Day.

The Easter Vigil is the third part of the Holy Triduum which leads us through the sorrows of Passiontide to the resurrection Joy of Easter Eve. The Easter Vigil takes us back to the Creation story in the old testament as well as other related expressions of hope and re-birth. Then comes the preparation of the Pascale candle around the Easter fire. The candle leads the procession into the church with the declaration of "The Light of Christ". The Exsultet is sung after which the church is fully illuminated and the Gloria sung. The service continues with renewal of Baptism vows and Eucharist. This is a service about renewal, from darkness to light.

To set the scene of darkness and lighting the Easter fire, I start with a Taizé chant "Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away" AM 847 set to music by Jacques Berthier (1923 – 1994).

Taizé chants create a special musical and emotional effect. The constant repetition of a short phrase leads one to reflect on a very specific idea. One of the musical techniques associated with this is the use of an instrument or cantor to improvise a countermelody which can heighten the sense of interpreting words in new and changing ways. It is the musical equivalent of dwelling in the word

Within our darkest night AM 847 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqQsZK57OX8>

"Within our darkest night" words Taizé and music by Jacques Berthier

© Ateliers et Pesses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France

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After the contemplative feel of the Taizé chant, we burst into the celebration of Easter morning in traditional style with "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" AM 205 which was written in the 14th century as a Bohemian Latin hymn titled "Surrexit Christus hodie".

The original author is unknown but the text was preserved on manuscripts written in Munich and Breslau. The original Latin text had eleven verses. It was first translated into English in 1708 by John Baptist Walsh to be included in his *Lyra Davidica* (Collection of Divine Songs and Hymns). The verses of the hymn were revised in 1749 by John Arnold. Initially only three of the original Latin verses were translated with just the first verse being a direct translation; in 1740 Charles Wesley added a fourth verse to the hymn as an alternative although this is not included in the hymn book we use. There is no record of the composer of the tune (Easter Hymn) to which the hymn was set in the *Lyra Davidica*.

Like so many hymns the original words and music come from widely different sources and eventually find the ideal partnership. In this case, the words came first, from the 14th Century set much later to music in the 18th.

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia!
unto Christ our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Jesus Christ is risen today AM 205: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMwPEmUMP7U>

A second much-loved Easter hymn is "Thine be the glory" AM 218 words by Edmond Budry (1854 – 1932) translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875 – 1939) set to the tune Maccabeus by George Frederick Handel. This translation of Budry's hymn, 'A toi la gloire, O Ressuscité', was first published in *Cantate Domino* (1924), published by the World's Student Christian Federation, where it is dated 1923. The hymn has subsequently achieved great popularity and success, some of which may be due to the way in which the words so beautifully fit the tune, Maccabeus. It was written by Handel for his oratorio *Joshua* (1747) to the words 'See the conquering hero comes'; Handel then added it to his earlier work, *Judas Maccabeus* (1746), written to celebrate the victory by the Duke of Cumberland over the rebels under Prince Charles Edward Stuart at the battle of Culloden in 1746. It was used as a hymn tune later in the 18th century. The tune was an inspired choice for these words in *Cantate Domino*, and it has remained closely associated with them. It is possible that Hoyle's word 'conqu'ring' in line 1, which is not in the French text, was included by association with 'See the conquering hero comes'.

1. Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.

2. Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb.
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let His church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.*

3. No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life!!
Life is nought without Thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through Thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.*

Thine be the glory AM 218: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXzmjNE-yLA>

COLLECT

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 10: 34 - 43

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

GOSPEL John 20: 1 – 18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are

you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON

New Life found in Creation

There is a lovely children’s Easter story written by Angela Elwell Hunt from a book called ‘Song of the Morning’ – Easter stories and Poems for Children. The story is called ‘The Tale of Three Trees’ who all have dreams when they are growing up. As small trees on top of a mountaintop they notice things around them which give vision to their dream.

The first tree sees the stars twinkling in the sky like diamonds and wants to be made into the most beautiful treasure chest in the world to hold precious stones.

The second tree looked out on a small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. This tree desired to become the strongest ship in the world to carry powerful kings over mighty waters.

The third tree looked down on the valley below where busy men and women ran around with stress filled lives not noticing life around them. This tree decided that she wanted to stay where she was and stand tall so that people would look up at her and think of God.

Years passed and the rain and the sunshine came, and the three trees grew. Then three woodcutters climbed the mountain to cut the trees. The first cutter looked at the first tree and thought this is perfect for me. The tree thought that it would be made into that beautiful treasure chest. The second cutter looked up at the second tree and said that this is perfect for me. The tree thought that it would become the strong ship fit for kings. The third tree felt her heart sink as the last woodcutter looked her way. He didn’t bother to look up as he said any tree will do for me.

The first tree rejoiced as it was taken to a carpenter’s shop, However the carpenter did not have treasure chests in mind but instead a humble feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold or filled with treasure but filled with sawdust and hay for animals.

The second tree’s dream of becoming a strong ship was not to come true either. Instead, it was made into a fishing boat that was too small and weak to sail the oceans. Instead of carrying kings it would smell of fish!

The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams. What happened? Wondered the once tall tree. I just wanted to stay on the mountain and point people to God.

The three trees nearly forgot the dreams. One night though golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her new-born in the feed box. The husband wished he could have made a cradle. The woman said, “This manger is beautiful.” Suddenly the first tree knew that he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveller and friends crowded into a small fishing boat. The traveller fell asleep and a frightening storm blew up. The little tree knew that it did not have the strength to cope with the storm. The tired man awakened and stretched out his hand and said, "Peace". The second tree knew that it had carried the king of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning the third tree was startled when she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. She felt cruel. But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose, and the earth trembled with joy the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the first tree beautiful, the second strong and the third would indeed have people look at it and think of God.

I love this story and have shared it this Holy Week with All Saints and Boyn Hill schools. It made me think through the idea of trees, the sea of Galilee, and the animals of God in creation. As I have listened to people during the dark times of the pandemic, I have heard people say how much joy they have experienced through walks discovering nature and indeed the calming influence of a pet. Those fortunate to live by the sea or a river can reflect and speak of the happiness drawn from a walk near water.

Pope Francis in his pastoral letter to the world on the environment (Laudato Si) wrote 'Jesus was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature. He made his way through the land, and contemplated the beauty sown by his Father and invited his disciples to perceive a divine message in things.'

Those of us from All Saints that have shared a pilgrimage to the Holy Land can visualise looking out from the hotel looking at the beautiful Sea of Galilee. Some of you when you travelled with Fr Kevin Scully spoke about the various plants and trees on view. Of course, there is the mustard seed that grows into the yellow flower that is prominent in the bible. James Martin who a number of us have been reading to help us discover ways of praying in the company of God speaks of 'Discovering God in creation'. He tells us that studies show that spending time outdoors is good for our emotional, mental and physical health and can reduce stress.

Martin believes spending time with nature connects us with God at a deep level. We can appreciate art, music, poetry and George Street buildings which are inspired by God but only in nature do we encounter something created by God alone. All sorts of things may delight us such as sunsets, storms, animals, clouds, flowers, insects and trees.

In our gospel from John, we discover Mary Magdalene bringing the Good News of the empty tomb to the two disciples. The younger man (the beloved disciple) has (writes Tom Wright) feelings on seeing the empty tomb. It is a feeling 'of a wild delight at God's creative power'. It is a bit like a sunrise or falling rain following a drought. A few years ago, Mike and Jan Moss and I jogged around Eton Dorney Lake early one morning. I do not think I will ever forget, as long as I live the pure joy of seeing the sunrise that morning.

In November 2013 I was taken into the hills surrounding Voi in Kenya to preach at a confirmation service. The ground was dry, and people were suffering in Kenya due to the lack of rain. During the service having prayed for rain during the rainy season the rains fell on the tin roof of the church. The sound of jubilant joy came from the congregation as the rains meant crops growing, food being provided and new life appearing.

When Jesus says to Mary of Magdalene don't cling to me following the resurrection, he tells her also to 'Go and say to my brothers and sisters, I am going to the father and YOUR FATHER, to my God and YOUR GOD'. Mary who thought Jesus to be a gardener, now will, alongside the disciples realise that a new relationship has been achieved. Jesus' new life will bring a new relationship 'that springs to life like a spring flower.' They will through the Holy Spirit become an Easter people where they will know God in the way Jesus knew God. This is the Jesuit way of praying that we have been discerning within our church. Contemplating meaning from our prayer by noticing God in all things. The gardener or Jesus is the new Adam, and he has won the victory that will bring order to the world.

We can now enjoy through our baptism, the promise of a spirit filled life where we, as members of Christ's Body, will partake of the Body of Christ to become the Body of Christ. We are called as an Easter people to notice God in creation and in our lives and relationships. We can look up at a tree and think of God and know that he has won New Life for us.

In the Name of The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

COLLECT & READINGS FOR SUNDAY 11 APRIL THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

COLLECT

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 4: 32 – 35

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

GOSPEL John 20: 19 – 31

It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

TUESDAY CLUB 2.30pm 6th APRIL (NOTE DIFFERENT TIME) ZOOM BEETLE DRIVE

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79985639318?pwd=WGRGYUViSFY5QjltcjJNR1A2ME90Zz09>

Meeting ID: 799 8563 9318

Passcode: w8iHsx

Anyone is welcome to join us for our first afternoon meeting (we're experimenting) and our first Beetle Drive on Zoom (another experiment – what could possibly go wrong!). All you'll need to take part is a pencil and paper and a dice to roll.

Jan Moss



£18,000 raised for Berkshire churches in 2020

Although on a slightly reduced scale, and with many necessary restrictions in place, Ride and Stride took place as usual last September, and on a beautiful autumn day some 50 rider and striders set out to visit as many churches as they could to raise money for Berkshire churches – and we're delighted to say that in 2020 we raised almost £18,000. In a year when income took such a hit, this will be especially welcome. Between them, our participants visited 200 churches, old and new, large and small, and at many they not only signed the visitors' sheet, but were welcomed by a steward and able to pop in and see some of the treasures that are such a feature of so many of our church buildings.

Ride and Stride is a great way to see other churches, and in most years, to meet the people who worship in and care for them. And it's a great way to raise money too. Half of anything raised goes to the church of your choice, the rest goes to the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust, who will use it support repair and restoration work anywhere in the county, as need arises. Why not join us in 2021?

All Saints continues to benefit from the valuable support provided by the Berkshire Churches Trust through their generous contribution to many of our building projects, and in particular the £10,000 donated to us for the floor project. We also receive back 50% of all the money we raise for the annual Ride & Stride day.

Heads up: this year's Ride & Stride will be on Saturday 11 September.

Christian Aid Week: 10th - 16th May

Roger Clarke, Acting Chair of Christian Aid, Maidenhead stood down from his role following a move with his wife to Somerset. Roger observed that with COVID-19, and the retirement of several other Committee members, we appear to have arrived at a natural crossroads as far as Christian Aid's work in Maidenhead is concerned. There is a question now as how that work should be taken forward in the future.

The Revd David Downing of the URC Church in Maidenhead & Marlow has offered assurance that Christian Aid's work will continue through 'Churches Together in Maidenhead', albeit perhaps in a new format in the future. For this year, as a 'house to house' collection will not be possible, it is very likely that a 'Just Giving' page will be set up again, and Revd David is already thinking about an online 'Zoom' service to mark Christian Aid Week.

We will let you have more details of the arrangements as soon as they are confirmed. Please do let me have any thoughts you may have about continuing Christian Aid's work in the future. *Stella Harding*

FOODSHARE NEWS

Lockdown means an increasing need for Foodshare. Please see www.foodshare.today for places you can donate and what's most needed each week. The needs are also in the Maidenhead Advertiser each week.

REFLECTION by Greg Hurst

It began with a message from our elder daughter: could we book tickets for a play in Windsor? I'd become so accustomed to lockdown that buying theatre tickets felt odd, even clandestine. But I clicked on the link she sent and found myself scrolling through autumn performances of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*. I ordered tickets for early October and logged off feeling elated.

Then, after several unsuccessful attempts on successive Fridays, we found pre-booked tickets still available to visit the gardens at Cliveden. We snapped them up in an instant. When the day came, it was belting with rain with a driving wind. An hour later, though, it subsided and we set off. We arrived to find the rain in abeyance, the grounds much quieter than we expected but the gardens and views as lovely as ever.

On Monday, when coronavirus restrictions were eased to allow groups of six to meet outdoors, we had a guest to supper in the garden. The sun shone and life felt good.

I turned my mind to a haircut: two attempts by my wife with blunt scissors have kept the worst at bay but I would like a trim. Our hairdresser has an online booking system; the earliest slot I could find was for early May. I signed up anyway.

One by one, some of life's joys and necessities are returning. And, after abstaining for Lent, after church on Sunday I shall have a glass of wine as – at last – our elder children join us for roast lamb. Cheers!