

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

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Issue 31 21 October 2020



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

This week I am taking time off to relax and do some gardening (more likely watch some films!) so thanks to Jeanette who this week is offering the sermon and indeed the Thursday evening Night prayer at 8.00pm. Thank you too for the regular input from Brian and Greg and to Jan and Mike for continuing to offer us this newsletter. Thank you too for the support of the Revd Alan Dibden who is covering the Sunday and Wednesday Eucharist for me.

It is a busy time of year as we begin to celebrate and commemorate important services, beginning on the 1st November when we celebrate our Patronal Festival. Brian is hoping to return with a small choir that will share some familiar hymns. We hope that the service will have the feel of celebration even though it is difficult to celebrate in the way we took for granted twelve months ago.

Requiem for All Souls

On the evening of 1st November we would normally have celebrated a Requiem Mass to remember our departed loved ones. Jeanette and I are going to record a service that people can view via our web-site. If you would like loved ones remembered at this service, please email me with the names. Alternatively, you can use the office email and Melanie will add to the list.

Bible Study

Bible Study on Thursdays starting 7.00pm on 5th November. The course is called 'Living is Christ, Dying is Gain'. Six of us have already signed up to join this course based on a series of Podcasts that Bishop Steven offered in the summer. Please let either me, or Jeanette, know if you would like to join us.

Operation Christmas Child – Please see Jenny Wilks introduction to the work of this excellent charity on page 8. Jenny will be speaking briefly at the Eucharist on 25th October.

Christmas Cards – If you would like to support the All Saints Church Floor fund, then you can purchase Christmas cards in packs of five from the back of the church. See page 7 for more info.

Servers – As I mentioned in last week's newsletter if you would like to help with serving in church particularly as the thurifer then please let me know on jeremy-harris@outlook.com

Starting Monday 26th October – Weekly prayer group 7.30pm – 8.00pm on Zoom

Please join us for an informal prayer group on zoom as we pray for the issues that are on our minds.

Resources

Thursday 22nd October Night Prayer: God's Love

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75976544021?pwd=Q1pJVlplTytOdHg0VXhSRGxWRzZz09>

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHziv

Psalm 116

John 13: 31-end

Hymn 454 Love is his word.

If you have internet access, please continue to use the Church of England and Oxford Diocesan resources. The Diocesan resources can be found without internet on 01865 920930.

The Church of England's new resource 'Daily Hope' which includes comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections can be found on free telephone 0800 804 8044.

We'll be using the simple service from the Church of England prayer books we've been issuing. It begins on page 24 and finishes on page 30. Or use this link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-parishes/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer>

You should have received a copy of this helpful blue book but if you haven't please let me know.

Sunday 25 October BIBLE SUNDAY

10.00am Eucharist Preacher: Jeanette Lock

Monday 26th 7.30pm Prayer Group via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85011600714?pwd=Y0x2VWpMQ3JFUStsQ0plbEFLOEQrQT09>

Meeting ID: 850 1160 0714

Passcode: 553120

Wednesday 28 October 10.00am Eucharist

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray Lord that we may be people who rejoice in our faith. We pray Lord that in our times of heartache and doubt and suffering we may know your loving presence.

We pray for this community at All Saints as we face the challenge of keeping our community together in these difficult times. We pray too for the challenges we face next year as we undertake the floor project and face the challenge of finding a place to praise and worship God.

We pray for people suffering isolation, mental health issues, infections, loss of employment and worries for the future. We pray too for students and teachers at our local schools trying to meet the challenge of helping young people learn in a safe environment.

We pray for organisations within our community with whom we are struggling at this time to support. We remember All Sorts, Tiny Saints, Young Saints, The Street Angels and all those groups of people where sharing community is proving challenging.

We pray for those who feel neglected. Please speak into their lives so that they may be assured of your loving presence.

We pray for those who have suffered illness. We remember Fr John Chadwick, Nick Moss and Mark. May your loving and healing presence be with them at this time.

We pray for our care workers and NHS staff and all the people who serve on the frontline. We pray for John, Helen, Joanne, Karen, Carole, Richard, Ricky, Dagma, Emmanuel, Magda and Eleanor.

We remember the departed especially anyone known to us. We remember all our departed loved ones and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

Father, as we approach your Holy Table this day may we receive your gift of New and Transformed life joyfully and may we rejoice in the Lord always by living lives that reflect your light to the world.

May you all be blessed by God's love this week

Fr Jeremy

Worship for Sunday 25 OCTOBER BIBLE SUNDAY

Sounds of Worship Brian Graves

In the Epistle, Paul's letter to the Colossians, he summarises the key characteristics of being a Christian, such as compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. In addition, we are bound together as a community by the love Christ and should instruct each other with wisdom. He also encourages us to sing thankfully in our hearts to God with Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Well, wisdom tells us that physical singing in church has to be very limited at the moment but I hope that the choice of music in this Sounds of Worship will keep some sense of thankfulness and, from the safety of your own home, something with which to sing along.

The essence of the gospel is that regardless of whatever calamity will befall the earth, the words of Jesus will remain for ever. Again, in the context of the Covid Pandemic how vital it is we maintain that hope, and until we eventually return to our accustomed worship at All Saints, we will have kept the Word of God alive within us.

In today's selection we start gently and finish with a joyful noise. The first hymn is "Spirit of God, unseen as the wind" AM 389 words by Margaret Old (1932 – 2001) set to the Skye Boat Song, a Scottish folk melody. The lilting flow of the Skye Boat song complements the mood of the words perfectly. The tune was first collected by Anne Campbelle MacLeod (1852 – 1921) who heard it sung by the oarsmen of a boat in which she was travelling over Loch Corusik during a trip to the Isle of Skye in the 1870s. It was first published in "Songs of the North" by MacLeod and Sir Harold Boulton in 1884.

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove;
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.*

1. You spoke to us long, long ago,
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth,
through it God's voice is heard.

Chorus:

2. Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live his way;
we need Your power, we need your strength,
following Christ each day.

Chorus:

“Spirit of God Unseen as the wind” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7Qi2O_u1YY

Next, I have chosen the anthem “Teach me O Lord, the way of thy Statutes” by Thomas Attwood (1765 – 1838). This anthem was published in 1797 soon after Attwood was appointed organist of St Paul’s cathedral and simultaneously, composer of the Chapel Royal. The words of the anthem are taken from Psalm 119: 33: *Teach me O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.*

Psalm 119 is well-known as the longest of all 150 psalms. It is an alphabetic psalm in praise of the Divine Law. Each strophe, consisting of 8 verses, begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet, starting with the letter Aleph and ending with Tau. Each of the 8 verses within the strophe begins with the same letter and every verse (except one) contains one of the synonyms for the revealed religion e.g. Law, commandments, decrees, statues etc. There is a lot of word play in the psalms and this is perhaps the most extreme example.

However, the relevance of the anthem is its reference to the written word and that the Bible is our basic textbook from which all our religious teaching is derived. Also, it expresses the commitment we make in adhering to the word throughout our lives.

Thomas Attwood started his musical career as a chorister in the Chapel Royal. He so impressed the then Prince of Wales (later George IV) with his skill as a harpsichord player that he sponsored Attwood to study abroad for two years from 1783. It was during this period that he became a pupil of W A Mozart.

“Teach me O Lord” Thomas Attwood <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0IUevz-3IU>

In the Epistle, Paul exhorts his readers to “Sing thankfully in their hearts to God with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.” There is no better expression of this sentiment than the hymn “Let all the world in every corner sing” AM 704 words by George Herbert (1593 – 1633) and set to the tune Luckington composed by Basil Harwood (1859 – 1949).

Herbert is renowned for clever word-play in his hymns (see “The Call” which was the anthem in the Sounds of Worship for Easter 5), in this case, apart from the repetition of the phrase “Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King.” at the beginning and end of each verse, one is struck more by the contrasting images of the high heavens where praise may fly but the earth is not too low to prevent our earth-bound praises. The words are very compelling for musicians and singers, especially in verse 2, “The church with psalms must shout”, when was the last time we heard psalms, or for that matter music performed with that level of power and commitment? Maybe when, in due course, we are able to resume unconstrained communal singing in church the first thing we should do is shout Psalm 150!

The tune Luckington reflects the words perfectly with a rising arpeggio at the beginning to set us off with a vigorous flourish. Then the tune has another rising figure to coincide with “the heavens are not too high” and then it descends to reflect the “earth is not too low” and it finishes on a high and triumphant note.

Basil Harwood was an organist and composer best known for his church music. He was successively organist at St Barnabas Pimlico from 1863, organist at Ely Cathedral from 1887 and finally organist of Christ Church Cathedral Oxford from 1892 to 1909.

1. Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King.
The heavens are not too high,
God's praise may thither fly:

the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King.

2. Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King.
The church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;
but above all the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King.

“Let all the world in every corner sing” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfXldoDnvq4>

COLLECT

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that through patience, and the comfort of your holy word we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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 Matthew 24: 30 – 35

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see “the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven” with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

SERMON Jeanette Lock

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. 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.” Colossians 3. 16-17

Today, Sunday 25th October 2020, on the Last Sunday after Trinity, we observe Bible Sunday, a day in the church’s calendar when we can give thanks to God for the gift of His Word. To help me prepare for this sermon, I looked at some information on The Bible Society website. I wish I hadn’t because I found some alarming facts: despite being a bestselling book, 9 out of 10 people in this country don’t regularly open and read the Bible, and nearly half of parents never read Bible stories to their children. Here are some really scary facts - nearly a third of children did not know that the Nativity is a Bible story and more alarmingly, 27% of adults thought that Superman was a plot from the Bible!

So why is the Bible so important and what does it mean for the word of Christ to dwell in us richly?

We all like reading a good story. Perhaps you enjoy settling down with an exciting thriller, or getting stuck into a science fiction epic, or maybe losing yourself in a family saga stretching over a series of novels. Whatever you read, there will always be a detailed storyline weaving its way from the beginning to the ending, with various characters threading their way through the story. And that's exactly what the Bible is, and of course the accounts within it, stretching from Genesis to Revelation, are real, containing exciting storylines, family disagreements, vividly described deaths, and even some sex scenes within The Song of Solomon. It brings together history, poetry, song, legal documents, moral codes and religious instruction. But it's unlikely that many of us would ever read the Bible from beginning to end in the same way we do a good novel. That might be heavy going!

In the last couple of weeks a few of us from the Open the Book team have been recording some Bible stories, via Zoom, to send as videos to the children in our local schools. Jan Moss in her introduction explains to the children that the Bible is really just one very long story about God, about how He speaks to us, and his relationship with His people. The Bible begins in a garden with the narrative of Creation but by chapter 3 things had already started to go wrong! There then follows the epic tale about the nation of Israel, through Abraham, Moses, the Kings and the Prophets all trying to call the people back to God. The exciting part of this bit of the story being -will God be able to win his people back?

And then we have God's covenantal promises and acts coming to a climax in Jesus, with the high point of the Bible being the centrality of Jesus in His birth, life, death, Resurrection and Ascension. And in the Four Gospel narratives we have the testimonies of those closest to Jesus, proclaiming to us the word of the Lord, connecting us with Jesus's life and teaching. This part of the Gospel story is complex, involving lots of cross referencing with the Old Testament (for example today's Gospel reading from Matthew where we have an extract from the prophet Daniel, "*the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven*" (Matthew 24: 30). And then finally we come to the latter part of the Bible involving the gift of the Holy Spirit, with the stories of the Disciples being sent out to start the early Church and concluding in Revelations with the trumpets and angels proclaiming the extraordinary vision of the heavenly city of Jerusalem.

We are fortunate today to have lots of different ways of reading and engaging with Scripture and of getting to grips with the messages contained there. We can use traditional Bible versions, modern translations, commentaries, audio Bibles, apps on our phones with bite size daily readings and associated reflections, as well as techniques like Dwelling



in the Word or the Jesuit style of Imaginative Contemplation. And for all those children who sadly do not have the Bible read to them at home, we have teams of Open the Bookers ready to go into schools (currently virtually) to share the Bible stories, making them come alive and leaping off the pages in ways that give them meaning.

For us in church we listen to the word of God as part of our preparation before coming to the altar, the Bible reading often taking place from the eagle shaped lectern, symbolising the Gospel being carried to the corners of the earth. We are invited to approach the Scriptures in an attitude of worship, being open to listen to God speaking to us and nourishing us through the written word, so that we can truly proclaim, "This IS the Word of the Lord!"

But whether we are hearing the Scriptures in Church or reading them in the silence of our own prayers and meditation, the Bible needs to be central to our Christian life, having the capacity to bring God into our lives. St Paul writes in his letter to Timothy that what we read is God-breathed or God-spirited, *“All scripture is inspired by God.”* (2 Timothy: 16). God has given us a priceless gift in His word, to ground and root us in His love. The theologian Revd Dr Sam Wells, who some of you may know from Thought for the Day on BBC Radio 4, suggests that, *“Opening the Bible is opening your heart and life to be touched and changed by God.”*

So today on Bible Sunday, as our Collect tells us, we need to reflect on what it means to us to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the word of God, day by day, week by week, prayerfully and faithfully, with hearts and lives open to the word of God who speaks to each of us through those words. Like a seed sown in the soil, we need to allow the word of God come alive, by germinating, growing and maturing so that it dwells so deeply in our heart and soul that it reveals itself in who we are, and in the outward pattern of our lives.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly-the Colossians are told. We, like them, need to enter into the scriptures, expecting to be changed by the encounter, surprised even, enabling the Word of God to become the living reality of the Word made flesh. Amen

ALL SAINTS CHRISTMAS CARDS

The delightful “Quad in Winter” picture by Reg Denison is available again this year on Christmas cards in support of the Floor Appeal. They have the simple message “Best wishes for a joyful Christmas and peaceful New Year” and a quote from Luke 2: 10-11. The initial run of cards has been donated so all profits go to the appeal

To keep things simple this year and adhere to Covid rules the cards will be available at the rear of the church in packs of five (£5.00 for five cards) and can be collected after services on Sundays and Wednesdays from Sunday 18 October.

There will be an “honesty box” where cash or cheques can be deposited (please note change will not be available so please bring the right denomination for your purchases) Please make cheques payable to All Saints Church Fund.

To help us with ordering it would be helpful if you could let us know how many you intend to buy so we can keep reordering from the printers. To do so email Jeremy at nordbergjs@aol.com

They are beautiful cards (thanks again to Reg Denison) and will help us to complete our floor restoration.

CHILDREN’S SOCIETY BOXES

Hello to all box holders,

I hope you are all keeping well during these difficult times. I have been sent information from the society enabling us to proceed with box opening. However, in order to keep us all safe things need to be done differently this year.

Please DO NOT bring your boxes to church.

I will arrange either collection from your home or for those able, to drop off to my home.

You all have my telephone number on your boxes so please call to discuss your preferences. If I am out then please leave your name and phone number and I will call back. I live in Boyn Hill Road and will let you know which house when you call. I do not have your phone numbers only your addresses.

Boxes must either be wrapped in newspaper or placed in carrier bags. They will be quarantined for 72 hours before opening. All monies will be handled using disposable gloves.

Your empty box will be returned to your home. Please put aside for 72 hours before using. They will be cleaned with a disinfectant wipe before returning.

I will write to anyone who does not respond within 4 weeks to try and make contact.

Should you wish to send a cheque this year to avoid social contact please give me a ring and I will pass on my address. You are probably aware that many charities are struggling this year and particularly need our help.

The Children's Society are very grateful for your continued support; however your health and safety must be your number one priority.

Anne Clark, Honorary Local Secretary, Children's Society

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL

We are going to be taking part in this appeal for the 8th time this year – with a few changes. Last year we donated over 100 boxes as gifts for children around the world who don't have much. The coronavirus pandemic is causing even greater hardship for some children and their families, and this is one way to show God's love and bring some joy. Please read the attached note for details of how you can contribute this year. If you have any questions, please contact me at jwilks@jwa-consultancy.co.uk.

REFLECTION by Greg Hurst

Over the summer I had an invitation: would I chair a session at a charity conference? It sounded fine in principle. I hosted an event at the same conference last year, sitting on a platform with a panel facing an audience of 250 people. My difficulty was that this would be a virtual conference. Owing to the coronavirus restrictions, it would be via video link.

To be candid, I was nervous about the technology. Could I really field questions from the audience, grill five charity sector leaders on the panel if they failed to answer and keep the discussion going at a lively pace, all remotely? When the day came, I dialled in on the video platform Zoom a few minutes early. One by one panellists appeared in little boxes on the screen. I greeted them, they said hello back, everyone talked at once, no one could hear. It was chaos.

"Well, I'd better let the audience in," the organiser said, uncertainly. Dozens more boxes appeared at the bottom of the screen. It felt surreal suddenly to be broadcasting from my front room to more than 200 people. To my surprise, the technology worked. No one talked over each other. Members of the audience sent questions on a chat function, which I read out. The debate was lively.

When our 90 minutes was up I thanked the panel. Normally, I said, I would ask the audience for a round of applause. At that moment tiny emoji images of hands clapping appeared in dozens of boxes on the screen. I was so relieved.



Operation Christmas Child was formed in 1990 when Dave Cooke from Wrexham saw the horror of children in Romanian orphanages. He asked his friends to help fill a truck with toys and drive it to Romania. OCC is now the world's largest Christmas project run by Samaritan's Purse. Since 1990, more than 168 million children in over 160 countries have experienced God's love through the power of a shoebox of gifts.

Packing shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal has become an important part of our ministry in recent years and, speaking with Father Jeremy and others in our community, we agreed that we don't want to stop the support we give to these children. Last year, our 7th year of taking part, we donated over 100 boxes. We aren't going to be able to contribute in the same way as previously, because of the impact of Covid-19, but have come up with some alternatives.

In the midst of a global pandemic, the lives of children and families have been turned upside down and, now more than ever, boys and girls around the world need to experience hope and joy, and a shoebox gift offers just that!

There are 3 ways that you can contribute this year:

Shoebox Online - If getting out is tricky at this time, you can select your gifts online and Operation Christmas Child will pack and send your shoebox for you. Click on the link in the picture below or go to <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and choose 'Shoebox online'. It costs £20.



Donation –If you're not keen on the online option, you can make a monetary contribution. You can do this by making an online bank transfer or writing a cheque to the church - or by giving cash. Cheques or cash will be collected from church on Sundays and Wednesdays. **Please mark any donations clearly as being for the 'Shoebbox appeal'**. (Cash involves visiting the bank, so the other options are preferred for Covid-19 reasons).

Your own shoebox –You could pack your own complete shoebox. Some of you have done this previously. Click on the link in the picture below or go to <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and choose 'How to pack a shoebox' for more information. As you may remember, there are some items not allowed and these are listed on the website – and it may give you some inspiration too! The nearest drop off point is Braywick Nurseries, 41 Braywick Rd, Maidenhead SL6 1DX. Dates to be confirmed but likely to be 7 – 13th November. Please don't bring your shoeboxes to the church.



A reminder of the project

There are a number of videos on the Samaritan's Purse website which give stories about the children who receive the boxes, but here is my favourite. You may remember it, as we've shown in several times in church.

WOW! video <https://youtu.be/i7g4C4k7UTw>

A simple heartfelt gift, packed with love and fuelled by prayer can mean so much to a child and their family – and enables us to share God's love and bring joy to children around the world.

We hope that you can support this project again this year – and please let me know if you send a box online or drop one off, so I can let you all know the number of boxes we donate.

Thanks, Jenny Wilks

jwilks@jwa-consultancy.co.uk