

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

PARISH NEWS

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Issue 28 30 September 2020



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

I have just returned from a week's break in Dorset having enjoyed some walks along the Dorset coastline and visiting Brownsea Island and Monkey World, the Ape rescue centre at Wareham. Monika and I enjoyed the peaceful walks and particularly the 3 hours spent on Brownsea enjoying the wildlife and being at one with nature. It is an experience that is certainly good for the soul. Just before going on holiday I had discussed with a number of our Young Saints leaders the possibility of Outdoor Church or as some call it 'Forest Church'. The opportunity to enjoy the fresh air and one another's company.

On the Sunday 11th October Park we have decided to meet at 2.30pm at Ockwells Park to walk for an hour. Deborah Firth has pointed out that this particular weekend we can take part in the BBC Children In Need ramble. If you would like to join us as a family we are allowed to walk in a group of 15 and at the same time raise money for this excellent cause. To see how to raise money go to www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/fundraising

It is challenging at the moment meeting with our families and this might offer the chance to see some of you on the walk and at the same time raise some money for Children in Need.

This weekend we are keeping our Harvest Festival. Sadly, we cannot hold our usual service with hymns but we can still celebrate the Eucharist and support our local FoodShare charity by offering a donation or tins that can be brought to church on the 4th October. During this time of the Pandemic we are seeing more people in need of support so this year it would be really supportive to the wider community if we can share our goods or money to help local people in need. I am sharing a recorded Harvest Assembly with All Saints School on the 8th October and they will be supporting Food Share too. This would seem a good time to partner one of our local Church Schools in this excellent cause.

On my return to ministry I shared with 21 members of our community our APCM on Zoom. This is the first time any of us have shared this important meeting in this way. It was, I think, a successful meeting and our new PCC and Standing Committee were elected. Thank you to John Harrison, Julia Wakeling and Hugh Boulter for their service as trustees of All Saints and we welcome Brian Graves and Dianne Farmiloe as new members. David Morgan has retired from the Deanery Synod but will continue to serve on the PCC. We look forward to sharing our three areas of mission including Education, Welcome and Worship as well as trying to discern what we are learning as a parish in these challenging times of the Pandemic. Our two church wardens Ken Smith and Anne Rawlings are joined by Stella Harding as Deputy Churchwarden and our new Deputy John Bolodeoku. Thank you to everyone from All Saints community who have helped support people throughout the Lockdown with food deliveries and pastoral care. Thanks too to all those who are helping All Saints to still offer Christian worship and mission within the community.

Finally, just before going on holiday I was invited to share in a wonderful Mass at St Edmund Campion Church as the Revd Dr Judith Thomas was received into the Roman Catholic community. I was invited to share a few words and I said that Judith's priestly ministry to us had been wonderful. Her story telling and preaching of God's word, her pastoral and spiritual care and her warmth of character have been a fantastic support to us all at All Saints.

We are taught that God loves each one of us by name. Judith has done this remarkable ministry sharing God's love with us and knowing each of us by name. May she and Ron share the pilgrim journey through this life, with you the people of God, the Body of Christ here at Edmund Campion towards the Heavenly Banquet. We at All Saints will be alongside them both on that wonderful journey.

Resources

Sunday 4th October Harvest Festival

Eucharist 10.00am: We will be supporting Food Share with donations of tinned goods and/or cash.

Sundays@Six via Zoom led for us by Revd Sally and members of St Luke's community.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82362755135?pwd=bmZYRkdibW1SUjhtaHINMnBDTzF1QT09>

Meeting ID: 823 6275 5135

Passcode: 737489

Wednesday 7th October 10.00am: Requiem Eucharist

Night Prayer Thursdays 8.00pm – 8.30pm on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHziv

Thursday 1 October

Anthony Ashley Cooper Earl of Shaftsbury and Social Reformer 1885.

Psalms 62

Mark 13.14-23

Hymn 592 As the Deer pants for the Water

Looking ahead to Sunday 11 October I will be offering the 8.00am BCP at All Saints. If this is a service that you once enjoyed and found comfort from please come along and join us.

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.

Prayer Intentions

Dear Lord, we gather here today in this church to give thanks for your abundant gifts to us. We see today the gift of food and recognise our need to share with those in need.

Lord in your mercy

Lord we pray today for The Brett Foundation and for their ministry to those in need of support. We pray today for Food Share and the attempt to share your gifts with those who are hungry.

Lord in your mercy

We are reminded today at Harvest that we are human beings asked to live in your image. You challenge us to see life as a gift to be cherished so that we may value creation and fellow human beings.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for all in our world who work only for selfish gain. Help them and us to see that working purely for personal pride and wealth misses the challenge to serve you which leads to everlasting joy.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for the lives of those who feel neglected. Speak into their lives so that they may be assured of your presence so that their lives may be transformed.

Lord in your mercy

We remember all those today who do not feel your presence through feeling alone. Maybe through illness, the worry they have for a family member that is seriously ill. We pray too for those who have lost jobs and are worried for their futures.

Lord in your mercy

We pray for those in other parts of the world where there is a lack of food, clean water and shelter. We give thanks for Aid agencies across the world that support people by providing help and also those that create opportunities for employment.

Lord in your mercy

We remember all those who we have loved and lost and we pray that they are now in your presence at the heavenly banquet.

Lord in your mercy

The Gospel reminds us that resentment and anger lead us into sin, but generosity and forgiveness lead us into love. In our celebration we therefore call to mind the needs of others as we intercede for the Church and all God's children scattered throughout the world.

We pray for the church that we may be a community that welcomes all people. May we recognise God's unconditional love for us so that we can live lives knowing that we are valued.

We pray Lord for the grace to notice your loving presence in more clearly. Please help us to note when we have accepted or turned away from the opportunities to grow in love.

We pray that as a community we are the pilgrim church walking together, supporting and encouraging one another always willing to offer forgiveness to our fellow pilgrims.

We continue to pray for those in society that are recovering from the coronavirus. We remember Nick Moss, Fr John Chadwick and we pray too for Mark, the grandson of Anita and all those seeking God's loving assurance at this time.

We continue to pray for our schools. Help us, Lord, to discern the best way forward to support our local schools. We give thanks for the opportunities for assemblies and for Open the Book and the chance to share the wonderful stories of faith.

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

We remember the departed including Patricia Ann Johnson, Anne Harrison, our departed loved ones and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

Help us to see those we meet in society through compassionate eyes. Send us out to be a shining light to you and a encouraging light to those in confusion, aloneness and darkness.

Father, the life and death of each of us has its influence on others. Clothe us with the gifts of mercy and true compassion such that we may be true witnesses to the gospel and grant our prayers which we make through Christ Our Lord.

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

Fr Jeremy

Worship for Sunday 4 OCTOBER HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sounds of Worship Brian Graves

The conclusion of the harvest has always been a time of celebration for people of all cultures through-out the world. It represents the culmination of all the work involved in sowing, cultivating, gathering crops and the creation of a store of food to sustain their communities until the next harvest.

The celebration of a church service harvest festival as we might think of it today was revived by Robert Steven Hawker (1803 – 1875) in 1843 during his long incumbency at Morwenstow, Cornwall. No harvest festival would be complete without the hymn "We plough the fields and scatter" AM 290, words by Matthias Claudius (1740 - 1815) and translated from German to English by Jane Montgomery Campbell (1817 - 1878) and set to a tune by Johann Abraham Peter Schulz (1747 – 1800) and harmonised by John Bacchus Dykes (1823 – 1876).

In his 20s, the German poet and journalist Matthias Claudius ceased being an active Christian, but when he was 37 he became seriously ill, which precipitated his return to the Christian faith. During his illness he wrote a number of poems including religious ones. In 1782, a friend invited him to dinner and asked him to bring an example of his Christian poems. Claudius wrote "Wir pflügen und wir streuen" based on Psalm 144 for this occasion. The poem had 17 verses, in due course it was published in "Asinus omnia sua secum portans" as a peasant's song. From there, it was published in number of German hymnbooks. The majority of which cut most of the original 17 verses with the publishers often deciding to start with the 3rd verse which started with "Wir pflügen und wir streuen" (English: We plough the fields and scatter).

In 1862 in England, Jane Montgomery Campbell, who was proficient in the German language, started to translate a number of German hymns into English. She worked creating a version of "Wir pflügen und wir streuen" in English, where she did not make a strict translation from the original German but did retain the hymn's original focus of giving thanks to God for the harvest. She taught the hymn to the children at the Church of England parish school in London where her father was the rector. The hymn was later published in Charles Bere's "Garland of Songs and Children's Chorale Book".

Johann Abraham Peter Schulz was a German musician, most renowned today for writing the tune used for "We plough the Fields and scatter". However, in his day, he was a well-regarded professional music teacher, composer, keyboard player and Music Director for the Court of several European royal families.

1. We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand:
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.
Refrain:
*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
for all his love.*

2. He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
the winds and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread.
Refrain

3. We thank thee then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer
for all thy love imparts,
and, that thou most desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts.
Refrain

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWHMZsf-Ano>

I have chosen the Anthem "Thou visitest the Earth" as the second musical sound for Harvest. It is an anthem the choir has sung several times over the years. The words are taken from Psalm 65, verses 9 & 12. The music is by Maurice Greene (1696 – 1755).

Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it: and crownest the year with thy goodness

This anthem is in fact a section for tenor solo and choir from a larger work "Thou, O God art praised in Sion".

Most of the anthems we use tend to be based on several verses of words and sung straight through without much if any repetition of the words. However, "Thou visitest the earth" repeats the same short phrase of words multiple times. It also repeats the basic musical sections but contrasts a solo voice with a full choir version. Greene was acquainted with Handel for some years and this anthem feels strongly influenced by the style of an aria from a Handel Oratorio.

Greene was a chorister at St Paul's cathedral in London and succeeded Daniel Purcell as organist of St Andrew's Holborn in 1717. In 1727 he was appointed organist of St Paul's. In 1730 he was chosen Professor of Music at Cambridge University.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCjaTjFVCTU>

The final hymn is “Come, ye thankful people, come,” AM 282 words by Henry Alford (1810 – 1871) and tune St George’s Windsor by George Job Elvey (1816 – 1893)

The first verse of this hymn is the expected thanksgiving for a harvest safely gathered-in but the remaining verses make reference to Jesus’s parable of the wheat and tares as told in Matthew 13. This reading was the gospel for Trinity 6 a few weeks ago.

Alford, Henry, D.D., was the son of the Rev. Henry Alford, Rector of Aston Sandford. Alford junior was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge and after his graduation was ordained to the Curacy of Ampton in 1833. Subsequently he was vicar of Wymeswold in Leicestershire, 1835-1853, then incumbent of Quebec Chapel, London, 1853-1857 and finally Dean of Canterbury Cathedral. In addition, he held several important academic appointments, including that of a Fellow of Trinity, and the Hulsean Lectureship, 1841-2. Alford was a noted scholar and poet although he is now remembered for his edition of the Greek Testament and one or two hymns.

The composer of the tune St George’s Windsor, Sir George Elvey, was appointed to the position of organist of St George’s chapel Windsor in 1835, when he was only 19 years of age. At the time, the choir was in a very sorry state and he rapidly set about improving the standards and achievement of the music at the Chapel which he maintained to wide acclaim during his 47 year tenure as organist.

1. Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest-home:
all be safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come;
raise the song of harvest home!
2. All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
grant, O harvest Lord, that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.
3. For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take the harvest home;
from the field shall purge away
all that doth offend, that day;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.
4. Then, thou Church Triumphant, come,
Raise the song of harvest home;
All be safely gathered in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in God’s garner to abide;
come, ten thousand angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home!

COLLECT

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 9: 6 - 15

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

GOSPEL Luke 12: 16 – 30

Jesus told the people a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.' He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.'

SERMON Fr Jeremy

After a week's break we are back with the weekly newsletter. Last time I wrote I had just viewed the 'Extinction' program with David Attenborough. I mentioned that 1.9 million km of land had been lost since 2000, 1 million wildlife species threatened with extinction and 1.3bn tonnes of food lost across the world. In Britain we waste 40% and as Attenborough said 'We are stewards of the world and one of the things to do is transform the way we produce and consume food, reducing food waste and eating with a lower environmental impact.'

With this in mind, I used my new superfast internet to surf the net and discover what the supermarkets are doing to address this problem. According to the government group WRAP 270,000 tonnes of usable food is wasted, the majority of which comes from households. I discovered Tesco's claim that from their 6,553 stores serving 50,000,000 shoppers they waste less than 1%. They use the Fare Share app which supports local communities with surplus produce. Baked food goes into animal feed for livestock and oils are converted in bio-diesels. 400 stores offer food to Food Banks which has led to 14.5 million meals since 2013. They also have the imperfect carrot scheme (My title not theirs!) where Tesco's have discovered that an odd-shaped carrot can taste the same as a perfectly formed carrot!

Customers are offered a discount if they purchase strange looking carrots and are delighted to discover that chopped up in say a stew that nobody notices the difference.

Co-Op Food has 2,500 stores in the UK and they too are using the Fare Share Food Cloud app providing 120,000 meals to those in need. They are also selling out of date products for 10p things like tinned goods, pasta and food sealed in packets. Don't worry they are not trying to sell us 'Use by' products such as meat and dairy, though my late step-father Reg would not have wasted these either.

There are other supermarkets playing their part but clearly food wastage and the way we produce food is important. Last week I visited Monkey World and Brownsea Island with Monika. In Monkey World I read how all the monkeys had been rescued from the food chain or as pets etc. At Brownsea Island we sadly witnessed a red squirrel looking as if it was near the end of its life. I can't imagine that the squirrel was suffering due to anything untoward concerning the Island, but it was sad to witness anyway. The red squirrel is one of a quarter of native mammals threatened by extinction.

Attenborough says he has been commenting on the issues found in 'Extinction' since the 1960's but has only been listened too in recent times. You could say that he has been talking to himself! And it's with this idea of talking to oneself that I turn to Luke's Gospel. In it we find a soliloquy as found in a play when the actor goes to the side of the stage with only the audience listening. In the story of the rich man who finds himself offered an even larger market share we find the words 'And he thought/discussed with himself, what shall I do for I have nowhere to store my crops? Then he said 'I will do this. I will pull down my barns and build larger ones; and I will store all my grain and my goods.' And I will say to myself, 'Self! You have ample goods laid up for many years, relax, eat and be merry.'

This story highlights that it is all about self and not about the needs of others. My barns, my grain, my goods... It reminds me of the Bart Simpson grace that I have shared many times. 'Thank-you God for nothing we got this ourselves.' Kenneth Bailey highlights in his book *Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes* that this thinking would have been opposed to the times. People would make decisions having discussed with family and friends and maybe through discernment with God. There is no awareness that this gift came from God and might be used for the benefit of others, which is the thinking of late 20th century Bart Simpson. St Augustine of North Africa commenting on this text said, 'He did not realise that the bellies of the poor were much safer storerooms than his barns.' Note too that there is no mention of the employees who have done the work.

The man in this text recognises the physical or bodily side of life but not the spiritual. He fails to note as the hymn 'As the deer pants for the water..' by Martin Nystrom stresses it would be wise to see beyond our earthly life to see the heavenly realm. Who will our inheritance belong to then? Our wealth, our days are on loan from God, no good trying to secure our wealth if we fail to secure our life.

We should be aware then of the problem of modernity that suggests that humanity is in control of its own destiny. (At no time in my life have I been made more aware of this than during this Pandemic). We must reflect that life and belongings are on loan from God and we are stewards of how we use them. Surely Augustine is right 'Our souls are restless until they rest in God.' However, we may still prefer as Bailey is quick to point out 'My soul is restless until I am sure of an abundance of food and drink.'

This Harvest weekend please try to support Food Share in Maidenhead either by offering some tins or by offering some financial donations. Meanwhile I am off to try and make something with those mushrooms my mother gave me that have passed their sell-by date!

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN.

REFLECTION by Greg Hurst

Early on Sunday morning we set off on a rare car journey into London. It's been some years since I've driven to the capital: normally we take the train. This time, however, we had a boot full of belongings to help our elder daughter settle into her room in a university hall of residence.

She debated over the summer whether to go at all. With lectures moved online because of coronavirus restrictions she thought of living at home, studying remotely and commuting to the campus if face to face events were offered. Finally she decided to move to London to embrace as much of the student experience as she could, virus or not. She has switched universities to start a Master's course at King's College London, so is starting afresh.

The roads were eerily quiet; we arrived quickly. We stopped briefly at her hall of residence – we couldn't all go up to her room – and instead went for a walk along the Thames. The river lapped beside us, swirling brown, a chill wind whipped about and the waterside was quiet. We found a restaurant for a farewell meal, walked back to her halls and said goodbye: no kisses, just a smile and touching of elbows.

What kind of university experience she was embarking upon was hard to guess. With talk of tighter restrictions looming for London, none of us knew when and how we would meet again. These are uncertain times for students, who risk missing out academically and socially. We must hope youthful resilience will see them through.

TUESDAY CLUB 6th October 7.30pm via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89827497321?pwd=VmF3eUI2S1FyV0YreU5MR2pUOS9gdz09>

Meeting ID: 898 2749 7321

Passcode: 138759

For our first meeting of the new Tuesday Club season we're looking forward to welcoming Jeanette Lock to share her story on Zoom. Non-members will be very welcome to join us.

Jan Moss, Club Leader

QUENCH CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP OPENING HOURS

Quench is now open 6 days a week from Monday to Saturday 10.30am – 3.00pm