

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

PARISH NEWS

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Issue 15

24 June 2020



Dear parishioners and friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

This week as we tentatively make steps back to the church, I thought that it might be helpful to share with you the journey that some people I suspect are encountering during this time of the Pandemic. The words that I am sharing with you are those I prepared for the community at Burnham Abbey earlier this week. The words are based on Matthew chapter 6 verses 12-14 where Jesus offers two sorts of gates.

I have shared with members of this community of All Saints pilgrimages to Walsingham over 13 or 14 years and one pilgrimage to the Holy Land. As part of my sabbatical many of you will be aware of the pilgrimage of 'The Way' to Santiago that I took in 2013 and again in 2014 from Porto in Portugal to Santiago. The text above from Matthew has Jesus offering a wide entry to destruction and a narrow gate that leads to life. This weekend we will welcome people to All Saints where we will have social distancing and two metre markings which will make the narrow gate an awful lot tighter! However when I visited Jerusalem with members of this congregation in 2009 alongside parishioners from St Matthew's, Bethnal Green I recall the old walled city, with wide roadways for cars to go through and other streets that are steep and narrow with steps. These are the places where we can find the wonderful aroma of incense that we purchase for use for the Eucharist at All Saints.

When Jesus used the idea of the wide and narrow gates, we can assume that people of his day would have known what he was talking about. He seems to be saying that the journey through the narrow gate is more difficult. You sometimes have to wait your turn and sometimes you even miss the gate and need to turn back. Equally you cannot just join the crowds and go with the flow but rather you need to make choices and decisions as you try to follow Jesus.

My other experience of pilgrimages to Santiago in 2013-14 helped me reflect upon my life by enabling me to slow down. I shared in Northern Spain and in Portugal with people of all ages and from different cultures and countries who had encountered different problems in their lives the way to the meaning of life. When we join in pilgrimage, we can grow closer to each other, become more in touch with our true selves and deepen our relationship with God and with fellow humanity. Ultimately it is the weaving together of our lives with God's that we can discover more of our true self. By living life as a pilgrim, God is at the beginning and the end of our life here on earth. We begin to realise that we are journeying towards the Kingdom of God in the presence of God. I experienced this presence when I took a photo of Burgos early one morning when I was feeling down and found that the photo had taken my shadow and taken me down the centre of the way or the pilgrim path. I had not known that the image my photo would give me and yet as I walked, I felt a lightness of step and heart. Maybe I found the narrow way even in a wide expanse of land in Northern Spain.

Pilgrimage in Spain slowed me down. It made me notice things about myself, about other human beings, and enabled me to enjoy the beauty of God's world. It helped me to enjoy other people's company without looking at my watch and helped me to notice God at work in others and within nature. The fast and busy world we live in perhaps stops us noticing the narrow path to the journey walking in the presence of God.

If this pandemic has taught us anything it is that by slowing down, we can appreciate life and turn towards God and form deeper spiritual lives and possibly better everyday living. I know that the Pandemic has cost many lives, there is much sadness, trauma and worry. Many people have lost loved ones, many others worry about their jobs and their ability to look after loved ones. However, others have noticed more family time together, the opportunity to keep connected with their neighbours particularly those in need. We journey towards the heavenly banquet knowing that it is already prepared for us but also knowing that we need to experience God's grace, live true authentic lives that love God and our neighbour, particularly those that are vulnerable. As some of us step slowly back to the church building let us pray for the time when we can gather to partake of the Body of Christ together so that we can truly share the Body of Christ in the world.

This Newsletter contains an attachment concerning the return to All Saints for private prayer on Sunday 28th June from 10.00am until 12noon. Please read the document carefully before returning so that you can play your part in keeping both yourself and others safe.

This week's resources include this newsletter with Jo Sheppard's sermon for the third Sunday after Trinity as well as Brian's music and commentary, the readings and collect all for your use. Sue Nordberg continues to offer us prayer resources, Greg Hurst offers another reflection and Louise O'Dwyer Bernard more resources for families to use with children.

If you have internet access, please see the All Saints website where you can find the link to services from the Church of England and the Oxford Diocese. The dialling for the diocesan service is 01865 920930.

This week's recorded service from church will focus on the theme of SS Peter & Paul and again you can find this via the web-site.

Night Prayer Thursdays 8.00pm – 8.30pm on Zoom

Why not join me for Night Prayer on Zoom? You can download Zoom for free, and you join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHziv

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>

The texts this week will be Psalm 62, Romans 10: 11-end and Debbie Firth will be singing the first and final verse of 'In Christ Alone' by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty.

Bishop Steven's Blog can be found at <https://blogs.oxford.anglican.org/>

For those of you using the Blue Church of England prayer book for Morning Prayer here are the readings for this week.

Friday: Psalm 51, Judges 6:25-end, Luke 14: 12-24

Saturday: Psalm 68, Judges 7, Luke 14: 25-end

Sunday: Psalm 68, Deuteronomy 15: 1-11, Acts 27: 33-end

Monday: Psalm 71, Isaiah 49:1-6, Acts 11: 1-18

Tuesday Psalm 73, Judges 9: 1-21, Luke 15: 11-end

Wednesday Psalm 77, Judges 9: 22-end, Luke 16: 1-18

Thursday Psalm 78: 1-39, Judges 11: 1-11, Luke 16: 19-end

Prayer Intentions

We pray for Mike and Lorraine Ansell and that God's loving presence supports them as Mike continues his treatment

We pray for Nick Moss and for his wife Louise, their children George and Lucy and we give thanks for the improvement in Nick's health and his sharing of Father's Day on Sunday.

We pray for Rosemary Tyson, as she undergoes surgery this week.

Pray for Charles Pickett, good friend of Rene Wilson who died recently

We celebrate the wonderful news that Sue and Stanley Brown have a new granddaughter Poppy Rae who was born on 16th June to William and Jennifer.

We pray for the funeral Directors as they continue to support people in times of bereavement.

We pray for the schools, for staff, parents and children as they learn at home and at school. We pray for Boyn Hill School, All Saints Juniors, Altwood, Larchfield, Claires' Court, Highfield and Desborough schools from our parish.

We continue to pray for all those who had planned weddings and baptisms with us at All Saints. We hope that we will be able to share these sacraments with people soon.

We pray for our NHS and Care Workers and give thanks for their dedication to caring for others. We remember John Bolodeoku, Helen Broad, Joanne Hawkes, Karen, Carole Nicholson, Richard Stafford, Eleanor Kershaw, Ricky and Dagma Powley, Magda Gozdek and Emmanuel.

We continue to give thanks for the Pastoral Care team making phone calls, emails, food shopping and other practical support and acts of kindness.

We remember our Nursing homes of Boyne Grove Day Centre, Clara Court, Normanhurst and Larchfield. We pray too for our congregational members that are now living in care homes.

We pray for our Senior Saints, Tuesday Club, Young Saints, Tiny Saints and All Sorts. We give thanks for the commitment of members and leaders.

Eucharist

Sharing as Giving

In this chapter Geoffrey Howard reflects upon the words 'we who share Christ's Body, live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others;'

He tells a story from parish ministry in 1989 on a cold December afternoon. He receives a telephone call from a young woman he has prepared for confirmation when she was in the choir. She is now 22, unmarried with a year old child. She phones Geoffrey and is in floods of tears. A few minutes later he opens the door to the young woman who is soaked. He invites them into the warm vicarage and she tells him the story that her boyfriend has left her and her sister owes her money. She has no food, no money to put in the meter. The baby is crying in a dirty nappy. Fr Howard's wife brings a disposable nappy, some warm milk and he gives Deborah the woman some money for nappies and money for the meter. He doesn't give too much or she'll waste it.

There are three days before the giro arrives and so Geoffrey goes to his cupboard to see what tins he has. 'though we are many, we are one body because we all share in the one bread'. He finds in the cupboards, three tins of beans, two tins of tomatoes, a tin of ham and a tin of tuna. Next is a tin of salmon for Christmas. I could give her the salmon, but she probably won't like it. 'we being many are one body if we dare to share the one bread.' But Lord, says Geoffrey the salmon is special as it's for Christmas. He hears Jesus speak to him. What is Christmas if it's not for me?' 'In as much as you have done it unto the least of these....' Fr Geoffrey knows the verse but pleads that if he helps

Deborah, he needs to help the others like her. If he gives to all he has nothing for himself. He says, 'Lord if I could see you in them, I would give them everything.' Why don't you then?

Fr Geoffrey recalls giving the favourite family Christmas decoration and his treasured leather jacket. One was sold by the person he gave it too and the jacket who he had given to a man with no coat was thrown in a bin by the end of the week. Geoffrey reflects, he is still holding the salmon and the empty carrier bag. Dare I?

Bible study

Read Romans 8: 31-39

This is a famous text that has been used many times at funeral services by clergy. Tom Wright asks the following questions.

In verses 31-39 the same question is asked in four slightly different ways and then answered each time, creating a sustained excitement, like a symphony entering its final moments. Summarise the question that is asked and the answers offered.

How are these last verses of Romans 8 a great assurance for us in the tension of life and the suffering of the world?

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

Fr Jeremy

Worship for Sunday 28 June THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (or St Peter & St Paul)

Sounds of Worship Brian Graves

Today is designated as either St Peter and St Paul or Trinity 3. One advantage of the weekly Parish News is that we can do both, so the sermon refers to Trinity 3, but I have chosen music relating to Peter and Paul.

The gospel describes how the disciple, Simon Peter, hails Jesus as the "Messiah, the Son of the living God". Jesus responds by acknowledging that Peter's understanding of the nature of Jesus was revealed by God not by instruction from other people. Peter's simple, but profound statement demonstrates his role as a true and faithful believer. Jesus declares Peter to be the foundation stone, or on which his church will be built.

Peter and Paul are linked as founders of the Christian church but they represent two important elements of that foundation. Peter was a disciple who had known Jesus in person. Paul never met Jesus during his time on earth but came to faith through his encounter with the risen Lord on the road to Damascus. Thus, Paul represents the experience of coming to faith that all subsequent generations of believers have done.

The hymns I have chosen develop the theme of celebrating the growth of the church through discipleship.

The first hymn is "Lift high the cross" (AM 707), the original version of this text was written in 1887 for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel by George W. Kitchin (1827-1912). The hymn was intended to be used for a festival service at Winchester Cathedral. Michael R. Newbolt (1874-1956) revised the text in twelve couplets for the 1916 Supplement to Hymns Ancient and Modern where it was set to the tune Crucifer composed by Sidney Nicholson (1875-1947) who was one of the editors of this publication.

"Lift High the Cross" describes various manifestations of Christ's cross: from the initial rallying-the-troops, to the power of the cross to defeat evil, then salvation brought about through Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection and finally as a sign of peace and source of praise.

Kitchin was a scholar and Anglican clergyman who spent most of his life in academic institutions. Educated at Christ Church, Oxford, he was ordained in 1852. He served initially as a headmaster at Twyford, near Winchester, and then as a tutor at Oxford (1863-1883). He was appointed Dean of Winchester Cathedral from 1883 to 1894 and of Durham Cathedral from 1894 to 1912, Kitchin was also chancellor of Durham University.

Newbolt was educated at St. John's College, Oxford, and ordained as priest in the Church of England in 1900. He ministered at several churches during the early part of his career and then became principal of the Missionary College in Dorchester (1910-1916). From 1916 to 1927 he served St. Michael and All Angels Church in Brighton and from 1927 to 1946 was a canon at Chester Cathedral.

Nicholson was educated at Rugby School, New College, Oxford and the Royal College of Music. He then served as organist at Barnet Parish Church (1897 - 1903), Carlisle Cathedral (1904), Lower Chapel, Eton College (1904 - 1908), Manchester Cathedral (1908 - 1919), and Westminster Abbey (1919 - 1928).

During his career, Nicholson became so concerned at the sad state of choral music in the parish churches throughout the country that in 1927 he founded the School of English Church Music, now the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). All Saints has been a long-term member of the RSCM which continues today as the leading institution devoted to encouraging church music-making.

Nicholson, retired to the small village of Woodchurch, near Ashford in Kent. I mention this because my father was brought-up near Woodchurch and my childhood holidays were spent in the area. As a teenager, I used to practice and play the occasional Sunday service at the parish church (also an All Saints). I often wondered whether Nicholson also practiced there during his retirement.

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adores his sacred name.*

1. Come, let us follow where our captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God:
2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine:
3. Each new-born soldier of the Crucified
bears on his brow the seal of him who died:
4. This is the sign which Satan's legions fear
and angels veil their faces to revere:
5. Saved by the cross whereon their Lord was slain,
Earth's fallen children their lost home regain:
6. From north and south, from east and west they raise
in growing unison their song of praise:
7. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us unto thee:

8. Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves our souls from death and hell:
9. From farthest regions let them homage bring,
and on his cross adore their Saviour King:
10. Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace:
11. For thy blest cross which doth for all atone
creation's praises rise before thy throne:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08JSCEHR-p8>

The second hymn is "Lord you give the great commission" (AM 499). The words by Jeffery W. Rowthorn (born Newport, Gwent, Wales, 1934) were written in 1978 while he was Chapel Minister at Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut. The text was first published in *Laudamus* (1980), a hymnal supplement edited by Rowthorn and used at the Yale Divinity School.

Rowthorn graduated from Cambridge and Oxford Universities, Union Theological Seminary in New York, and Cuddesdon Theological College in Oxford. Ordained in 1963 in the Church of England, he served several congregations in England before emigrating to the United States, where he was chaplain at Union Theological Seminary and a faculty member in liturgics at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, which he helped to establish. He was then elected Suffragan Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut. Rowthorn has since moved to Paris, where he is Bishop in Charge of the American Churches in Europe.

The words of the hymn speak to us of being empowered to pursue the church's mission. Then describe the key sacraments, of baptism, communion, show love and find blessing. Each verse ends with the lines:

"With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry."

The hymn can be sung to several tunes, e.g. *Austria*, which written by Joseph Haydn for a string quartet and later adopted as the national anthem of Austria but one of the most powerful options is *Abbot's Leigh* by Cyril V. Taylor (1907-1992). *Abbot's Leigh* was written in May 1941 when Taylor was working for the Religious Broadcasting Department of the BBC. The BBC had received complaints about the use of the tune "*Austria*" during the war. First printed in a leaflet, *Abbot's Leigh* was published in *Hymns Ancient and Modern Revised* (1950). The tune is named after a village near Bristol where Taylor composed the tune. Bristol was the wartime headquarters for the BBC.

Taylor was a chorister at Magdalen College School, Oxford, and studied at Christ Church, Oxford, and Westcott House, Cambridge. Ordained a priest in the Church of England in 1932, he served the church as both pastor and musician. His positions included being a producer in the religious broadcasting department of the BBC (1939-1953), chaplain of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) (1953-1958), vicar of Cerne Abbas in Dorsetshire (1958-1969), and precentor of Salisbury Cathedral (1969-1975).

1. Lord, you give the great commission:
'Heal the sick and preach the Word.'
Lest the Church neglect its mission,
And the Gospel go unheard,
Help us witness to Your purpose
With renewed integrity,
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

2. Lord, You call us to Your service:
In My name baptize and teach.
That the world may trust Your promise,
Life abundant meant for each,
Give us all new fervor, draw us
Closer in community.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

3. Lord, You make the common holy:
This My body, this My blood.
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
Daily lift life heavenward,
Asking that the world around us
Share your children's liberty
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

4. Lord, You show us love's true measure:
Father, what they do, forgive.
Yet we hoard as private treasure
All that You so freely give.
May Your care and mercy lead us
To a just society.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

5. Lord, You bless with words assuring:
I am with you to the end.
Faith and hope and love restoring,
May we serve as You intend
And, amid the cares that claim us,
Hold in mind eternity.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

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

The final hymn today is the very familiar "Fight the good fight" (AM 631). Which was written by Rev. John Samuel Bewley Monsell and published in "Hymns of Love and Praise for the Church's Year" (1863). It can be sung to various tunes including Duke Street (attributed to John Hatton) which is the tune we normally use at All Saints.

The hymn is based on the King James Bible's version of Paul's First Epistle to Timothy, Chapter 6, verse 12: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

The first line of each verse summarise the Paul's words: "Fight the good fight," "lay hold on life," "run the straight race," "cast care aside", and "faint not nor fear."

John Samuel Bewley Monsell was the son of Thomas Bewley Monsell, Archdeacon of Derry. He was born in St. Columb's, Londonderry, and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, receiving a BA in 1832 (and an LL.D in 1856). He was ordained deacon in 1834, and priest in 1835.

He was responsible for the building or rebuilding of three of the churches where he served: Ramoan, at Ballycastle, County Antrim, St Jude, Englefield Green, during his incumbency at Egham, and St. Nicolas' Church, Guildford.

While inspecting the rebuilding of the latter, Monsell fell from a boulder, and subsequently died in 1875 from an infected wound.

His brother Charles, also a clergyman, married Harriet O'Brien, who re-founded the Community of St John Baptist at Clewer near Windsor after her husband's death in Italy. Through Charles and Harriet, John Monsell became influenced by the Oxford Movement and an admirer of Edward Bouverie Pusey.

Thus, this hymn has a number of local connections, not the least of which is the foundation of the Community of St John Baptist at Clewer. Again, I have to declare an interest because in the early 1990's I was organist for the community.

The tune, Duke Street is taken from "A Select Collection of Psalm and Hymn Tunes...by the late Henry Boyd, published in Glasgow." And is attributed to John Warrington Hatton (c1710- 1793) who was christened in Warrington, Lancashire. He supposedly lived on Duke Street, hence the tune's name. Very little is known about Hatton, but he was most likely a Presbyterian, and the story goes that he was killed in a stagecoach accident.

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might;
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
lay hold on life, and it shall be
thy joy and crown eternally.

2 Run the straight race through God's good grace,
lift up thine eyes, and seek his face;
life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

3 Cast care aside, upon thy guide;
his boundless mercy will provide;
trust, and the trusting soul shall prove,
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

4 Faint not, nor fear, his arms are near;
he changeth not, and thou art dear;
only believe, and thou shalt see
that Christ is all in all to thee.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVu7epY8WNE>

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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 for ever. **Amen.**

OT READING Jeremiah 28: 5-9

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; and the prophet Jeremiah said, 'Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfil the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. 8 The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.'

EPISTLE Romans 6:12-23

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from

death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL **Matthew 10: 40-42**

Jesus said to the twelve: 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

SERMON **Jo Sheppard**

Good News for All!

Holy everlasting Lord, through your mercy and love let us be still and hear your wisdom today as we reflect upon your holy word. Amen

I do not want to dwell on the Old Testament, where Jerimiah warns of a lengthy exile to Babylonia. This hit me hard and feels too close to home with our own current exile. Albeit to our own homes, the last few months have been scary and made many of us feel despondent! Nor did I want to dwell on Pauls epistle where we are reminded to control our sinful ways. As I discerned the scripture, having read these verses before the Gospel, I felt desperate and thought how I can write about these, even if God directs me to, when we are in the midst of covid-19. As I write the lockdown is easing but covid-19 is still out there, still making as distant from our loved ones, still making people extremely ill and it is still killing people. At the time of writing the numbers were going down, and I pray they still do, and we do not get a second wave, but we have a long way to go before normality resumes. I did not want to discern or read about a time of panic and distress or be reminded of my sins, of which I am sure there are many. I know these verses can teach us a lot and bring us closer to God, but I needed something positive, something that would lift my spirits.

Then I read the Gospel. A short passage but an overwhelming message of hope. A message that through Jesus Christ there is light and as his children we are saved.

The gospel passages read over the last couple of weeks were about Jesus sending out his disciples to do his works. He talked of the various perils and pitfalls that his disciples would encounter and that some people would turn their backs on them and send them away. After these warnings, this Gospel is about hope and if we have allegiance to Jesus, we will receive a reward. The reward being salvation and eternal life with him. Further, those who accept us as we carry out our mission, Jesus tells us it will be as if he is receiving, or welcoming people as if he were there and therefore also his father.

This receiving or welcoming makes me consider our own welcome and how we can be hospitable now and in the future. How can we receive others whilst being apart? I know we have a long way to go to come out of the pandemic but is it right to look to the future. How can we as a church, as Christ's ambassadors, welcome people? Do I even dare to even think of welcome and hospitality at the moment? I guess as this is where my discernment has led me, Jesus is saying yes, I should. I believe we need to strictly following the Covid-19 social distancing guidelines, which does mean many of us or people we care about will have to remain in lockdown for potentially months, but

we still have a mission and we need to share the gifts God has given us. We need to recognise and support one another as disciples of Christ.

In Fr Jeremy's sermon for Trinity he spoke of learning from this time so in the future, in addition to our existing mission such as visiting care homes and open the book, we can reach out to those who are unable attend church. It was good to be reminded of what we are doing within our community. As part of the welcome committee we are asking how we can welcome people in different ways. Or said in another way, how can we carry out God's mission and receive people in Jesus' community at All Saints Church. How can we courageously step into the world and welcome all into our church? This might mean changing the way we think. But we need to remember the mission Jesus has set us. That we are to go out into the world and welcome others and support those who are doing this. We cannot do this in person at the moment but as Fr Jeremy said we have teams of people helping those in need with shopping, phoning people, meeting in groups over video and in chat rooms and importantly our weekly newsletter. We have adapted to stay in touch.

At the extended PCC before the lockdown we were presented with the findings of recent interviews in the community. Through this work, and with our Anglo Catholic tradition at the heart of who we are, we want to be a vibrant liberal church who welcomes everyone and encourage spiritual growth. Let us remember within this Jesus is there with his mission for us and his message of hope. He is at the heart of everything we do. He is sat with us in the pews, there with us at evening prayer and on the sofa with us on Zoom. We need to allow the spirit to guide us in these endeavours and not be afraid. We need to remember that Jesus is alongside us and as we welcome people, however that might be, he is receiving them with us and promises us his reward.

Amongst all this his message is that we embrace him and inevitability that can mean change. We have learnt through this pandemic that we can change. We have reached out as a church in many ways because we have been forced to do so. As Fr Jeremy said we can keep some of these changes when we are allowed back to church, keep, and expand on them. It makes me wonder that through necessity we changed, we have a necessity to change to carry out Jesus Christ's mission, yes not to sin anymore as in Paul's letter but also to welcome people, who sometimes will be different from us. Change is scary but we have proven to ourselves we can do this.

The Gospel speaks of a Cup of Water. ***Anyone who gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones, in the name of a disciple – I'm telling you the truth they won't go short of their reward'***. A cup of water can be the smallest thing to give or the largest if you are thirsty. What Jesus is saying is that even if you can only give a small amount you will receive his reward. Therefore, doing what we can in the name of Christ, no matter how small, is what matters.

How can we as individuals welcome those called to our church, whether it is remotely or eventually as the pandemic wanes in person? As members of All Saints Church we are Christ's ambassadors in our parish, and further if we consider the Oak project in Kenya. Jesus has set us a mission, individually but also as a community and we need one another and our different gifts for our community and mission to work. We all have a vocation. Some are tasked by God to join the Priesthood, whilst others are tasked by God to bring up their children in the Christian faith, others are tasked to maintain the church by cleaning or coordinating the new floor. I suspect we have many tasks and different missions that we called to do. I think if we all pull together, we can come back to church and build on what we have. A vibrant community where those in the local area want to worship and those who are lost find a way to Christ.

We have for a long time wanted to welcome new people to our church, families but also anyone who wants to worship and get to know Christ better or for the first time. We are an Anglo Catholic church and our traditions and way of worship are important to us. I know they are to me and I believe they bring me closer to God. With many different styles of worship how can we tell people that our worship, although traditional is vibrant and full of love, praise and brings us into communion with God and community with each other. That the Eucharist, even though we sadly cannot receive now, feeds us and as Fr Jeremy says, 'we partake of the body of Christ to become the body of Christ and go out in the community'. We are an extension of Christ and are not just his disciples but his body on earth. In this gospel Jesus confirms this. Without a shadow of doubt, we will receive his reward and those we welcome will receive it too. The presence of God is not just blind faith, we have proof of Jesus being with us. I feel his

presence in the Eucharist but also when I pray and speak to God, when I read and discern scripture, when I go about God's mission. I feel more complete and as John Ainslie said once in Walsingham, I feel like the person I am meant to be. I know others feel this too and many have had spiritual experiences that can only come from God.

The Israelites believed in the presence of God in the desert after the exodus and temple in Jerusalem before it was destroyed, and as Christians we believe in the presence of God through the spirit and that the Spirit is everywhere. When Jesus says he will receive us and those we welcome as if it were him, he means it, and all of this tells me it is true.

I am not sure I have the personality or gifts to go knocking on doors, and do not have the answers for the way forward, but I can feel secure in the knowledge that my, our, mission (which is ever developing) will be rewarded and those who welcome us are welcoming Jesus and through him welcome God the father. Not only are we saving ourselves through mission but those who welcome us too.

I end with a quote from Tom Wright, in *Matthew for Everyone*. ***'The challenge of Jesus' sayings is matched by the remarkable promises he makes to those who accept them and live by them. He will 'own' us before his father in heaven. Those who lose their lives will find them. And, at the end, the remarkable chain reaction of those who serve their fellow human beings out of love for Jesus. Give a cup of cold water to one of Jesus' least insignificant followers; whatever you do for Jesus, you do, not only just for Jesus, but for God. If Jesus' people today could relearn this simple but profound lesson, the church might once again be able to go out with a message to challenge and change people's hearts.'***

Amen

YOUNG SAINTS AT HOME

We have put together another lesson plan, including a story and activity, for parents or carers to lead a session with their children. This lesson is called ***Everything is Changing*** and **the plan is attached to the newsletter**. If you have downloaded any of these lessons for your children do let us know by contacting Jenny Wilks at jwilks@jwa-consultancy.co.uk or Louise O'Dwyer Barnard at lodwyerbarnard@hotmail.co.uk. We really would value your feedback!

INSPIRATIONS

So through the clouds of Calvary there shines his face, and I believe that evil dies and good lives on, loves on, and conquers all. All war must end in peace. These clouds are lies. They cannot last. The blue sky is the truth. For God is love. Such is my faith, and such my reasons for it, and I find them strong enough. And you? You want to argue? Well, I can't. It's a choice, and I choose Christ.

'Faith' by Rev. G.A Studdert-Kennedy, WW1 army chaplain, who got his nickname Woodbine Willie because he gave out the comforting cigarettes as he ministered to the physical & spiritual needs of his men in the trenches. He was decorated with the Military Cross after running into no man's land to help the wounded, and became an outspoken advocate for the working class.

So let us, fifty times a day if need be, set before us a picture of the *real God*, utterly loving, whatever we have done, infinitely strong, resourceful and purposeful, finding this way for us when that way is closed for whatever reason, who will not allow us to be lost and defeated if we trust in him, and who is generous beyond all thoughts of generosity. Let us commit ourselves to him every morning, for the real God is to be trusted, and whatever happens to us – called, as it may be by others, failure, catastrophe or defeat- we shall know that eternal love still bears us on its bosom, and that we shall find our way home without regret.

Prescription for Anxiety Leslie Weatherhead, Christian theologian, preacher.

I never dreamt that time and hope could mean so much as they do now

Nelson Mandela . 1970, from Robben Island

And I couldn't resist this :

It's always nice to know you're making some kind of impression on the world, which is why a friend of mine, a vicar's wife, was delighted when a member of the congregation came up to her after a service to tell her what an inspiration she was to the women in the church. Jo positively glowed with pleasure and tried to decide which of her many gifts and talents she had so selflessly and hitherto so thanklessly employed for the good of the church were at last bearing fruit. Was it perhaps her prayer life? Her leadership gifts? Her occasional preaching, or confidence as a woman? On the other hand it may well have been her counselling skills; the loving, pastoral care she was always at pains to provide; the patient way she dealt with a constant stream of callers and telephone calls. The possibilities seemed endless. She could hardly contain her curiosity as she waited in anticipation to discover what it was about her ministry that was so appreciated.

In what way am I an Inspiration ? she asked.

'No one', came the enthusiastic reply, 'until you came to the church, was wearing coloured tights. You've given us all permission to go out and buy some'.

'Tapestry of Voices' by Michele Guinness, author, broadcaster, vicar's wife

Please send them to nordbergjs@aol.com or

Sue Nordberg, Twelfth House, Ray Mead Rd., Maidenhead SL6 8NJ

REFLECTION by Greg Hurst

At last the clouds seem to be parting. The relaxation to lockdown measures means that, from next weekend, many everyday activities can resume after a three-month hiatus. Or can they?

Some are straightforward. Reopening hairdressers should mean that, bar the odd facemask, dollop of hand sanitiser and blast of ventilation, the business of cropping (and dying) our hair can resume as before.

I'm grateful to my wife for twice hacking back my hair during the lockdown but I sense we'd prefer leaving the next crop to a professional.

The return of church services will be especially welcome but we await guidance on whether we may sing hymns. I will leave discussion on any links between choral singing and coronavirus infection to experts; I only know All Saints has a rich tradition of church music and, to me, hymn-singing is central to collective worship. I would miss it very much.

I love to visit museums and art galleries and I'm delighted they can reopen. But with timed tickets, one-way systems, face coverings and hands-on exhibits taped off like a crime scene, I may not rush back. I've missed occasional family meals in restaurants and the odd visit to the pub. But being served at tables by staff in visors or ordering via an app after registering my name and address? The appeal does lessen. And can I really meet dozens of friends at a bar but only invite one other household to my home?

I'm desperate for our economy to rally and normality to return. But it's going to take some adjustment.

Foodshare Needs

The Maidenhead Advertiser always has a list of things most needed each week, and there are food drop-off points all over Maidenhead; **see attachment [foodshare drop-off](#) on Newsletter Issue 8** to find one near you.

On the Web + YouTube

There is a growing library of music to be accessed through our website. Please save this link in your browser

<https://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk/information-children-and-familie/services/holy-week-2020-easter-services-use-home/>

And if you're missing the church why not take a virtual tour by going to

<http://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk/welcome-about-all-saints/3d-virtual-tour-all-saints-church/>

Catch up with Fr Jeremy videos at:

<http://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk/welcome-about-all-saints/what-we-believe/fr-jeremys-video-reflections-vicarage/>

All Saints YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnPQFuQQ-Yb0ffFuT1Mjv8A/>

There are now twenty recordings plus six music tracks in the channel.

Raise donations for All Saints Church, Maidenhead, at no cost to yourself, whenever you shop online:-

A few years ago, All Saints signed up with easyfundraising who collect small donations from selected on-line shopping, at no cost to the shopper.

During this time the Church has raised £256 and has 15 registered supporters.

If you have not registered please do consider doing so, especially with the current amount of on-line shopping taking place – it is very easy at:-

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/allsaintsboynehill/>

A wide range of on-line shops are signed up to this. More information can be found above or on our website at:-

<http://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk/welcome-about-all-saints/giving/easy-fund-raising/>

A big thank you to those who are already registered and contributing, at no cost to themselves, we hope that more people will join.

Rod Broad Treasurer

PS from the post-Covid frontline

Last Friday morning we were surprised and delighted to receive a video showing our son, Nick, walking confidently along a hospital corridor, albeit with a walking frame. Another landmark last weekend was a Father's Day curry and a cold beer taken in by his wife. Baby steps, but ones in the right direction.

Mike & Jan Moss