

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

PARISH NEWS

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Issue 84 1 December 2021



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

I begin by writing thank you to all those who contributed to a wonderful weekend! Having finally returned to the church our first week back was amazing with a wedding, Holy Baptism, two commemoration services supporting vulnerable people, an excellent class of school children from Larchfield who shared their thoughts with me on what Christmas means to people today. Then the Rainbows joined us to discover the meaning of Christmas. Thanks to Sue Wright and Sue Nordberg for their support with refreshments for Larchfield school which was well received.

On Saturday we then began preparation for our first ever Christmas Market. It was a dream of mine to offer a market in the natural surroundings of the Quadrangle. Thanks to the planning team of Jayne Chapman, Tanya Fullarton and Stella Harding who put in hours and hours of work for weeks beginning in September that dream was fulfilled! Thank you too for the support of people from the congregation and from the wider community who helped run the stalls, offer drinks, and prepare food. A word of mention too for Father Christmas, Mr Nick Kirk who was so successful that he needed to contact Santa for extra gifts!

Perhaps the best part of the day was the community atmosphere that was created. We had beautiful Christmas music provided by a neighbour called Bence, the wonderfully entertaining 'Maidenhead Tuneless Choir', our own Church choir who had a good audience within the church and finally the Salvation Army Band who gave the Christmas message of hope through music. I would like to say how good it was to see the Sikh community and Karnail Pannu providing delicious food and welcoming hospitality. There were many interesting stalls and all the visitors enjoyed themselves. We believe we had 420 paying visitors and perhaps 600 people when you include the choirs, stall holders and children. The Market has raised approximately £3,000.

A typical Christmas Market has pretty stalls, glistening decorations, local produce and hopefully children enjoying themselves and choirs singing. The key also is that a 'Christ Child' market begins the Advent journey towards the Incarnation, God with us as a vulnerable baby boy who grew to be the man that offers hope to a troubled world. God inspires us through his Spirit to be a light to the world. It was moving to conclude the market with all ages singing favourite Christmas carols alongside the Salvation Army. We pray that we may find the people with energy to plan for next year as I hope that you like me would love to see this market become an annual event even though it might be nice to find a way of finding some outdoor heating!

I cannot end the news without thanking the church community for welcoming Our Deputy Mayor Cllr Gary Muir (A member of the Datchet Royal British Legion), Our member of Parliament for Maidenhead, The Rt Honourable Theresa May (Who shared the excellent address), our local councillor Gurpreet Bhagra and members of the Royal British Legion of Holyport and Maidenhead. The service marked both the 100th anniversary of the service of the Royal British Legion as well as marking the beginning of Advent. It was great to see a choir, a serving team and a refreshment team back on a Sunday morning as well as sides people. It was the first time we have had full teams since the beginning of the Pandemic.

SHARING LOVE AT CHRISTMAS

St Peter's Church last year celebrated 'Sharing Love at Christmas'. Their congregation, with the aid of a matched grant, offered over 500 Christmas boxes to people around the town. I was invited to share 20 and I did so with some of the All Saints congregation. This year St Peter's have invited all the churches of the town to share in this wonderful project. With the aid of the grant a lovely box can be offered at £5. You can donate at <https://www.stpetersmaidenhead.org.uk/lovechristmas> and the closing date for donations is Tuesday 14 December.

RESOURCES THIS WEEK

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| Wednesday 1 December | <i>7.30pm Bishop Steven's visit to the Deanery at Holy Trinity, Cookham. All welcome.</i> |
| Thursday 2 December | <i>2.45pm Open the Book at All Saints School
8.00pm Choir Practice in the Parish Centre</i> |
| Friday 3 December | 10.00am Tiny Saints in the Parish Centre
10.00am Boyn Hill Infants Christingle in Church
<i>10.00am – 7.00pm Christmas Tree Festival at St Luke's</i> |
| Saturday 4 December | <i>10.00am – 7.00pm Christmas Tree Festival at St Luke's</i> |
| Sunday 5 December | 10.00am Eucharist in Church Second Sunday in Advent
12 noon Baptism of Emilia Lavine
<i>12 noon – 6.00pm Christmas Tree Festival at St Luke's
6.00pm Closing Service for Christmas Tree Festival at t Luke's</i> |
| Monday 6 December | <i>10.30am Maidenhead Arts Society tour of the Church</i> |
| Tuesday 7 December | <i>9.00am Open the Book Larchfield School
11.00am Community Empowerment meeting in the Parish Centre</i> |
| Wednesday 8 December | 10.00am Eucharist in the Church |

PRAYER INTENTIONS

As we light the Advent candle this weekend, may its flame be a light that shines for all to see – a sign that Jesus is for all. May we know God's presence and power as we gather in the name of Jesus, who is the light of the world.

There are signs of God and we are blind to them, there are voices that cry out and we close our ears to them. There are signs of people's need and we do not see them, and cries of those in pain and we pass them by. There are signs of God's Kingdom to be seen, and the voice of the Holy Spirit to be heard. O God forgive us when we ignore you and ignore our neighbours, near and far.

We pray for this community of All Saints we celebrate with others the chance once again to worship in this building and to reach out in mission. We give thanks for last weekend's celebration of service with the Royal British Legion and for the celebration of the coming of the Christ Child at the Christmas Market.

We pray and give thanks for the 'Sharing Love at Christmas' project and for the 'Operation Christmas Child' that supports people across the World. May we be a community that is filled with compassion for our neighbours.

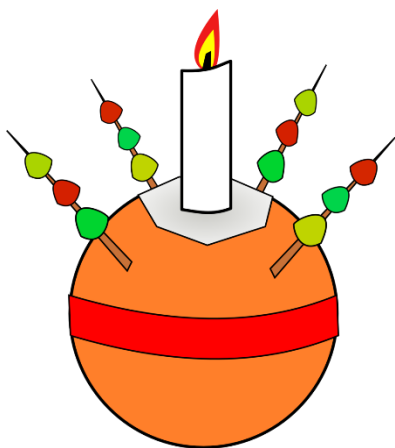
We pray for all those in need. We remember Danielle, Nick, Fr John, Dave Hill, his wife Eliza, Dave's parents, Ann and Chris, his in-laws, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Joan Poolman, Doreen Hill, Vivienne Paterson, John Hicks, Christel Kirschner, Ursula Hutchinson, Mikhail and Luidmila, Birmta Zadinane, and Kirsty Banner.

We pray for all the recently departed and all our departed loved ones and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Heavenly Father, like John the Baptist, may our prayers rise like songs in the wilderness and find favour in your hearing. May we glory in your kindness and be comforted by your granting of our prayers which we make through Christ our Lord.

May we all be blessed by God's love this week,

Fr Jeremy



Christingle Advance Notice

There will be a collection for the Children's Society at the Christingle service on Sunday 12 December. (Suggested donations of £1). Helpers will be needed to make the Christingles between 10.00am and 11.30am on Saturday 11 December in the Parish Centre. Please sign the list at the back of the church and add your contact details if you can help, even for a short time. New volunteers are always welcome and the job is quickly completed with lots of help.

Anne Clark

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL UPDATE

So far 57 boxes have been donated from All Saints folk. Thank you!

HELP NEEDED FOR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN THE CHURCH

If anyone is able to help welcoming our schools as they visit for their Christmas Services please email Sue, our Parish Administrator, allsaintsboynehill@gmail.com Ideally it would be lovely to have 3 people at each. Services as below:

Wednesday 8 December 1.30pm – 3.00pm All Saints Rehearsal

Wednesday 8 December 6.00pm – 7.00pm All Saints Service

Worship for Sunday 5 December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and forever. Amen

EPISTLE **Philippians 1: 3 - 11**

My brothers and sisters, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL **Luke 3: 1 - 6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."'

Ride & Stride 2021 – Update

We have received the following message from the Ride & Stride Coordinator:

"Just to say a huge thank you for all your help and support for Ride+Stride 2021. The full amount is not yet known but, with a few more churches to come plus Gift Aid, we are well over £17,000 already which is fantastic.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year - and should anyone be interested Berkshire Historic Churches Trust (BHCT) Christmas cards are available

here: <http://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk/christmas-cards/>