

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

PARISH NEWS

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

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Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

I have just spent some time picking up branches from trees that have been blown down in the garden following Friday's storm. The wind today (Monday morning) still seems strong, and I am looking anxiously at a tree at the front of the garden that is rocking dangerously close to the brand-new fence kindly put up by the Diocese of Oxford. As I picked up the branches, I noticed that two of the older panels at the rear of the building have collapsed in a heap and so I have sent an email to report to the Diocese my latest need. I am sure that I am not alone and there are far more serious things to worry about during a storm. Over the weekend we heard how three people lost their lives and many people suffered serious injury. Some people lost property and vehicles and any nervous flyers (I am not that confident myself having flown to Spain in a storm in 1987) couldn't have enjoyed the landing experiences on Friday.

It was interesting to note as I prepared the sermon on Saturday that the gospel from Luke concerned Jesus calming a storm. I shared with the congregation a story from a book that I was given in 1994 for my priesting by the former Bishop of Edinburgh, Richard Holloway called 'Crossfire – Faith and Doubt in an Age of Certainty.' Holloway asks us to imagine that we are on board a ship in the South Atlantic, hundreds of miles from anywhere, cruising towards South America. You have dined well and played bridge and the captain has announced that you will move into another time zone at midnight. You finish your brandy and tell your bridge partners that you are turning in for the night. Before going to bed though you go up on deck to change your watch and as you do so the ship dips and your watch slips over the side. You try to make a grab and you too go overboard. By the time you surface the ship is a distance away. No one will notice your disappearance as you have said you are going to bed. You panic and shout for help, but the ship is moving further away. You remember other people who have fallen overboard and by keeping calm have survived. You swim, overwhelmed by images of family and friends, you are engulfed in loss and longing.

You hear the words of Psalm 130 'Out of the deep I cry unto thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.' You struggle and slip in and out of consciousness, will there be consolation for you as you sink, any presence to steady you or are you utterly alone, unnoticed as you slip below the waves?

Most of us, thankfully will never face this extreme situation described by Holloway. However, we heard at our Sustainability morning on Saturday a video recording taken from COP 26 in Glasgow of a young Kenyan woman crying out for us to have compassion or a big heart to see the trouble global warming is causing in her country. People are dying of starvation. Think too of a person who has lost family members at a young age, and being left alone as a consequence. The last two years of the Pandemic has left many people suffering fear and mental health issues. Is there any comfort from a loving God?

If these are still too extreme, then think back to childhood and recall any occasion when you were in a crowd and lost your mother and father? The feeling of abandonment and panic is a feeling I can recall. This experience leads us to show compassion when we see a crying child alone. I have just finished the 2020 Booker Prize winner by Douglas Stuart 'Shuggie Bain' about a young boy growing up in poverty in Glasgow and trying to support his alcoholic mother. The feelings of abandonment in this book are powerful though if you are feeling the winter blues leave it to happier times to read.

However, compassionate we are, we probably sigh with relief that we are not people in some of the circumstances listed above. However, we will all at some point die and will we be alone and will death mark the end of conscious existence? Jesus in the story of the storm is highlighting his divinity. If we look at his life though, he was not a superhero. He died young, he died forecasting his death and he went through fear. When we contemplate Jesus' Gethsemane experience, he prayed that his death might pass. With Peter, James, and John he said 'Abba, father all things are possible, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours. Even Jesus feared death.

The courageous people are those like Daniel Hume who fought in Iraq. When Daniel's funeral took place at All Saints it was said in some quarters of the press that he was fearless. His father told me that in reality Daniel expressed fear of the unknown and yet overcame the fear to become a great colleague who supported others through their worries. Overcoming fear is true courageousness and that is what I preached at Daniel's service. Jesus overcomes fear too by saying 'Not my will, Father, but yours.'

We return though to the question are we alone in the universe or is there someone to whom we belong, to whom we return? Does consciousness cease at death? Jesus even on the cross says My God, My God Why hath thou forsaken me? These seem like words of weakness, but they have spoken to me over the years of God who is incarnate, who came among us as a vulnerable boy, to come alongside humanity and who gave his life that we might have new and transformed life.

The storms of life produce horrible anxiety, a sense of hopelessness and painful loss. However, God is in this struggle with us. I was asked by a friend this week about how I would approach the funeral of my cousin Richard. Would I lead as a cousin or a priest? I like to think I will lead from both positions. I will speak of the wonderful memories I have of a man who influenced me through humour, music, sport, love and encouragement. As a priest I will preach with the belief that death is not the end. From the position of fear, desolation and pain Christ is present with us in our own struggles and we are not alone. Christ then handed himself over and won for us new and transformed life. Yes, I believe that Jesus will calm the storm and death will not be the end.

RESOURCES THIS WEEK

Thursday 24 February 9.15am Morning Prayer in Church
8.00pm Choir Practice in the Parish Centre

Friday 25 9.15am Morning Prayer in Church
10.00am Tiny Saints in the Parish Centre *Lent & Zaccheus*

Sunday 27 10.00am Eucharist for The Sunday Next Before Lent
We will look at how we might approach Lent by making lifestyle changes as members of an EcoChurch.

Sunday 27

12 noon Holy Baptism

Please pray for Ethan Markey, his parents, Philip Markey and Sophie James, and his godparents.

4.00pm Sundays @4

The theme of Compassion. We will explore how to imagine another person's difficult living conditions and how we might respond with compassion, using Harper Lee's famous book, *To kill a Mockingbird* as an example. Following the service, we will share activities and then hot dogs in the Parish Centre.

Tuesday 1 March

11.00am

Funeral of Doreen Jamieson at Slough Crematorium

1.30pm

Christian Union at Altwood School

2.30pm

Shrove Tuesday Assembly at All Saints School

2.30pm

Tuesday Club in the Parish Centre (see p 6)

Ash Wednesday 2

10.00am

Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

7.30pm

Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

Thursday 3 March 7.00pm Stations of the Cross led by Fr John – This will be the first of our Stations that will take place throughout Lent.

Thank you to all those who supported the Sustainability morning on Saturday 19 February. Thank you to our guest speaker Mike Bucknell and to members of our Sustainability group who planned the morning. Please see Jenny Wilks report on p 5. Throughout Lent there will be films to watch each week with a discussion point on Sustainability of the World's resources. See p 5 for details and sign the list at the back of church.

Lent Retreat Opportunity. Some of you will know the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham. They are offering a mid-week Lenten Retreat towards the end of March; this will be mainly silent, with addresses and a daily Eucharist in the Shrine Church. If you would like further details, please ask Fr John or consult www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Lord, we approach you as people climbing your holy mountain, hoping to meet you there. May we be changed by our encounter. May we be strengthened to face the world with renewed courage and faith.

We continue to pray for the peaceful resolution to the tensions over the Ukraine.

We give thanks for last weekend's Sustainability morning as we discovered small ways in which we might respect God's creation. We look forward this Lent to discovering ways in which we might give things up and perhaps take up new interests to support the sustainability of God's world. We pray too for Fairtrade fortnight.

We pray for our Family service at 4.00pm as we seek ways to become more compassionate towards other people. May those who worship at this service be challenged to care for others and enjoy the activities and hospitality.

We pray today for Ethan, Phil and Sophie as they are baptised and become members of the Body of Christ.

For those of our parish and congregation in any kind of need; for the lonely, the anxious and the depressed; for those who mourn the loss of a loved one; for those who are ill at home or in care homes and hospital.

We pray for Suzette, Danielle, Nick, Fr John, Dave Hill, his wife Eliza, Dave's parents and Ann and Chris, his in-laws, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Mikhail, Doreen Hill, John Hicks, Roger and Jane Baldery, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner, Carol Aitkin, Harrison Hawkes and Sally Morgan. May they know God's loving care and healing presence.

For the recently departed: Richard Adams, Paddy Fox, Doreen Jamieson, Neville Ewart Redway, John Herbert, and Jamie Neal Ferguson. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

*May we all be blessed by God's love this week
Fr Jeremy*

Worship for Sunday 27 February The Sunday Next Before Lent

COLLECT

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever. Amen.

OT READING Exodus 34: 29 - 35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

GOSPEL Luke 9: 28 — 36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' Peter did not know what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And the disciples kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

MUSIC

Prelude: Lento *F Bridge*
Opening Hymn: AM 2 Christ whose glory fills the skies
Mass Setting: Rite A
Gradual: AM 279 Jesus, on the mountain peak
Offertory: AM 42 Longing for light
Communion: AM 464 Sweet Sacrament divine
Closing Hymn: AM 719 Lord the light of your love is shining
Postlude: Christ, der du bist der helle Tag BWV 766 *J S Bach*

Sustainability Open Morning last Saturday

Over 20 people spent the morning focusing on Caring for God's Creation. We heard how by seeing God's presence in creation that we as humans have a role to play caring for the world we live in. The Oxford Diocese aspires to net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and are keen for churches to become 'EcoChurches'. We have registered for this programme which looks at Worship and teaching, management of buildings and land, community and global engagement and lifestyle and are working towards a Bronze award.

Mike Buckland from St Mary's, Wargrave shared some stories and examples of what they have been doing over a 10 year journey, both spiritually (Lent courses, sermons in September for Creation Tide) and practically (bike racks, "Let it grow zone" in churchyard). St Mary's holds an EcoChurch Silver award. Climate change will affect us here in the UK but not as much as in some other parts of the world. Here is the link to a short video clip that we watched of Elizabeth Wathuti from Kenya speaking at COP26. It's titled "Please open your hearts".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMvzJu79WGO>

We had interesting discussions on 'Loving our Neighbour' in a sustainability context and gathered some hints and tips on being more sustainable (which will feature in future newsletters). And the Fairtrade refreshments went down a treat! We've already had some successes: recycling of disability aids and a move to local milk delivery! The Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches collect used disability aids which are no longer needed to ship overseas to developing countries. If you have wheelchairs, crutches, walking sticks, walking frames etc, please contact Ken Smith ken.smith1@btinternet.com. For local milk delivery in glass (not plastic) bottles, try Parkview Dairy <http://www.parkviewdairy.co.uk/> or other local suppliers.

Thanks to all who participated. If you are interested in getting involved with or have ideas for our sustainability work, please contact Jenny Wilks, Fr Jeremy or another member of the sustainability group. And watch out for some films with an environmental theme being shown during Lent...

Lent Films with a Sustainability Theme

These films will be shown on the following Wednesdays at 7.30pm at Mike and Jan Moss's house, Woodstock, Boyn Hill Avenue. Please sign up on the sheets at the back of the church if you'd like to attend, so we can estimate numbers.

Wednesday 16 March: Erin Brockovich

Based on a true story of Erin Brockowich (Julia Roberts) who takes on a large energy corporation on its culpability for ground water contamination and resulting medical issues for nearby residents.

Wednesday 23 March: A Life on our Planet

David Attenborough documentary where he reflects on the devastating changes he's witnessed during his lifetime and reveals how together we can address the biggest challenges facing life on our planet.

Wednesday 30 March: TBA

Wednesday 6 April: TBA

For those who are reluctant to go out in the evening, if you let Fr Jeremy know, it might be possible to arrange an afternoon showing at 2.30pm on Thursdays at the Vicarage if there is sufficient interest.

There will also be a film and refreshments for **children** and the young at heart at the Vicarage on

Sunday 13 March at 3.00pm: WALL-E

A Pixar animated film set in the distant future where a small waste-collecting robot inadvertently embarks on a space journey that will ultimately decide the fate of mankind.

TUESDAY CLUB 2 .30pm 1 March in the Parish Centre

We're delighted to welcome back Jennifer James from the National Trust. She is an excellent speaker who will be telling us about *Cliveden in the War Years*. Tuesday Club meetings are open to all –there is a small charge of £2 for non-members but we're always delighted to welcome guests. *Jan Moss*

Renaissance Voices Concert in Church 7.00pm Saturday 5 March

A Maidenhead early music choir marking their 22nd anniversary with a special concert in church. Tickets are priced at £15.00. and can be purchased at the door and will include refreshments. Card payments are welcome. The programme will be conducted by a local well-known organist and choir master Robert Jones. This will include Thomas Luis de Victoria's atmospheric Requiem Mass for 6 voices composed in the 16th century and the exuberant Purcell ode written in 1694 on the occasion of the birthday of Queen Mary II, Come Ye Sons of Art. The Purcell will include professional soloists and a band of instrumentalists. You will be very warmly welcomed

MARLOW PLAYERS MURDER MYSTERY SATURDAY 12 MARCH 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Calamity in the Cloisters written by Andrew Stafford (gosh, that name seems familiar).

It's set in a suitably anonymous Cathedral, where the passions run high, the opening croquet match sets the scene for vicious tactics and manoeuvring in which the very different and distinctive personalities of a number of cathedral worthies results in the sudden death of one of their number in very curious circumstances. Tickets £10 each from marlowplayers.org.uk.box-office. Bring along your own food and drink for interval picnics.

AN INVITATION TO MEET ANNE ATKINS 8.00pm Thursday 7 April at Maidenhead Synagogue

Come and argue (probably not compulsory!) with Anne Atkins about her novels, BBC broadcasts and controversial views. Her talk will be at Maidenhead Synagogue, Grenfell Lodge, Ray Park Road, Maidenhead, SL6 8QX (there is ample parking inside the Synagogue car park). It is being held under the auspices of the Council of Christians and Jews, and will be followed by refreshments and a chance to chat to her in person. There is no charge, but it is important you let us know if you are coming, along with any guests, by emailing the Synagogue office: admin@maidshul.org



ALL SAINTS

Bovne Hill | Maidenhead

SUNDAYS @ 4

**Please join us on Sunday, 27th
February at 4pm**

Our theme this week is '*Compassion*'.
we will explore how to imagine the life of another
person's difficult living conditions and how we
might respond with compassion. We use Harper
Lee's famous book, 'To Kill A Mocking Bird' as an
example

"You never really
understand a person until
you consider things from
his point of view ... until you
climb into his skin and walk
around in it."

-Atticus Finch
To Kill a Mockingbird



Following the service
the theme and enjoy



we will share activities on
hotdogs, snacks and drinks

Everyone is

very welcome

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