

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

PARISH NEWS

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Issue 45 3 February 2021



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

I would like to share with you in this week's newsletter the plan for Lent at All Saints. I am going to share with you the idea from Sheffield Diocese that asks us to become 'Lights for Christ' and to seek a 'Personal Rule of Life' that will help us re-affirm our calling to be Christ-like and living as lights for Christ in our everyday lives by:

1. Receiving Christ's light as his friends
2. Walking in Christ's light as his followers
3. Reflecting Christ's light to those around us

The rule of life can help each one of us to perhaps become more Christ-like in our response to God's love and grace. Equally at a time when mental health, well-being and flourishing are key issues for society the belief is that following a more contemplative way of living may benefit us. When we live life, we often become people who are 'human doings' rather than human beings.

Anyone that witnessed me running around the church last week trying to get ready to welcome a family for a funeral will know how unhelpful the frantic human doing can become. On arriving at church, I discovered the heating wasn't working. As I frantically rushed to put the funeral signs outside the church, I noticed that it was warmer outside than inside the church. Having dashed to put the signs out I discovered that I had lost the keys to the church. Fortunately, Chris, who is painting the Birinus room at the moment, heard me drop the keys within the bell tower and in a place where they would have gone missing perhaps until the next Tower restoration project which Ken and I hope is some way off.

Having made a frantic phone call to Ken, he managed with the help of our heating engineers to get the heating working only to discover that All Saints was going to become the scene for the next Open the Book story about Noah's ark and the flood as one of the radiators was found to be leaking! On return from Slough crematorium your human 'being' of a vicar was so concerned to rush back to Maidenhead to get on with human doing that he missed the Maidenhead junction so as to take a detour around his old hunting ground that is Bracknell.

Why have I shared this with you? Well in all honesty I am in need of the Personal Rule of Life' as much as anyone else. The vision to be more Christ-like seems attractive to me.

1. Receiving – We need to pray and seek God's will by participating in the life and worship of the church. We will seek to read and reflect on the scriptures and open our lives to the Holy Spirit. We would love to receive too the gift of transformed life in Holy Communion.

2. Walking – We want to enjoy God’s gifts with gratitude, living by the teaching of Jesus. We may desire to give generously to others and to the mission of the church. We will seek to give and receive forgiveness and perhaps most importantly as I drift aimlessly down the M4 seek a balance between work and rest.
3. Reflecting – Can we love and pray for those we live and work with. Can we share Jesus in our communities by serving those in need? Can we challenge injustice and promote peace? Finally, can we care for God’s creation. On the final point I refer you to the readings and sermon this week which looks at the issues concerning the sustainability of creation.

In John’s Gospel chapter 15 there is that wonderful story of the vine and the branches. The call as Christians is to live lives that are in the presence of the Holy Spirit reflecting Jesus’ light to the world.

To try and help us find a way of praying that will engage us in living Christlike lives I am going to share some of the book that a number of us bought at Walsingham a few years ago. The book is called ‘The Jesuit Guide to Almost Everything’ by James Martin, SJ.

The chapters I will look at are:

1. Chapter two – The Six Paths – Wednesday 24th February
2. Chapter four - Beautiful Yesterdays – Wednesday 3rd March
3. Chapter five - Beginning to pray – Wednesday 10th March
4. Chapter seven – God meets you where you are – Wednesday 17th March
5. Chapter thirteen – Be who you is! – Wednesday 24th March

Each session will begin at 7.30pm and end at 8.30pm. we will include some content from the chapter, a little discussion and a time of prayer to conclude.

All Saints Church, as a community, has signed up to the Diocese of Oxford ‘Come and See’ vision. This Lenten initiative based on the text from John 1.35-42 can be found on <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see> As I wrote in last week’s newsletter you will find Bishop Steven’s podcasts, testimony films and Daily pilgrim reflections. Bishop Steven’s podcasts will use the Ignatian contemplative model too as he looks at the meaning of the creeds.

Thank you!

Thank you to all those who have contributed towards helping All Saints School provide the tablets ‘Kindle Fires’ for students to use. We have raised £1250 which is beyond my hope for 20 tablets at £1000! Thank you for your generosity in supporting our vision to help the education of the young within our community.

Thank you too for the responses so far in helping us raise funds for the restoration of the floor. People have been paying donations to the church including one or two kind people who have found an extra amount to give due to saving money during the Pandemic. This is wonderful generosity as we seek to move forward with a church that is safe for mission and worship.

Sad News

As I write this I have heard of the death of Captain Sir Tom Moore, who inspired so many at the start of the pandemic when he attempted to walk 100 laps of his garden before his 100th birthday to raise £1000 for the NHS. Not only did he complete the challenge, he raised over 32 million pounds! More importantly he inspired so many other people to take on challenges of their own, and many charities who were suffering because of the pandemic benefitted.

RESOURCES THIS WEEK:

Thursday 4 February

7.00pm Art Course Part 2 on Zoom with Matt Firth

The third of four evenings looking at Art from Venice, Byzantine art, Italian Renaissance from Rome and Florence and Northern Renaissance from The Netherlands. This week: Icons and Byzantine Art

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85756336207?pwd=OUZiYzMrQXhTeEVQR0p0eIYyRThHdz09>

Meeting ID: 857 5633 6207

Passcode: 793540

8.00pm Night Prayer on Zoom

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

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHziv

Psalm 18: 1-7 and Luke 4: 14-21

Hymn: Love divine, all loves excelling

Sunday 7 February

10.00am Morning Prayer for the Second Sunday before Lent

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89125977023?pwd=R0FaSjNMK2ExNnoyVGZXNTZ4cHhwdz09>

Meeting ID: 891 2597 7023

Passcode: 369388

For the Diocesan Link for the Eucharist please see the front page of our website. 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

6.00pm Sundays@Six with St Luke's & The Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83960514349?pwd=YUxYSVZSVjF1cDVTdS85cDRlZm95UT09>

Meeting ID: 839 6051 4349

Passcode: 945101

Monday 8 February 7.30pm Prayer Group on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85011600714?pwd=Y0x2VWpMQ3JFUSStsQ0plbEFLOEQrQT09>

Meeting ID: 850 1160 0714

Passcode: 553120

This group, following the example of our successful 'Church on the Move' from a decade ago, focusses on an area of mission that we would like to pray for. If you have anyone you would like us to pray for please let Fr Jeremy know.

Wednesday 10 February 10.30am – 11.00am

Coffee morning on zoom – all you need is a cup of coffee or tea and perhaps a biscuit or two. Then feel free to share a conversation.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85980143355?pwd=Nm1kZmNLdHhNmRG1sajF1OEp1MVI2QT09>

Meeting ID: 859 8014 3355

Passcode: 412790

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please keep in your prayers Frederick Sharpe, Jeanette Darke, Grace Churchward, Daniel Honey, Rachel Gibbs and all those whose anniversary of death falls at this time.

We remember Captain Sir Tom Moore and his family.

Please keep Jackie, Sarah, Joshua, Margaret and Jo in your prayers at this very sad time following the tragic death of Daniel.

We continue to pray for Mandy Rogers, Danielle, Nick, Fr John, Sister Mary Philip, Roger Baldery, Doreen Hill and Mark.

We pray for Chris Harding studying in the Lebanon.

We continue to pray for the NHS workers and those from our community involved in the vaccination programme, especially Jeanette and Dianne. We give thanks that over nine million people have now received their first vaccination.

We welcome Lindy as she begins a new chapter in her life living at the Almshouses. We pray that she may be very happy living as part of the Almshouse community.

We pray for Food Share as they continue to provide for people struggling to offer food to children.

Prayer for the Nation:

Loving God, at this time of crisis when so many are suffering, we pray for our nation and our world. Give our leaders wisdom, our Health service strength, our people hope.

Lead us through these parched and difficult days to the fresh springs of joy and comfort that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Finally, from Charlie Mackesy "Isn't it odd. We can only see our outsides, but nearly everything happens on the inside."

Pray the Parish:

The list of streets in our Parish was attached to Issue 41: this week we remember the ones beginning with E & F. Church of England to 'Pray for the Nation' via the link below.

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/202011/15348%20PftN%20Booklet_6th%20PROOF.pdf

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

Fr Jeremy

Worship for SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY The Second Sunday before Lent

Sounds of Worship

Brian Graves

This Sunday the gospel is the famous John 1: 1-14, "In the beginning was the word..." which we previously heard on Christmas Day. However, as hear in the Psalm and Epistle this time the context is different. As Paul says "In Jesus "everything on heaven and earth was created""and through him God chose to reconcile the whole universe to himself, making peace through the shedding of blood upon the cross – to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, through him alone"

The first hymn today builds on Paul's words to renew the ministry of the church on earth and the second hymn is a hymn of praise about the power of God as a well-spring of life.

"Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing" AM 497 words by Timothy Dudley-Smith (b1926) set to the Londonderry Air which is an "Air from County Derry" from "Irish Music as noted by George Petrie 1903.

The three verses of the hymn address respectively, the desire for renewal and re-creation; the power of the holy spirit to drive renewed faith and common purpose and determination to achieve God's vision. Each verse is structured into a series of two line phrases, the first is a prayer-like request and the second is a reminder to the supplicant of the purpose of the request.

We had another hymn by Timothy Dudley-Smith three weeks ago (Epiphany 2) so I will omit the biographical detail for him.

The hymn is set to the very well-known tune "Londonderry Air" ("O Danny Boy"). The origins of this tune are obscure. It was first recorded by Jane Ross of Limavady in the County of Londonderry, Ireland who submitted it to the music collector George Petrie who published it in "The Ancient Music of Ireland" 1855. However, no other collectors of Irish folk melodies encountered this particular tune. More recent research suggests that it is an amalgamation of two tunes clouded by a possibly idiosyncratic performance which Jane Ross recorded. However, there is no doubt that it is an ancient tune and one which stirs the hearts of people whether they are Irish or not.

1. Lord of the church, we pray for our renewing:
Christ over all, our undivided aim.
Fire of the Spirit, burn for our enduing,
wind of the Spirit, fan the living flame!
We turn to Christ amid our fear and failing,
the will that lacks the courage to be free,
the weary labours, all but unavailing,
to bring us nearer what a church should be.

2. Lord of the church, we seek a Father's blessing,
a true repentance and a faith restored,
a swift obedience and a new possessing,
filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord!
We turn to Christ from all our restless striving,
unnumbered voices with a single prayer:
the living water for our souls' reviving,
in Christ to live, and love and serve and care.

3. Lord of the church, we long for our uniting,
true to one calling, by one vision stirred;
one cross proclaiming and one creed reciting,
one in the truth of Jesus and his word.
So lead us on; till toil and trouble ended,
one church triumphant one new song shall sing,
to praise his glory, risen and ascended,
Christ over all, the everlasting King!

(Words © Timothy Dudley-Smith in Europe and Africa © Hope Publishing Company for the United States of America and the rest of the world)

Lord of the Church we pray for our renewing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mouj27bFBhk>

The second hymn, "Lights abode, celestial Salem" AM 710 set to the tune Regent Square, describes the glories of heaven. Verse 5 refers to the heavenly rewards available to all, whatever the burdens and labour we have had to endure in our earthly lives.

The words are a translation made by John Mason Neale (1818 – 1866) of a Latin text "Jerusalem luminosa" written by Thomas à Kempis (c1380 – 1471). Neale was a prolific writer and translator. Although ordained as a priest in the Church of England, he was dogged by ill health and unable to sustain the rigours of a parish priest. In 1846 however, he was appointed Warden of Sackville College, a 17th Century alms-house in East Grinstead. At Sackville College Neale was able to conduct services, albeit in a restricted way but lack of more onerous parish duties provided the opportunity for him to use his energies in other endeavours. These included not only writing and translating a large number of hymns, (the carol Good King Wenceslas, is one of his translations) but also to co-found the Society of Saint Margaret, (an order of women in the Church of England dedicated to nursing the sick) be the principal founder of the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association, a religious organization founded as the Anglican and Eastern Orthodox Churches Union in 1864 and from his student days at Cambridge he was a leading light of the High Church movement there having founded the Camden Society and an associated periodical called "The Ecclesiologist". Never enjoying good health, he died aged only 48.

Henry Smart, who wrote the tune Regent Square was organist at several London churches, including St Pancras New Church from 1864 until his death. He was highly regarded as an organist and composer in his day but now is best known this hymn tune. Smart composed Regent Square for the Horatius Bonar doxology "Glory be to God the Father." The tune was first published in the English Presbyterian Church's Psalms and Hymns for Divine Worship (1867), of which Smart was music editor. The text editor of that hymnal was James Hamilton, who was minister of the Regent Square Church, the so-called "Presbyterian cathedral" of London, which gave its name to this tune. Sadly, the church itself was demolished after being bombed during the second world war.

1. Light's abode, celestial Salem,
vision whence true peace doth spring,
brighter than the heart can fancy,
mansion of the highest King;
O how glorious are the praises
which of thee the prophets sing!
2. There for ever and for ever
alleluia is outpoured;
for unending, for unbroken,
is the feast-day of the Lord;
all is pure and all is holy
that within thy walls is stored.
3. There no cloud or passing vapour
dims the brightness of the air;
endless noon-day, glorious noon-day,
from the Sun of suns is there;
there no night brings rest from labour,
for unknown are toil and care.
4. How glorious and resplendent,
fragile body, shalt thou be,
when endued with so much beauty,
full of health and strong and free,
full of vigour, full of pleasure
that shall last eternally.
5. Now with gladness, now with courage,
bear the burden on thee laid,
that hereafter these thy labours
may with endless gifts be paid;
and in everlasting glory
thou with brightness be arrayed.
6. Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.
Amen

Light's abode, celestial Salem: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izXZjGCw1wg>

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen.**

EPISTLE Colossians 1: 15 – 20

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL John 1: 1 - 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

SERMON Fr Jeremy

Paul writes: 'He is the image of God, the invisible one, the first born of all creation. For in him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth.'

Tom Wright tells us that 'if we want to grow as Christians' and become 'Lights for Christ' as Sheffield Diocese are challenging us to become then we need to recognise 'the centrality and supremacy of Jesus Christ.' Firstly, although nobody has seen God, we can discover who God is by looking at Jesus and following his example of living life. Both our epistle and Gospel highlight that God has acted out of love and given us creation and life with a design and meaning. God has shown his love for us by giving us his son Jesus who through his life has offered us redemption, forgiveness and New Life. We are invited to live lives filled with God's Holy Spirit that we might through our baptism be adopted as sons and daughters of Christ's body, the people of God to play our part in creation.

Imaging God's presence in creation and in us, suggests that we can as humans have a role to play caring for our own bodies, for each other and for the world we live in that sustains us. Any ruptures or damage to the natural world or to us are damage to God's body. The challenge for us as human beings is to be reminded of the Lord's Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer. Thy Kingdom Come IN Earth as it is in Heaven. I remember the now Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell saying this to students at Altwood School when we celebrated our 2007 year of mission.

That year saw us celebrate 150 years of ministry at All Saints in Boyne Hill by reflecting on mission that was to the glory of God, education of the young and pastoral care. When we invited the schools of Boyne Hill, All Saints and Altwood to take part they said that they were happy to look back, but they wanted to look forward too. They challenged us to look back to the creation of the world and to look forward to encourage children to respect the world we live in. They sought to become Eco schools and organised 2 wonderful concerts at Norden Farm when all three worked together to perform sketches that made us think about sustainability.

Those of you that were worshipping at All Saints at that time will remember the 'Earth Balloon' that somehow fitted into All Saints Church and allowed children and visitors to see the world and think about how to respect it. As part of their sustainability project pupils from the three church schools were encouraged to save the world's resources and by doing so help the quality of life for all God's living beings.

Moving to the present I watched with Monika the final part of David Attenborough's brilliant programme, 'The Perfect Planet'. In the final episode it highlighted the account of the devastation caused to the planet by 'Humans'. We were shown how human activity, in particular the production of carbon dioxide has destabilised life on earth by warming up the planet to cause melting ice caps, droughts and hurricanes. It was heart breaking to view the dehydrated elephant in Kenya. I think the elephants pictured were in Tsavo East wildlife park in Kenya, a place I visited in 2013. Staying at Ngutani lodge with Roy and Jenny Taylor we looked out on a waterhole with hundreds of buffalo and maybe 20 elephants drinking contentedly as we drank Kenyan Tusker beer. It would appear that the water on offer just 7 years on is far more scarce.

Experts, speaking on Attenborough's programme, told us that every two minutes a patch of the Amazon, the size of two football pitches is destroyed by humans. It was not easy viewing, but it may lead to Governments and people like me to be filled with a sense of urgency to do something about the havoc we cause.

In a book by Martin and Margot Hodson 'A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues' the authors ask how much is nature worth? Guardian journalist Leo Hickman argues 'if we knock out too many links in our global ecology, we may find our own life support machine will collapse. Humans are the one species 'that has the power, means and comprehension to decide their fate.' Another key issue as we celebrate pharmaceutical research is that each time a species becomes extinct, its genetic material is lost to the world.

Another key issue during the Pandemic has been 'Well-being'. Many people have said how wonderful it is to walk and value creation. We all know that access to healthy natural environments improve our mental health. Of course, the danger even with the arguments expressed thus far are that they are about the value of nature merely to humans. If God has created a perfectly balanced universe then presumably nature has value to God, as he created it. We as human beings are given by God the amazing, yet daunting role of taking responsibility for creation. Are we going to take up the challenge?

The images at the end of last night's programme told us of the free offer of energy via wind and sun rather than using fossil fuels. The pictures reminded me of another wonderful trip I was fortunate to make to Costa Rica where I experienced with Monika the Monteverde Cloud Forest and Arenal Volcanal. The words that are like a mantra across that country are 'Pure Vida' – pure life. This country has greater biodiversity than the USA and Europe combined. I witnessed wind farms offering 19% of the country's energy and 50% heat energy from volcanoes.

The biblical readings suggest that God's presence is found in creation and within us. The challenge (it is daunting) is to value and conserve God's creation. In the words of Gregory David Roberts (who wrote one of my favourite books 'Shantaram') 'we should be moving away from a view of the world where we compete and consume to one where we co-operate and conserve.' If we are to live Christlike lives I believe Roberts is right.

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

Amen

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VACCINATION ROLLOUT

Our local health and care service, Frimley Health and Care, may still be looking for volunteers to help with the COVID-19 vaccination programme rollout. If you'd like to volunteer, please email: volunteer@rbwm.gov.uk.

FOODSHARE NEWS

Lockdown means an increasing need for Foodshare. Please see www.foodshare.today for places you can donate and what's most needed each week. The needs are also in the Maidenhead Advertiser each week.

REFLECTION by Greg Hurst

One of the few joys of this interminable third lockdown has been our garden birds. Over Christmas we put up a bird feeder filled with peanuts and enjoyed the activity it generated. At first no birds came. Finally, one found it, then another. As their pecking made the peanuts crumble, more arrived.

So when the conservation charity RSPB asked people to count birds in their garden I signed up. The instructions were to record the number of each species of bird spotted within one hour. Only stationary birds were to be counted, not birds in flight.

I chose an hour after breakfast when, past experience suggested, the feeder was busiest. But it was eerily quiet. After ten minutes or so a great tit came to feed, then another. After an interlude a coal tit appeared, and later three bluetits in a flurry. And yet most columns in my chart remained empty. As the end of the hour approached I spied a larger bird high on a branch: a song thrush with fine speckled markings, which flew down to feed. And that was it: time up.

My tally, which I duly reported, was disappointing. Shortly afterwards a male blackbird hopped on the lawn – too late to be counted. Then a house sparrow. As we ate lunch a brilliantly coloured goldfinch fluttered outside. Where were you earlier, I wondered? Where was the handsome male chaffinch we've seen? All those magpies and woodpigeons? The red kites that perch in our tree?

Well, I told myself, there's always next year.