

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**
www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk
Issue 159 28 JUNE 2023



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

On Thursday last week, I was interviewed for 10 minutes by Andy of Radio Berkshire on the subject of Asylum Seekers and Refugees, and the response of All Saints Church to their needs over the last fifteen months. It wasn't a good start to the interview as Andy had been told I was going to speak about restoration work (The floor crossed my mind) not for All Saints, Boyne Hill but rather All Saints, Wokingham. Replying that I might struggle on this subject he called back with one or two questions on the issue I thought I would be speaking about. I think in the end I was mentioned for 10 seconds of my ten-minute meander so here is what I intended to say.

During the Easter 2022 service we heard voices from all around the world. Some of the voices were from Iran speaking Farsi. As a community we discovered quickly that the people were from a local hotel in Maidenhead and were seeking asylum.

As a church we began to understand the need to welcome the Asylum Seekers. The early tasks included seeking donations of clothes and trainers, seeking social integration through our services and coffee and light meals. We quickly understood the value of Care4Calais's work, and Sue Wright joined the organisation to help both the church's response and also to play a part in the direct ministry of this excellent charity.

Within the church, with Sue's focus, we started to try to get mobile phones and arrange the occasional meal. I contacted an Iranian friend of mine who lives in Maidenhead and he came to the Birinus Room to help with communication with the people from Iran. The first aim was to provide English classes and through the Iranian friend, his sister, and some other friends as well as a few of our own congregation we provided conversational English. One or two of the people made good use of the mobile phone to watch 'Friends' and other programmes to help with their English.

The next stepping-stone was an early letter to Theresa May requesting her to discover the process that we might expect for the Asylum Seekers in those early days via the Home Office. I quoted Pope Francis' Book 'The Church of Mercy' in which the Pope asks for a church of compassion to a people who may have been abused, suffered violence, were a long distance from their families, had possibly suffered traumatic events in their lives and were facing an uncertain future. Pope Francis wrote that the key hope for these people might be the opportunity to learn the host language, to seek education for their children and eventually to access employment.

The next phase of the support was to respond to the desire, that came from the Iranian people to learn more about the Christian faith. I explained to the group that the Christian faith was to be followed freely. They

began a baptism course and following a discussion with Bishop Olivia (who felt confident to let me make the pastoral decision) we baptised 13 of them during a 10.00am Eucharist in May 2022.

The group stayed together and shared bible studies using the book 'Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes' by Kenneth Bailey. This study generated wonderful conversations which led to people following a confirmation course. In a fantastic service in November 2022 17 Iranians and 32 from our community in total were confirmed by Bishop Olivia Graham.

One of the key areas of need for the people at the hotel was to access education for their children. In partnership with Care4Calais and almost single-handedly through the amazing work of Sue Wright over 100 children accessed schools in the town. One 17-year-old from our church was interviewed at Altwood last summer and having impressed the deputy head was given maths and English papers to try during the summer break. Her work was exceptional, and that young woman has just completed her A levels with the school expecting good results.

Another highlight was a young lady in her early 20's (from the same household) who agreed to speak to clergy and laity at All Saints last Autumn on the subject of how parishes use the bible. Zeinab gave a brilliant talk based on four bible stories from the 'Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes' book that focussed on how Jesus' support of women. Zeinab used these stories to show how as a young Iranian woman she had found a sense of value and dignity so that she might live life in all its fullness.

Of course, to many of us the Iranian community have become friends and brought a vitality to the church that new people have noticed and commented upon. We have seen new shafts of light with church growth and one lady from South Sudan and one from Lebanon joined our PCC. Our overseas mission (perhaps no coincidence) has been revitalised) to Kenya, Guatemala, and the Ripple Effect charity.

A few months ago a small number of us enjoyed dancing and sharing food at a wonderful celebration of Iran's New Year. The friends have shared with us regular worship, supporting our Christ Child market and monthly BBQ's they have joined us in trips to the South Downs to discover the Bloomsbury artists and more recently 30 joined us to visit Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford to enjoy a tour, a cream tea, a tour of the gardens and experience choral evensong.

Recently some of our friends have been receiving questionnaires to fill in for the home office. I have been writing references for them in support of their applications. I believe that they have much to offer society in this country. One recent arrival is a journalist, and he has written in a Refugees' journal 'Exodus' about the people striving for gender equality and rights and dignity. He argues that leadership in Iran is stifling people, so that people do not speak, they never blossom, never create or express feelings. These women seek to live life in all its fullness, using the gifts and talents they possess to flourish.

I was asked at the end how did our community respond to the Asylum Seeker crisis? I responded that Care4Calais, Sue Wright and I were passionate about this issue. I had noted that more and more people from our church had seen in these people not just a statistic but very human people seeking like all of us to live life in all its fullness. This last statement was the only piece I heard quoted in the BBC Berkshire programme but perhaps this was the most significant part of what I had to offer.

Footnote –five of our Iranian friends and I are joining Care4Calais and Citizens UK in London this week to seek a more compassionate asylum seeker bill. There will be people present from different parishes and communities.

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

Fr Jeremy



"THE ANGLICAN SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM IS A PLACE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP, HOSPITALITY AND RECREATION FOR ALL."

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE MONDAY 25 - FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

Our annual Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham is a very enjoyable and relaxing way of celebrating our faith together, with astounding worship, beautiful gardens, lovely food, and a chance to get to know one another – and pilgrims from other parts of the UK – all in the peaceful surroundings of a north Norfolk village. We travel by car-share. There is now a sign-up sheet for this year's pilgrimage at the back of church.

If you would like to join us on this Parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham then please **add your name to the list at the back of church** (or email me on revjohnnainslie@gmail.com) and let me have your £30 deposit **by the end of this month**.

I have placed some booklets about Walsingham by the sign-up list; if you haven't been to Walsingham before but would like to find out more just catch me after a service, or drop me an email.

Fr John

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Thursday 29 June	1.30pm All Saints School Service for SS Peter & Paul in Church <i>7.00pm AllSorts at St Mary's Church</i> 8.00pm Choir Practice
Friday 30	<i>9.00am Assembly at Boyne Hill Infant School</i> 10.00am Tiny Saints Toddler Group in the Parish Centre
Sunday 2 July	10.00am Parish Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday after Trinity Celebrant & Preacher: Fr John
Monday 3	9.30am Morning Prayer
Tuesday 4	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 5	10.00am Requiem Eucharist Celebrant: Fr John <i>11.00 am Tai Chi in the Parish Centre</i> <i>3.00pm Open the Book at Larchfield School</i>

ADVANCE NOTICE

WAMCF CHILDREN, YOUTH & ADULTS CRICKET TOURNAMENT SUNDAY 27 AUGUST AT BOYNE HILL CRICKET CLUB

Adult's & Children's Competitions start from 10.00am Fr Jeremy presenting children's prizes at 2.00pm. Full details on WAMCF website.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray in this week remembering Refugees and Asylum Seekers for our friends from Iran who have brought vitality to our community this last fifteen months. We pray that they may be given the opportunity to use their gifts and talents and to live life in all its fulness.

This week we give thanks for the opportunity some of us had to visit alongside Citizen's UK and Slough Refugee support the houses of Parliament. We give thanks that four of our Iranian friends were able to share some of their story and indeed their hopes for the future with Theresa May. We pray for compassion as the new bill is discussed. We pray for situations around hidden slavery, women seeking to live life freely and with dignity and for young children that they may receive education rather than the threat of detention.

We continue to pray for the Anglican Church in Kenya, for the Diocese of Taita Taveta and Bishop Liverson, and for our OAK project. For the Bishop Hannington Bible College in Mombasa and for Grace Kitawa Karingo seeking confirmation of her call to begin training for the Priesthood. We give thanks for the mission of this Diocese over the last 30 years.

We continue to pray for our schools and give thanks for the ministry of Open the Book teams in Maidenhead and across the country. As the teams come to the end of another wonderful year sharing the Christian story we rejoice that students and teachers continue to enjoy hearing the Christian message of hope.

We pray and give thanks for the ministry of All Sorts. We rejoice in sharing fellowship, the Christian message and hospitality with people seeking support and encouragement.

We pray for the ministry of Street Angels and for all volunteers who share their time with the people of Maidenhead late at night. We give thanks for this ministry to support, particularly young people that they may feel safe and protected and have a person to listen to them when support is needed.

We pray for those of our congregation and Parish in any kind of need. We pray by name for Michael, Kirsten and Maddy; for Suzette, Danielle, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner, Heidi Webb, Florence Harrison, Tadeusz, Teresa, Christopher, Sylvia Dennison, Cheryl Brookes, Gordon Kerrison, Lorraine Ansell, Ruby Doughty, Andrew Collins, Jeremy Nordberg, Sylvia Telford, Eddie Sheppard and Carol Sheppard and Barbara Bannister.

May they all know the healing peace and presence of Christ.

We pray for the recently departed, including Colin Woods, Michael Justice and Victor Franklin. We pray for the families and friends and all who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time.

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 2 JULY THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

COLLECT

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

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.'

MUSIC

Prelude:	Chorale Prelude on "Melcombe" <i>C H H Parry</i>
Opening hymn:	4 New every morning is the love
Gradual hymn:	379 God has spoken, by his prophets
Offertory hymn:	546 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Communion hymn:	714 Lord of all power
Closing hymn:	390 Thanks to God whose Word was spoke
Postlude:	Alleluyas <i>S Preston</i>

FOODSHARE

In these hard times Foodshare are more in need of our help than ever. Each week in the Maidenhead Advertiser there is a list of items most wanted.

CARE4CALAIS TOILETRY APPEAL



We have had the pleasure of getting to know some refugees from Iran in our congregation over the past year. At our APCM recently, Sam Jonkers from Care4Calais spoke to us about the fantastic work the charity does in welcoming and supporting refugees.

Asylum seekers face many challenges even after arriving in the UK. They are not allowed to work so do not have money, even to spend on what we would see as basic essentials.

One practical action we can take to help is to donate toiletries.

If you are able to support, please bring your donations and leave them in the box at the back of church.

Thank you!

Claire Foley claire.foley@fit2live.me.uk



SAVE THE DATE - Saturday 9 September

WHY? It's the annual Ride & Stride event!

This national event happens every year across the country. Any mode of transport is fine – you could walk, cycle, ride - simply choose a route and find lots of sponsorship from all your friends and family, perhaps every person in the congregation could sponsor you?

You can go by yourself or in a group, any time between 10.00am and 6.00pm and many people make a day of it. There are so many wonderful and interesting churches to visit, many will be open and offering refreshments too.

There is also the Daphne Barnes-Phillips trophy which is awarded to the most successful church each year – this is a splendid silver cup which is still resting with St Peter's Woolhampton as they raised the most sponsorship in 2022.

All Saints will benefit hugely as we will receive half of your sponsorship. The remaining 50% goes to Berkshire Historic Churches Trust which in turn makes generous grants to churches in need; All Saints has benefitted from this in the past.

More details of the participating churches, together with sponsorship forms will be available soon, or can be found on the BHCT Ride & Stride website - <http://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk/ride-and-stride>

Stella Harding

All Saints Boyne Hill Ride & Stride Co-ordinator