

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

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NEXT ISSUE 4 SEPTEMBER 2024



Dear Friends and Parishioners of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

I received a phone call last week from Sister Victoria Mary formerly of Burnham Abbey a community I had the pleasure of sharing the Eucharist with from 1999 to 2023. In 2024 sadly the contemplative Augustinian community felt due to the small numbers of nuns that they would need to move. Sister Victoria Mary has since moved to St Michael's Convent in Gerrards Cross. Sister Victoria Mary has invited me to share a quiet day at Gerrards Cross and I will make this a priority in the near future. Interestingly, this week the lectionary marks the dates of St Monica, mother of Augustine and Augustine, the bishop of Hippo.

The nuns of Burnham Abbey were a contemplative Augustinian community, and their principal work was worship, thanksgiving and intercession, reaching out on behalf of others to the source of all love and goodness and holding before Christ the pain and suffering of the world. When we look at the world in Ukraine, the Middle East and indeed troubled parts of our own country this summer the need for this prayer goes on. The monastic life has at its heart the need for prayer, discernment, silence and fellowship. When All Saints accepted the invitation from the Diocese between 2015-18 to share in Partnership in Missional Church some of us began trying to listen to God's word in scripture, to notice where God was at work within the community and reaching out to respond to God's call to reach out to others, holding before Christ the pain and suffering of the world. I sometimes reflect that at Easter 2022 when we received for the first time Asylum Seekers from Iran that God was calling us to welcome people who had been experiencing pain and suffering. As a congregation we had to discern how God was calling us to help.

St Augustine said, as we discover in the collect, the reason we come together is that we may have one heart and one mind centred on God. Those of us worshipping at All Saints in August have discovered the rich texts of John 6 and Jesus being the bread of life. The Eucharist is the centre of our lives where we are deeply united with Christ and with one another. We partake of the Body of Christ to become the Body of Christ to the world and sharing our baptismal promises we go into the world to walk in God's light, rejoice in God's love and reflect His glory. St Augustine had a vision that we would travel as fellow pilgrims, supporting and encouraging one another as we journey towards the Kingdom and the Heavenly Banquet. The community of Burnham would have said we are pilgrims on the way. Perhaps the best way I can describe our support of our friends from Iran is that we have shared the pilgrim journey with them in the way St Augustine and the community of Burnham would have encouraged.

Augustine was born in what is now Algeria. He had a father, Patricius who was a non-Christian and a mother, Monica who was deeply committed and pious. Augustine devoted his early life to philosophy and studied the Old Testament but was horrified by some of the texts which continue to challenge a number of us in the present day. His relationship with his mother is fascinating to me. The relationship was intense, and he struggled with his mother's simple faith. I think many sons share the challenging relationship with a mother that loves them deeply. The non-believing father and the pious Monika scrimped and saved to help their son find an education at school in Carthage. They sacrificed so that Augustine could study and find a ticket to a

successful career. Some of us might reflect on the support and encouragement our parents gave us in our early years. Augustine's life was far from simple though. He settled down with a mistress and had an unplanned child. However, he was always questioning life particularly the source of evil and suffering. During his time in Milan, Augustine was influenced by the teaching and preaching of Bishop Ambrose, and it is to him as well as his mother that we owe the conversion of Augustine to a life given to Christ.

Augustine wrote many works but perhaps two of his most influential are 'the City of God' and 'Confessions'. In the former he reflects on the theme of two cities. The one following the desires of humanity and the turn to evil and the other towards the divine and the heavenly city. The 'Confessions' are the very personal journey towards faith until the death of his mother. The collect reminds us of his idea that our hearts are restless till they rest in God. The bible study that I shared with the Iranians in the first eighteen months was Kenneth Bailey's 'Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes'. In the parable of the man who puts his trust in resources and wealth Bailey writes 'My soul is restless until I am sure of the abundance of food and drink.'

Augustine chose the other path and began to understand the baptismal promise to die to self and rise to live life for Christ. We give thanks to the former community of Burnham, St Augustine, Monica, Ambrose and perhaps our own parents who pointed us in the direction of sharing the pilgrim journey towards the Kingdom.

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

Fr Jeremy

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Thursday 29 August

1.30pm Meet at church to share cars for trip to Waltham Place
7.00pm AllSorts meet in the Parish Centre

Saturday 31

12 noon Holy Baptism
Please pray for Louis Michel Paul Damagnez & Margaux Laura Nicole Damagnez, their parents and godparents.

Sunday 1 September

10.00am The Parish Eucharist for the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Celebrant: Fr Jeremy with Mahdi sharing his experiences of life as an Asylum seeker before his move to London to take up a position with CityGate.

4.00pm Sundays@4 New Beginnings followed by BBQ in the Quad.

6.00pm Sundays@6 Evening Prayer at St Luke's

Monday 2

9.30am Morning Prayer
7.30pm Christ Child Market Planning Meeting in the Birinus Room

Tuesday 3

10.00am Merchant Navy Flag Raising Day at the Town Hall
6.30pm Stewardship Meeting in the Birinus Room

Wednesday 4

10.00am Requiem Eucharist
Celebrant: Fr Jeremy
11.30am Holy Communion at Clara Court Care Home
Fr Jeremy & Mike & Jan Moss
3.00pm Interment of Ashes for Gwen Burkitt in the churchyard

ADVANCE NOTICES

SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 7.30pm in Church Bucks Symphonic Wind Ensemble concert. See flyer with email

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 14 AND 15 SEPTEMBER HERITAGE WEEK and RIDE AND STRIDE

Please see the sign-up sheets at the back of church.

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 3.00pm BISHOP OLIVIA'S RETIREMENT SERVICE at READING MINSTER

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER GARDENING in the CHURCHYARD AS PART OF THE CELEBRATION of CREATIONTIDE. Bring your tools and get stuck in to clearing and tidying the churchyard. Variety of tasks for all energy levels.

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 7.00pm IN THE PARISH CENTRE

I will relive the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela I made in September 2013 as part of my Sabbatical. If you would like to share an evening with me retelling the journey with Mike providing the pictures please join us at the Parish Centre at 7.00pm on Saturday 5 October. During the evening there will be a meal in the style of pilgrimage. The cost will be £20 with all profit going to The Ripple Effect Charity. Numbers will be limited to 30; there is a list at the back of church but preferably email mike.moss@btinternet.com to register your interest. If over-subscribed a second session will be held.

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER 10.00am PARISH EUCHRIST FOR HARVEST WITH A GUEST SPEAKER FROM RIPPLE EFFECT

Following the service there will be an auction of goods followed by a Harvest Ploughman's served in the Parish Centre.

CREATIONTIDE, THE SEASON of CREATION

Creationtide or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1 September to 6 October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

This year we will be celebrating this in a number of ways, the details of the events and services you can find in the Parish News Resources and Advance Notices sections.

The Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 6 October will mark the end of Creationtide this year.

For more information from the Church of England on Creationtide, please visit <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/season-creation>

Your Sustainability Team



AND ENGLISH HERITAGE WEEKEND 14 & 15 SEPTEMBER

We hope that everyone will be able to take part in this special weekend event in September.

The Church will be open over the weekend to welcome visitors coming to see our beautiful building as part of English Heritage Weekend.

On the Saturday we will also welcome people taking part in the annual Ride & Stride event, and raising money for the Berkshire Historic Churches Trusts (BHCT). This will help BHCT make grants to places of Christian worship – All Saints itself has benefitted from such a grant.

How can you join in?

1. Volunteer to help welcome and steward visitors over the weekend, and help provide them with refreshments during the day.

We are looking for volunteers to fill hourly slots on the Saturday, and on the Sunday afternoon; there is a sign-up sheet at the back of the Church.

2. Join Fr Jeremy's team of walkers for a short walk around some local participating churches on the Saturday morning; there is a sign-up sheet at the back of the Church.

Once we have a confirmed list of participating churches we will decide upon a route.

3. Sponsor our "team" of Walkers and the Stewards; there is a sponsorship form at the back of the Church.

Whatever you can give will be much appreciated, and remember, half of all the money we raise will come straight back to All Saints Boyne Hill. The other half goes to the Berkshire HCT to help support other churches in need.

Please speak to either of us if you have any questions about these arrangements.

Stella Harding & Ken Smith

PRAYER INTENTIONS

As we begin Creationtide the period in the church calendar from 1 September to 4 October we pray;

Holy God, earth and air and water are your creation, and every living thing belongs to you:

Have mercy on us as climate change confronts us. Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live, to reduce the energy we use, to share the resources you provide, and to bear the cost of change. Forgive our past mistakes and send us your Spirit, and with wisdom in present controversies and vision for the future to which you call us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

As we begin the journey through Creationtide we remember the millions living in poverty and hunger, for our own needs, and the requirements of our neighbours, by cooperation, compassion and generosity. Bring new hope for the relief of suffering. We look forward to our Harvest festival at All Saints when we once again welcome our speaker from Ripple Effect as they support African countries with sustainable farming.

We pray for peace in this world of unrest. We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, Iran, Lebanon and the surrounding areas. We continue to pray for Sudan and South Sudan and pray that weapons may be turned into ploughshares and where nations no longer lift up sword against nation and peace is found.

We pray for all asylum seekers and all people forced to flee their homes because of conflict, oppression, or persecution. We pray within our community for our friends from Iran. As they begin to receive news of their interviews to seek refugee status in this country, we pray for them as they seek homes to live in and jobs that will bring meaning to their lives.

We pray for those leaving our parish for new opportunities in their lives. We pray for Darren and Sibio as they begin new jobs in Oxfordshire and for Mahdi as he begins his apprenticeship in London. We give thanks for the gifts and vitality these people have brought the community at All Saints. We pray that God will continue to bless them in the next passage of their lives.

We hold within our prayers who will be baptised this Saturday at All Saints. We pray for Margaux and Louis, their parents Guillaume and Katy, their sister Isabelle, and their godparents that they will encourage these children to grow knowing the love of Jesus in their lives. We also remember Natasha Shepherd, Oliver Curtis, Alexander Dillon, Edward Brophy, Theodore Taylor-Webb, Lowan Clarke-Compagno and Camden Mutyaba-Everett on the anniversaries of their Baptisms.

We pray for those in need of God's healing; Daneille, Christopher, Sylvia Denison, Gordon Kerrison, Sylvia Telford, Barbara Bannister, Hugh Boulter, Scopas Lado, Margaret Ego, Gill Deane-Williams, Vera Shaw, Kristina Baloch, Doreen Bramble, Nick Kirk, Heidi Webb, Masouma Hassani, Akram Taj-eddin, Mahmoud Saimi, Abdul-Quadir Taj-e-din, Mahmoud Tabkhi, Patricia Butcher, Andrew Collins, Daniel Fatoux, Diana Monari, Abbas Heidari, Azita Heidari, Arash Rezaei, and Elham Nekunam. May these people all know God's loving and healing presence.

We pray for Gilda (Jillda) Zizzari Street and all our departed loved ones whose anniversary of death falls at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 1 SEPTEMBER FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

COLLECT

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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 forever. Amen.

EPISTLE James 1: 17 - 27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

GOSPEL Mark7: 1 – 8, 14–15 & 21–23

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?' Jesus said to them, 'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines." You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.' Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

MUSIC

Preludes:	O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort <i>F Schmidt</i> & Ruhig bewegt, Sonate II <i>Hindemith</i>
Opening hymn:	584 All my hope on God is founded
Gradual hymn:	602 Blest are the pure in heart
Offertory hymn:	748 O Jesus, I have promised
Communion music:	Arabesque, Op 31, No 15 <i>Vierne</i>
Closing hymn:	708 Lift up your hearts! We lift them
Postlude:	Prelude in E minor, BWV 548 (i) <i>J S Bach</i>

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE RUNNING OF YOUR CHURCH?

The Stewardship Group is tasked with analysing and assessing the need for volunteers, bringing this to the attention of the congregation and communicating the financial commitments and needs of the church

When talking with members of the congregation it is clear that there is significant variation in the understanding of how the church is run and administered, what it costs and where the money is spent. If we can get a clearer understanding of the congregation's view of this, we can improve our communication and, hopefully, commitment to the stewardship of All Saints.

To help us do this we have produced a very short survey on the congregation's understanding of the running, administration and costs of the church. It is tick box, anonymous and will take about five minutes of your time. It is easily completed using the link below and pressing "Done"

[Ctrl click] <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJVYDD2>

If you prefer a paper copy these are available at the back of the church, please return them to the Parish Office by Sunday 8 September, which is also the closing date for the electronic survey.

Please do take the five minutes to do this and so help in the stewardship of All Saints.

Jeremy Nordberg

SUSTAINABILITY GROUP WALK AROUND BRAY LAKE SUNDAY 18 AUGUST



About two dozen people joined a glorious summer afternoon stroll around Bray Lake and met at least one non-walker in the café for refreshments afterwards. Thanks to Jean Balchin for the picture.

TUESDAY CLUB AGM 2.30pm 17 SEPTEMBER AT WOODSTOCK, BOYN HILL AVENUE

We welcome everyone to come along and hear about our new programme. You don't need to be a member; just come and meet us and see if any of our meetings appeal to you. *Jan Moss, Group Leader*

PARISH NEWS NEWS

Please send any items for the 18 September edition to the Parish Office (allsaintsboynehill@gmail.com) as Tanya will be in charge.



DON'T FORGET 2024 CHRIST CHILD MARKET SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER



AND PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP DONATING TOILETRIES TO CARE FOR CALAIS IF YOU CAN.