

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

**[www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk)**

**Issue 43      20 January 2021**



**Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,**

On Monday of this week, I heard on Radio 5 Live that this was the most depressing day of the year. My first thought was that's some claim when the world has been through the year of the Pandemic. It is true that we are facing many challenges as we begin the year of 2021. The ongoing suffering and pain caused by the Pandemic is on our television screens, particularly for the NHS dealing with so many patients in need of urgent care. We also face more time in Lockdown as we attempt to play our part in protecting our own health, the health of others and try to reduce the stress of those working on the frontline.

I watched a moving and powerful recording from David Downing, the minister for the URC in Maidenhead and Marlow this morning where he spoke of the Pandemic denying us the opportunity to live our Christian Faith in the ways we would like to. David highlighted his powerful ministry (alongside others) in feeding people in the refugee camp in Calais. He cannot at time this take part in this ministry which he said enables him to feed the hungry and give water to the thirsty.

Many of us are probably frustrated that we cannot partake in the normal activities of life but also the opportunities for ministry that we take part in like Maidenhead Care, Street Angels, All Sorts, visiting Nursing Homes and welcoming families for Tiny Saints. David spoke though of the need to continue to do the small things well. The simple acts of kindness firstly by wearing masks, keeping our distances and washing hands in supermarkets or other public places and by those phone calls to those who may be uplifted by hearing another person's voice.

For the depressing day that is for some reason the 18<sup>th</sup> January it was truly miserable weather, the pandemic continues and the outlook for many people is worrying. On websites we were offered some advice from Winnie the Pooh. 'When life throws you a rainy day, play in the puddles.' My dog Lilly and myself took this advice but of course not everyone feels like jumping in puddles like a small toy poodle! Second bit of advice from Winnie "Life is a journey to be experienced, not a problem to be solved.' The second bit of advice is important to us as a community at All Saints. We are over the next year going to need to share the experience of the journey (pilgrim) together supporting one another in doing the small things well and learning from this time of the Pandemic as we journey forward in faith.

It is at this point however that I write the headline **'IT IS NOT ALL BAD NEWS' ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL LOOKS FORWARD TO RESTORING GEORGE STREET FLOOR!** (see page 9)

That's right with the Lockdown continuing and thanks to the stewardship of Christian people who are giving generously in time and money we can look forward this year to continue Christ's mission for our church community and the community in which we serve. This means that we are able to bring forward the floor project to the middle of February so that we may finish the work hopefully by the middle of August. Just imagine a hot summer's day, with

hopefully the pandemic under control and a return to All Saints for a summer service of hope and celebration. The gathered community of All Saints being able to partake of the Body of Christ to become the Body of Christ in the community. We will once again gather to recall our Baptismal promises to go forth to channel God's love, to walk in his light, rejoice in his love and reflect his glory. We will once again work hard on how we can offer worship that is celebratory, offer hospitality and welcome to people who are asking questions of faith and continue our relationship with our schools.

As Monty Python once said, 'And now for something completely different'. It is wonderful news that we will be able as a community to worship God once again at All Saints in late summer. We will be able to continue George Street's vision from the Oxford movement of worship to the glory of God, education of the young and pastoral care to those in need. However, as Python tells us there will be new ways as well as a return to the old. What has the Pandemic taught us? There are examples of churches of all traditions across the British Isles that have responded to the suffering brought about by the crisis in new and fresh ways. I am not trying to say that All Saints with a technophobe vicar has been at the forefront of change and development, but we have, I think, responded well as a community.

We have set up a pattern for pastoral care through regular phone calls and tried to meet need. We have reached out to schools through recorded assemblies, recorded zoom Open the Book stories and live zoom assemblies. Members of All Saints have worked hard on keeping contact with our nursing homes, particularly Jeanette through the recorded services she has put together with members of the pastoral care team. This newsletter has been set up by Jan and Mike Moss, with input from Brian, Greg and other contributions that have enabled a weekly communication for all our people. This letter is sent to 180 people. This time last year we were wondering if we could manage a quarterly on-line newsletter.

In terms of services, we have offered recordings, zoom services of prayer and when possible in person services. This might be the continued way moving forward. We will of course rejoice in sharing the Eucharist as the gathered community in church once again, but I suspect many of us will continue to find times to prayer together via zoom. Courses and ways of sharing community can be on-line as well as gathered. Some of us have joined on-line courses and been able to offer courses. This week Matthew Firth will offer the first part of a four-week course on zoom. We have too been sharing a 15 week confirmation course on zoom. There will going forward be music and quiz evenings offered by members of the All Saints parishioners and friends.

Moving forward we need to develop our children and families' ministry. Louise and Jeanette offered good Advent and Christingle material and we need to build on this for the future both for physical gathering of families and maybe on-line.

Clearly by starting work on the church early we will not be able to celebrate the heart of the Christian faith 'Holy Week and Easter' in church this year. However, a small team of us are going to try to put together a variety of services both within the Parish Centre and online, using different techniques to share worship. Already Rod, Mike and Jan, Monika, Jeanette and others have used online forms of communication to share the Christian Faith. I have written too much because, if I am honest, I am excited for what the future holds. I am like everyone distressed by the pandemic but determined to learn from these times so that we can continue to share Christ's mission at All Saints and alongside others.

It would be helpful to know of all those able and willing to receive zoom services. This way we can plan Easter services in person and on-line. Even more importantly let's follow Winnie the Pooh and stay with each other in community at All Saints.

## RESOURCES

### THIS WEEK:

#### Thursday 21 January 8.00pm Night Prayer on Zoom

#### Thursday 21 January

#### 7.00pm Art Course Part 1 on Zoom with Matt Firth

The first of four evenings looking at Art from Venice, Byzantine art, Italian Renaissance from Rome and Florence and Northern Renaissance from The Netherlands.

<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=Q1pJVTlpTytOdHg0VXhSRGxWRzIzZz09>

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHziv

We continue our Journey through the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with the theme *Abiding in Christ*.

Readings John 15.1-17, 1 Corinthians 1.10-13a and Psalm 96

Hymn : Let's build a house

#### Sunday 20 January

#### 10.00am Eucharist for The Third Sunday in Epiphany

**Please note the new Zoom link for this service as below.**

<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.

#### Monday 25 January 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 27 January 10.30am – 11.00am**

New 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=Nm1kZmNLdHNmRG1sajF1OEp1MVI2QT09>

Meeting ID: 859 8014 3355

Passcode: 412790

### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm – 9.00pm on Zoom *An Evening of Musical Frivolity***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84005688256?pwd=OFF5MWIOLzBxenFFalFHeXMvN0NBQT09>

Meeting ID: 840 0568 8256

Passcode: 834669

Brought to us by Andrew Stafford

I would recommend Andrew's evening of music. Not only does he share beautiful music, but also the gift of knowledge and a lovely sense of light humour.

## **PRAYER INTENTIONS**

Please keep in your prayers the Family of Marion Alder whose funeral rites take place in church at 11.00am on 28<sup>th</sup> January.

We continue to pray for Grace Churchward and her family.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the tragic death of Daniel, the grandson of Margaret Hill on Sunday morning. Please keep Daniel's mother Jackie, Joanne, Margaret and all their family in prayer at this very sad time.

We also heard of the death of Ray Phillips this past week. Ray and Margaret Phillips were involved for many years in the life of All Saints and at Norden Farm. Ray designed and made the Stations of the Cross in the Birinus Garden and in the 150<sup>th</sup> year of celebrations at All Saints Ray encouraged Matthew Firth and myself, to take up some acting. Ray knew the lines of the whole play so that he could step in when I forgot mine! We keep Ray's family in our prayers.

Chris Harding, the son of Stella and Dave, is studying for a MPhil in World History starting this Autumn. The focus is on world systems like empire, disease, political systems. Ahead of this he is currently in the Lebanon to study Arabic and, if possible, volunteer in a refugee camp. As part of his course he will also carry out a research project in his own area of interest. This is Palestinian connections to nature and what they mean and the colonial attempts to erase them. Can we please keep Chris in our prayers.

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

We pray for all NHS workers and all those involved in the vaccination programme. We pray too for teachers, school staff and all those with roles as key workers.

We pray for the workplace and economic wellbeing – We remember before God those who face great uncertainty in their work. We lift before God those who have lost their jobs and face an uncertain and difficult future. We pray for a renewed commitment to our common life together.

The list of streets in our Parish was attached to Issue 41: this week we remember the ones beginning with C.

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](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 20 JANUARY The Third Sunday of Epiphany**

### **Sounds of Worship                      Brian Graves**

This week, in the season of the Epiphany, we progress to the turning of water into wine at the wedding in Cana. This event encapsulates several key themes. It is the first miracle done by Jesus which signifies the heavenly powers endowed on him for his ministry on earth, secondly, the new wine foreshadows his resurrection and the wining of new life after death, third the fact that this event took place at a wedding feast reflects the "marriage supper of the Lamb" described in the Epistle reading and finally the wedding feast also represents the celebration of the Eucharist itself.

The first hymn I have chosen for today is "Come to a wedding, come to a blessing" AM 344 words by Shirley Erena Murray (1931 - 2020) set to the Gaelic folk melody Bunessan. Written as a hymn for a marriage service it is equal well suited for today's gospel not only because of the theme of "the marriage supper of the Lamb" but also for the reference to the changing of water to wine, in verse 3.

The unifying element in this hymn is the use of the word love which appears in every verse and in some cases, multiple times. However, each verse describes a different facet of love and marriage. The first verse reminds us of the significance of the marriage vows, where love between the married couple enables them to survive the ups and downs of life together. In verse two, love is central to family life and being members of the family of God. The third verse links the vow of mutual support "in sickness and health" with Jesus' care for us demonstrated by the miracle at the wedding in Cana. The final verse offers a blessing to the happy couple but equally reminds us of the blessing of God's love for all of us.

The tune Bunessan is very well-known from its association with the words "Morning has broken" but it conveys a feeling gentle optimism and hope which makes it very suitable for this hymn.

Shirley Erena Murray was born in New Zealand and studied music as an undergraduate but received a master's degree in classics and French from Otago University. Her upbringing was as a Methodist, but she became a Presbyterian when she married the Reverend John Stewart Murray, who was a moderator of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand. Shirley began her career as a teacher of languages, but became an active hymn writer in the 1970s. Her hymns address issues associated with human rights, women's concerns, justice, peace, the integrity of creation, and the unity of the church.

In recognition for her service as a writer of hymns, the New Zealand government honoured her as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit on the Queen's birthday on 3 June 2001. Murray has published three collections of her hymns covering an output of 175 published hymns.

The tune Bunessan was first associated with a hymn by Mary M. Macdonald (1789–1872) who lived in the crofting community of Ardtun near Bunessan on the Isle of Mull. Macdonald, who spoke only Gaelic, wrote her hymn "Leanabh an àigh" to a traditional melody. When the words were translated into English in the 1880s, the melody was named after the village of Bunessan by the translator, Lachlan Macbean.

Sometime before 1927 Alexander Fraser heard the melody in the Scottish Highlands and transcribed it so that it came to the attention of Percy Dearmer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Martin Shaw. In turn, these editors of the hymn book Songs of Praise requested Eleanor Farjeon to write a further hymn text to the tune. This was "Morning Has Broken" and since 1931 the tune has become most familiarly identified with this hymn. In 1971, a version of "Morning Has Broken" was recorded by the singer Cat Stevens, helping to popularise the tune.

1. Come to a wedding, come to a blessing,  
come on a day when happiness sings!  
Come rain or sun, come winter or summer,  
celebrate love and all that it brings.
2. Thanks for the love that holds us together --  
parent and child, and lover and friend:  
thanks to the God whose love is our centre,  
source of compassion, knowing no end.
3. Love is the gift, and love is the giver,  
love is the gold that makes the day shine,  
love forgets self to care for the other,  
love changes life from water to wine.
4. Come to this wedding, asking a blessing  
for all the years that living will prove:  
health of the body, health of the spirit --  
now to you both, we offer our love.

Come to a wedding, come to a blessing AM 344 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKaIFf-bqoE>

The second hymn speaks to the theme of salvation and enduring love of God brought to each of us through the life of Jesus Christ. It is "And can it be that I should gain" AM 588 words by Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788) set to the tune Sagina published 1825 by Thomas Campbell.

"And Can It Be" was written in 1738 to celebrate Wesley's conversion to Christianity. It is fitting to use it to illustrate the theme of Christ's "Marriage supper to the Lamb" with the first hymn written by Wesley to celebrate his commitment to Christ.

It was originally published having six verses, when it was re-published a few years later by Wesley, one verse was removed which has been the convention ever since. The recording linked below however, also omits the second verse. The first two verses on the recording explore both the contrast between the glory of heaven that Christ came from and the suffering he endured on earth as well as the mystery of the love that motivated him to make that journey. In verse three we are reminded how God brings us to salvation in language that is based on Peter's experience in Acts 12:6-11, where God sent an angel to open the prison doors and loose Peter's chains. The final verse is a jubilant celebration of our new state in Christ and the privilege of communion with God that we enjoy.

Thomas Campbell was born and lived in Sheffield. In 1825 he published The Bouquet, a collection of tunes composed and adapted to Wesley's Hymns which included 23 tunes, all of which were given botanical names, the most well-known is SAGINA (PEARLWORT).

1. And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Saviour's blood?

Died He for me, who caused his pain?  
For me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! how can it be  
that thou, my God, should die for me?

2. He left His Father's throne above -  
so free, so infinite his grace -  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race,  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
for, O my God, it found out me!
3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
thine eye diffused a quickening ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
my chains fell off, my heart was free;  
I rose, went forth and followed thee.
4. No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach the eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

And can it be AM 588

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQeIGbKqiw8>

### COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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 for ever. **Amen.**

### N T READING Revelation 19: 6 - 10

A reading from the book of Revelation. I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure' – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

### GOSPEL John 2: 1 - 11

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them

up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

## SERMON Fr Jeremy

'Just one more thing'

Deborah Firth and my mother share a love for Midsummer Murders. Reg (my stepfather) when he was alive was not so keen on Detective Barnaby as he felt that there was surely no one left to murder in the villages. He perhaps had a point as we arrive at series 21! In truth my mother shares a love for all murder mystery programmes, Vera, Morse, Wycliffe, Lewis and of course anything written by Agatha Christie - you name it, and my mother will know the detective. My mother does own up to me that she doesn't always know who has committed the murder as she has fallen asleep at the key moment. Good thing is though that this means she can watch the repeat which during Lockdown is no bad thing!

Talking about repeats what about my favourite detective 'Columbo' played by Peter Falk. Columbo was the crumpled and polite homicide detective with the Los Angeles Police solving all kinds of murders. It was unusual in that the viewer knew who committed the crime but was fascinated in watching Columbo piece together the clues while smoking a cigar, eating a bowl of chilli and driving a 30 year old car that made my VW Fox look pristine! Colombo's favourite line 'Just one more thing' was spoken as he closed in on his suspect.

I watched the beginning of a Columbo yesterday where a dentist kills his wife's lover by putting something in his filling. The killer trying to hide the way the man died puts the body in a car and pushes the car off the road and down a bank making it look like an accident. Columbo arrives at the scene. He steps into the car and notices the gear stick is in neutral – clue one. He asks one of the policeman, did anyone touch the gears? No replies the officer. Have you got a match? says Columbo as he attempts to light his cigar. The policeman gives him a box of matches from the dead man's pocket. It has the names and address of the dentist and his wife. Clue two. It will not be long before Columbo says to the dentist 'Just one more thing!'.

John's gospel is full of signs and symbols and clues to unpack the mystery of New Life. This is certainly the case in the amazing story of the Wedding at Cana of Galilee. I have visited Cana in 2000 and 2009 and found an ordinary place where extraordinary things happened. This is the place where a new order of love was brought about by Jesus. When we are talking about love then perhaps one of the great signs of this, would be marriage. The first clue is that the marriage takes place on the third day. This is if we know the end of the story pointing towards life through death after the third day.

This though is the ultimate marriage. This is where the human will be joined with the divine. This is the occasion when human ego and self are led into love. Clue two leads us to Jesus and the disciples being invited to the wedding at Cana. We can presume using Columbo's mind that Nathaniel was present. Why? He was one of the disciples, he was from Cana and he was only three days before talking with Jesus about a ladder between heaven and earth. (John 1. 51 in last weekend's Gospel) The clue here is that Jesus is talking to Nathaniel about Angels (God's messengers) carrying the needs and hopes of the people at the wedding and then bringing down the transformed power of God to the people of that ordinary village.



Clue three finds six stone water jars. The stone water pots belong to the old order of Jewish purification rites. Jesus will do something new at this point. He asks the servants to fill the water jars. If Columbo were following the Cana story he would ask 'Why does Jesus not smash the jars up? After all we are looking for something new!' The clue this time Columbo is that throughout John's gospel we find springs, pools, lakes, wells, rivers, buckets, and at the end of the gospel water flowing from the side of Christ. The answer is that Jesus wants to use humanity and transform us not smash us. As for filling the jars with water well we come alive in the waters of the womb and our bodies are made of water. Looking at Google (Columbo didn't have this tool) I discover that H.H Mitchell in his journal of Biological Chemistry tells me that 60% of human body is water. Brain and heart 73%. Lungs 83%, skin 64%, muscles and kidneys 79% and even bones 31%.

This leads us then to think that Jesus wanted our human nature to be filled with the new divine nature or the Holy Spirit. When the master of ceremonies tastes the new wine, he is delighted. 'You have kept the good wine until last.' The water then is transformed. The raw material of humanity is not crushed but filled with the Spirit. Our selfish individual needs are transformed by love to live Christ-like lives. The wine is then shared out. Love cannot be kept to oneself. The clue here is that God's transforming love will be given to all who receive.

As for Columbo's 'Just one more thing'. Jesus says, 'My hour has not yet come.' The third day at Cana points us to another third day that we remember at Holy Week. Maundy Thursday, and the Last Supper, lead to Jesus washing feet as a sign of service, before giving his life on a cross that we might have new and transformed life at Easter. The light will overcome the darkness, goodness will overcome evil and new life will win victory over death. Columbo, the new wine is sure going to taste good as we celebrate living life as if the best is yet to come.

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

Amen

## **OOD NEWS ABOUT THE FLOOR RESTORATION PROJECT**

During the past months our lives seem to have been overtaken by the covid pandemic and it is sometimes difficult to know what the next restriction or relaxation is going to be. We have grieved for those we have lost and rejoiced for those who have recovered from this dreadful disease but the advent of the vaccinations now gives us considerable scope for optimism for the future. As a church we have had to close for more than one period either in accordance with government rulings or our own concerns about the dangers of mixing together, as now and as with so many other churches. Nevertheless All Saints has met the challenge under Fr Jeremy's inspirational leadership with recorded services, Zoom prayer and other meetings, and not least with this Parish News.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the project to restore the floor has progressed meanwhile and we have now reached a position where we are actually able to start the work – even earlier than planned. This is due in no small measure to those who have contributed so magnificently with their financial donations and pledges.

Although with reluctance we have had to close the church for covid reasons it has offered the opportunity to bring the work forward to take advantage of the closed church. Therefore, instead of a planned start date of 12 April, with the cooperation of our contractors, the current start date for the on-site work is 15 February, with an estimated completion date of 15 August rather than 12 October. We can therefore look forward (because surely the crisis will be sufficiently reduced by then?) to worshipping in a restored church two months earlier than planned.

To enable the work to start a request has been made to Richard Bowers, our organ specialist, to wrap the organ in protective material, and detailed plans have been drawn up to move away all the pews and ornaments from the nave. This work will be carried out by volunteers, socially distanced and masked of course, in the week commencing Monday, 1 February. I had hoped that it would be possible for you to visit the church to see the state of the floor once

it was cleared, and before the contractors had started work, but that is not now possible. However, I hope to make it possible to see the restored floor before everything is put back.

However, I do need to refer back to the finances. Although a really splendid effort has made it possible for us to go ahead we do not have quite enough money. In fact we are about £31,000 short. The PCC has agreed that money in the buildings reserve can be used in the short term, but that money is intended for other necessary repairs such as the holes and cracks in the stained-glass windows, the leak in the tower staircase, and the crumbling boiler chimney. We will be addressing the issue shortly and I hope you will want to be part of the preservation of our unique building.

A second thing to bear in mind is the reason the floor restoration is so necessary. Of course it is a hazard issue but far more importantly it enables us to look forward with confidence to worshipping in a magnificent building and also to reaching outwards to the wider community in Mission. The church is for the parish and we want it to be used by the community. To this end we have been speaking to many organisations and people and have found a real desire to join with us – organisations such as the Maidenhead Painting Club and Allsorts, and schools for religious study, history, art and the like. Our local ward counsellors have been very supportive with a grant and the making of a video, and they see the church as a great asset for community work and cohesion. These are great opportunities for Mission. Again, you will be hearing more of this. There is so much we can do. Let us seize the opportunity.

*Ken Smith, Churchwarden*

## WAMCF NEWS

### What is the Purpose of Life?

A WAMCF Zoom Webinar

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January

7.00pm – 8.30pm

A Buddhist, Hindu and Brahma Kumaris offer their perspective followed by a Q&A.

Visit [www.wamcf.org](http://www.wamcf.org) for the Zoom Link

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### The Joy of Movement

Exercise to music for the over 50's

Every Tuesday from

12th January to 16th February

6.00pm to 7.00pm via ZOOM

This Programme is suitable for standing, seated and wheelchair users.

FREE to our wonderful WAMCF supporters thanks to the support of Get Berkshire Active.

TO JOIN Send an email to Paul: [samuelsberks@aol.com](mailto:samuelsberks@aol.com)

### **Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum Women's Group**

Ladies of all beliefs and none are warmly invited to our next meeting  
by Zoom from 7.30—9.00pm **Monday 25th January**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88098229447?pwd=SW1RMURWbHA3dWJGM0tTaFV5dC8yUT09>

*Login details* : Meeting ID: 880 9822 9447 Passcode: 285330

when we will think about how we are facing this  
year and about Holocaust Memorial Day Bring your  
own coffee!!

*Further details from: sally514@btinternet.com*  
[www.wamcf.org](http://www.wamcf.org)

### **FOODSHARE NEWS**

Lockdown means an increasing need for Foodshare. Please see [www.foodshare.today](http://www.foodshare.today) for places you can donate and what's most needed each week.

### **REFLECTION by Greg Hurst**

A card-shaped envelope plopped through our letter box last week. It was personally addressed in a careful hand. No family birthdays were due. Was it a late Christmas card? Inside was a save-the-date notice for the wedding of my wife's nephew – joyous news. The marriage will take place next year – in April 2022. We are already discussing our plans for the day.

Late on Saturday night my phone went 'ping'. In an extended family message group, my eldest niece had posted a short video clip. Sitting beside her smiling boyfriend she said they had an announcement. Bringing her left hand up into view, she said they were engaged. A large ring flashed on her third finger. Briefly I began to wonder – to hope - whether they might schedule their wedding for later this year. We so need a celebration. But they, too, are thinking of nuptials in 2022.

As we enter our third week of another national lockdown this is perfectly understandable given the uncertain timescale for lifting national restrictions. It reinforced to me just how tough the pandemic is on young people. Yes, by late March we are told that all people over 50 and in poor health will be offered a first dose of the Covid vaccination. Younger generations will wait far longer. Although for them the likelihood of serious illness is much less, the risk of transmitting the virus is higher.

Life goes on under lockdown but, for the young, key life events are delayed. I celebrate – but hail the young for their forbearance.