

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**
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Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

To begin this article for Parish News I am going to share the piece I wrote for The Maidenhead Advertiser this week looking at the power of singing.

‘It’s that time of year when the 6 Nations rugby fixtures are on the horizon. As a Welshman Saturday 10 February at 16.45pm is entered into my diary. England v Wales! The last time I watched these two countries play in the flesh was at Cardiff in February 2017. England won an unbelievably tense match in the last minute of the game. I was physically and mentally exhausted as I left the stadium. The reason for my fatigue was that I, alongside 70,000 other Welsh people, had offered uninhibited singing, trying to provide support and encouragement mediated by hymns.

One of the hymns that bring together a myriad of voices is Calon Lan. A while ago when conducting a service Larchfield Care Home I met a Welshman, and on discovering this my colleague, Jeanette, played Calon Lan as part of our short service. He immediately became alert and, with a beaming smile and eyes alive, sang heartily. A couple of weeks ago I officiated at his funeral, where it was played at the end of the service.

The gentleman had been an outstanding engineer for Madame Tussauds and De Beers, but it was a story from his wife that touched me. Her husband had found a man who walked to his local pub for companionship. The man used a walking stick but sadly on this day it had broken. The Welsh engineer reassured the gentleman and took his stick away, put a metal strip within the wood to make it strong. The man on receiving the repaired stick was delighted by the compassion shown him.

The opening words of Calon Lan mean ‘I seek not a life of riches, earthly gold nor finest pearls. All I seek is a heart that is happy, a heart that is honest, a heart that is pure.’ I suspect the Welsh engineer found a heart that was happy and compassionate.

It is my hope that we find Calon Lan, and other spiritual songs of faith sung not just at the rugby but ‘in singing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts and show forth in our lives.’

That last quote was taken from an article in last week’s Church Times written by a lady called Victoria Johnson. Canon Johnson writes of her experience visiting Old Trafford and hearing thousands of voices singing to cheer on their team which became for her an ‘almost spiritual song.’ Of course, many sporting songs, as I have demonstrated above, do have their roots in religious belief. Many sports were born out of the Victorian times and attempts to keep men out of pubs and enjoying physical activity. Welsh rugby developed this way as did many professional football clubs. Look up Aston Villa and their Methodist

background, Southampton from St Mary's church and on the cricketing front Canon Drummond was on the first planning committee of Boyne Hill cricket club.

Canon Johnson's argument is that maybe our individualistic society has forgotten the 'the joy of corporate song.' She points to singing in the bible, Moses and Miriam singing their song to God in Exodus, in St Luke Mary sings her yes to God in the Magnificat, the angels sing the good news of Christ's birth and Anna and Simeon burst into song when they see the Christ Child.

Johnson quotes St Augustine who appreciated the power of music but 'noted where the real power was. He said: I realise it is not the singing that moves me but the meaning of the words when they are sung in a clear voice to the most appropriate tune.'

Last week Brian Graves celebrated playing the organ and leading All Saints choir for 25 years. At choir practice last week Brian began teaching us a beautiful version of the Nunc Dimittis which we will sing when we celebrate Candlemas on 28 January. Brian is a man who believes strongly in the words of Augustine and desires that corporate singing that enhances the meaning of the words in a clear voice to the most appropriate tune. The power of song leads us to praise God and we give our thanks to Brian for leading All Saints in our corporate worship to the glory of God.

May we all share God's love this week,

Fr Jeremy

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Thursday 11 January

3.00pm Open the Book at All Saints School

7.00pm The Institution and Induction of The Revd Stephen Mills at Holy Trinity Cookham.

8.00pm Choir Practice

Friday 12

10.00am Tiny Saints Toddler Group in the Parish Centre

Thank you to Tanya, Carole and Ursula for their support of this wonderful group that encourages families from the community to join us here each week.

Sunday 14

10.00am Parish Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Epiphany Worship for All

Celebrant: Fr Jeremy Preacher: Fr John

4.00pm Sundays@4 and Young Saints families' rehearsal for this year's play. Please meet in the church.

Monday 15

8.30am Assembly at Desborough School on strength in adversity on Martin Luther King Day.

9.30am Morning Prayer

7.30pm Standing Committee meeting in the Birinus Room

Tuesday 16 January

8.30am Assembly at Desborough School on strength in adversity.

9.30am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 17

8.50am Assembly at Altwood School with Duncan Dyason of Street Kids Direct.

10.00am Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr John

11.30am Service at Clara Court: Fr John & Jeanette

2.00pm Services at Larchfield Care Home with Fr Jeremy & Jeanette

7.30pm Sustainability Group meeting in the Birinus Room.

ADVANCE NOTICES:

Wednesday 24 January Boyne Hill school visits the church to discover 'Space Makers' the Jesuit style of prayer used in schools. Led by The Revd Charlie Kerr, the Diocesan lead for Schools Chaplaincy.

Next Sundays @4 will be on 28 January.

Saturday 10 February The annual big match at the vicarage and, of course, at Twickenham 4.45pm England v. Wales. Food will be served at half time.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember this week the Baptism of Christ. We give thanks, Father, that you anointed Jesus as your Son in the power of the Holy Spirit. We pray that each one of us baptised into the family of God, may hear the words; "you are my adopted brothers and sisters; with you I am well pleased". May each one of us discern what God's spirit is calling us to do as members of the Body of Christ.

We pray for our mission groups as they seek to discern how God's Holy Spirit is calling us to share his light with the communities we serve. We pray for our Sustainability group as we continue to seek to become an Eco-church. We pray for our ministry to the schools, and we celebrate the ministry of Open the Book sharing the Bible stories with children. We pray for the welcome group as we seek ways to enable people to feel a sense of belonging within our community. We ask that our stewardship group might continue to discern ways to encourage the use of our gifts and money to build the Body of Christ.

We give thanks for George Street's church of All Saints that enables us to worship God, to celebrate the education of the young and to support those living in our Almshouses. We give thanks for the ministry of Ken Smith leading the Resources Group and the care of the church building and Mike Moss leading our support to the Almshouses.

We continue to pray to the Prince of Peace that there may be an end to bloodshed in Gaza, Israel and other countries of unrest including Ukraine, Sudan, and South Sudan, Iran and other places of violence and oppression. We remember all our asylum seekers and refugees in our town and pray that they may find homes to live in and jobs for them to find fulfilment.

We pray and give thanks for all those involved within our church praising God through word and song. We give thanks for Brian, Relf and Simon and for our choir as they lead us in our worship to the glory of God.

We pray for those in our parish and congregation in any time of need or distress at this time. We remember Danielle, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Birmta Zadinane, Edite Zadinane, Heidi Webb, Tadeusz, Christopher, Sylvia Denison, Cheryl Brookes, Gordon Kerrison, Sylvia Telford, Eddie Sheppard and Carol Sheppard, Barbara Bannister, Janet Emerson, Hugh Boulter, Simon Cowdery, Joseph White, Morieza Seraj, Scopas Lado, Mageret Ego, Jim Goff, Gill Deane-Williams, Simon Fullarton, Vera Shaw, Abbas Heidari, Audrey Burch and Anne Pennock. May they all know the healing peace and presence of Christ. We pray for those who bring help and

healing to those in need, those who are caring for loved ones at this time and for staff and residents of care homes within the parish.

We pray for the recently departed: David Davies, Gillian Richmond, Ann Shepperd and Kathleen Williams, and all who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time.

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 14 JANUARY THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

COLLECT

Almighty God, you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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

O T READING 1 Samuel 3: 1- 10

The boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

GOSPEL John 1: 43 - 51

He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!'. Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

MUSIC

Prelude: Prelude No 1 *J C Kittel*

Opening hymn: 1 Awake my soul, and with the sun

Gradual hymn: 602 Blest are the pure in heart

Offertory hymn: 510 Will you come and follow me

Communion hymn: 747 O God, you search me

Closing hymn 494 I, the Lord of sea and sky

Postlude: O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig BWV 656 *J S Bach*

CHURCH FLOWERS FOR 2024

The Flower Sponsors' Board for 2024 is available on the table at the back of the Church; and we would be pleased if you would like to add your name against a week you would like to sponsor. It's a very appropriate way to remember loved ones we no longer see or to celebrate anniversaries, that special birthday or occasion. Sponsoring a week ensures that we can have flowers in the church on that Sunday and relieves the PCC funds of any cost whatsoever. We are sure you are aware of the pleasure the flowers give to everyone and would like to thank you in anticipation for your continued support.

Would you please give your Sponsor donation, prior to your chosen week, to Stella Harding and inform her of any colour or flower preference you might have, and we will do our best to accommodate. If Stella is not available, please feel free to use one of the envelopes with the board and hand it into the Church Office.

The Flower Team



CHILDREN'S SOCIETY GOOD NEWS

Huge congratulations to you, our congregation, for the magnificent sum of £530.75 raised by our house box holders and generous donations. In addition, the Church has sent £165 from the collection raised at the Christingle service. That's an incredible total of **£695.75**.

On behalf of the society, I am truly thankful for your generosity in supporting this worthwhile charity which relies on our donations to continue its work with young people in this country.

Anne Clark, Honorary Secretary

WAMCF LADIES' GROUP MONDAY 29 JANUARY 7.30pm

For the next ladies' meeting we have been invited to the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice, Snowball Hill, Maidenhead SL6 3LU.

Julie Hughes, Lead for Quality and Governance, will talk a little about what a children's hospice offers and how it differs to an adult setting. She will also address our perceptions and those of our faith communities of the work of a children's hospice.

The staff will also talk a little about memory-making in its widest context across the child's life span and after death.

As usual there will be refreshments and the opportunity to chat with each other. Further details from:

sally514@btinternet.com

Sally Lynch, Vicar of St Luke's, Maidenhead

CARE4CALAIS TOILETRY APPEAL

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

