

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

The date of publication for this latest Parish News falls on Ash Wednesday and for those of you who possess a romantic nature it is Valentines Day. Maybe we can this Wednesday drop into All Saints to mark the beginning of the journey through Lent as well as purchasing some red roses during the day. This Lent we have planned as a community a few ways to share the journey to Holy Week and Easter. On Wednesday 21 March we will watch our first film that will focus on an issue of sustainability. During lunchtimes from 12.15pm each Wednesday we will gather to share homemade vegetarian soup with all donations going to the Ripple Effect charity supporting sustainable farming in Africa. On Thursdays at 7.00pm each week we will follow the Stations of the Cross around the church.

It is the Stations that I would like to write about in this article as I have come across a series of meditations written by young people to highlight how this devotional practice which commemorates the last painful day of Jesus' life can speak into the suffering of people living today. As we hear the news we think particularly of the suffering and anguish in Gaza where we pray for a search for genuine peace, but we are also reminded of the suffering that has been taking place in Ukraine for over two years now. All Saints has received over the last two years asylum seekers from Iran and the Holiday Inn in Maidenhead has acted as a place of refuge to people not just from Iran but Afghanistan, Eritrea, and other parts of our troubled world. The stations I will use on Thursday 15 February will focus on 12–14-year-old students from St Gregory's Catholic College in Bath who on being asked to write 'reflections on the stations as a project equating the sufferings of Jesus with the way of sorrow (Via Dolorosa) of refugees struggling across Europe to escape violence and trauma.'

The students in this book 'saw so many similarities between Jesus and families condemned to fleeing their homes, falling many times along the refugee road, being stripped of their dignity, in some cases dying during perilous sea crossings and finally in some cases coming to the resurrection of arrival in a new home'. Headlines from parliament and some newspapers suggest this topic is wrapped in political controversy. 'Should we allow 'These people' into our country? Will they respect this country? What if there are terrorists or criminals hidden among them?' Why should we let people benefit from our health care, our education system and potentially find homes and jobs that belong to people here? This subject brings out the worst and best in people. The students in this book having taken a compassionate line and have placed themselves in the mind of a young person on a leaking dinghy trying to cross the sea or lying on the floor of a station concourse in utter exhaustion.

The young people writing these stations 'have been able to see the spiritual depth of the asylum seeker crisis and believe that God is not indifferent to human suffering.' I have had it said to me that those at

Care4Calais who tirelessly offer support in hotels to asylum seekers across the country, those from refugee's councils and Christian churches and people of other faiths are naïve when it comes to this subject. This question I have pondered, and it led me to ask the clergy of Windsor and Maidenhead last week as to whether we think Jesus was naïve in reaching out to the outsider in society? Was he naïve to the point that it led to his journey to the cross? Only one out of ten lepers thanked Jesus, we are not told how many of the people whose lives he changed responded positively. Bonhoeffer spoke during the horrors of the second world war about cheap and costly grace. Do we respond to God's love and grace by standing up for justice or do we stay quiet to keep the peace? Perhaps the key is that we offer God's light in our world and pray that people receive that act of love and share it with others.

The young people of St Gregory's Catholic College have reflected on how they believe Jesus' last journey aids our compassion and understanding on fellow humanity. These young people shine a light on Jesus' words from Matthew's gospel, 'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Please join me this Thursday to share the stations through the eyes of these young people.

(This article is inspired by 'Stations of the Cross' journeying with refugees' reflections by young people for young people with the forward by Raymond Friel, Headteacher of St Gregory's Catholic College in Bath.)

LENT AT ALL SAINTS 2024

1. Thursday evenings Stations of the Cross on Thursdays at 7.00pm. Included in the stations will be the theme of refugees and Pope Francis' stations of Mercy.
2. Wednesday soup lunches to raise donation for the Ripple Effect charity at 12.15 each week starting on the 14 February.
3. Wednesday night film nights looking at Sustainable issues starting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 21 February.
4. The Oxford Diocesan 'Come and See' this Lent. At the back of church there are 'The Way of Love' cards, blue in colour that enable individuals to receive daily meditations throughout Lent based on the great commandment to Love God and our neighbour as ourselves. (Luke 10.27) Find out more online at oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see

Bishop Steven Croft will be providing the meditations and I am sure from previous experience that they will be well worth listening too.

MANY THANKS

to Sally, Elaine and Sibio for planning the latest children's play and to the children and their parents for preparing their parts so well. It made for a wonderful contribution to our Worship for All Eucharist last Sunday.

May we all be blessed by God's love this Lent.

Fr Jeremy

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Thursday 15 February	11.00am Baptism Class in the Birinus Room 6.30pm Baptism Class on Zoom 7.00pm Stations of the Cross <i>Journeying with Refugees</i> These stations were written by young people on the plight of refugees. 8.00pm Choir Practice
Friday 16	11.00am Requiem Mass for Gwen Burkitt
Sunday 18	10.00am Parish Eucharist for the First Sunday of Lent Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Jeremy Young Saints meet in the Birinus Room 6.00pm Sundays@Six Evensong & Benediction Fr Jeremy
Monday 19	9.30am Morning Prayer 7.30pm Standing Committee Meeting in the Birinus Room
Tuesday 20	9.30am Morning Prayer 11.00am Funeral Service for Audrey Burch in Church We keep in our prayers Christine, Sandra and David and all her family.
Wednesday 21	10.00am Eucharist Celebrant: Fr Jeremy 12.15pm Lenten Soup Lunch in the Parish Centre. Proceeds to the Ripple Charity <i>3.00pm Open the Book at Larchfield School</i> <i>7.00pm Film Evening at Jenny's, The Warren, Grenfell Road. See p 4</i>

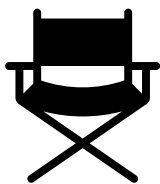
ADVANCE NOTICES:

THURSDAY 21 MARCH 7.00pm SIX PLACES LEFT ON THE MINI-BUS FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!

The Licensing service for Fr John as Associate Priest at St Michael and All Angels, Maidstone. For those who would like to attend the service we are providing a mini-bus which will leave All Saints at 3.30pm and will return home about 10.30pm. I hope there will be time when we arrive at Maidstone for some refreshments before the service and refreshments will be provided by St. Michaels after the service. The cost of the mini-bus will be no more than £30 and at the time of writing only six seats remain available. Please contact Sue Stannett if you would like one – sastannett@gmail.com.

DO THE SMALL THINGS WELL

Recycling Did you know that that Dunelm recycle duvets & pillows. Great news! Our nearest branches are Westgate Retail Park, Bath Road, Slough SL15PS, Knaves Beech, Loudwater HP10 9QR (easier to get to when Cookham Bridge reopens) or Pincents Lane, Tilehurst RG31 7BD. Bag them up and leave them in the big green bin by the door.



AS PROMISED LENT FILM EVENINGS

On four Wednesday evenings during Lent, we will be showing a film with an environmental theme. Each will be followed by a short discussion on the theme raised by the film.

Please come and join us. (Please note the different locations – addresses below the film info).

Date	Film	Location
21 st February 7.00 pm	Don't Look Up (2021) Two astronomers make an astounding discovery of a comet orbiting within the solar system. The problem - it's on a direct collision course with Earth. The other problem? No one really seems to care. Stars Jennifer Lawrence, Leonardo DiCaprio and Meryl Streep.	Jenny's
28 th February 7.00 pm	The Ants and the Grasshopper (2021) When the effects of climate change show indisputable signs of irreversible damage, African farmer Anita Chitaya travels to America to meet with farmers, activists and legislators to persuade them that climate change is real and of the need to save her home by first saving the planet.	Jenny's
6 th March 7.00 pm	2040 (2019) Motivated by concerns about the planet his 4-year-old daughter would inherit, Damon Gemeau embarked on a global journey to meet innovators and change makers in the areas of economics, technology, civil society, agriculture, education and sustainability.	Mike and Jan's
13 th March 7.00 pm	Gorillas in the Mist (1988) The story of Dian Fossey, a scientist who went to Africa to study the vanishing mountain gorillas, and later fought to protect them. A 'golden oldie' with Sigourney Weaver.	Mike and Jan's

Jenny's house: The Warren, Grenfell Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1HB (Phone: 07801 679493) (Beside the railway bridge. There is room for 5 or 6 cars on the drive; otherwise please park on Boyne Hill Avenue and walk down Grenfell Road).

Mike and Jan's house: Woodstock, Boyn Hill Avenue, SL6 4HA (phone 07779 967969) Between Westmorland Road & Bishop Court

The Sustainability Group.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

As we begin our journey through Lent in preparation for Holy Week and Easter when we discover the hope of new and transformed life we pray that over this period we may grow personally in our Christian journey and that as a community we may be a place of welcome and belonging for those seeking to share the journey of faith.

We continue to pray for the Lenten services and activities. May we all find the opportunity to share in some of the services and perhaps the 'Come and See' journey shared with the Diocese. We pray throughout Lent for our soup lunches that people will enjoy the opportunity to share lunch together and that the donations offered will go to support the Ripple Effect charity in 6 African countries. We pray that more people may learn the life skills for farming that they may provide for their families and create opportunities for their children to access education.

We pray for the search for peace in troubled parts of the world. We ask that there may be an end to bloodshed in Gaza, Israel, and other parts of the Middle East. We pray for peace in Ukraine, and we are reminded of the troubles in South Sudan, Sudan, Iran, Afghanistan and other places of violence and oppression. We continue to pray for asylum seekers and refugees, some of whom are leaving the hotels and the communities that they have become part of. May they find jobs, homes and acceptance in this country and be able to live life in all its fulness.

We continue to pray for Fr John as he prepares for the next stage of his ministry in the parish of St Michael and All Angels, Maidstone. May God bless him in his ministry in that town.

As we journey through the stations of the cross this Lent, we pray this week with 14 year old Hayden Payne as he reflects upon the plight of refugees in a camp in Lebanon. Hayden asks us to pray 'Loving God, help us to see the injustice before our eyes and move us to respond with compassion and love. May we always show mercy to others in all parts of our lives, so that people don't feel judged or left out by us. Amen.

We pray for those in need and any kind of distress at this time and we remember Daneille, Christopher, Sylvia Denison, Cheryl Brookes, Gordon Kerrison, Sylvia Telford, Eddie Sheppard and Carol Sheppard, Barbara Bannister, Hugh Boulter, Joseph White, Moreiza Seraj, Scopas Lado, Mageret Ego, Jim Goff, Gill Deane-Williams, Simon Fullarton, Vera Shaw, Abbas Heidari, Azita Rezaei, Arash Rezaei, Elham Nekunam and Doreen Bramble.

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 caring for loved ones at this time and for staff and residents of care homes within our parish.

We pray for the recently departed; Gwen Burkitt, Janet Emerson, Helen Jackson and Audrey Burch and all who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time.

REREDOS



For many years the wall behind the high altar has been covered by a green curtain. When All Saints was built in 1857 it included a stone and marble reredos behind the altar, a reredos being a large decorative altar piece. Sadly for some totally unfathomable reason it was badly damaged by agreement of the then vicar, PCC and Diocese, the official reason being to install a radiator behind the altar but such a radiator was never placed there. Here is a photograph of how the reredos was originally (the black in the original photo is a trick of the light as the eagle for example should of course be brass), and how it looks now with the curtain removed.

The PCC talked about this at its last meeting and have agreed that, in spite of the damage, sufficient of the reredos still exists to make it worthwhile to expose it and remove the curtain, and that this should be done during Lent for a trial period to gauge the feelings of the congregation.

Thus you are now able to see the remains of the reredos. Fr Jeremy and the churchwardens on behalf of the PCC would be interested to know whether you like the exposed reredos or whether you prefer the green curtain.

In the longer term the wooden canopy over the altar could be removed as it is not in keeping with Street's architecture, and in the much longer term the reredos could be fully restored. This would be a magnificent outcome but as both will cost money to do so, and the latter a very large amount indeed, it is not included in the PCC's planning for the foreseeable future.

Ken Smith, Churchwarden

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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 Genesis 9: 8 - 17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

GOSPEL Mark 1: 9 - 15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

MUSIC

Prelude:	Solothurn	<i>C Hand</i>
Opening hymn:	107	The sinless one to Jordan came
Gradual hymn:	121	Forty days and forty nights
Offertory hymn:	646	God is working his purpose out
Communion anthem:	Hide not thou thy face	<i>R Farrant</i>
Closing hymn:	134	Praise to you, O Christ our Saviour
Postlude:	Chorale Prelude, Aus teifer Noth, BWV 686	<i>J S Bach</i>

SUNDAYS@SIX EVENSONG & BENEDICTION 6.00pm

Preludes:	Fugue in A flat minor, Werke ohne Opuszahl	<i>Brahms</i>
	Te lucis ante terminum Op 38 No 5	<i>Dupré</i>
Opening Hymn:	21	O strength and stay upholding all creation
Psalm:	119: 25 - 32	
First Lesson:	Genesis 2: 15 -17 and 3: 1 - 7	
Office Hymn:	12	Before the ending of the day
Second Lesson:	Luke 13.31-end	
Benediction Hymn:	15	Glory to thee, my God, this night
Postlude:	Prelude in E minor, BWV 548 (i)	<i>J S Bach</i>



EASTER LILIES

If you would like to sponsor lilies for Easter Day in memory of a loved one, please put your name on the list which is located on the table at the back of the church. This is a lovely way to be involved in making the church look really beautiful for this Queen of Festivals. Unfortunately, the price of flowers has increased dramatically over the past few years, and it is anticipated that the lilies will cost around **£6.00 per stem** this year. We need to place our order by **Sunday 10 March** at the latest; so, it would be a great help if you could put your name on the list by that date. If it's of help, payment can be made using the pre-printed envelopes which are also on the table at the back of the church. This should then be handed to Stella Harding or the Church Office.

The Flower Team

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.

Claire Foley claire.foley@fit2live.me.uk

