

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**
www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk
Issue 131 23 NOVEMBER 2022



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

Last Sunday marked one of the most significant services of witness to the Christian faith that I have had the privilege to be part of during what will be for me thirty years of ordained ministry in 2023. The service of baptisms and confirmation within the Eucharist was indeed an occasion of pure joy for those receiving the sacraments of the church. Bishop Olivia led the service in a wonderful way guiding young people and those for different countries and cultures through the liturgy. The bishop too enjoyed the service as 34 people from All Saints and New Windsor were confirmed as they continue their journey of faith within the Body of Christ.

We began the service by welcoming our bishop and the associate priest of New Windsor, Fr Richard Terrado-Reardon by trying to offer a context for the paths that had led our candidates to this place of faith. For some, like Guillaume, Bence and Mei this journey had begun over zoom during the Pandemic. Three years ago, I (and I suspect many of us) didn't know what zoom was. Michelle Symonds, who had introduced me to the idea of blogging before I went on the pilgrim walk through Spain, mentioned in early 2020, as the Pandemic took hold, of this way of communicating that some businesses were using. Our parish began using this modern form of communication for on-line services and meetings and this developed to sharing on-line courses. The advantage of going on-line meant that young families were able to discuss their faith having allowed their young children to go to bed. There was no way that they would have been able to visit the church for a course leaving their children at home alone. The on-line zoom courses not only led to three confirmation candidates but five other people who would receive baptism as godparents and parents alongside babies receiving baptism over the last eighteen months.

I move next to the resurrection experience of Easter liturgies. Holy Week 2022 will not go down as a highlight for me. The Easter Vigil did not have the same sense of awe and wonder that I would normally associate with that wonderful night. Easter morning should be associated with a sense of resurrection joy but as I got ready to celebrate that morning, I did wonder post pandemic what we might experience. However, I recall asking people to say 'Goodbye' in their native tongue and discovered at least a dozen languages from all around the world shared during the interactive talk. One of the languages spoken was Farsi and that led us to begin our journey of faith with people from Iran who have become our friends. Over the last seven months or so we have shared community, shared Christian classes and bible studies as well as English conversational classes. Wednesday mornings following the Eucharist and coffee have been times for learning and sharing. During the bible studies up to 15 people have been learning about the parables, the beatitudes, and the way Jesus

related to women in the bible. On Thursday evenings another group of candidates began the 15 week confirmation classes. Sue Wright joined 'Care4Calais' and shared in the amazing work that charity is doing to support asylum seekers including accessing education in local schools for young people aged 4-18.

Throughout the Pandemic we had tried to keep contact with families, through inviting them to Sundays@4 including a BBQ. This outdoor service and hospitality within the quadrangle led All Saints to grow a deepening relationship with some of our young people. In early September we began a 10 week children's confirmation course at 4.00pm every Sunday. The children were brilliant with their attendance and learned from the former Bishop of Liverpool, James Jones', course as well as discovering bible stories that linked with the theme through DVD's called 'Superbook'. 'Superbook', tells the bible stories through contemporary issues that young people might face and allows them to journey through the bible to experience a story that supports them in their understanding of a contemporary problem. One of the stories took us back to creation and led to a wonderful conversation on working in partnership with the world that God has blessed us with. During the confirmation service, just before our parish was presented with the bronze Eco-Church award by Bishop Olivia, our young people gave simple explanations of what they were learning from their families to care for the world we live in.

As we thought about the introduction to the service on Sunday and the reading from Acts that took the Christian faith around the world, we realised that we had candidates from, or with parents from, Antigua, Lebanon, Iran, France, Japan, China, New Zealand, Belgium, South Africa, South Sudan, Russia, England and even God's own country Wales! Hearing all ages of people from all parts of the world proclaiming baptismal promises was an incredible experience. On Easter Day we proclaimed, 'Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!' and that Easter resurrection hope was truly alive on 20 November 2022 at All Saints Church, Boyne Hill.

Thank you to all those people at All Saints who have given their time and gifts in so many ways that enabled not only that wonderful service to take place but who were part of the journey of so many of those candidates.

CHRIST CHILD MARKET APPEAL

Calling all bakers: we are still looking for cakes to sell at the Christ Child market on Sunday. If you are able to provide a cake please either contact Ann Rawlings or drop off at the vestry on Saturday morning.

LOVE AT CHRISTMAS

In conjunction with St Peter's and a number of other churches across the town we are looking to offer support to people at Christmas. This year All Saints is focussing on the people at the hotel including our friends from Iran. We are hoping to purchase hats and scarves as a Christmas gift. There 256 adults and we are told by St Peter's that each gift will cost £15. If you would like to support 'Love at Christmas' this year please send donations to All Saints Church Fund.

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

- Thursday 24 November** *3.00pm Open the Book at All Saints School*
6.00pm AllSorts at St Mary's Church
8.00pm Choir Practice
- Friday 25** **10.00am Tiny Saints Toddler Group in the Birinus Room**
- Sunday 27** **10.00am The Parish Eucharist for the First Sunday of Advent**
Celebrant & Preacher: Fr John
- 12 noon Christ Child Market** in church and in the Quadrangle.
It would be great to see a good turnout to support the marking of the journey towards the Incarnation. Boyne Hill School choir and The Salvation Army Band will be with us today.
- 6.00pm Sundays@6 at The Church of the Good Shepherd Taizé service*
- Monday 26** 10.00am Funeral of Tyrone Rahman in Church
- Tuesday 29** *9.00am Open the Book at Larchfield School*
1.15pm Larchfield School Christmas Service in Church
It will be great to welcome the students of Larchfield School as we celebrate the first of a number of school visits for Christmas.
- Wednesday 30** **10.00am Eucharist (BCP)**
Celebrant: Fr Jeremy
11.00am Tai Chi Class in the Parish Centre

ADVANCE NOTICES

Sunday 11 December 10.00am Eucharist including Christingle and the annual support of the Children's Society. See p ?? for how you can help make the Christingles

The weekend of 9th – 11th December marks St Luke's excellent annual Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 18 December 6.00pm Nine Lesson and Carols in church followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Details of all Christmas Services are in the attachment to the email.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Living God, as we light the first Advent candle, and the flicker of your coming is kindled in our hearts, may the flame of our desire for justice and peace brightly burn within us, releasing in our lives, our churches, and our world the transforming power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

We pray for all places of darkness, violence and war, praying for peace and justice in Ukraine and all other places of warfare and oppression. We continue to pray for the people of Iran at this time of tension, and for our friends within our community who are worried for the loved ones in their country.

We pray for our schools as they prepare for their Christmas services in the church. We remember Larchfield, Boyne Hill Infants, Claires Court Juniors, Altwood Academy, All Saints Juniors, and Newlands Girls School. May all the services celebrate with joy the birth of Christ, the light of the world. We give thanks for the Open the Book Teams that continue to share the bible stories with the students and staff of our schools.

We pray for Maidenhead Care and for the wonderful community support that their volunteers provide to people living in Maidenhead. We give thanks as they hold their Christmas gathering in our Parish Centre on Thursday 1 December.

We pray for our Christ Child market this weekend. May this be a time for the community to come together to enjoy fellowship, to rejoice with Boyne Hill School choir and to share the Christmas message with the Salvation Army band.

We pray for Mason Curtis, Louie Deeley, Octavia & Reginald Brown, Scarlett Downs & Oliver Graham on the anniversary of their Baptisms.

We pray for those of our parish and community in any kind of need, praying for Suzette, Danielle, Paul Latham, Jenny Chua, Doris Winn, Mikhail, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner, Harrison Hawkes, Heidi Webb, Florence Harrison, David Stewart, Tadeusz, Teresa, Leigh Hutchison-May, Larisa Stephenson, Soheila, Silvia Denison, Cheryl Brookes and Marnos. May they know God's loving and healing presence.

We pray for the recently departed: Maria Bolodeoku and Tyrone Rahman. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

May we all be blessed with God's love this week.

Fr Jeremy

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COLLECT

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

EPISTLE Romans 13: 11 – 14

Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL Matthew 24: 36 - 44

Jesus spoke to his disciples: 'About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two

women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

MUSIC

Prelude: Nun komm der Heiden Heiland *JS Bach*
Opening Hymn: AM 327 Awake, awake: fling off the night!
Advent Candle: AM 26 v 1 Advent candles tell their story
Anthem: Zion Hears the Watchmen's Voices
Offertory: AM 41 Lo, he comes with clouds descending
Communion: AM 452 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
Closing Hymn: AM 47 People look east
Postlude: Sleepers wake, a voice is calling Op 65 *S Karg Elert*



CHRISTINGLE ADVANCE NOTICE

There will be a collection for the Children's Society at the Christingle service on Sunday 11 December. (Suggested donations of £1). Helpers will be needed to make the Christingles between 10.00am and 11.30am on Saturday 10 December in the Parish Centre. Please sign the list at the back of the church and add your contact details if you can help, even for a short time. New volunteers are always welcome and the job is quickly completed with lots of help. Thank you.

Anne Clark

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL 63 BOXES SO FAR - KEEP GOING PLEASE!

Last call for the shoeboxes. If people would like to donate, then please can you do so online or in cash by Sunday 27 November latest. Thanks to all who have donated so far - we have reached 63 shoeboxes which is great. But if you haven't had a chance to do so yet and would like to, there is still time. If you have any questions, please contact me at jwilks@jwa-consultancy.co.uk.

WE'RE DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS

Each week of Advent our Sustainability Group will be sharing an eco- tip for a greener Christmas.

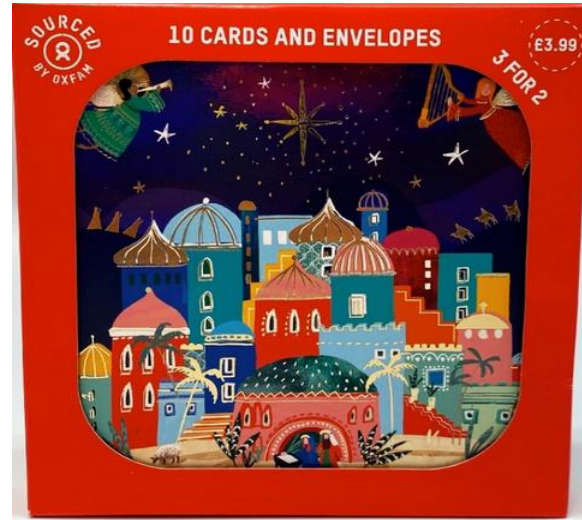
This week:

CHRISTMAS CARDS

You might think about sending e-cards which are very sustainable. You can do this via <https://www.dontsendmeacard.com/> or <https://www.cardsforcharity.co.uk/ecards.html> or direct from individual charity websites.

Many of us prefer to give cards. If you are buying cards, think about buying from charities directly as more money goes to the charity that way. *Cards for Good Causes* have a good range in Maidenhead Library.

Ideally, try to find cards that use recycled paper and get ones that are not wrapped in plastic. Recycle (or reuse) cards and envelopes. Eg Oxfam cards are sustainable and many are reusable as bookmarks, gift tags or Christmas decorations.



FOODSHARE

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

**The Parish Church of All Saints Boyne Hill
Christmas Worship 2022**

Sunday, 27th November

10.00 am **Eucharist** – Beginning of Advent Season

12.00-3.30 pm **All Saints Church Christmas Market in the Quadrangle**

Sunday, 4th December 2nd Sunday in Advent

10.00 am **Eucharist**

Sunday, 11th December 3rd Sunday in Advent

10.00 am **Christingle Service** - to support The Children's Society

Sunday, 18th December 4th Sunday in Advent

10.00 am **Eucharist** – children of All Saints will present the Christmas Nativity

6.00 pm **Carol Service of Nine Lessons and Carols** – followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Saturday 24th December

4.00 pm **Christmas Crib Service** - for all the family

11.30 pm **Midnight Mass** of the Nativity of the Lord

Sunday 25th December

10.00 am **Christmas Day Eucharist**

EDITORIAL

We offer everyone a warm welcome to our services this Christmas to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, whether it be the wonderful mystery of Midnight Mass, the fun-filled Crib Service for the children or our Christmas Market in the Quadrangle, at which there will be a range of stalls, tombola and raffle, food and drinks, music from the Salvation Army and more. And for the children, Father Christmas will be paying a visit to our magical Grotto.

The main service every Sunday is the Parish Eucharist at 10am, with a creche and Young Saints for children, followed by refreshments. We also frequently hold faith growth courses to help people to explore the riches of the Christian faith.

May we wish you all a very Happy, Peaceful and Blessed Christmas

Enquiries: The Parish Office tel: 01628 621933 email: allsaintsboynehill@gmail.com
website: www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

(You can find us at the top of Castle Hill, along the Bath Road, at the traffic light-controlled crossroads)