

# ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

## PARISH NEWS

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

Issue 42      13 January 2021



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

We are now in the midst of our third Lockdown. It is for most of us more challenging than certainly the first experience when the beautiful spring weather allowed many of us the joy of long walks in the sun and perhaps a gin and tonic and reading a book in the garden. This time the mood seems to be somewhat different as we are experiencing gloomy and cold winter weather and a worrying increase in the number of Covid cases.

It was a delight then to hear the input from Jeanette, Mike, Jan and Sue Nordberg when they shared where they had seen light breaking through the darkness at our Monday evening prayer group on zoom. As you know a good number of us are finding great comfort in the Jesuit style of prayer of noticing God in all things.

Jeanette spoke about the walks with her grandson Daniel and noticing the light shine through the darkness. She shared with us the sight of a Kingfisher, the snowdrops and new buds on her walk with Daniel through Cliveden. Sue shared with us the comfort she had drawn from Sunday morning prayer on zoom. The opportunity to gather with the Christian community to share the valuable part of Christian life of living in common life and being fed by the Word. Mike and Jan shared how Revd Sally from St Luke's had encouraged people when offering support to a person on the streets to look them in the eye when you give the money. By making eye contact, you are valuing the other person and particularly if you take time to converse with that person as well. I remember a man called Derek at theological college at St Stephen's House in Oxford setting the example to many of us in the early 1990's. Derek who didn't (like myself) find academia easy, but it was he, who when seeing a person in need would take them for a meal and talk with them, perhaps spending an hour of his time which perhaps should have been spent studying. You do not have to be an academic to assess what Christ would have done as Derek took the line that loving one's neighbour is the most important way we love God.

Revd Judith told Jeanette that when she was offering the vaccinations that she should see Christ in the eyes of the person receiving. The vaccination is a great sign of hope but the way in which it is delivered is important too. I have been told by parishioners who have received the vaccine how wonderful the atmosphere is as health care workers and volunteers alike share Christian love of neighbour.

Sue Nordberg sent an email to Jeanette informing us of Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889) who was an English Jesuit priest and a poet renowned in the literary world. In the religious world he was perhaps best known for finding God in all things. Sue offered us the poem 'As Kingfishers Catch Fire' which you can perhaps find for yourself this week. My offering of Hopkins comes from James Martin's book 'The Jesuit guide to Almost Everything' and Martin points us to 'Pied Beauty' which speaks of a love of God and nature.

'Glory be to God for dappled things-  
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;  
For rose-moles in all stipple upon trout that swim;  
Fresh-firecoal chestnut falls; finches wings;  
Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow, and plough;  
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;  
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)  
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;  
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:  
Praise him.

In this poem Hopkins offers us the beauty in the diversity of creation and even in the activities of humans which have rich diversity of materials and equipment. Hopkins wants us to delight in the order and beauty around us and to give thanks to God for the light breaking through in everyday things.

Thank-you Jeanette, for seeing light in dark times, Sue for highlighting the value of sharing the word of God and to Jan and Mike for seeing Christ in our neighbour. Our community like other communities need this encouragement at this time of the Pandemic.

## RESOURCES

### THIS WEEK:

#### Thursday 14 January 8.00pm Night Prayer on Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75976544021?pwd=Q1pJVTlpTytOdHg0VXhSRGxWRzIzZz09>

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHziv

Psalm 65, Hymn : The Day thou Gavest Lord is Ended, Reading: 1 Peter 2: 4-10

#### Sunday 17 January

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87668892523?pwd=N1JzN292S2ZKekpWbVJ1Yld3ay9nUT09>

Meeting ID: 876 6889 2523

Passcode: 763980

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.

##### Sundays@Six Joint Evening Service with St Luke's & The Church of the Good Shepherd

Night Prayer using Blue Booklets with the Theme of 'Abiding in Christ' as we begin the week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83960514349?pwd=YUxYSVZSVjF1cDVTdS85cDRIZm95UT09>

Meeting ID: 839 6051 4349

Passcode: 945101

#### Monday 18 January 7.30pm Prayer Group on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85011600714?pwd=Y0x2VWpMQ3JFUSTsQ0plbEFLOEQrQT09>

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 20 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=Nm1kZmNldHNmRG1sajF1OEplMVl2QT09>

Meeting ID: 859 8014 3355

Passcode: 412790

## **FUTURE ACTIVITIES ON ZOOM**

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

Brought to us by Andrew Stafford. Zoom joining instructions nearer the time.

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.

**Thursdays 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February 7.00pm -7.50pm Art Course with Matthew Firth.**

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

**A Quiz evening** – Please watch for news of All Saints version of 'Mastermind'!!! – Forever in my mind following a latest poor showing in a school test I have my mother's voice in my head saying, 'If you spent as much time studying your schoolwork as you do studying your football, rugby and cricket you might do a little better!' Let's hope there's plenty on sport!

## **PRAYER INTENTIONS**

Please pray for all NHS workers, all those involved in the vaccination programme, and all teachers and school staff.

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

We remember those who have recently died: Janet Dyer & Grace Churchward.

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

Church of England to 'Pray for the Nation' via the link below.

[https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/15348%20PftN%20Booklet\\_6th%20PROOF.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/15348%20PftN%20Booklet_6th%20PROOF.pdf)

May you all be blessed by God's love this week.

*Fr Jeremy*

## **Worship for SUNDAY 17 JANUARY The Second Sunday of Epiphany**

**Sounds of Worship**

**Brian Graves**

With the Baptism of Christ last week, we see the public acknowledgement that Jesus has received the Holy Spirit and is ready to start his ministry on earth. His first task is to recruit his disciples and that is the theme for today. The Gospel tells of Philip and Nathaniel joining Jesus. Despite his initial scepticism before meeting Jesus, Nathaniel immediately understands that he has met the Son of God on his first face-to-face encounter with Him. The first of the two hymns I have selected for today dwells on what this calling represents in our lives.

“Christ is the one who calls” AM 487 words by Timothy Dudley-Smith (b1926) to the tune “Love Unknown” by John Ireland (1879 – 1962). The opening line of this hymn summarises the entire theme of the day and the remainder of the verse stresses the importance and power of that call. The second verse shows it is the love of God which is the basis of Christ’s call and the potency of that love to set us free in this life. The third and fourth verses remind us of Christ’s passion and resurrection which enables the promise of a new life for all of us. Finally, the call of Jesus is wasted unless we share the message of God’s love and hope. The underlying message of God’s love is given extra resonance by the choice of tune, which is normally used for “My song is love unknown”.

Dudley-Smith was educated at Tonbridge School, before studying maths and then theology at Pembroke College, Cambridge. After graduating in 1947, Dudley-Smith began his ordination training at Ridley Hall. He was ordained deacon in 1950 and priest in 1951 by Christopher Chavasse, the Bishop of Rochester. After ordination, Dudley-Smith served as an Honorary Chaplain to Chavasse, as well as Head of the Cambridge University Mission in Bermondsey, South London. In 1955, he was appointed Editorial Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance and editor of the new Crusade magazine, created after Billy Graham's 1954 London mission. He served as Archdeacon of Norwich from 1973 to 1981 and as Bishop of Thetford from 1981 to 1991.

John Ireland studied piano, organ and composition at the Royal College of Music (RCM) London. From 1896 to 1926 he was an organist at two London churches. In 1923 he was appointed to a teaching position at the RCM where he remained until he retired in 1953. He was a successful and prolific composer.

1. Christ is the one who calls,  
the one who loved and came,  
to whom by right it falls  
to bear the highest name:  
and still today  
our hearts are stirred  
to hear his word  
and walk his way.
2. Christ is the one who seeks,  
to whom our souls are known.  
The word of love he speaks  
can wake a heart of stone;  
for at that sound  
the blind can see,  
the slave is free,  
the lost are found.
3. Christ is the one who died,  
forsaken and betrayed;  
who, mocked and crucified,  
the price of pardon paid.  
Our dying Lord,  
what grief and loss,  
what bitter cross,  
our souls restored!
4. Christ is the one who rose  
in glory from the grave,  
to share his life with those  
whom once he died to save.  
He drew death's sting  
and broke its chains,  
who lives and reigns,  
our risen King.

5. Christ is the one who sends,  
his story to declare;  
who calls his servants friends  
and gives them news to share.  
    His truth proclaim  
    in all the earth,  
    his matchless worth  
    and saving name.

Christ is the one who saves AM 487

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

The second hymn today is "Hail to the Lord's anointed" AM 99 words by James Montgomery (1771 – 1854) set to the tune Crüger, adapted from a melody by Johann Crüger (1598 – 1662) by William Henry Monk (1834 – 1889). The words of this hymn are based on Psalm 72. This Psalm would have been used at the anointing of one of the Kings of David and it describes the characteristics of the ideal ruler. Some of the language in the psalm is symbolic of the nation state such as the reference to the mountains possibly symbolises the sovereign and his ministers. This reference appears in verse 3. The homage of the kings in verse 4 is derived from references in the original psalm to the commercial maritime powers surrounding Israel.

However, the symbolism is still very relevant to the season of Epiphany. The hymn was originally written in eight verses for, and included in, a Christmas Ode which was sung at one of the Moravian settlements, perhaps Fulneck near Sheffield, around Christmas 1821. It was published in the following year in the Evangelical Magazine and entitled "Imitation of the 72nd psalm"

James Montgomery was the son of Moravian parents who died on a Christian mission to the West Indies while he was in boarding school. Montgomery inherited a strong religious belief, a passion for missions, and a great skill as a poet and hymn writer. He was editor of the Sheffield Iris (1796-1827), a newspaper that sometimes espoused radical causes. Montgomery was imprisoned briefly when he printed a song that celebrated the fall of the Bastille and again when he described a riot in Sheffield that reflected unfavourably on a military commander. He also protested against slavery, the employment of boy chimney sweeps, and lotteries. Associated with Christians of various persuasions, Montgomery supported missions and the British Bible Society. He published eleven volumes of poetry, mainly his own, and at least four hundred hymns. Some critics judge his hymn texts to be equal in quality to those of Isaac Watts and Charles Wesley. Many were published in Thomas Cotterill's Selection of Psalms and Hymns (1819 edition) and in Montgomery's own Songs of Zion (1822), Christian Psalmist (1825), and Original Hymns (1853).

Johann Crüger was born in Gross Breesen on what is now, the German Polish border. He studied music and theology in various German cities and at the age of 24, after being the house tutor to the von Blumenthal family became simultaneously a teacher at a school in Berlin and Director of music at the Nikolakirche in Berlin. He remained in these roles until his death 40 years later. Crüger composed numerous concert works and wrote extensively on music education. In 1643 he became acquainted with the hymn writer Paul Gerhardt, for whom he wrote the music for various hymns. In 1647 he edited the most important German Lutheran hymnal of the 17th century, Praxis pietatis melica.

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed  
    great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed  
    his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
    to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression,  
    and rule in equity.

2. He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying  
were precious in his sight.
  
3. He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth:  
before him, on the mountains  
shall peace, the herald, go;  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.
  
4. Kings shall fall down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing:  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.
  
5. O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest;  
from age to age more glorious  
all blessing and all-blest:  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his Name shall stand forever,  
his changeless name of love.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed AM 99

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d71Y6vGQkRQ>

### 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.'

### PSALM Psalm 139.1–5, 12–17

Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I will thank you because I am marvellously made; your works are wonderful and I know it well.

My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.

How deep I find your thoughts, O God! how great is the sum of them!

If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

### 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.'

### SERMON Jeanette Lock

Very often, when Fr Jeremy asks me to preach, my heart sinks when I read the set texts in the Lectionary. How on earth am I going to make sense of and deliver a sermon from that?!! But this week I am blessed with three wonderful readings with lots of "meat on the bones" to pick at.

Take Samuel's encounter with the Lord for example (Samuel 3.1-10 [11-20]), mistaking His call to be from his master Eli and then recognising where that true calling was coming from, answering with those amazing words, "*Speak, for your servant is listening*".

Or perhaps the poetry and intimate trust coming from the familiar and reassuring words of Psalm 139, highlighting how we are knowingly known by God who loves us as we are. "*O Lord, you have searched me out and known me*".

This is a week when we almost don't need a sermon; there is so much depth and beauty from the word of God we have been provided with. So, if you get bored reading my sermon, feel free to take yourself off with God and dwell on His words from Samuel or Psalm 139 and notice **what God might be saying to you** through them!

But if you are still with me, then what that caught my attention this week, which I'd like to dwell on a little now, is the concept of Jesus noticing us, just like he does with Nathanael in our Gospel text from John 1. 43-end.

First of all, let's look at Nathanael who was a typical Israelite from Cana, a town about ten miles north of Nazareth. He was a spiritually alert man who had faithfully studied the Old Testament scriptures so he would have been familiar with the writings of Moses and the prophets about a Messiah to come. He was good friends with Phillip, another God-fearing man who had recently travelled with Peter and Andrew to the Jordan River to hear John the

Baptist. It was while they were there that they had encountered Jesus (John 1. 35-43), eagerly proclaiming, “*we have found the Messiah*”.

In today’s Gospel reading we hear how Jesus has now travelled to Galilee where we are told he “found Phillip”, inviting him to, “*follow me*”. Phillip would have been exhilarated as he shared this exciting news with his friend Nathanael? “*We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.*”

Nathanael must have been surprised, after all, Phillip was supposed to be bringing back news about John the Baptist. Instead, the big news story is about someone else—a man called Jesus from Nazareth. Nathanael tries to dampen Phillip’s enthusiasm by bluntly asking, “*can anything good come out of Nazareth?*”. But Phillip is not put off and doesn’t argue with him but simply invites his friend to, “*come and see*”.

I wonder why Nathanael was under that fig-tree. Perhaps he was sheltering from the sun and being a dutiful Jew might have been studying the Torah, meditating deeply or praying for the coming of the Messiah, something that might have been on the minds of many Jews at that time. It could be that Nathanael had been minding his own business under the fig-tree, completely at peace with the world, enjoying a moment of rest and refreshment, away from the demands of life and work. We’ve heard about fig trees before in the Bible. The prophet Micah tells of God promising his people peace and security, illustrated by the words, “*but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig-trees, and no one shall make them afraid.*” (Micah 4.4).

Whatever the reason, Jesus not only noticed Nathanael under the fig-tree, but knew all about him, knew what was in his mind and his heart. Just like in the words of our Psalm for today, Psalm 139 *O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar*”.

So, somewhat sceptically, Nathanael meets Jesus—and what a wonderful, transformative meeting it turns out to be! If you dwell on verses 47 to 51 you can read of lots of reasons why this meeting was so special. Not least because we are treated to one of those thrilling moments when a mysterious prophetic image from the Old Testament finds its fulfilment in the New Testament! Jesus is saying, I am the ladder, the connection, the living link between heaven and earth! But the one reason that always stands out for me, and possibly why this is one of my favourite passages, is that Jesus **notices** Nathanael.

Jesus’ greeting to Nathanael not only captured his attention, affirming his character as a Godly man, “*Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit*”, but also, by its penetrating insight, threw him off his guard. Nathanael was stunned that this itinerant preacher, who everyone was talking about seemed to already know him and was aware of his movements. There is then an awakening, an Epiphany moment, when Nathanael responds with an amazing on the spot profession of faith, proclaiming Jesus to be the divine Son of God, the King of Israel, recognising that Jesus is indeed the long-awaited Messiah.

What always surprises me here is that Jesus had noticed Nathanael sitting under the fig-tree **even before** Phillip had rushed in and disturbed his peace with his excited news. Nathanael was on Jesus’ radar. Can you imagine what that feeling must be like? For Jesus to notice us before we even are aware of His presence; to feel His gaze resting on us and to know that we matter to Jesus, intimately and affectionately, so much so that He calls us towards Him? Pope Francis in his book *The Church of Mercy* says that “*letting the Lord look at us is itself a way of praying*”. This reminds me of the lovely story about St. Jean-Marie-Baptiste Vianney a 19<sup>th</sup> century French priest who once noticed a peasant come into the church and stay for hours in front of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The saint asked this man what do you say during all that time before Jesus in the Sacrament? The peasant replied, “Nothing, I look at Him and He looks at me.”

How do you feel about Jesus noticing you and knowing all about you? Does that give you comfort or concern? Some people might say that they don’t want Jesus to know all about them, they want to keep things hidden from Jesus. Others might say that despite knowing all their faults and secrets, Jesus still loves them and invites them to follow Him. I’ll leave those thoughts for you to ponder.

So, are we prepared to discover ourselves in the eyes of Jesus and to be drawn into a relationship of prayer and trust? A relationship that Jesus invites us into, to *come and see*, is one which allows our faith to be enriched and woven into something intricate and beautiful, an encounter which is wonderfully transformative. Are we prepared to come out from under our fig-trees and be truly known by Jesus, in our hearts and minds and the very core of our being?  
Amen

**COME AND SEE An Invitation to Explore the Christian Faith with our Bishops, Steven & Olivia.**  
**Wednesday 20 January 7.00pm – 8.00pm via Zoom**

Contact [communications@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:communications@oxford.anglican.org) to register and get your exclusive log-in

## 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](mailto: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

The news we all hoped for came last week in a phone call to my dad. Would he like to book his first coronavirus vaccination the next day? In fact he'd arranged a walk during the time slot offered. No problem. He agreed a time the following morning.

On the appointed day he drove to Windsor racecourse, near his home, where they were administering the Pfizer vaccine. He was greeted by volunteers directing the traffic who, despite freezing temperatures, were upliftingly friendly. Dad, who is 80, parked his car and more volunteers directed him inside where he said fellow grey-haired residents awaited their turn seated in chairs that were sanitised between occupants.

Soon he was invited to one of seven tables where nurses were giving vaccinations. He was asked a few questions, rolled up his sleeve and it was done. He was asked to return to a seat for 15 minutes in case of an adverse reaction and then that was it – he left, elated. He was full of praise for the calm, order and efficiency and, he said, humbled to be given priority in the national vaccination programme.

It was also a cause for celebration for us, his wider family. We know it will take three weeks for immunity to build and another jab later to top it up. And, under lockdown, he goes out rarely. But, like millions, he is safer.

As he left the racecourse he saw a sparrow hawk eating a pigeon. Ancient Greeks or Romans would have seen this as deeply symbolic. Perhaps it was.