

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
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Dear Friends and Parishioners of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

On Sunday 27 September I was contemplating during the sermon on what qualities we might see in leadership. The priests and elders (Matthew 21.23-32) as religious professionals seem to take for granted that they are the people with genuine authority. In turn they question Jesus' authority. Jesus in a sense exposes their lack of authenticity by asking them about John the Baptist followed by a short text about two sons. One of the sons tells the father that he will work in the vineyard and then proceeds to do nothing. The other initially refuses his father's request and then changes his mind and does work. John the Baptist has encouraged people to repent (Metanoia) and change direction for a new beginning. John points to Jesus as the Messiah, the one who will bring transformed life. The tax collectors and prostitutes repented and found a new life, but the leaders seemed to fall into the group of the son who says he will work and then does nothing.

Jesus through his life and through the teaching found in the parables provides a window into how we might live as humans. We are encouraged to respect one another, value one another and give self-worth to the other person. St Paul in the epistle to the Philippians challenges the people to 'Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.' (Philippians 2. 1-13) In recent weeks we have had the story of the 'Compassionate employer' who employed people throughout the day to work on his vineyard. He pays the living wage to all the workers whether they worked all day or for an hour. The landowner provides self-worth and pride to a worker by enabling him to feed his children whether he has worked all day or not. The story highlights not meritocracy but rather God's grace. His love for us which we experience by the sacrificial love of Jesus on the Cross. Who among us deserves this love?

Another recent text from Matthew's gospel highlighted a slave forgiven a huge debt who then fails to forgive another slave an almost insignificant debt owed to him. At this time of harvest, we can recall the man with his bountiful harvest blessed by God who builds larger barns for his own wealth and comfort. We find no recognition of the needs of the workers who have helped him or those in need of food. Like Bart Simpson with his prayer of grace over the food. 'We got this ourselves so thank you God for nothing.' As Kenneth Bailey 'Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes' shows so brilliantly through his cultural studies on the parables highlights 'St Augustine says 'The rich man did not realise that the bellies of the poor were much safer storerooms than his barns.

The way Jesus valued women such as the lady at the well, speaking in the open air to a man she is not related to having been married several times then becomes an early missionary. The woman who says to Jesus 'But even the dogs get scraps from under the table' highlighting the Jesus the saviour will bring hope to the whole world of the New Kingdom of God. These texts led one intelligent young Iranian woman a few years ago to speak to the Maidenhead Deanery Synod and say that for the first time she felt valued and loved by God.

We can ask the question do we see authentic leadership in our world today? If we begin with the question of sustainability. In recent times with the help of Jenny Wilks and Jo McMullen and the WAMCF (Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum) a number of us viewed The Peoples Emergency Briefing film. It is not an easy film which highlights the problems humanity has caused to the environment through trying to dominate creation rather than work in partnership with the world God provides for us. We were shown changing weather patterns, threats to food security and perhaps growing numbers of asylum seekers from parts of the world that may become inhabitable. What leadership do we find on these issues?

Having returned from Crete recently I came across the story of Prometheus. Promethean means daring or inventive like Prometheus who sought to steal fire (power) from gods and gives it to other humans along with other skills. Pope Francis was critical of this view of humanity. 'Endowed with intellect and free will, each man is responsible for his self-fulfillment. He is helped and sometimes hindered, by his teachers and those around them yet whatever the outside influences exerted on him, he is chief architect of his own success or failure. Utilizing only his talent and will power, each man/woman can grow in humanity, enhance his personal worth, and perfect himself.' You can see the link with the American dream and

meritocracy. A world of winners/losers and we deserve our individual outcome.

Pope Francis sought the common good to seek the welfare of those who lack the basic necessities of life. In terms of sustainability, he saw humanity as co-operators with God in the work of creation, seeking to benefit people and the wider eco-system. Another area of life where we might question authentic leadership will be AI. The former Bishop of Oxford Steven Croft was interviewed recently on Radio 4. Croft spoke of the integrity of humanity, self-worth and the value of work. The interviewer enquired whether the clergy were speaking on this issue? The bishop responded quickly to this line of questioning by challenging the clergy of the Church of England to give guidance and input on this important subject.

The excellent journal 'Pastoral Review' in articles focusing on Catholic Social Teaching from Francis to Leo focused on AI gave me a background to this complex subject. One of the articles quoted Romano Guardini, 'The end of the Modern World' written in the 1950's. Guardini foresaw man's bid for power would increasingly enslave him, tempting him with limitless possibility and the illusion of self-sufficiency. Chris Olah, the co-founder of Anthropic was quoted; 'Every AI lab operates inside a set of incentives and constraints that can sometimes conflict with doing the right thing. We will always be influenced by those incentives. Olah says AI systems can see a character coming to life in them. He has a language that contrasts AI as emerging, growing, living and I think very positive in its outcomes. However, there is says Olah a fixity of economic incentives that can make us do what we do not want to do and what cannot be changed. (Some similarity here to St Paul and his trying to do what is right but finding himself drawn into the opposite.)

In a novel that I read on holiday called 'I am Pilgrim' a Buddhist monk tells an anxiety filled American agent a story. Monkeys are tricked into coming down from trees to put their hands into a bottle that is thin at the top and wide at the base. The base is filled with nuts. The monkey grasps the nuts but then cannot escape the bottle. The people capture him. The monk says to the American 'Let go and live.'

John the Baptist was authentic and showed that humility and forgiveness could lead to a spirit filled life with Christ. Through baptism we become members of the Body of Christ where our God given gifts of the spirit can flourish for the common good and for our own self-worth.

We need faith in Jesus who gave life, redeemed life and sustained life. He brought kingdom qualities of the common good where people flourish with each other and in partnership with creation and leaders live the gospel not just talk about it. So don't forget that monkey, 'Let go and live'.

May you be blessed by God this fortnight,

Fr Jeremy

RESOURCES FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Thursday 1 October

3.00pm Open the Book at All Saints School

7.00pm Deanery Synod at All Saints. – The guest speaker will be the chaplain to the Thames Valley Police – all are welcome to join this meeting

8.00pm Choir Practice

Friday 2

10.00am Tiny Saints starts the new term in the Parish Centre

Sunday 4

10.00am Parish Eucharist for the Harvest Festival – Fr Jeremy

We welcome today the students from Boyne Hill, All Saints and Altwood Schools for the Harvest celebrations. Following the service we will have food to share and an auction of the harvest goods. All money raised will towards the schools for sustainability projects.

6.00pm Harvest Festival Songs of Praise at The Church of Good Shepherd.

7.30pm Confirmation Course weeks 17 & 18 on zoom

Monday 5

9.00am Morning prayer

7.00pm Annual meeting of the Bell Ringers in church

Tuesday 6

9.30am Morning Prayer

1.30pm Chapel and Chats at Altwood School

2.30pm Tuesday Club meeting in the Parish Centre. Please see the separate note for details.

7.30pm PCC Standing Committee in the Birinus Room

Wednesday 7 October	10.00am Eucharist – Fr Jeremy 11.30am Holy Communion at Clara Court Care Home 3.00pm <i>Open the Book at Larchfield School</i>
Thursday 8	3.00pm <i>Open the Book at All Saints School</i> 7.00pm Children and Schools meeting at the Birinus Room 8.00pm Choir Practice
Friday 9	10.00am Tiny Saints starts the new term in the Parish Centre
Saturday 10	10.00am Churchyard Work Gardening Party. Please see the separate note for details.
Sunday 11	10.00am Parish Eucharist for the Nineteenth Sunday After Trinity – Worship for All Celebrant & Preacher – Fr Jeremy 6.00pm Sundays @6 Desert Island Discs at All saints Church. Mike and Jan Moss will share their favourite hymn, music and readings.
Tuesday 13	8.50am <i>Altwood School assembly -Individual Value</i> 7.00pm Boyne Hill School Governors meeting
Wednesday 14	8.50am <i>Altwood School assembly -Individual Value</i> 10.00am Eucharist – Fr Jeremy 3.00pm <i>Open the Book at Larchfield School</i>

ADVANCE NOTICE

Thursday 1st October 7pm Deanery Synod at All Saints Church

Guest speaker is the chaplain to the Thames Valley Police

Sunday 4th October 10am Parish Eucharist for Harvest

We will have our local church schools participating at this year's harvest service. Following the service we will share hospitality and hold an auction of harvest goods. Please bring gifts for the auction.

Tuesday Club 6th October 2.30pm in the Parish Centre

All welcome to our first meeting of the new season when our speaker will be *Niki McCann from Waltham Place Organic Farm* which should be really interesting. Come and give us a try: no charge for a first visit after that the guest fee is £3 per meeting. Annual membership £20: refreshments free! *Jan Moss, Group Leader*

All Saints Church Patronal Festival and Confirmation Service 1st November 10am with the Bishop of Reading the Rt Revd Mary Gregory.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Creator God, at harvest time we give thanks for all the many ways that you bless life on Earth.

Help us to respect every life on earth and care for the wellbeing of the animals in birth, life and death. We bring you the harvest of fruit - rich, ripe and succulent. We give thanks for the variety of the earth's fruitfulness and the tastes which delight us day by day. May we make the choices to pay fair prices to producers in developing countries, knowing that fair trade can lead to people living more sustainable lives. We pray for the work of Ripple Effect in Africa.

We bring you the harvest of the cornfields, and the bread which feeds the world. Make us generous in a world where the poor are often sent away empty. At this time, we celebrate our three church schools as they share with us our harvest festival. We welcome students from Altwood and Boyne Hill as they share the harvest music and All Saints as they share their sustainability projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our gifts with others through our harvest auction and may we share with joy our celebration buffet on Harvest Festival Day.

We look forward to All Saints Patronal Festival and for the confirmation service that day. We give thanks for the visit of Bishop Mary Gregory as she shares the patronal festival and baptises and confirms candidate from our church community. We thank you for all the people you have brought to our country and to this town as refugees.

We thank you for our friends from Iran as they enrich our society in so many ways. Thank you for their skills, talents, their work, their culture and their different perspectives and experiences they enrich us with. We pray for their country and people and for a move towards peace, justice and freedom to live life in all its fullness.

We pray with sadness for the innocent victims of war in the Middle East. We pray for people suffering as a result of

wars between Ukraine and Russia, Sudan and South Sudan and all other areas of unrest. We pray that dialogue may prevail, and peace be found in all troubled parts of the world.

We pray for those in need including Daneille, Gordon Kerrison, Sylvia Telford, Barbara Bannister, Hugh Boulter, Scopas Lado, Margaret Ego, Heidi Webb, Barbara Ann-Bourne, Beryl Dorton, Elek Bolygo, Catherine, Rod Broad, Jill Crace, Majid and Neda, Georgina Finney, Fr John Chadwick, Scarlett, James, David Emerson, Jeff Collins, Michael Woodley, Geraldine Gifford, Jeremy Nordberg, Natalia Kolodii, Nikki McMichael, Anita Gordon, Paul, Jaffer and Sheila Rose. May they all know God's healing touch and loving presence.

We pray for the recently departed and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. We pray for Hosein, (The father of Mahdi). We remember all our departed loved ones. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

COLLECT

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the belief of those in need and for our own well-being; 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 forever. **Amen.**

READING : 2 Corinthians 9.6-end

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

GOSPEL: Luke 12. 16-30

Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;[b] yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

MUSIC

Prelude:	Divertimento on 'Monkland'	<i>Heathcote Statham</i>
Opening hymn:	290 We plough the fields	
Anthem:	All Things Bright and Beautiful	<i>J Rutter</i>
Offertory hymn:	282 Come, ye thankful people, come	
Communion hymn 1:	285 God, whose farm is all Creation	
Communion hymn 2:	286 Praise, O praise our God and King	
Closing hymn:	287 Praise and thanksgiving	
Postlude:	Nun danket alle Gott	<i>S Karg-Elert</i>

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

COLLECT

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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 forever. **Amen**

READING: Philippians 4.1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22.1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

MUSIC

Prelude:	Sheep May Safely Graze	<i>J S Bach</i>
Opening hymn:	9 When morning gilds the skies	
Gradual hymn:	800 The Lord's my shepherd (Townend)	
Offertory hymn:	365 Let us build a house	
Communion hymn:	334 In the Lord I'll be ever thankful	
Closing hymn:	769 Rejoice, the Lord is King	
Postlude:	Flourish and Chorale on 'Gopsal'	<i>M H Corl</i>



Churchyard Work Party Saturday 10th October at 10.00am

Calling everyone with enthusiasm for being outdoors, whether or not you have gardened before. Please come along to help in the churchyard on the morning of *Saturday 10th October at about 10 am*.

We will be tidying, raking, planting bulbs and plants, for about two hours. Hot drinks and tools will be provided!

But if you do have your own stout gloves or gardening tools please bring those with you too.

Any questions please speak to or email Jo McMullen – josie.mcmullen@gmail.com



**The
Children's
Society**

Children's Society Box Holders

This year I am asking you to bring your boxes to church on one of the following Sundays when I will be present: *18th October, 1st Nov, 8th Nov or 15th Nov.*

If you are unable to manage any of these dates then I can offer various other options:

- Send a cheque (made out to 'The Children's Society') to me at the address below
- Bring your box straight to my house.
- Phone me if you need your box collected from your house.
- Bring your box when you attend church service on Sunday or Wednesday and ask to leave it in the Parish Office.

Please note that I am away on holiday at the beginning of October and then again at the end of the month so will be unable to collect your boxes from the office.

You all have my phone number on your box so please call if you need further clarification, assistance or want to discuss anything with me. *My address is 46 Boyn Hill Road SL6 4HJ*

I would like to close the collection process by mid-November.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Anne Clark



Violin and Piano Lunchtime Recital Given by the Dryads Duo on **Wednesday 28th October 2026 at 1:00pm** (Free of Charge)

On October 28th the Dryads Duo complete their series of lunchtime recitals at All Saints Church at which they will have played all 10 of Beethoven's piano and violin sonatas. In the forthcoming recital they will play Sonatas Nos 8, 9 & 10. The Sonata No. 8 in G major was written when Beethoven was contending with the onset of his deafness, but despite the personal trauma this disability must have caused, the music is witty and cheerful. No. 9, nicknamed the Kreutzer, is a much bigger work more appropriate for stage performance than intimate chamber music. Finally, No. 10 conveys an introspective and calm mood.

The recitals are free of charge, but donations at the end of the recital to help defray expenses will be welcome.

Brian Graves

AND PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP DONATING TOILETRIES TO CARE FOR CALAIS.

THIS APPEAL IS ONGOING PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN

Claire Foley

