

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

PARISH NEWS

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Issue 86 15 December 2021



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

On a recent visit to the Deanery of Windsor and Maidenhead Bishop Steven began his talk to the clergy by reflecting on Genesis 1:1 and the challenge of leading through chaos. 'At the beginning of the bible, earth is without form and void. The Spirit of God is brooding over the face of the waters. To brood is to wait patiently, to give loving care in the midst of fear and tiredness around us, to hope and, steadily to seek to bring order to creation and in the new creation in Christ. In Advent we celebrate light shining in the midst of darkness. The darkness will not overcome it.'

Bishop Steven went on to say, 'It's not clear how the new variant will affect patterns of churchgoing over the coming weeks. At the present time, my advice is to go for it and issue warm, open invitations to people to come in person and gather for worship for many different celebrations of Christmas.' The Bishop highlights 'that loneliness and isolation lead to an illness of a different kind. This does not seem to be a season for the Church to step back.'

We will try to keep worshippers at All Saints as safe as possible. We will continue to encourage mask wearing, sharing the peace with a bow and encourage washing of hands. Equally we will open the doors at times to enable ventilation of the building. We are all encouraged when able to take lateral flow tests and to accept the vaccinations when offered.

Before offering my 'warm, open invitation' to you all to join us at All Saints for the traditional Christmas services (and at the same time see the beautifully restored George Street Floor) may I thank those of you that have supported recent events and services and indeed given time and energy to planning them. In the last couple of weeks, we have celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion, shared the wonderfully successful Christmas Market (Christ Child Market) when an estimated 600 people joined us to share the beginning of Advent, and look forward to the coming of the Christ Child. This weekend we shared the beautiful Christingle service, and it was lovely to witness families returning to church with children holding up their Christingles with light shining in the darkness as we sang 'Shalom.' Thank you to Anne Clark for all her work in planning the Christingles alongside the helpers who met in the Parish Centre on Saturday. See picture on p 4) As I write over £180 has been raised for the Children's Society following the collection made at the service.

I therefore warmly invite you all to the Advent Eucharist on Sunday, then the Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.00pm on the 19th followed by mulled wine and mince pies. The following week beginning on Monday 20th December at 11.00am in church we all have the chance to give thanks for the wonderful life and ministry of

Ella Titchener who gave so much to All Saints church community. Then on Thursday 23rd at 2.30pm in church we will have the funeral of another member of All Saints Vivienne Paterson who gave her time to supporting families at Tiny Saints and sharing the fellowship of Senior Saints and Mother's Union.

On Friday 24th December we are celebrating Christmas with the 4.00pm Crib service. We will be keeping the service short but sharing the Christmas story and blessing of the crib. This is followed by the 11.30pm Christmas Midnight Mass and the 10.00am Family Eucharist on Christmas Day. On Sunday 26th December St Stephen's Day at the 10.00am Eucharist Brian Graves will give some thoughts on two well-known carols.

The Following Sunday 2nd January we will celebrate The Epiphany and the 90th birthday of Barbara Bannister. Barbara would like to invite everyone to the Epiphany Eucharist to share her celebration over a drink and birthday cake at the back of the church. Barbara has spent much of her life worshipping at All Saints and given much of her time supporting ministry and it is wonderful that she wants to share her 90th birthday with the community. I hope that as many of us as possible can share this celebratory day.

Sad News

We heard last Friday that Marjorie Pocock had sadly died. Marjorie was a much loved member of All Saints Church who got much enjoyment and fulfilment from singing in our choir over many years. As we think of this weekend's carol service many of us will be thinking of Marjorie as she loved that occasion. Her funeral will take place at 11.30am on Friday 7 January at Caversham Crematorium. It would be good if as many of us as are able could attend the service to support Marjorie's son Douglas and his family.

RESOURCES

Thursday 16 December 8.00pm Choir Practice in the Parish Centre

Friday 17 10.00am Last Tiny Saints of the term in the Parish Centre

Sunday 19 10.00am Eucharist for the 4th Sunday of Advent.
There will be no refreshments at this service.
6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols followed by mince pies and mulled wine

Monday 20 11.00am Memorial service for Ella Titchener in Church

Wednesday 22 10.00am Eucharist in Advent
2.00pm Christmas Service at Larchfield Care Home

Thursday 23 2.30pm Funeral of Vivienne Paterson in Church

Friday 24 4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm The Nativity of the Lord - Midnight Mass

Saturday 25 10.00am Christmas Day Family Eucharist

Sunday 26 10.00am Eucharist for St Stephen

Wednesday 29 10.00am Eucharist

Sunday 2 January 10.00am Eucharist for the Feast of the Epiphany

PRAYER INTENTIONS

As we think of the fourth Advent candle this week we pray that its flame be for us a sign of blessing. As Mary and Elizabeth greeted each other, and Mary praised God for the blessings received, may we know God's blessing in our lives and community, as we offer prayers and praises in Jesus' name.

We pray as we journey towards Christmas with ongoing concerns about the Pandemic, that people will know your loving presence. We pray for those who face Christmas and the New Year with deep apprehension, knowing this to be a time where much poverty is revealed - The poverty of love, of friends, of purpose, of spirit. God of joy, give joy to all those who are worried this Christmas.

We pray for our schools this time of year. We remember teachers, staff and students of Boyne Hill, All Saints, Altwood, Larchfield, Claire's Court, Highfield and Desborough. May they all enjoy a happy and peaceful Christmas.

We pray for our Care Homes of Clara Court, Normanhurst and Larchfield. We pray that the residents and staff who care for them will be blessed by God's love this Christmas.

We pray for all those in need. We remember Danielle, Nick, Fr John, Dave Hill, his wife Eliza, Dave's parents, Ann and Chris, his in-laws, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Joan Poolman, Doreen Hill, John Hicks, Christel Kirschner, Ursula Hutchinson, Mikhail and Luidmila, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner.

We pray for all the recently departed especially Vivienne Paterson, Marjorie Pocock, Linda Sugarman, Wilson Scullion, and all our departed loved ones and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

God who blessed the earth with life and love, thank you that you greet us in the person of Jesus, and pour out your blessings on us by the power of your Holy Spirit. Empowered by the same Spirit, send us out to be signs of greeting and blessing to a world in need of your peace, and people in need of your love. Help us to serve and bless in your name, and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Prayer from Roots materials)

May we all be blessed by God's love this week,

Fr Jeremy

Worship for Sunday 19 December **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

COLLECT

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

EPISTLE **Hebrews 10: 5 - 10**

When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book, it is written of me).' When Christ said, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

GOSPEL Luke 1: 39 - 45

Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

It's lovely to be back in Church with our new floor and to have services back to some sort of normality. But not all our Servers and Refreshment providers have returned, and some new volunteers would be very welcome. If you are interested or would like to find out more please email Nick Kirk nickkirk2002@hotmail.com or speak to him after a service.

RAFFLE AT THE BACK OF CHURCH

Raffle tickets will be available after the service this coming Sunday and through to the New Year. The draw will be made on Sunday 2 January. There are lots of lovely prizes all on display at the back of the Church.

CHRISTINGLE MAKERS AT WORK LAST SATURDAY



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Please have a look at the back of church to see if there are any cards for you or maybe a friend/neighbour who can't get to church who you could deliver to.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES – SIDESPERSONS NEEDED

We would be very grateful for some additional help for the Sides teams at the following services over Christmas: Midnight Mass and Christmas Day 10.00am Eucharist. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church if you can help.
Stella Harding 07738 179710

PARISH NEWS NEWS

Anything for 22 December Parish News to Parish Office by 9.00am Tuesday 21 December please. No Parish News on 29 December.