

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**
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Issue 191 21 February 2024



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,



Monika and I had a discussion on Sunday afternoon before I headed off to take Evensong at the church. I proudly announced that I have given up drinking alcohol for Lent as part of my sacrificial living. Monika, to my surprise, said that this is not much of a sacrifice on my behalf as I rarely drink unless I go to the football, go out for a meal or a drink with friends.

Thursday evenings after choir practice have become sociable too thanks to Steve and Claire Foley's generous hospitality in providing wine, beer or a whiskey from Scotland, Japan and maybe Australia! In truth though Monika is correct that I do not drink that much, although it is still a struggle to survive 6 weeks without alcohol. Monika suggested that I gave up chocolate instead and that, rather than alcohol, might bring me closer to God and reduce my diabetic sugar levels!

Sacrifice is a challenge. Watching Songs of Praise on Sunday afternoon I discovered a couple that were following 'Creation Care' a sustainability project supported by the Church of England. They spoke about giving up meat, buying new clothes and the big one for many of us flying to far off places for holidays. The discussion with Monika and the Sunday afternoon viewing of Songs of Praise led me into my talk for Evensong. On Sunday morning we had pondered what it is to be loved by God following the words 'You are my son! You are the one I love! You make me very glad.' Jesus was then sent into the desert to experience temptation. Jesus is tempted in the wilderness and the first reading at Evensong gave us Adam and Eve being tempted by the serpent in Genesis 3.

I wonder how many of us think seriously about being tempted by the devil or the serpent? A film that I used at Evensong which has influenced my thinking on our freewill and the challenge to discern the right way of following the example of Christ is called 'The Devil's Advocate.'

It is a 1997 film with the actors Keanu Reeves and Al Pacino playing the key roles. I have used this film many a time to illustrate the way the devil/serpent can enter the human mind through ego or the self. Reeves' character is a brilliant lawyer who wins cases for people even when they are probably not innocent. The lawyer has never lost a case. Pacino's character who runs a law firm in New York is impressed. He encourages the young lawyer to leave the American countryside to go to New York.

At first the lawyer's young wife loves the glamour. Soon though Reeves' character is consumed by work and parties and spends little time with his wife. She suffers loneliness, depression and ends up in hospital. In a haunting scene towards the end of the film the young lawyer meets his boss played by Pacino. Pacino's character says how sorry he is to hear about Reeves character's wife. Pacino tells him

that the company are very sorry to hear about the ill health of his wife. They would fully understand if he took time away from work to support her. However, the company also has a legal case that only the young lawyer can win for the company and their client.

Here is the devil at work. We understand your need to support your wife, but you are the only man able to win the case. The lawyer chooses the case. His young wife takes her life. In a scene of great tension Reeves' character shouts at Pacino's character 'you made me do this'. Pacino points out to the egotistical lawyer, no I gave you the choice. Your freewill led you to make the choice you made.

The devil tempting Jesus plays on choice and power too. The devil says to Jesus, "If God your father loves you so much you can get food yourself, you can be powerful". Jesus, unlike Adam and Eve and our young lawyer, sees through the trap. As Tom Wright writes in *Lent and Easter for Everyone*, 'Jesus is committed to loving and serving God alone. The flesh may scream for satisfaction; the world may beckon seductively; the devil himself may offer undreamed of power; but Israel's loving God, the one Jesus knew, offered what it meant to be human, to be a true Israelite, to be Messiah.'

Jesus taught by example and showed us how we might as baptised Christians die to ego and self to live life with him. This Lent may we find ways to refocus towards the path of servanthood to which our baptism has commissioned us. God has a vocation for us even if that is merely doing the small things well and pointing a light towards his Kingdom.

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

Fr Jeremy

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Thursday 22 February

11.00am Baptism Class in the Birinus Room

7.00pm Stations of the Cross *Journeying with Refugees* These stations were written by young people on the plight of refugees.

8.00pm Choir Practice

Friday 23

Tiny Saints Toddler Group in the Parish Centre

Sunday 25

10.00am Parish Eucharist for the Second Sunday of Lent

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Jeremy

4.00pm Sundays@4 in the Birinus Room – We will look at ***Lent with Brother Francis***, a DVD that helps teach children the meaning of Lent, and sharing cakes and crumpets following our prayer time.

Monday 26 & Tuesday 27

No morning prayer. Please pray for those involved in interviewing for a new Headteacher at Altwood Academy.

Monday 26

7.30pm Christmas Market Meeting at the Vicarage

Wednesday 28 February

10.00am Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr Jeremy

12.15pm Lenten Soup Lunch in the Parish Centre. Proceeds to the Ripple Charity

3.00pm *Open the Book at Larchfield School*

2.00pm *Service at Larchfield Care Home with Fr Jeremy & Jeanette Lock*

7.00pm *Film Evening at Jenny's, The Warren, Grenfell Road. See p 4*

ADVANCE NOTICES:

THURSDAY 21 MARCH 7.00pm FOUR 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 4 seats remain available. Please contact Sue Stannett if you would like one – sastannett@gmail.com. if anyone would still like to give a donation to his farewell gift please do so to the Churchwardens, John or Ken.

LENT AT ALL SAINTS

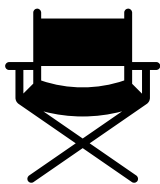
1. Thursday evenings Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm. Included in the stations will be the theme of refugees and Pope Francis' stations of Mercy.
2. Wednesday soup lunches to raise donation for the Ripple Effect charity at 12.15 each week.
3. Wednesday night film nights looking at Sustainable issues starting at 7.00pm. See p 4 for details.
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.

DO THE SMALL THINGS WELL

Planting - The blast of warm air mid-February got lots of people thinking about the garden once again. If you normally just pop out for pretty bedding plants around Easter maybe consider planting some summer flowering bulbs now instead, giving you the promise of gladiola, peonies, dahlias, Allium, foxgloves, lilies, freesias Lots to choose from! The benefit is that you only buy once and they come up year after year, thus saving the peat bogs from depletion and landfill from zillions of little plastic pots. Happy planting!

Your Eco-Church committee



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
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

Faithful God, we as continue our journey of Lent, we come together as your family, your church, your people, to worship and to learn from you. None of us are too young or too old to follow you. All of us can be surprised by new opportunities, new challenges, new ways to serve you. We are known by name and cherished as your children, whatever our age, whatever our circumstances, for you call and love us all. Amen. (Resourced from Roots materials)

We pray this week for the Diocesan 'Come and See' Lent journey with Bishop Steven. We give thanks for his insights as we learn more of what it is to 'Love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

We give thanks for the opportunity this Lent to share homemade soup and fellowship on Wednesday's. We give thanks for the response last Wednesday of those who came to the lunch to share friendship and by the generous donations offered support to the Ripple Effect charity working in 6 African countries. We celebrate the Ripple Effect charity as it continues to provide opportunities to learn sustainable farming and offer educational opportunities for children to attend school.

We continue to pray for peace in troubled parts of the world. We pray for an end to the bloodshed in Gaza, Israel, and other parts of the Middle East. We pray for peace in Ukraine, and we continue to be mindful 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 hotels and the communities that they have become a part of. May they find opportunities for jobs, homes, and places of welcome in this country that will enable them to live life in all its fulness.

We pray for our schools as we return to sharing the Open the Book stories. We pray too for Altwood Academy and for all those involved in the interviews and selection process of a new Headteacher. We give thanks for the leadership of Neil Dimpleby over the last decade at Altwood.

From our journey through the stations of the cross this week we pray with Roshan Joji 'Loving God, help us always to see when someone needs us. Help us to have the courage to stand up for others, and never walk on by ignoring someone in need. Amen.'

Please pray for Theodore Cross, Ethan & Phil Markey and Sophie James on the anniversaries of their Baptisms.

We pray for those in need at this time. We remember Daneille, Christopher, Sylvia Denison, Gordon Kerrison, Sylvia Telford, 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, Doreen Bramble and Doris Winn.

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, Audrey Burch, Cheryl Brookes, Eddie Sheppard and Bishop Alan Wilson and all who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time. We pray especially for Jo and Carol Sheppard at this time.



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 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 please put your name on the list by that date. Payment can be made using the pre-printed envelopes which are also on the table at the back of the church to be handed to Stella Harding or the Church Office.

The Flower Team

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

COLLECT

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 17: 1 – 7 & 15 - 16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.' God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

GOSPEL Mark 8: 31 - 38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

MUSIC

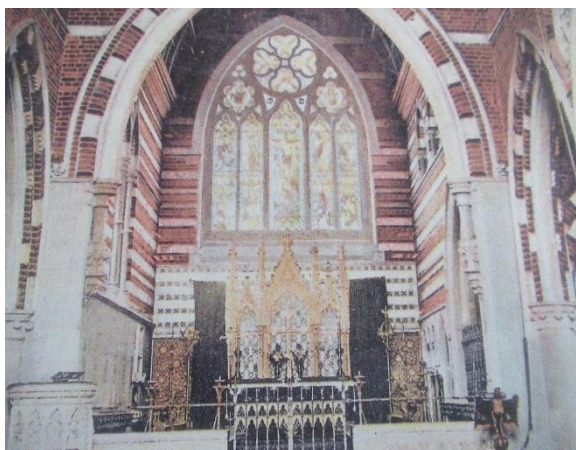
Prelude:	Chorale Prelude 'Melcombe'	<i>C H H Parry</i>
Opening hymn:	593 At the name of Jesus	
Gradual hymn:	135 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said	
Offertory hymn:	667 I danced in the morning	
Communion hymn:	451 Just as I am	
Closing hymn:	748 O Jesus, I have promised	
Postlude:	Prelude, Fugue and Variation Opus 18	<i>C Franck</i>



MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES

We shall be making the posies for Mothering Sunday on **Saturday 9 March at 10.00am in the Parish Centre**. We are always grateful for as much help as possible, so please come along if you can. A selection of small pieces of greenery are required, such as Heather, Pittosporum, perfumed leaves (rosemary etc.) are particularly welcome, so if you, or your neighbours, have any that can be spared, please bring them with you or leave them at the Parish Office on Friday morning, 8 March.

REREDOS



Last week we included an article on the removal of the curtain from behind the high altar, revealing the remains of what used to be there. Here is a photograph showing the complete original reredos as G E Street designed it.

Ken Smith, Churchwarden

RENAISSANCE VOICES CONCERT IN CHURCH DIRECTED BY PAUL LEDDINGTON WRIGHT



JOY- sorrow – HOPE Saturday 9 March 6.30pm

Tickets £18 (£16 in advance, under 18s free) Includes a light supper after the concert

<https://www.renaissancevoices.co.uk/tickets/> or 01628 624429

Renaissance Voices' concerts have become a regular feature at All Saints. This one features choral music, readings and hymns charting the journey from Christ's birth to resurrection. The programme highlights, the Annunciation, Candlemas, the season of Lent, Palm Sunday, Passiontide and Easter resurrection. This thoughtful concert complements other activities at the church as part of our Lenten preparation for Passiontide and Easter.

The choir is directed by Paul Leddington Wright who was formerly Director of music at Coventry Cathedral and principal conductor of the BBC TV programme Songs of Praise.

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

