

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**
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Issue 186 17 January 2024



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,



The value of a good story...

I'm sure you will by now be aware of the horrendous Post Office Horizon scandal. A few days ago, I heard a R4 programme about how the ITV drama series on the scandal suddenly ignited public interest and political action. After all, most of the facts of the scandal have been known for years yet admissions of failure, and appropriate redress, have been extremely slow in coming. Media experts on the R4 show explained that dramatizing the events and telling the story through the impacts on

individuals whose lives we could watch represented on TV and who we could empathise with, made all the difference. In a sense, what started out as bare facts "came alive" through the lives and experiences of the individuals portrayed.

This set me thinking about how much of the Bible consists of stories about people and their lives. I'm sure this is no accident, as telling truths through the use of story serves to "bring alive" what might otherwise be abstract concepts – such as the love and forgiveness of God, and the way in which God cares for and is engaged with his creation and us his people. We learn about what it means to be human, about who God is, and about what it means to live lives of hope, love and faith as we read about characters touched by God such as Abraham, Jacob and his many-coloured coat, and Moses. Then there are more intimate stories such as that of Ruth and Naomi in the book of Ruth; the courage and determination of the prophets; and the often hilarious story of Jonah and the whale.

The New Testament also has its fair share of stories, many of them used by Jesus as a wonderfully direct and memorable way to teach – the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, the parable of the sower and more. The NT is also packed full of real-life adventure stories - of the life of Jesus, and then after his resurrection the adventures of Peter, James and St Paul told in the Acts of the Apostles.

You can read these stories afresh by using different Bible translations or picture-book bible stories; maybe using films, poems or just your imagination in prayer. If you're an analytical or historical person, you might want to delve into the detail of a story – plotting the routes of St Paul's journeys, finding out what Capernaum was like in the time of Jesus, or finding out what the image of a shepherd would conjure up to

those who first heard Jesus use that image. All of which helps us to get inside the stories and experience them with the heart as well as the head.

Surely this, too, is why those who go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land to see with their own eyes the places where Jesus lived and taught return with a renewed sense of faith and trust in the power of the Gospel message. And it is why the Open the Book presentations in our schools are so valuable. If you haven't done so before, begin to think of the Bible as a collection of history plays, of adventure stories, of love stories; all based on the real, human dramas of individuals over thousands of years, and all written down so we can learn more about ourselves and about God.

Remember how the dramatization of the bald facts of the Horizon scandal, illustrated through the lives of real people, has brought alive our understanding of that scandal and its effects, and see if in the same way the stories in the Bible can make abstract concepts about God, his love and forgiveness, "come alive" for you in new and exciting ways.

Fr John

Announcement: The following announcement was read out in All Saints Church on Sunday morning:

"The Diocese of Canterbury wishes to make the following announcement:

We are pleased to announce that the Reverend John Ainslie, currently Associate Minister in the parish of All Saints Boyne Hill Maidenhead in the Diocese of Oxford, has been appointed to the post of Associate Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Maidstone. Details of the licensing occasion are to follow."

This means that in due course Fr John will move to Maidstone to take charge of the parish of St Michael and All Angels in the Diocese of Canterbury. Further details including the date of the licensing service will be published when they are available.

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Thursday 18 January

8.30am Assembly at Desborough School on Strength in Adversity

3.00pm Open the Book at All Saints School

8.00pm Choir Practice

Friday 19

8.30am Assembly at Desborough School on Strength in Adversity

10.00am Tiny Saints Toddler Group in the Parish Centre

Sunday 21

10.00am Parish Eucharist for the Third Sunday of Epiphany

Celebrant: Fr John Preacher: Fr Jeremy

4.00pm Sundays@4 and Young Saints families' rehearsal for this year's play. Please meet in the church.

6.00pm Sundays@Six on Zoom led by the Church of the Good Shepherd

Monday 22

9.30am Morning Prayer

12 noon Funeral of Kathleen Williams in Church

7.30pm Resources Mission Group meeting in the Birinus Room

Tuesday 23 January

9.30am Morning Prayer

11.00am Funeral of Ann Shepherd in Church

1.30pm Chapel & Chats at Altwood School

Wednesday 24

10.00am Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr Jeremy

11.30am Service at Normanhurst Care Home: Fr John & Jeanette

3.00pm Open the Book at Larchfield School

3.45pm – 5.15pm Space Makers in Church as we host Boyne Hill School and Revd Charlie Kerr, the school chaplaincy advisor for the Diocese.

ADVANCE NOTICES:

18-25 January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity We give thanks for the opportunities to share Christian witness through our Churches Together in Maidenhead

Wednesday 24 January Boyne Hill school visits the church to discover 'Space Makers' the Jesuit style of prayer used in schools. Led by The Revd Charlie Kerr, the Diocesan lead for Schools Chaplaincy.

Next Sundays @4 will be on 28 January.

Saturday 10 February The annual big match at the vicarage and, of course, at Twickenham 4.45pm England v. Wales. Food will be served at half time.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We give thanks for the Holy Scriptures and for the ways in which God reveals himself to us through the pages of the Bible. We pray for Bible interpreters and preachers and those who write bible reading notes. We pray for grace and discipline to prayerfully read the Bible regularly ourselves.

We pray for people mistreated by those in authority, either wilfully or through negligence, including those unfairly victimised by the Post Office scandal. We pray for higher standards of truth, honesty and justice in all areas of public and corporate life.

We pray for peace in places of violence, for a reduction in tensions across the Middle East, for the release of hostages and for an end to the suffering in Gaza, Israel, Ukraine and other areas of conflict around the world. We pray for a strengthening of the tools of international justice, law and order.

We give thanks for the Iranian asylum seekers who now and in the recent past have enriched our lives at All Saints, and we pray for their safety and well-being as they move forward to find new lives, employment and homes in our country.

In this cold winter weather we pray for the homeless and those suffering poverty, and we give thanks for and pray for those who give assistance, including homeless charities and Maidenhead Foodshare.

Please pray for Esme Lennox on the anniversary of her Baptism.

We pray for those of our parish and congregation in any kind of need or distress at this time, and especially for Danielle, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Birmta Zadinane, Edite Zadinane, Heidi Webb, Tadeusz, Christopher, Sylvia Denison, Cheryl Brookes, Gordon Kerrison, Sylvia Telford, Eddie Sheppard, and Carol Sheppard, Barbara Bannister, Janet Emerson, Hugh Boulter, Simon Cowdery, Joseph White, Morieza Seraj, Scopas Lado, Mageret Ego, Jim Goff, Gill Deane-Williams, Simon Fullarton, Vera Shaw, Abbas Heidari, Audrey Burch, Anne Pennock, Doreen Bramble and Gwen Burkitt.

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 who are caring for loved ones at this time and for staff and residents of care homes in our parish.

We pray for the recently departed: David Davies, Gillian Richmond, Ann Shepherd and Kathleen Williams, and all who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time.

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 21 JANUARY THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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 Genesis 14: 17- 20

After Abram's return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

GOSPEL John 2: 1 - 11

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

MUSIC

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| Prelude: | Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele BWV 654 <i>J S Bach</i> |
| Opening hymn: | 769 Rejoice, the Lord is King |
| Gradual hymn: | 344 Come to a wedding, come to a blessing |
| Offertory hymn: | 104 Songs of thankfulness and praise |
| Communion hymn: | 448 I come with joy |
| Closing hymn: | 97 Christ is our light! |
| Postlude: | Fantasia in G Major BWV 572 <i>J S Bach</i> |

CHURCH FLOWERS FOR 2024

The Flower Sponsors' Board for 2024 is available on the table at the back of the Church; and we would be pleased if you would like to add your name against a week you would like to sponsor. It's a very appropriate way to remember loved ones we no longer see or to celebrate anniversaries, that special birthday or occasion. Sponsoring a week ensures that we can have flowers in the church on that Sunday and relieves the PCC funds of any cost whatsoever. We are sure you are aware of the pleasure the flowers give to everyone and would like to thank you in anticipation for your continued support.

Would you please give your Sponsor donation, prior to your chosen week, to Stella Harding and inform her of any colour or flower preference you might have, and we will do our best to accommodate. If Stella is not available, please feel free to use one of the envelopes with the board and hand it into the Church Office.

The Flower Team



LUNCHTIME RECITAL IN CHURCH GIVEN BY THE DRYADS DUO 1.00pm WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY ADMISSION FREE

We are pleased to welcome the locally-based Dryads Duo to All Saints who will present an attractive and accessible programme of music for violin and piano.

Formed in 2010 by violinist Carla Santos and pianist Saul Picado, in recital the Dryads Duo aim to create a coherent combination between the lesser known and the standard repertoire providing the audience with a sense of ownership and freshness, always conveying their engaging sensibility, complicity and love for the music performed (www.dryadsduo.com).

In this recital they will play the 3 Romances Op 22 by Clara Schumann; Sonata BWV 1017 by J S Bach, and the well-known Sonata by César Franck.

As it also Ash Wednesday it is hoped it will be followed by the first of our Lenten Soup lunches with donations going to Ripple Effect, the charity we supported last year.

DO THE SMALL THINGS WELL

I'd like to begin the new year with a couple of quotes from the inspirational Arthur Ashe, the man who spoke up for human rights and taking the honourable road. We are faced with a different challenge from him, but still it is one that disproportionately impacts those without a voice of their own.

'Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can'. 'Success is a journey, not a destination'.

Anne Sweeney



CHILDREN'S SOCIETY GOOD NEWS

Huge congratulations to you, our congregation, for the magnificent sum of £530.75 raised by our house box holders and generous donations. In addition, the Church has sent £165 from the collection raised at the Christingle service. That's an incredible total of **£695.75**.

On behalf of the society, I am truly thankful for your generosity in supporting this worthwhile charity which relies on our donations to continue its work with young people in this country.

Anne Clark, Honorary Secretary

WAMCF LADIES' GROUP MONDAY 29 JANUARY 7.30pm

For the next ladies' meeting we have been invited to the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice, Snowball Hill, Maidenhead SL6 3LU.

Julie Hughes, Lead for Quality and Governance, will talk a little about what a children's hospice offers and how it differs to an adult setting. She will also address our perceptions and those of our faith communities of the work of a children's hospice.

The staff will also talk a little about memory-making in its widest context across the child's life span and after death.

As usual there will be refreshments and the opportunity to chat with each other. Further details from:

sally514@btinternet.com

Sally Lynch, Vicar of St Luke's, Maidenhead

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

