

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

PARISH NEWS

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Issue 35 18 November 2020



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

You will find in this latest newsletter a sermon that I have written following Bishop Steven's presidential address given at the Diocesan Synod on the theme of work and the need to enhance human beings self-worth by valuing them. Steven has highlighted that we are facing a number of important issues including the Pandemic, the following recession, the ongoing concerns of climate change and how we embrace technology and at the same time enhance human dignity.

An area of grave concern is how we support young people moving forward as they potentially face a struggle for employment and also students and pupils at senior schools and primary schools facing the challenge of studying for qualifications in these difficult times. I know that from talking to some families there is a concern that some young people are anxious about what the future holds for them.

With that in mind it was good to hear the presentation given by Mike and Jan Moss about the ministry we are still trying to offer in schools through learning new skills ourselves. Mike has been reading 'God and the Pandemic' by Tom Wright, the brilliant biblical scholar and former Bishop of Durham. Wright consistently challenges people to live sacramentally. In other words, he wants us to know and love the words of scripture but equally wants us to respond to the challenges set out in the bible.

Mike, alongside Jeanette Lock, helped produce the new Eucharistic service booklets. The key to that worship is that the gathered community come to All Saints to hear the word of God as the disciples on the Road to Emmaus did and that word 'BURNED' within their hearts. Then Jesus at the supper took, blessed, broke and offered the gift of transformed life to the disciples. They realised that Jesus was truly alive and that from then on they would be his body to the world. Wright suggests that we as baptised members of our Lord's church or his body are now given the responsibility to offer hope in what are as Mike said on Monday 'Globally unsettled times'.

Mike and Jan went on to say that Open the Book which has been running with teams from All Saints and other churches across the town has offered young people biblical stories that offer HOPE. People like Mike and Jeanette have used their time and talent to learn new skills to find ways to use zoom to record the bible stories in a creative and valuable way. The children hear our Open the Book Team reading the stories to visuals that enhance the story. For the children this means that they not only hear the hope of the bible but hear the familiar voices of the Open the Book team in these unfamiliar times.

Even in these times our Open the Book Team with support of other churches is reaching 500 students at All Saints and Larchfield schools. We can add to that recorded assemblies to All Saints School with the assistance of Monika and Rod and live and interactive assemblies at Boyne Hill School through Zoom. I have just received this morning a request for live assemblies via Microsoft Teams to Altwood School.

Finally, on the ministry of schools I am two parts into a three-part course offered by Revd Charlie Kerr the Diocesan Schools Chaplain on the Ignatian Contemplative Toolkit for Schools. This offers hope through prayer leading to action. One example from last week's training. I found myself in a group with a headteacher that was late to the

zoom training. She like me had experienced a 'Stilling' exercise where we allow ourselves to come into the loving presence of God in a time of quiet. She explained to me in the feedback that when she turned up to the training, she had just been involved in trying to break up a fight between two parents in the school grounds. This was clearly caused by the stresses and strains of the times we are living in. She had found the exercise helpful to herself never mind what benefit it might have for her students.

To finish with Mike and Jan's challenge for us as a congregation through our worship and Open the Book. 'Recalling our Baptismal promises, we go forth to channel God's Love. WE GO INTO THE WORLD TO WALK IN GOD'S LIGHT, TO REJOICE IN GOD'S LOVE AND TO REFLECT GOD'S GLORY.

RESOURCES

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS – Advance notice

Louise O'Dwyer Barnard, Jeanette Lock and I will be visiting families once Lockdown hopefully finishes to deliver Advent calendars to children, the Embrace Bethlehem Carol Sheets, Bob Hartman's 'It Begins in Bethlehem' Nativity story and a pack to use for our zoom Christingle service.

PLEASE NOTE

Sunday 13 December 4.00pm Zoom Christingle service

Come and join the children and families as we share this wonderful story. During the short service we will make a Christingle and share two songs as well as hear the great message of Christingle. All families with children who want to make the Christingle will need is an orange. A Zoom link will be sent out on the week's Newsletter leading into the 13th December.

Sunday 20 December 6.00pm Carol Service on Zoom

For this you will need the Bethlehem Carol service booklet, a willingness to sing to your hearts content at home (And on MUTE) and a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine or sherry as we chat to each other.

We are hoping too to celebrate the 'Comfort and Joy' of Christmas with a Midnight Mass and 10.00am Christmas Mass in Church.

THIS WEEK:

Thursday 19 November

7.00pm Bible Study

Bible Study on part three of Bishop Steven's course on Paul's Letter to the Philippians called 'Living is Christ, Dying is Gain'. There was excellent input from participants of the group last week.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83701228145?pwd=M3RhaTQveThWWW5WN0prYmt2L1Jidz09>

Meeting ID: 837 0122 8145

Passcode: 654973

8.00pm Night prayer on Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75976544021?pwd=Q1pJVlplTytOdHg0VXhSRGxWRzIzZz09>

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHziv

St Hilda – Psalm 131, Ephesians 4: 1 – 6, Hymn 238 Come Down O Love Divine

Sunday 22 November CHRIST THE KING

9.00am Morning Prayer on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89671088057?pwd=RVpQZ3JtRmpaL1UvbDV6VkFQS3N4dz09>

Meeting ID: 896 7108 8057

Passcode: 335673

This service will be the full Church of England morning prayer for Sunday. It will include the Sunday morning Collect and Readings found on p6 of this newsletter. There will be a talk but if you are looking for the sermon for the day you will find this within this newsletter. Brian's chosen hymn for our service will be 'Christ triumphant, ever reigning'

10.00am-11.00am Church open for Private Prayer

For those people who would like to join the Diocesan Eucharist please see the link. 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.

Monday 23 November 7.30pm Prayer Group via Zoom Theme:

<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. This week: Children's Ministry

Wednesday 25 November 10.00am – 11.00am Church open for private prayer

Prayer Intentions

Hopefully, you will have seen the request from the Church of England to 'Pray for the Nation' via the link below that we have offered over the last couple of weeks.

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/15348%20PftN%20Booklet_6th%20PROOF.pdf

If you have someone you would like us to pray for at our Monday evening prayer group or indeed any other service, we offer please email or phone me with the name. Equally it might be a cause that you want us to pray for. My email is jeremy-harris@outlook.com

Our prayers are asked for Angela Brewerton, Danielle, Nick and Fr John, and we remember those who we have loved and lost: Cruz Portillo, Otto Jakeman and Meg Widdicombe.

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer we pray for Cox Green Luncheon Club that they will be able resume meeting before too long. We remember Windsor & Maidenhead Deanery Synod and our representatives: Rod Broad & Ursula Hutchinson. We pray for the work of Foodshare which has been required to help so many people since the start of the pandemic.

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

Fr Jeremy

And so, we come to the last Sunday of the Church's year and what a year it has been. The celebration of Christ the King puts our earthly endeavours into context. In his Epistle to the Ephesians, Paul portrays Jesus as the supreme head of the church, everything is in subjection beneath his feet. However, in the Gospel Jesus tells us how he exerts his kingship and authority. Whenever we show our love of Christ in acts of help and support to those who need it, regardless of their circumstances, Christ is aware and provides the promise of eternal life. Those who fail to demonstrate such love, will be rejected from that future life. This year more than most we have been challenged to provide that love and support to our families, church community, neighbours and wider communities. Undertaking this support should not be seen as a burden but an opportunity to show our strength as members of Christ's church on earth. Surely, that is sufficient cause for celebration in these dark times?

The two hymns I have chosen are ones of real celebration. The first is "Rejoice the Lord is King" AM 769 words by Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788) set to the tune Gopsal by George Frederick Handel (1685 – 1759).

"Rejoice the Lord is King" references a number of biblical texts and not necessarily those of today's readings but theme clearly fits that of Christ the King. Indeed, the words embrace both the Epistle and Gospel readings for example in verse 4 and 5.

Charles Wesley, the son of Samuel Wesley, was educated at Westminster School and afterwards at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated M.A. In 1735, he took Orders and immediately proceeded with his brother John to Georgia, both being employed as missionaries of the S.P.G. He returned to England in 1736. For many years he engaged with his brother in preaching the Gospel. To Charles Wesley has been justly assigned the appellation of the "Bard of Methodism." His prominence in hymn writing may be judged from the fact that in the "Wesleyan Hymn Book," 623 of the 770 hymns were written by him; and he published more than thirty poetical works, written either by himself alone, or in conjunction with his brother. The number of his separate hymns is at least five thousand.

The tune Gopsal bears the name of a village near Hinckley in the East Midlands (spelt Gopsall). Until it was demolished in 1952, there was a grand country House, Gopsall Hall, where it is reputed that Handel composed the second section of his Oratorio, Messiah. However, there is no conclusive evidence to support this idea, but it provides a plausible link for the name of the hymn tune.

1. Rejoice! The Lord is King,
your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*
2. Jesus, the saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*
3. His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven,
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

4. He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

5. Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home:
*We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound: rejoice!*

Rejoice the Lord is King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDFAv0eh-s8>

Our second hymn is “Christ triumphant, every reigning” AM 612 words by (Michael Saward (1932 -2015) set to Guiting Power by John Barnard (b1948)

Like “Rejoice the King”, this hymn references different but related biblical sources to today’s readings but it reveals Jesus’ journey from incarnation, crucifixion, to heavenly king in very direct and accessible language.

Michael John Saward was residentiary Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and a church commissioner and member of the general synod of the Church of England. Educated at Eltham College, Bristol University, and Tyndale Hall, he was ordained in the Church of England in 1956. Saward served in several congregations and was radio and television officer for the Church Information Office (1967-1972). His publications include *Leisure* (1963), *Couldn't Care Less* (1966), *Don't Miss the Party* (1974), and *All Change* (1983). Associated with the Jubilate Group for a number of years, he has written some sixty hymns and served as text editor for *Hymns for Today's Church* (1982). John Barnard was a member of the editorial team of the hymnal we use, *Ancient & Modern, Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship*. The tune Guiting Power takes its name from a small village in the Cotswolds.

1. Christ triumphant, ever-reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:
*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.*

2. Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
power and majesty concealing
by your humble birth:
Yours the glory...

3. Suffering servant, scorned, ill - treated,
victim crucified!
death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified:
Yours the glory...

4. Priestly king, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:
Yours the glory...

5. So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:
Yours the glory...

Christ triumphant ever reigning AM 612

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojSebL8P6mQ>

COLLECT

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

EPISTLE Ephesians 1: 15 - 23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL Matthew 25: 31 - 46

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

SERMON Fr Jeremy

I begin this sermon with some thoughts from the week.

1. Bishop Steven's presidential address based on Proposition 22 from America.
2. Monika showing me a series of pictures from the Flintstones passed to her from a friend in Poland.
3. A conversation with a man changing his vocation in his thirties to join the navy.
4. Reading about 'Undercover Boss' a daytime tv show that I have never viewed but have today read about.

Starting with Bishop Steven who introduced me to Prop 22. Have you heard of it? I certainly hadn't. It is a vote that took place in California on the 3rd November 2020 that permits companies to deny the gig accompany workers of the

State's minimum wage guarantee, paid sick leave and other protections. The companies can treat app-based taxi drivers or delivery drivers as independent contractors over employees. Amos Tok, senior artificial intelligence and human rights researcher says that Prop 22 threatens to create a permanent underclass of workers in California forced to endure poverty wages and substandard conditions.

I always prefer to read the counter argument which is that drivers have control over their own schedule while guaranteeing a minimum wage. Companies such as Uber, Lyft, Postmates and Instacart would scale back services and prices would rise. Decide for yourself which way you would vote?

Bishop Steven went on to share that the world faces a series of issues including the Pandemic, the following recession, the on-going concerns of Climate change and what is being called the 4th Industrial Revolution. There is already an increase in unemployment particularly amongst the young and with technology innovation and the possibility of less for humans to do how will we respond? How can we embrace technology (Zoom and Microsoft Teams seem to be seen as the saviour of the world at the moment) and enhance human dignity? Can we see human beings through compassionate eyes as our text from Matthew might suggest?

Moving to my wife Monika. I am going to be honest when I say that I was tired when she was trying to highlight issues about modern technology, and I didn't at first respond to her. I wanted to focus on the film I was watching (Chocolate which as you know I have seen many times before but does speak about human dignity). Monika showed me images of 'The Flintstones' and their neighbours the Rubbles. Much of the humour was based on comic portrayals of modern conveniences, through stone age technology. The car without a floor so that it was foot powered. To the amusement of Polish people, these images showed a Flintstone talking to their boss through a screen, two women taking part in video chat and on-line fitness training. Other images focussed on -line medicine and therapy. What was amusing to Monika was that this programme was from our childhood but the images are coming true.

Thirdly, I spent an hour on Saturday afternoon and a couple of hours on Sunday with Chris, a man who is giving us his time to decorate the Birinus Room that was last painted 24 years ago. As you do when decorating conversation takes place. Chris asked me about my vocation and how having shared my experience of calling and vocation he shared how he was joining The Royal Navy. Chris spoke passionately about how at the end of his life he wants to be able to look back and know that he has tried to give back to society and people.

'Undercover Boss' I have not seen so I am relying on the notes from 'Roots' journal that helps us engage with all ages of people. The TV show has a company boss who puts on a disguise and pretends to be a new trainee, in order to find out what life is really like for workers, and what they think of the company and its bosses. At the end of the programme all is revealed and some are rewarded for their dedication to the job, and the care they offered to the 'Trainee'. Some haven't given care and support and others say 'If only I had known it was you, I wouldn't have...' Of course, the boss if they are any good replies 'It shouldn't matter who I am.'

Pope Francis has plenty to say on this subject in his book 'The Church of Mercy'. He states, 'men and women are sacrificed to the idols of profit and consumption.' Francis continues by writing that it's a disaster if our computer breaks but the poverty of people is rarely considered. The fact that children go hungry and homeless people freeze to death on the street goes unnoticed but 'when the stock market drops ten points in some cities, it constitutes a tragedy. He goes on to write about human life not being seen as of primary value, especially the poor, disabled and elderly. When you add to this problem the amount of food that is thrown away (some having been produced at the cost of Rain Forests) we again are left asking do we value people?

If we read today's text through compassionate eyes, we have to agree with Bishop Steven that the Anglican church should make clear the importance of valuing humanity over profit and the value of work. This pandemic has taught us that frequently the poorer paid roles are the ones that have been at the frontline supporting us. Maybe we will value these people with the dignity they deserve in the future.

In terms of my wife's point, it is surprising how quickly technology moves and as Bishop Steven says we need to welcome technology that enhances humanity. Think of the ways of communicating that have lifted people's spirits

over the last 9 months but the God we believe in came to us physically. He wanted us to gather as community in word and sacrament that we may partake of the body of Christ to become the Body of Christ to the world.

As to Chris and finding one's vocation. It would be great if we could all be like Eric Little highlighted movingly in 'Chariots of Fire' who when asked what it felt like when he ran replied 'When I run, I feel God's pleasure.' We are not all going to be blessed in this life in that way. However, people who work in repetitive jobs but who have excellent friends through that working community find other expressions of reward. Equally a story shared with me today about a visit to the tip with old carpets too heavy to throw away by the husband and wife team. The men working reacted by asking them to drop the carpets to the floor (Even in Covid times) and the men lifted the carpet into the skip. Those helpers may not have done this out of Christian response, but it is the Christian response to notice this act and to value it. The Jesuit style of contemplation in action is found when we look back over our day and notice God's presence at work. Having noticed can we ask God's grace to live compassionately by valuing people around us. Can we see people we work and minister with as human beings who matter not just as someone who get's a task done for me or the church?

Finally, as we look at this text from Matthew can we reflect on 'The Undercover Boss' and notice the Son of God who came to serve, who yes came to wash other's feet. May we too serve and value humanity treating each one as if they might be our Lord.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL UPDATE

To date we have donated 35 boxes. See the attachment to previous newsletters for how to donate. The collection point at Braywick Nursery will be open from Saturday 5 - Monday 14 December.

If you have any questions, please contact me at jwilks@jwa-consultancy.co.uk.

REFLECTION by Greg Hurst

This lockdown feels very different from the last. Some of the rules are liberal this time, of course, but I think many people are behaving differently, too. It is important to be able to meet someone from another household outdoors. A similar exemption was only introduced eight weeks into the stay-at-home period last spring. And it's a relief to exercise as often as we wish. It makes a huge difference that nurseries, schools and universities have stayed open, which is a blessing to our young people.

And yet the contrast runs deeper. Our Sainsbury's Local sometimes has a queue two or three deep during busy early evenings but at all other times I walk straight in and shelves are fully stocked. No panic buying or hoarding this time. I made a mid-week trip to Maidenhead town centre for an errand and was surprised at how many shops were open. Most coffee shops and cafes were offering take-aways. Hardware and household goods shops, opticians and stationers were trading. Marks & Spencer, which was advertising a click-and-collect service, was surprisingly busy. I sense many of us feel better prepared for these new restrictions and more determined to carry on as much as we can. We have our masks, we have learnt to navigate video conferencing.

There is an element missing, too. That sense of neighbourliness many of us felt in the first lockdown is hardly evident. Many people appear less fearful, focused on getting on with their own lives but less concerned with how others are coping around them.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - 2020



Operation Christmas Child was formed in 1990 when Dave Cooke from Wrexham saw the horror of children in Romanian orphanages. He asked his friends to help fill a truck with toys and drive it to Romania. OCC is now the world's largest Christmas project run by Samaritan's Purse. Since 1990, more than 168 million children in over 160 countries have experienced God's love through the power of a shoebox of gifts.

Packing shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal has become an important part of our ministry in recent years and, speaking with Father Jeremy and others in our community, we agreed that we don't want to stop the support we give to these children. Last year, our 7th year of taking part, we donated over 100 boxes. We aren't going to be able to contribute in the same way as previously, because of the impact of Covid-19, but have come up with some alternatives.

In the midst of a global pandemic, the lives of children and families have been turned upside down and, now more than ever, boys and girls around the world need to experience hope and joy, and a shoebox gift offers just that!

There are 3 ways that you can contribute this year:

Shoebox Online - If getting out is tricky at this time, you can select your gifts online and Operation Christmas Child will pack and send your shoebox for you. Click on the link in the picture below or go to <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and choose 'Shoebox online'. It costs £20.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - 2020

Donation –If you're not keen on the online option, you can make a monetary contribution. You can do this by making an online bank transfer or writing a cheque to the church - or by giving cash. Cheques or cash will be collected from church on Sundays and Wednesdays. **Please mark any donations clearly as being for the 'Shoebox appeal'**. (Cash involves visiting the bank, so the other options are preferred for Covid-19 reasons).

Your own shoebox –You could pack your own complete shoebox. Some of you have done this previously. Click on the link in the picture below or go to <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and choose 'How to pack a shoebox' for more information. As you may remember, there are some items not allowed and these are listed on the website – and it may give you some inspiration too! The nearest drop off point is Braywick Nurseries, 41 Braywick Rd, Maidenhead SL6 1DX. Dates to be confirmed but likely to be 7 – 13th November. Please don't bring your shoeboxes to the church.



A reminder of the project

There are a number of videos on the Samaritan's Purse website which give stories about the children who receive the boxes, but here is my favourite. You may remember it, as we've shown in several times in church.

WOW! video <https://youtu.be/i7g4C4k7UTw>

A simple heartfelt gift, packed with love and fuelled by prayer can mean so much to a child and their family – and enables us to share God's love and bring joy to children around the world.

We hope that you can support this project again this year – and please let me know if you send a box online or drop one off, so I can let you all know the number of boxes we donate.

Thanks, Jenny Wilks

jwilks@jwa-consultancy.co.uk