

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD**

PARISH NEWS

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LAST ISSUE OF 2021



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

This week I write in the hope that we can share the Christmas services as we had planned. So far it has been joyful to share the fourth Sunday in Advent service on the theme of sharing blessings and it was good to see that a number of you joined the zoom link. In the evening Brian, Simon and the choir offered a wonderful Nine Lessons and Carols and again a good number connected on zoom. Sadly, the sound is not perfect, and it won't be until we are able to put professional equipment into the church for live streaming. The company that has improved the sound system at All Saints have put forward a proposal to place a camera on the West wall that will focus on the altar, pulpit and lectern. The cost is approximately £5,000 and we would need an operator but clearly this would enable the church to offer both in person services and the opportunity to view from home. It would appear that there is an expectation for churches to provide different ways for people to worship so we will need to consider whether we try to move forward with live streaming.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped with Advent and Christmas services, and it was excellent to hear readers at the Nine Lessons that have not had the opportunity to read before. Thank you to Richard Rhodes who has been the headmaster at All Saints Church School for reading and we wish him well in his new life in Yorkshire. Richard encouraged All Saints school to celebrate All Saints Day, SS Peter & Paul, Christmas and Easter as well as leavers services in the church. Richard gave full backing to the Open the Book team sharing bible stories and we pray for the people discerning the way forward for All Saints school in the future.

As I look back over the weekend, I would like to thank Sue Wright and Mike Broad for offering the mulled wine and the zoom recording. Good to see a good number of people staying for the hospitality following the service.

This week we have celebrated the life of Ella Titchener who died last year at 98 years of age. Ella gave so much to the life of All Saints through her support of families at baptism, her work for charities and her ministry of welcome. The service was a privilege to officiate at as Ella had chosen wonderful biblical texts and beautiful music and hymns.

This Thursday we host the service for Vivien Paterson at 2.30pm at All Saints and it would be lovely to support Vivien's family with our presence at the funeral.

On Friday we begin with our 4pm Crib service. Most of the service will take place outside to keep people safe. Families will arrive via the North porch and view the crib, Christmas Tree and Advent Candles before walking to the South Porch to enter the quadrangle for the short service. We will sing some carols and hear a Christmas story before allowing groups of 8-10 to come back into church to share prayers at the crib before leaving the church (With a Chocolate!) at the North porch.

At 11.30pm we will share Midnight Mass (we plan to zoom this service) and then share the Christmas Family Eucharist at 10am on Saturday. Boxing Day is on Sunday, and we will (all being well) share the 10am Eucharist for St Stephen. Brian Graves has kindly offered to give a talk on two Christmas carols at this service. The following week on Wednesday 29th December we will celebrate the 10am Eucharist. I thought it would be good to share The Book of Common Prayer rite that morning. Finally, we will celebrate on the 2nd January 'The Epiphany' at 10am followed by a celebration for Barbara Bannister's 90th Birthday.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to offer on behalf of Ann and Ken, our wardens, John and Stella our deputy wardens and myself and Monika a happy and peaceful Christmas and a joyful New Year.

RESOURCES

Thursday 23rd December 2.30pm Funeral of Vivien Paterson in church

Friday 24th December 4pm Crib Service in the Quadrangle

Friday 24th December 11.30pm The Nativity of our Lord – Midnight Mass (this will be zoomed and a link will be sent for you to join)

Saturday 25th December 10am Christmas Day Family Eucharist

Sunday 26th December 10am Eucharist for St Stephen's Day – Brian Graves offering thoughts on two carols

Wednesday 29th December 10am BCP Eucharist

Sunday 2nd January 10am Eucharist for the Feast of the Epiphany.

Sunday 2nd January 6pm Sundays at Six – The Good Shepherd, Cox Green – via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83058792852?pwd=NWQ2dzJNRzZJRgdRejJUa0pQOTBJZz09>

Tuesday 4th January 2.30pm Tuesday Club New Year Quiz in the Parish Centre

Advance notice Friday 7th January Friday 11.30am The Funeral of Marjorie Pocock at Caversham Crematorium.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

As we light the Christmas candle, may its flame be for us a sign of Jesus' birth. Loving God, today – on this special day – you remind us that you can use anyone and everyone for your purposes. We willingly offer you all that we are and all that we have, choosing to believe that who we are is enough to be used by you. We do this in Jesus' name. AMEN. (Prayer from Roots resources)

We continue to pray as we face continued concerns about the Pandemic. We pray that people will know the presence of Christ at this worrying time. We pray for those who face Christmas and the New Year with deep apprehension. God of joy, give peace of mind to all those worried this Christmas.

As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord at Midnight Mass, we are comforted that Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

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, Mikhail, Doreen Hill, John Hicks, Christel Kirschner, Ursula Hutchinson, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner.

At this time heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. We pray for all those who have gone through death in the hope of heaven. We pray for Vivien 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.

May we all be blessed by God's Love at Christmas.

Fr Jeremy

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER ST STEPHEN

COLLECT

Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

N T READING Acts 7: 51 - 60

Stephen said to the high priest and the council: 'You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for ever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.' When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

GOSPEL Matthew 10: 17 - 22

Jesus said to the twelve: 'Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.'

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 2 JANUARY THE EPIPHANY

COLLECT

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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**

EPISTLE Ephesians 3: 1 - 12

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

GOSPEL Matthew 2: 1–12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Flowers for 2022

"The Flower Rota for 2022 is now on the cross-aisle table; and we would be pleased if you would like to add your name against a week you would like to sponsor". This is 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 note, Barbara has handed over the Flower Accounts to Stella Harding, so in future would you please give your Sponsor donation to her and inform her of any colour or flower preference you might have, and we will do our best to accommodate. ***The Flower Team***

REFLECTION by Greg Hurst

There were many pleasing sights during the Christmas market at All Saints: parents and children singing carols in the quadrangle, families of three generations arriving together, queues at stalls.

Another pleasing sight, however, was people sitting quietly in the church. Some, I imagine, were taking a quiet moment for prayer or reflection. Perhaps some were sheltering from the biting cold. But I'm pretty sure some were admiring our church in all its glory.

After so many months with building closed as the floor tiles were replaced, it's been so great to be back. I have found myself, like some of our visitors to the Christmas Market, admiring the church through fresh eyes.

Having sung with the choir, I feel honoured to have done so from the choir stalls.

To paraphrase Psalm 121, I lift up mine eyes – not to the hills, but to the stained glass windows. Shafts of light seem to streak through them with renewed vigour. The Victorian brickwork appears vivid, the masonry exquisite.

With the carpet removed, the pattern of the tiled floor is uninterrupted and will be more pronounced still once it is polished. And the acoustic is magnificent as the organ plays and congregation sings.

A church should, of course, be a place of community. But this is a reminder that churches are, too, patrons of art, architecture and artisanship, symbols and centres of history and a visible testament to the glory of God.

We are fortunate to be custodians of such a church. We must share it with as many people as we can.