

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

PARISH NEWS

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Issue 41 6 January 2021



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

This time last year I was presenting in one of our new quarterly Newsletters our hopes for the year of 2020. Sadly, many of those plans have had to take second place to the demands laid upon us by the Pandemic. At the beginning of 2021 we are faced with more challenges following the news from Boris Johnson that the country is now entering its third Lockdown following the sharp rise in positive cases of coronavirus in Britain.

As I wrote in the lead up to Christmas 'READ ALL ABOUT IT' sadly the latest news is reported with a heavy heart. Despite the fact that we can potentially stay open for services this time around I have made the decision along with the Standing Committee of the PCC to close All Saints for the next few weeks. This decision has been made because of the huge numbers of cases of the virus within the Maidenhead and Windsor area and the fact that we are a vulnerable community. We need at this stage to keep people safe and to look forward to people receiving the vaccination to help us to see a way to a more positive future.

As I write this letter, we are making plans to offer ways of keeping communication with you, the congregation and friends of All Saints.

We are continuing with our Monday prayer group, our Thursday night Prayer and our fortnightly Sunday night prayer all on Zoom. We will be adding to this the Sunday morning Zoom Morning Prayers for the Epiphany season which will take place at 10.00am. We do hope that as many people as possible will join us for this act of worship.

We will continue to offer this newsletter and provide recorded services for people to watch on-line. This week I am hoping to release a recording for Epiphany and one for the Baptism of Christ.

Our Schools ministry will continue as we offer recorded assemblies for schools to send out via their websites and we will still record our zoom Open the Book bible stories for schools to use.

We are hoping to offer evenings to keep people together in community. Ideas include a four-week art course provided by Matthew Firth which will take us to a number of European cities and share some of the important paintings from those cities. Other plans include a quiz evening, a musical evening and the hope of providing a Family afternoon service on zoom once a month.

Jeanette has written a pastoral care letter to the pastoral care team asking people to keep connected with members of the community. If anyone is feeling alone and in need of support, please contact either myself or Jeanette.

One of the thoughtful gifts I received for Christmas was from Joan Hicks the vicar of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Joan gave me the wonderful book from Rowan Williams called 'Candles in the Dark', faith, hope and love in a time of pandemic. The sermon I have offered within this newsletter is inspired completely by one of Rowan's meditations found in Joan's gift. I would like to finish the introduction of this newsletter by referring to another gem of the former Archbishop of Wales and later of Canterbury. It was written on 14th May 2020 and relates to the feast of St Matthias who is barely known in scripture apart from the fact he replaced Judas Iscariot as a member of the Apostles. Rowan entitles the meditation 'A steady solidarity' and writes 'There is heroism in the daily rhythm;

making the small differences you can make, at home, online, wherever, in small courtesies and kindnesses, in assuring others that they are not alone.' Rowan goes on to write that many congregations and particularly clergy are frequently talking about mission and the need for growth and forgetting that there are many parishioners who 'simply stay in company, share the burdens unobtrusively and do their apostolic bit just by that steady solidarity.' Perhaps that is all that Matthias ever did as an Apostle as he is certainly not mentioned for doing anything else other than staying loyal to his Lord. Rowan has something, I believe, we need to think about as we begin this New Year. Yes, we have hope of the vaccines and we pray that an early end to these challenging times arrives when we can enjoy again the things we perhaps once took for granted. What we clearly need in the meantime at All Saints is to pray for that quiet solidarity of supporting each other through these dark winter months knowing that in Christ the light will break through the darkness.

To conclude, it was lovely to share the Christmas services even if it was in a limited way. It was good to share worship of Christ, who came to be with us as a baby boy and grew to be the man who offered us the hope of New Life.

RESOURCES

THIS WEEK:

Thursday 7 January 8.00pm Night Prayer on Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75976544021?pwd=Q1pJVtIpTytOdHg0VXhSRGxWRzIzZz09>

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHziv

Psalm 27, Matthew 20: 1-16 and Taizé chant *The Lord is My Light*.

Sunday 10 January

10.00am Eucharist for the Baptism of Christ

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87668892523?pwd=N1JzN292S2ZKekpWbVJ1Yld3ay9nUT09>

Meeting ID: 876 6889 2523

Passcode: 763980

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 11 January 7.30pm Prayer Group on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85011600714?pwd=Y0x2VWpMQ3JFUSStsQ0plbEFLOEQrQT09>

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. If you have anyone you would like us to pray for please let Fr Jeremy know.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for all NHS workers, all those involved in the vaccination programme, and all teachers and school staff.

We continue to pray for Mandy Rogers, Danielle, Nick, Fr John, Sister Mary Philip, Roger Baldery, Doreen Hill, Oli, Aimee and Mark.

We remember those who have recently died: Angela Brewerton and Janet Dyer (Janet is Ken Smith's sister-in-law)

See the attached list of streets In our Parish: this week we remember the ones beginning with A.

Church of England to 'Pray for the Nation' via the link below.

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

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

Fr Jeremy

Worship for SUNDAY 10 JANUARY The Baptism of Christ

Sounds of Worship

Brian Graves

A lot happens during the season of Epiphany as we mark various events which prepare Jesus for his ministry on earth. This week it is his baptism by John in the river Jordan. John speaks of using baptism as a sign of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. However, the baptism of Jesus represents the start of something new. The baptism of Jesus is the endowment of the Holy Spirit on Jesus, and through our own baptism we receive that same gift.

The first hymn I have chosen itself refers to the major events of the season of Epiphany, it is "Songs of thankfulness and praise" AM 104 words by Christopher Wordsworth (1807 – 1885) set to the tune St Edmund by Charles Steggall (1826 – 1905).

Verse 1 starts with the kings going to Bethlehem, then verse 2 describes Jesus' first miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana. Verse 3 takes us on to the season of Lent and from there to the passion and resurrection in Verse 4. Finally, in Verse 5 there is a plea that we recognise the new hope in our lives provided by the God becoming man in the form of Jesus.

Christopher Wordsworth was born in Lambeth where his father (also called Christopher) was Rector. Confusingly, he had an older brother also called Christopher, who was also, a brilliant scholar, athlete, schoolteacher and cleric who ultimately became Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane. Both Christophers were the nephew of the well-known lake district-poet, William Wordsworth. Christopher (junior) was educated at Winchester, and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A., with high honours in 1830, received his M.A. in 1833 and D.D. in 1839. He was elected Fellow of his College in 1830, and public orator of the University in 1836. He received Priest's Orders in 1835 and became headmaster of Harrow School in 1836. Subsequently, he was appointed Canon of Westminster Abbey in 1844 and Hulsean Lecturer at Cambridge in 1847-48. Then he accepted a less high-profile appointment as Vicar of Stanford-in-the-Vale, Berks in 1850. However, he returned to prominence as Archdeacon of Westminster in 1865 and Bishop of Lincoln in 1868. His writings are numerous. Most of his works are in prose. His "Holy Year; or Hymns for Sundays, Holidays and other occasions throughout the Year," was published in 1862, and contains 127 hymns. The composer of the tune, Charles Steggall was an eminent organist, teacher, composer and editor of Hymns Ancient and Modern when it was republished in 1906.

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.

2. Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest and King supreme;
and at Cana, wedding guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.

3. Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.

4. Sun and moon shall darkened be,
stars shall fall, the heavens shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine,
all will see his glorious sign;
all will then the trumpet hear,
all will see the Judge appear:
thou by all wilt be confest,
God in man made manifest.

5. Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
mirrored in thy holy Word;
may we imitate thee now,
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we like to thee may be
at thy great Epiphany;
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

Songs of thankfulness and praise AM 104

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3ROyZGTHIgO>

The second hymn today is “O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness” AM 103 words by John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811 – 1875) set to the tune Was Lebet which is a melody taken from Choral-Buch vor Johann Heinrich Reinhardt, 1754.

The first verse summarises the nature of the Epiphany, with adoration and worship to Jesus (the gift of gold symbolises the status of Jesus as a king) and his obedience to God even unto death (the gift of Frankincense represents the crucifixion of Jesus). The second verse reminds us that the offer of prayer is an important gift. The third verse then takes the theme that whatever our status our greatest offering is a love of God. Verse 4 reassures us that whatever our doubts about the offerings described in the preceding verses, that if they are offered in the name of Jesus, there is the promise of the hope of the resurrection life. Finally, verse 5, which is a repeat of verse 1, reminds us of the nature of true worship and adoration of Christ’s incarnation.

This hymn was published by Monsell in his “Hymns of Love and Praise” in 1863. We previously encountered John S B Monsell as the author of “Fight the good fight” which I included for the Feast of Peter and Paul. I repeat the biographical notes as follows:

John Samuel Bewley Monsell was the son of Thomas Bewley Monsell, Archdeacon of Derry. He was born in St. Columb's, Londonderry, and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, receiving a BA in 1832 (and an LL.D in 1856). He was ordained deacon in 1834 and priest in 1835.

He was responsible for the building or rebuilding of three of the churches where he served: Ramoan, at Ballycastle, County Antrim, St Jude, Englefield Green, during his incumbency at Egham, and St. Nicolas' Church, Guildford. While inspecting the rebuilding of the latter, Monsell fell from a boulder and subsequently died in 1875 from an infected wound.

His brother Charles, also a clergyman, married Harriet O'Brien, who re-founded the Community of St John Baptist at Clewer near Windsor after her husband's death in Italy. Through Charles and Harriet, John Monsell became influenced by the Oxford Movement and an admirer of Edward Bouverie Pusey.

1. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.
2. Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.
3. Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.
4. These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.
5. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness AM 103 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBEmXFkwcOE>

COLLECT

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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**

N T READING Acts 19: 1 - 7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – altogether there were about twelve of them.

GOSPEL Mark 1: 4 — 11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

SERMON Fr Jeremy

On New Year's Day morning I put the television on to discover one of Monika's favourite singers Andrea Bocelli singing live from Portofino in Italy. It was an enjoyable way to spend the beginning of the New Year listening to a wonderful concert within the beautiful setting of the gorgeous Portofino. Bocelli finished the concert by singing in Italian, 'I Did it My Way'. The song written by Paul Anka and probably best remembered for being sung by Frank Sinatra has over the last decade or so been used at funeral services I have officiated at. It's a beautiful song to hear from Sinatra or Bocelli or even Elvis but the words do seem to speak to me of the individual response to life rather than the shared journey. The words 'For what is a man, what has he got? If not himself, then he has naught, To say the things he truly feels And not the words of one who kneels....'

Moving now to a Christmas gift kindly and thoughtfully given me by Joan Hicks the vicar of The Church of the Good Shepherd, Cox Green. Joan's gift was Rowan Williams 'Candles in the Dark' Faith Hope and love in a time of pandemic'. The book is a series of meditations Rowan wrote for a congregation in Cambridge from March 2020 to September 2020. One offering is entitled 'Herd Mentality'. In his meditation he quotes of all people President Trump (he still doesn't seem to have located his 'Big Boy Pants!') who in September expressed his belief that the pandemic would be dealt with by 'Herd mentality'.

Rowan goes onto explain that 'Herd mentality' is used normally in negative ways. It is used when people who never think for themselves. Society prefers like the words of Anka, find their own path and decide upon the own way through life. As Williams writes 'The herd is lazy and dim witted, and the individual needs to resist. We must never become like the poor lemmings that Rowan makes mention of. However, Rowan's thought process developed when during a conversation with his neighbour in the garden he noticed a group of geese flying in wonderful 'geometrical formation.' He notices that the birds using intelligence allow shift patterns where different birds take the lead. This presumably allows shared responsibility and energy levels. It is not, says Williams 'mindless conformity.'

What is clear is that we should not become some mindless herd (Despite the way advertisements believe we are) and neither perhaps should we always sing 'I did it my way' to our hearts content. I turn to Bridget McGregor who has brilliantly encouraged students at schools and adults like me to sing in choirs. One of Bridget's key messages (Forgotten when I sing Guide me, O thou great Redeemer) is that when performing in a choir you need to be aware of each other's voices. Singing in a choir or playing team sports highlights the need to complement each other. Rowan challenges us to be the human version of migrating birds, 'Somehow each bird in the flock is alert to the movement of others, subtly adjusting its flight to theirs; somehow, this intelligent awareness of the group produces harmony and beauty, and a sharing out of the burdens of significant work.'

Rowan offers us an example of how this might work through the Iona community that John Bell who visited us during our shared mission with St Luke's and Cox Green is a part of. The book of psalms and music by John Bell that I have been using in church during the pandemic and during zoom night prayer is a 'Wild Goose Publication'. George MacLeod the founder of Iona community uses the geese as a sign of how community can work. The flight of the geese with one moving into position of leadership then another is an example to church communities. I have been sharing for years now the understanding of the communion model. One element is that the baptised people of God all have a part to play in mission. Yes, we need sacramental priestly ministry but that is interchangeable with other people taking leadership roles. Yves Congar, a French Dominican priest who played a significant role in the Second

Vatican Council, revived an interest in the Holy Spirit for the life of the individual and the church. He used the idea of the priest being one who discerns gifts in others but who is also aware like the Iona community of the need of shared leadership and use of gifts.

In chapter 1 verse 11 of our reading from Matthew following Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan and his receiving of the Holy Spirit he hears 'Then a voice came from heaven "you are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased."' The significance of these words bestowed upon Christ are that they are offered to us as baptised members of the Body of Christ, the People of God. We are adopted brothers and sisters of Christ and we too through our baptism know that we are loved by God to respond through the gift of his spirit to use our gifts for the benefit of the community. As individuals we need to answer our call to play our part within the Body of Christ (The Church) working in harmony and with beauty in sharing the burdens of work and reflecting Christ's light to the world. On this day when we are invited to renew our Baptismal promises let us reflect on Rowan Williams' suggestion that we take notice of the flight of birds with their 'intelligent awareness bringing harmony and beauty, and a sharing out of the burdens of significant work' and leave 'I did it my way' to Bocelli.

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

A Close Encounter with Covid19 (Part 1: The Diagnosis)

Last year our world became invaded with this alien, Covid 19. I was faced with engaging with this alien in very many ways from working on the diagnostic tests to identify the virus in the throat and nasal swabs, investigating the bodies response to the virus by the detection of antibodies to working on patch to the help with the delivery of the vaccine. Little did I know that I was yet to have a more intimate engagement with the virus.

On 14th December amidst all the great noise and fanfare of the vaccine I woke with the "flu like symptoms" basically chills, body aches and pain accompanied occasionally by headache and of course a temperature. Thinking to myself I informed my personal assistant that afternoon that I need to take things easy as I have the flu and need to make sure that I am fit and well. I immediately started taking my multivitamin tables plus zinc, including Vitamin D and C supplements. The next day, the 15th, the symptoms were getting worse and now my breathing started to become laboured and I was constantly out of breath only just after climbing a flight of stairs. This worried me and the thought crossed my mind that there was something else going on in my body more than the flu. It could only have been the dreaded Covid 19.

Interestingly, I had a few Covid 19 testing devices in my study and proceeded to take my nasopharyngeal swab, this procedure of taking this swab is a very unpleasant procedure and usually always ended up with my eyes watering if the sample was taken properly. In addition, I took a blood sample from my finger to analyse the blood parameters. The result of my nasopharyngeal swab came through after 12 minutes and it produced the dreaded reading in red "positive". This indicated that Covid 19 Virus was present in respiratory tract. The next set of results that I got were from my blood sample the first showed that I had not started to develop any antibodies yet, another result showed that one of the blood markers for inflammation (Interleukin 6) was raised and a marker for thickening of the blood (D-dimer) was also raised. The diagnosis of the Covid19 Virus presence and infection was now real.

The first thing that flashed through my mind was that this could not be happening because of the consequences being branded Covid 19 positive. My schedule was about to be turned upside down, I was now going to be a statistic, I was going to have to cancel all my clinics, all my face-to-face meetings including going to Church and most importantly I was now not going to be able to meet up with my partner who lives in East London and has her elderly mother living with her. I waited for another 3 hours and repeated the nasopharyngeal swab test, putting myself through the ordeal of sticking the swab up my nose again. it still came back positive. I now resigned myself to the fact that I had picked it up and needed to go into self-isolation and inform all my contacts and most importantly look up to God and pray that this ordeal will pass. (To be continued)

Dr John Bolodeoku MBBS, Cert Mgmt, MSc, MBA, DPhil (Oxon), FRCPath

Note: we are extremely fortunate to have John as a member of our Standing Committee together with Rod Broad who is the senior lay member of the Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust. In addition, Jeanette is part of the inoculation team in Maidenhead. We are exceptionally well informed on all matters Covid.

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO (Hurrah!)

Wednesday 27th January 7.30pm – 9.00pm on Zoom *An Evening of Musical Frivolity*

Brought to us by Andrew Stafford. Zoom joining instructions nearer the time.

FOODSHARE NEWS

Lockdown means an increasing need for Foodshare. Please see www.foodshare.today for places you can donate and what's most needed each week.

REFLECTION by Greg Hurst

Here we go again. Just when we'd said good riddance to 2020 the new year has started in even worse circumstances. Early in the morning of this latest lockdown – our third in ten months – I went jogging around some of the Maidenhead streets near me. They were eerily quiet. Not many people leaving their homes for work. No signs of parents getting ready to take their children to school.

My first thought on arriving back home, arms and legs numb with cold, was that an early morning run was not such a good idea. With stay-at-home rules allowing us to leave the house just once daily to exercise, I realised a long day at home stretched ahead. I resolved in future to exercise later in the day just to break things up.

My second thought was how different it felt to those initial days of the first lockdown in March last year. Then there was a strong sense of national purpose, a willingness to give our leaders the benefit of the doubt and to follow their instructions on trust.

This time the sense of anxiety is similar: this new fast-spreading variant of the coronavirus has frightened many people. But I sense the mood one of weary resignation as our lives are limited once again by people in charge who ran out of options.

Goodness knows how we would cope if we didn't have a vaccination programme, giving us something to cling on to. Let's hope it can expand at a rate that outpaces the virus.