

ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL MAIDENHEAD

PARISH NEWS

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ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

Last Friday afternoon, I visited Sadie Scotcher at her home of 56 years on Highway Avenue. As I write this Parish News Sadie will be moving from that home where she has so many happy memories to begin a new passage of her life with her family in North Wales. As we sat in Sadie's beautiful garden on a lovely sunny afternoon I listened to Sadie as she reflected upon her life at this house.

Sadie spent 53 years of her time sharing with Philip, her much loved husband, who lived to the remarkable age of 99. Philip and Sadie got married at All Saints and in Philip's case he was baptised and confirmed at the church as well. They were regular members of the Wednesday congregation and when Philip could no longer attend church, we shared communion at their home.

I always have a smile on my face when I recall my interview for the church back in 2005. This was not the interview with Bishop Stephen Cottrell or indeed our own church warden at the time and indeed the present, Ken Smith. That interview was a 'Piece of cake' compared to the interview I received from Philip as to how I proposed to run the church. Thankfully I must have answered a few questions to his liking as he was a committed member of the community at 10.00am on a Wednesday alongside Sadie.

As Sadie and I sat, we looked at the beautiful garden with carefully positioned seating for the changing position of the sunshine. I was taken through the beautifully designed extension that Philip had overseen himself. I noticed the office where he enjoyed hours of painting, and the room where he had created space for the model railway for his son, John.

It was clear that this house had received much planning and much tender care over many years and had become a place where Sadie and Philip had enjoyed a wonderful married life, bringing out the best in each other based on the foundations of the Christian faith.

Interestingly, a biblical story that has caught my attention recently as I have been reflecting upon its meaning with our Iranian friends at our weekly Wednesday morning bible study is the two men who build houses. This story is one that Renee Wilson loved from Open the Book and reminds me of the stories that have a childlike feel to them. The story has been used too at Tiny Saints where both Renee, in the past, and Sadie, right up to the present, have given their time and energy in supporting young children and their families.

The story of the two men who build homes, one on a foundation stone and one on sand is important to adults and indeed community though, and not just for children. It is difficult enough to build a house today. My brother-in-law, Lukasz has built houses and indeed adds extensions to buildings. It takes a good deal of knowledge and planning to get the job right. Today concrete is delivered by truck, concrete blocks are

lowered by power equipment, wall plaster comes in sheets and roofing in bundles, which can be power lifted. It is however still difficult to build houses.

In Jesus' time it was a huge effort and involved exhausting and sometimes life-threatening struggles. In Israel/Palestine villagers would build in the summer avoiding the rain in the winter months. Although summer provides the warm weather for building it also brought the problem (Which we all know about ourselves this summer) that the soil becomes like bronze. The idea of digging down to the foundation stone was back breaking work. This work under a hot sky is not appealing to the majority of us. One alternative is to build a smaller building on hardened clay. The problem can be that when winter rains occur the ground can become like a chocolate pudding. The clay under the stone walls begin to buckle and stones can pop out and the wall buckles and collapses. This happened apparently in October 1991 when an apartment complex collapsed in the Holy Land when a sewer line leaked water under the complex which had been built on loose soil rather than a bedrock. You need to build on that foundation stone.

In the Old Testament (Isaiah 28.14-18) Israel broke its covenant with God by choosing to make contact with Egypt in the country's battle against the Assyrians. The temple was destroyed, and the prophet is critical of God's people for not being loyal to the covenant with God. Later Jesus would see that Rome would destroy the temple again. Jesus though, would be the new Temple which is His body. He is the foundation stone and through our baptism we are his body on earth. St Paul says in 1 Corinthians chapter 3.16 'Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you.'

We then, the members of the Body of Christ with Christ as our foundation stone gives us the stability to cope with the challenges of life. Notice the storm hits both the houses meaning we will all go through the struggles of life but those built on firm foundation (Christ) will withstand the storms.

Thank you, Sadie, for all you have shared with the community of All Saints where together we are strengthened by our faith in our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

(Thank you to Kenneth Bailey and his book 'Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes' for the biblical understanding given in this letter.)

Thank you to Laura and the interview she gave last Sunday about her family, the country of South Sudan and its peoples struggles and the hope that living as a Christian brings in challenging times.

RESOURCES THIS WEEK

Thursday 25 August *9.30am Eucharist at Burnham Abbey*

Celebrant: Fr Jeremy

7.00pm Confirmation Class in the Birinus Room

Sunday 28 **10.00am The Parish Eucharist for the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Jeremy

From 12 noon WAMCF Cricket Day at Boyne Hill Cricket Club

Tuesday 30 **9.15am Morning Prayer in Church**

Wednesday 31 **10.00am Eucharist (BCP) St Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne**

Celebrant: Fr John

10.45am Tai Chi Class in the Parish Centre

11.30am Service at Normanhurst Care Home

2.00pm Service at Larchfield Care Home

ADVANCE DATES:

Sunday 4 September: 2.00pm Visit Maidenhead Mosque. All welcome to a presentation followed by refreshments. See WAMCF website for full details.

Saturday 10 September 9.00am: The beginning of a four-week course looking at issues of Sustainability. This course has been chosen by the Sustainability group and will begin with a breakfast of croissants and fruit with coffee/tea. We will then watch a short 10 minute film each session followed by questions to discuss.

Sunday 11 September 4.00-5.00pm each week in the Birinus Room: Children's confirmation classes. It is exciting that we have 5 possible children's candidates for our Confirmation with Bishop Olivia on Sunday 20 November. The course will run each week (Except when Sundays @4 intervenes) in the lead up to the Confirmation.

Saturday 1 October South Coast trip to Berwick, in East Sussex. This trip has been arranged with the Revd Peter Blee, vicar of 7 Sussex churches near the South Downs. The trip will focus on Berwick where remarkable work has taken place and will be followed by a walk between Berwick and Alciston which is part of the Cuckmere Pilgrim Path that Peter has created in recent years. We will arrive in Berwick at 11.00am for tea and coffee followed by a talk on Berwick church followed by worship. Between 1-2pm we will share a pub lunch at the Cricketers in Berwick village. 2-3pm – Pilgrim walk from Berwick to Alciston. 3.00pm Contemplative worship at Berwick followed by tea and depart for Maidenhead at 4.15pm returning home around 6.30pm. There will be a sign-up list at the back of the church in the near future.

Sunday 2 October 10.00am Harvest Festival Eucharist followed by an auction of harvest goods. Following the auction there will be a harvest ploughman's lunch to enjoy.

Sunday 30 October 10.00am Eucharist to celebrate our Patronal Festival of All Saints. Our Associate Archdeacon, The Revd Liz Jackson will be our guest preacher as we give thanks for the marvellous floor restoration work that has taken place. Following the service, we will share hospitality with guests involved in the project. Following the drinks at the back of the church there will be a church community meal at the Gandhi Restaurant at 12.30. Again, we will ask people to sign a list at the back of church if they wish to share in the meal.

Sunday 20 November 10.00am Confirmation at All Saints church with Bishop Olivia who will be baptising and confirming both children and adults. She will also present the Bronze Eco-Church award to the congregation.

Sunday 27 November Advent Sunday 12 noon to 3.30pm – The Christ Child Market in the Quadrangle. The Salvation Army Band are booked to play carols sharing the Christmas story from 3.00pm. We do need a few more people on the planning group and will require a good number of volunteers on the day to look after the stalls.

Fr John will also be leading a Bible Study in the Autumn as well as leading a Pilgrimage to Walsingham from Tuesday 20 September to Friday 23 September. This will be the first Pilgrimage from All Saints since 2018 to the place where so many of us have enjoyed services of deep spiritual meaning and wonderful hospitality.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We give thanks this week for the richness of our worshipping community. As we ponder the words of Laura who shared stories of her life and that of her husband, Emmanuel, and her daughter, Konga, we celebrate that they are sharing community worship with us. We pray for their country of South Sudan and for the suffering to end. May those that lead that country value humanity and that through Christ we may know that we are loved and are called to live life in all its fullness.

We give thanks for those that gathered for Sundays @4 last Sunday afternoon. We pray for all those who will be making 'New beginnings' in the coming weeks. We pray for students starting new schools, new classes and moving onto colleges and universities. We remember all refugees as they seek educational opportunities. We pray that those who begin school and places of education that they may be welcomed and feel a sense of belonging.

We pray for this Parish of All Saints, Boyne Hill. We bring before you, Lord, all those who are in need that they may know your loving presence in their lives. We rejoice at the news that All Sorts will restart following two years of the Pandemic, we remember the ministry of Street Angels trying to help keep people safe on our streets, we celebrate the wonderful ministry of Maidenhead Care as it supports vulnerable people, For Maidenhead Foodshare whose ministry will become even more valuable, for those who support the homeless and those struggling with mental illness and for all those seeking support from our community.

We give thanks for our worshipping community as we move forward to the services and events in the Autumn. Thankyou Lord for blessing us with people who are seeking to serve you through our community. We rejoice in the company of our Iranian friends who have brought vitality and joy to our community.

We pray by name for Suzette, Danielle, Fr John Chadwick, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Mikhail, John Hicks, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner, Harrison Hawkes, Heidi Webb, Florence Harrison, David Stewart, Rachel, Tadeusz, Teresa, Leigh Hutchison-May, Elaine See, Viv and Andrew, Larisa Stephenson, Soheila, Sue Nordberg, Jane Baldery and the family of Vicki Axten.

We pray for the recently departed, among them Roderick Maclennan, Renee Wilson, Carol Aitkin, Maureen Hill, Kathleen Bristow, and Vicki Axten. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. We remember all those who mourn the death of a loved one at this time.

This week, Lord, go with us as we think about including all people. Inspire us to pray for those in our neighbourhood who are often excluded. Encourage us to be active in seeking to include others and find a place for everyone in our community. Thank you that no one is beyond your love and care.

May we all be blessed by God's love this week,

Fr Jeremy

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 28 AUGUST THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

COLLECT

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 Hebrews 13: 1 8 & 12 – 15

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?' Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you;

consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

GOSPEL Luke 14: 1 & 7- 14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place," and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.' He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

MUSIC

Prelude: Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ BWV 639 *J S Bach*

Opening Hymn: AM 448 I come with joy, a child of God

Gradual: AM 693 Jesus, humble was your birth

Offertory: AM 563 Jesus Christ is waiting

Communion: Adagio, Sonata 1 BWV 525 *J S Bach*

Closing Hymn: AM 569 The kingdom of God is justice and joy

Postlude: Fantasia and Fugue in G minor BWV 542 *J S Bach*

STEWARDSHIP GROUP CHURCH CLEANING

The new floor has transformed the church and its completion prompted the Stewardship Group to consider how best to protect and maintain it for future generations .

We now need to reinstate regular church cleaning following the magnificent effort of those who helped the massive clean up after the completion of the work.

Professional advice is that we simply sweep the floor so the work is not too onerous and part of a regular cleaning schedule of dusting and polishing. We'll invest in new equipment of soft brushes, static dusters etc.

We hope to put together a rota of people able and prepared to clean in pairs with weekly tasks and additional tasks on a monthly basis.

The more volunteers we have then the frequency will reduce . We already have our first pair of volunteers so if you think you can help please contact Jeremy Nordberg at nordbergjs@aol.com or 01628 676750

Jeremy Nordberg Chair, Stewardship Group



Heritage Open Days and Ride and Stride – 10 and 11 September

As in previous years the Church will be open to welcome visitors and offer guided tours as part of the national Heritage Weekend. This is a lovely opportunity to share the beauty of our church with the wider community (we have had visitors coming long distances in the past) and, especially this year, to highlight the fantastic work carried out on the church floor. All are of course welcome to attend at any time.

The programme is:-

Saturday 10 September Church open 10.00 to 16.00. Guided tours at 1030; 1300 and 1500. At 14.30 Relf Clark will give a 30 minute organ recital– please see his programme details in the appendix to the Parish News Issue 118

Sunday 11 September Church open 13.00 to 16.00. Guided tours at 13.30 and 15.00. Eucharist and refreshments at 10.00.

If you click on Heritage Open Days 2022 on the web you can find not only All Saints but all the other open events in the country, by for example post code or county.

The Berkshire Churches Trust “Ride & Stride” will also take place on the Saturday when we will welcome visitors “riding and striding” to raise money through sponsorship for their own churches. We will be organising a walk for any one from All Saints who would like to take part, and there will be a sponsorship form at the back of the church in support of the walkers’ efforts. Half of any money raised will come back to All Saints.

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church for volunteers to act as Stewards, to help welcome visitors to the church and provide drinks for weary travellers. Please do sign up if you can offer an hour or so on either of these days. We will be sponsoring the Stewards for Ride & Stride too.

Ken Smith and Stella Harding

BASIC FIRST AID TRAINING THIS AUTUMN

We are looking for volunteers interested in being recognized as first aiders for the Church. It will require attending a 3 hour Basic Life Support (BLS) course provided by an external company sometime in the Autumn. If you are interested please email john.bolodeoku@icloud.com

FOODSHARE

In these hard times Foodshare are more in need of our help than ever. Each week in the Maidenhead Advertiser there is a list of items most wanted.