

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD**

PARISH NEWS

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

Issue 68 4 August 2021



Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

I am sharing with the 170+ people that receive this Newsletter the main points from the sermon on Sunday where I laid out the vision for All Saints that the set readings offered us from John chapter 6 and Ephesians chapter 4. The hope is that many of you will take up the challenge of receiving the 'gift' that God offers us through his son, Jesus.

A few years ago, I spoke to you all about the gift. The gift in the Eucharist of new and transformed life. If we journey back to the faithful Jewish people, we discover that they believed in a suffering servant. The readings from Isaiah read on Good Friday point to someone who would bring salvation. Holy Week and particularly the Easter Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil point to this hope. On Maundy Thursday we discover Jesus celebrating the Passover looking back to the movement of the people from slavery to freedom in the promised land. On that night with his friends Jesus institutes the Eucharist at the Last Supper and says to the Apostles that they will know him through the breaking of bread and the sharing of the wine. During the meal Jesus stepped down from the table and washed the feet of the Apostles demonstrating servant leadership to them and to us as Christians living in the present. On Good Friday we experience the great sacrifice that Jesus made to go through the suffering of the cross out of love for us that we might experience new and transformed life. The vigil with the symbolism of the fire, the paschal candle and the light breaking the darkness, leading to the renewal of baptismal promises and the receiving of the heavenly food at the Eucharist strengthens us to partake of the Body of Christ to become the Body of Christ to the world. We are called to be a spirit filled Easter people sharing our gifts given by God for the benefit of all.

The gift then is of New Life for the future but also that we might respond by bringing his love to the world. 'Thy Kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.' When I spoke about the gift in the past I spoke of chocolates or flowers given to a loved one. They are still the same when we give them as they were on the shelf at Tesco's or Sainsbury's but the way they are given and received with love changes the transaction. On a higher level the wedding ring given does not really have financial value (I know some are more expensive than others!) but it is the way it is given and received that really matters. It can lead alongside the promises to a long lasting marriage of love that acts as an example to the wider community. Just think then every time we partake of the Body of Christ do we wish seriously to receive this gift that we might become the Body of Christ to the world?

Last Wednesday outside the new Maidenhead Leisure Centre, I was interviewed By BBC Radio Berkshire about the charity 'Street Angels'. Towards the end of the interview, I was asked what impact does one's faith have on Street Angels? I replied that Christ gave his life that we might have new and transformed life. We do not do good things to win a sense of Meritocracy or that we do things to win a place in heaven, rather that we do things by responding to the love that was first offered us. Only God's offering through his son Jesus is the true sacrifice and we accept the gift of New Life by responding, by sharing God's grace with others.

The Eucharist offers us this hope. As we receive the gift of New Life we enter into relationship with God in the Trinity of Love. God as creator, redeemer and the one who sustains. We become members through our baptism in the Body of Christ and we are given spirit filled gifts to use for the whole. Christ is the one true sacrament as he reveals the Father's love for us but when he is ascended, he sends his spirit at Pentecost that we may be his body on earth. We are the pilgrim people of God journeying through this life together supporting one another as we journey towards the heavenly banquet. We journey as Ephesians highlights by being people who co-operate and seek unity. Paul offers the image of the Ascended Lord showering us with gifts which are required to organise church communities.

Everyone then is gifted to build everyone up, to give away their grace/love to benefit others. Examples might be the ministry of Street Angels, All Sorts, Maidenhead Care, FoodShare, GoodGym and perhaps how we live our daily lives at work. Clearly ministry begins with the church community as we receive the gift of Eucharist we are breathing in and breathing out God's spirit. We partake to become, we receive the gift to offer the offer the gift to others.

You will find an invitation from Ken Smith who has given much thought to the organising of our own church community. Following the example found in Ephesians we can use our gifts to support All Saints whether that might be on the PCC, our Worship, Schools and Welcome groups or indeed helping with Stewardship/Finance, Resources, Young Saints/Families and our recently formed Sustainability group. This sounds exhausting and it is if the same few are in all of the groups. However, if we receive the 'Gift' and discern God's call to respond in love then our own God given, and spirit filled gifts can be used to help build the community.

Some examples of good news might be the appointment of a new chaplain to support me at Altwood School. I met with the Revd Jo Ellington last week as we plan complimentary ministry at the school. There is the promise too from the Bishop of ministerial support which we hope will be in place by Christmas.

Within the church Brian Graves has been reading Richard Giles book 'Creating Uncommon Worship'. This book which focusses on Giles' view that our worship should replicate the way we lead our lives. This means that we each discover how we might be called to contribute to the worship and ministry within the life of the church. Brian and I are trying to discern how our worship might lead to a sense of welcome and belonging.

We have too the promise of support from the Archdeacon of Berkshire for seeing opportunities for change within the church building that can lead to us being a more welcoming building. As we hopefully move out of the Pandemic, we can either feel a sense of concern for the future or we can discern a time of opportunity. I am confident that God is providing new opportunities. I pray that I and you will say yes to the gift of new and transformed life.

Please see Ken Smith's invitation within this Parish News.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Beryl Dorton on her 90th birthday this Thursday.

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Friday 6 August 10.00am Tiny Saints in the Quadrangle

Thanks to Tanya, Carole, Sadie and Ursula for giving their time to try to rebuild the group. Although numbers are small we have returned to activities, hospitality and our small service. Last week Max Fullarton starred by telling the story of the Good Shepherd who sought to find the one missing sheep out of the flock of one hundred.

Sunday 8 August The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Eucharist in the Parish Centre Also on Zoom. Please note this is a new link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83933190898?pwd=ZXJsY1RMUIFBu3FYclY3aVpuVUJlZz09>

Meeting ID: 839 3319 0898 Passcode: 919539

11.00am Eucharist in the Parish Centre.

Monday 9 August 8.00pm Night Prayer on Mondays on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85011600714?pwd=Y0x2VWpMQ3JFUStsQ0plbEFLOEQrQT09>

Meeting ID: 820 4192 2070

Passcode: 587930

We remember Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union

Psalm 72, Luke 10: 38 - 42 and Now Thank We All Our God

Wednesday 11 August 10.00am Eucharist in the Parish Centre

John Henry Newman, Priest and Tractarian

NEXT BBQ IN THE QUAD @ 4.00pm on Sunday 29 August All welcome

PRAYER INTENTIONS

From Roots:

We thank and praise you, Lord God,

That despite our assumptions and judgements and the way we sometimes treat others, you never stop loving us. Bread of life, you are always with us. We praise you that as we draw near to you, you quench our thirst and satisfy our hunger, so that we never need hunger or thirst again. Thank you that you equip us and resource us with everything that we need for the journey of life in Jesus' name. AMEN.

We pray for more people to offer their talents to support the various groups of All Saints. We pray for our worship, schools and welcome groups, for our buildings and finance groups, for our Young Saints and Families, our stewardship and finance and our sustainability group. Please, Lord, provide helpers with gifts to grow your Kingdom.

We pray for all those preparing for our return to the church in the Autumn. We give thanks for all those who have worshipped and given of their time and talents in the past and we pray for people to return to play their part once again and for new people to feel a sense of belonging that will lead to participation in the life of the church.

We give thanks as we look forward to Mary Sumner day for the Mothers' Union and The Senior Saints. We thank you, Lord, for the cream tea that we were able to enjoy and the fellowship we shared.

We celebrate the Open the Book Teams as they prepare once more to share the stories of the bible with the students of our schools.

We pray for all those in need at this time. We pray for Mandy Rogers, Danielle, Nick, Fr John, Sister Mary Philip, Roger Baldery, Albert, Dave Hill, his wife Eliza, Dave's parents and Ann and Chris and for Paul Latham and David Emerson.

We pray for the recently departed and all our departed loved ones and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. We remember Rosella Masters. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Charlie Mackesy and his thoughts on hopes as we journey back to church in the Autumn, 'Most of the old moles I know wish they had listened less to their fears and more to their dreams.'

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

Fr Jeremy

YOUR GIFTS FROM GOD

As an appendix to Fr. Jeremy's inspiring sermon last Sunday I want to share with you some more details about the Groups that the PCC has set up.

Why have we done so? So much good work has been done and continues to be done - for worship, for schools, for children, for the buildings and for supporting the church operations etc - but we have so much that we need and want to do for the community and for the worship of God that we are finding we cannot do justice to everything in the limited time we have available for PCC meetings.

As we would each like to be able to focus more on the issues for which we have skills and experience to offer, we have set up a number of Groups to do just this outside the PCC meetings The Groups are:

Worship

Schools

Youth and Families

Welcome

Sustainability

Stewardship and Finance

Resources (Buildings and Land)

I am pleased to say that every member of the PCC has signed up for one or more of the Groups, each one operating in the way that best suits it but with a remit to report back to the PCC. However, the PCC does not hold the monopoly on skills and experience in any of these areas, indeed there are many in the congregation who have as much if not more to offer.

All are therefore warmly invited to consider joining a Group and so influence what we want to achieve.

If you would like to know more about the Groups, how they will operate, or who is currently in them please contact me.

Ken Smith 01628 633895 ken.smith1@btinternet.com.

Worship for Sunday 8 August The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Sounds of Worship Brian Graves

This week we have third of the trilogy of gospel readings relating to Jesus as the “Bread of Life”. This time, Jesus emphasises link between belief in God, spiritual nourishment through belief in him providing his “flesh to eat” and the promise of eternal life.

The gospel reading references the sustenance of the Israelites with manna in the desert and the first hymn I have chosen links belief in Jesus as manna for the hungry soul. The hymn is “How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer’s ear” AM 664 words by John Newton (1725 -1807) set to the tune St Peter by Alexander Robert Reinagle (1799 – 1877).

First published in *Olney Hymns* (1779) Book I, ‘On select Passages of Scripture’, with the title ‘The name of Jesus’ and a reference to the Song of Solomon 1:3, ‘Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee’. The text gives a New Testament reading of the Old Testament imagery, in which the ‘sweetness’ pervading the poem has rich associations. It is both the fragrance of oils used in healing and the sweet sound of a beloved name, which shapes the poem from the first lines,

The initial third-person ‘believer’ gives some objectivity while still allowing the worshipper to identify with the love expressed and move gradually to ‘I’ in verse 3. It is an interpretation of the *Song of Solomon* as referring to the individual soul imagined as feminine and its love affair as being with Christ.

The hymn was included by John Wesley in the *Arminian Magazine* in 1781, although it did not appear in *A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People called Methodists* until the revised words-only edition of 1875 (‘Wesley’s Hymns’)¹.

John Newton was first educated by his mother but after she died, when he was seven years old, he attended a boarding school in Essex where he was severely bullied. He left the school after only two years and soon after accompanied his father, a sea captain, on a voyage. For several years his life was one of dissipation and crime. He was disgraced while in the navy. Afterwards he engaged in the slave trade. Returning to England in 1748, the ship in which he was travelling was nearly wrecked in a storm. He took extreme practical measure to save the ship. The experience made him a changed man. It was six years, however, before he relinquished the slave trade, which was not then considered to be an unlawful occupation. But in 1754, he gave up sea-faring life, and became the surveyor of tides at Liverpool where he also began his religious work. In 1764, having been ordained he was appointed as the Curate of Olney. It was here that in 1767 he was joined by the poet William Cowper, and together they produced the *Olney Hymns*. In 1779, Newton became Rector of S. Mary Woolnoth, in London. He attracted and influenced many social reformers, including Hannah More and William Wilberforce, and his church became a centre of the campaign for the abolition of slavery. He published *Thoughts upon the African Slave Trade* (1788) in which his restrained and factual style had great emotional impact.

Reinagle was brought up in Oxford where his father, the cellist and composer Joseph Reinagle, had settled. After studying with his father, he worked as a teacher of stringed instruments in Oxford and was organist of St Peter-in-the-East (1822-53). During the 1860s he was highly active in Oxford music-making and worked closely with John Stainer who, between 1860 and 1872, was organist of Magdalen College. In retirement Reinagle moved to Kidlington, where he remained until his death.

Reinagle published two collections of psalm tunes, *Psalm-Tunes for the Voice and Pianoforte* (Oxford, ca. 1836), and *Collection of Psalm and Hymn Tunes* (London, 1840), both of which include his only tune to remain in use, St Peter. Originally conceived as a melody with keyboard accompaniment, it was reset by the composer for inclusion in the First Edition of *Hymns Ancient & Modern* in 1861 for use with *How sweet the name* with which it has been associated ever since. The steady pace of the melody without dotted or passing notes is particularly suited to the series of strong, simple images, ‘manna’, ‘rest’, ‘rock’, ‘shield’, ‘treasury’, ‘shepherd’, building up to ‘Accept the praise I bring.’¹

1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer’s ear!
it soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
and drives away his fear.
2. It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary rest.
3. Dear name! the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace!
4. Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my life, my Way, my End –
accept the praise I bring.
5. Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I’ll praise you as I ought.
6. Till then I would your love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death.

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds AM 664 St Peter <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXyHMMMy4YyY>

The second hymn is “Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour” AM 453 words by George Hugh Bourne (1840 - 1925) set to the tune St Helen by George Clement Martin (1844 – 1916).

This is a Eucharistic hymn of great power with references to various episodes in Jesus’ life but verse 5 encapsulates this week’s particular interpretation of the “Bread of life theme”.

The hymn was written for the chapel of Chardstock College, Dorset (a Church of England boarding school that existed from 1861 to 1881). It was one of seven hymns written for the College chapel. It was apparently first printed in *Seven Post-Communion Hymns* (1874), privately printed for St Edmund’s College, Salisbury, of

which Bourne was then headmaster. It is said to have had ten verses, but no copy of this book has been located. The hymn was printed in the Supplement (1889) to the Second Edition of *Hymns Ancient & Modern*, in a shortened form of five verses (1,2,4,5,10), with alterations approved by the author².

Bourne was the son of a clergyman. He was educated at Eton and Corpus Christi College, Oxford (BA 1863; BCL 1866, DCL 1871). He took Holy Orders (deacon 1863, priest 1864), serving a curacy at Sandford-on Thames before becoming headmaster of St Andrew's College, Chardstock (1866-74). The College moved to Salisbury as St Edmund's College in 1874, and Bourne remained its headmaster (1874-85). Additionally, he was chaplain to Bishop Webb of Bloemfontein (1870-98). He was sub-dean of Salisbury (1887-1901) and Treasurer and Prebendary of the Cathedral from 1901 until his death³.

Sir George Clement Martin was a pupil of John Stainer at Magdalen College, Oxford, and in 1871 was appointed organist to the Duke of Buccleuch's private chapel at Dalkeith, south of Edinburgh, where there were daily choral services. Stainer moved to St Paul's Cathedral in 1872, and two years later invited Martin to be the first music master of the newly-established choir school, with chief responsibility for the choristers' training; to this post was added that of Sub-Organist in 1876. In 1888 he succeeded Stainer as Organist, retaining however the duty of training the boys. A skilled choirmaster, he ably maintained and enhanced the high standard of liturgical music established by Stainer. He was also an able organist and taught at the Royal College of Music after its foundation in 1883. He was awarded the Lambeth MusD in 1883 and the DMus from Oxford in 1912. He was knighted after the celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee (1897), for which he wrote a *Te Deum*, and died in office in 1916⁴.

1. Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Jesu, true and living bread.
2. Here our humblest homage pay we,
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia, Alleluia,
thou art here, we ask not how.
3. Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there thine angels hail thee,
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, Alleluia,
we in worship join with them.
4. Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Cleansing souls from every stain.

5. Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
stricken rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died.
Alleluia, Alleluia,
risen, ascended, glorified!

Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour AM 453 St Helen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbsJdDBr05E>

- 1 Elizabeth Cosnett. "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds." The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology. Canterbury Press. Web. 11 Jul. 2021.<<http://www.hymnology.co.uk/h/how-sweet-the-name-of-jesus-sounds>>.
- 2 JRW. "Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour." The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology. Canterbury Press. Web. 11 Jul. 2021.<<http://www.hymnology.co.uk/l/lord,-enthroned-in-heavenly-splendour>>.
- 3 RW. "George Hugh Bourne." The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology. Canterbury Press. Web. 11 Jul. 2021.<<http://www.hymnology.co.uk/g/george-hugh-bourne>>.
- 4 Timothy Storey. "George Clement Martin." The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology. Canterbury Press. Web. 11 Jul. 2021.<<http://www.hymnology.co.uk/g/george-clement-martin>>.

COLLECT

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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 forever. Amen

EPISTLE Ephesians 4: 25 — 5:2

Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

GOSPEL John 6: 35, 41 — 51

Jesus said to the crowd, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

Volunteer Stewards and Walkers needed for Ride & Stride 2021: Saturday 11th September

All Saints will be participating once again in this year's "Ride & Stride", welcoming any riders and striders visiting us in the Parish Centre this year. People can walk, cycle, ride or drive to as many churches as they wish during the day, raising money for the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust (BHCT).

Volunteer Stewards: We are looking for volunteers to help provide our usual great All Saints welcome for visitors during the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm; we will set up hourly slots to cover the day – please do let us know if you can help.

Walkers: Fr Jeremy will lead an All Saints team on a walk, possibly visiting the local churches in Maidenhead or following the parish boundary. The length of the walk will be agreed once we have the team in place. Please let us know if you would like to take part.

"Ride & Stride" is Berkshire's annual sponsored 'cycle, run, walk or drive' event organised by the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust, (more details can be found at www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk under the Ride & Stride tab). It is part of the nationwide Ride & Stride event run by the National Churches Trust (www.rideandstrideuk.org).

The aims of the event are:

- to raise money for Berkshire's churches
- to promote interest in our county's churches
- to involve people of all ages in a fun outdoor challenge

** Sponsorship and donations are divided 50/50 between the church of the participant's choice and the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust. The Trust will recover the gift aid on eligible donations and will use its share of the funds to help churches in Berkshire with the costs of conservation and renovation. All Saints has already benefitted from support from the Trust; they have given us £10,000 towards the floor project, the largest grant from any external organisation.*

Please let Fr Jeremy, Ken Smith or me know if you would like to act as a Steward, take part in the walk, or sponsor either of these activities.

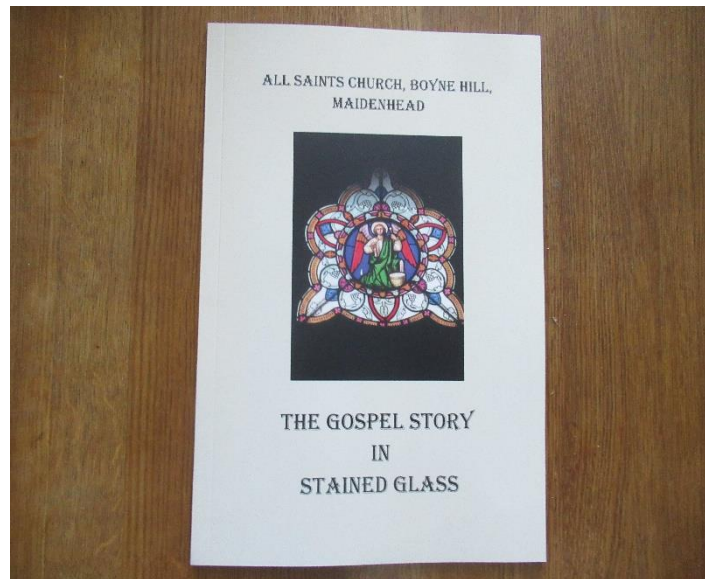
Stella Harding 07738 179710; sdhardinghouse@aol.com

Governor with Financial Experience - All Saints CofE Junior School

We are looking for a motivated individual with a professional background (business or charity sector) with a demonstrable expertise in finance to join our Governing Body. The board's current membership contains a high quality and diverse range of skills but is currently lacking expertise in financial strategic planning and oversight and, therefore, we are looking to recruit a governor with these skills to meet this gap.

Being a governor is very rewarding and a great way to contribute to the local community, to share your existing skills and to learn new ones! If you want to have an informal chat, please contact Jenny Wilks at jwilks@jwa-consultancy.co.uk or, for more detailed information, take a look at <https://www.allsaintsmaidenhead.org.uk/news/detail/finance-governor-vacancy/>

Equally, if you know someone outside the school community who could be interested, please pass the details on to them.



As a further fund-raiser for the floor project Ken Smith has created a pictorial record of ALL the stained glass windows in the church, including the angels in the cerestory windows and a record of the original windows that were installed by Street prior to their being replaced by the St Augustine window and the Annunciation window. The book consists of 48 A4 pages on semi-gloss stiff paper, most photos are page-size and all are accompanied by an appropriate biblical text. This is the only pictorial record of the windows that exists and only 100 copies have been printed.

Each copy is £10 and as the cost of production has been met by Citygate Automotive every sale will go towards the floor fund.

Sue Stannett has kindly offered to manage the sales so if you would like to purchase a copy of “The Gospel Story in Stained Glass”, then please send an email to sastannett@gmail.com with the following information:

1. How many copies you would like to order.
2. How you would prefer to make payment, ie Bank Transfer, Cash or Cheque.
3. Whether you would like to collect the book from the Church Vestry door by arrangement or would prefer to have it delivered.
4. If you are without email, perhaps you could ask a friend or neighbour to request one on your behalf?

QUENCH CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP HAS REOPENED: Monday to Saturday 11.00am – 4.00pm

Please support them if you can; they have an excellent selection of cards and gifts for all occasions as well as the books.

FOODSHARE NEEDS are in the Maidenhead Advertiser each week.

EXCITING CHANGES TO LOOK FORWARD TO

You will have read elsewhere in this edition of Parish News about the opportunities we all have to take part in All Saints' future development through the Groups which have been set up.

I want to share with you now the ideas which the PCC have been mulling over for making changes to the layout of the building itself as an aid to worship and the better use of the space.

1 The sound system. Our current analogue system has served us well for many years but undeniably it has been creaking somewhat for a long time as you may have noticed, and it is difficult to operate. Having received a very generous legacy we have decided to invest it in a new digital system which will be more tamper-proof and provide a springboard for future developments (not planned yet) such as streaming and filming. It will be housed in the same box as before, in the south east corner of the nave, but will have the added immediate benefits of a radio microphone on the altar for the celebrant and a remote key pad, operable either by the celebrant or someone in the congregation to adjust for example the sound if necessary. This will be in use when we return to church

2 The nave altar platform. The red-carpeted platform provides a visible focal point for the celebration of the Eucharist, and for the easier viewing of orchestras and choirs when they are in church. However, we are hoping to expand our interaction with the community in many ways and a platform which is in theory possible to move but in practice too heavy and cumbersome to do so may be an inhibitor for some activities. Without a platform it will also be possible to consider alternative forms of seating arrangements in certain circumstances. Accordingly the PCC has sought the permission of the Archdeacon to dispense with the platform for an experimental period, which he has given, so when we return the nave altar will be standing on the newly restored floor, which will thus be more visible. The kneelers in front of the pews will be available for those who wish to kneel when receiving.

I would stress that this is experimental, and we would be able to put the platform back if it is not working, but the nave altars in many other churches are used like this so we have taken the opportunity to do likewise. We would like to take the opportunity during this period to explore whether it is possible to have a more portable platform to move in and out as we choose, not least for a performance space.



3 The side altar platforms. You will probably have noticed that the side altar sits on two platforms, a small one and a large one. Overall, they occupy a large amount of space, but the altar is only used for the storing of the vessels after a Sunday Eucharist, and as the Altar of Repose on Maundy Thursday. The PCC believes that the altar area would benefit from being made a more discrete area if the larger platform were not there. It could be better utilised as an area for private prayer, particularly when community or heritage activities are taking place elsewhere in the church, or for

example for small discussion groups arranged in a semi-circle. Accordingly the PCC has requested a variation to the Floor faculty not to put back the larger platform. The smaller platform on which the altar stands and the riddel curtains around it will remain. The DAC has given its support, but we have yet to hear from the Diocesan Chancellor. Hopefully it will be done before we return to church.



4 The south porch screen. I think we will all have experienced the darkness of the chamber inside the south door, even though there is a light there. The PCC believes that it would be a more appealing entrance to the church if more light could be introduced. Accordingly a solution would be to replace the blank panels on either side by glass. Given that the screen has been temporarily removed by the contractors and is stored in their workshop it would be convenient for them to carry out the work. We have therefore asked, also via a variation to the Floor Faculty, for the six panels on each side to be replaced by glass. Again, the DAC has given its support, but we have yet to hear from the Diocesan Chancellor. Hopefully it will be done before we return to church.



If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ken Smith

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01628 633895