

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**
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Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,



“I believe and trust in him”

These words from the Baptism Service come three times, in response to the questions “Do you believe and trust in God the Father....in God the Son....in God the Holy Spirit.” Not just “believe”, but “believe and trust”. If we are to “believe and trust” we need to know the one in whom we are placing our belief and trust.

I am writing this is on Monday, which is the Feast Day of St Thomas. During the Last Supper Jesus, alluding to his forthcoming passion and death, says “I am going to prepare a place for you, so that you may be with me.” Thomas, wrestling with his inability to understand, has the confidence and courage to ask Jesus “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” giving rise to the wonderful response of Jesus “I am the way, and the truth and the life.”

Jesus answering his own question, perhaps: “Who do you say that I am?”

Thomas seems to be the one who, by not being too proud to admit his lack of understanding and ask questions, elicits from Jesus the clarity that they all need. And a response that is so helpful to us and has encouraged Christians for 2,000 years: “I am the way, and the truth and the life.” The one in whom we can place our trust.

Thomas teaches us that it is ok to ask questions of God and of our faith, and that honestly doing so is a way into deeper truths.

And it is Thomas who, when he is granted his wish after the Resurrection to see and touch the wounds in the hands, side and feet of the risen Christ, declares with deep insight “My Lord and my God.” So once again Thomas, this time wrestling with his need to have the stories of the other disciples verified by the experience of his own sight and touch, and wrestling to understand what it might mean for Jesus to be alive again, is granted a deeper truth than sight and touch alone could have given him.

Thomas has found a deeply personal truth: Seeing the Risen Christ, he declares Jesus is not just “Lord and God” in some abstract way, but is Thomas’s own personal Lord and God: “My Lord and my God”. This is relational language, which speaks of commitment and relationship one to the other. In the Old Testament God had said to the Hebrews “I shall be your God and you shall be my people”, a declaration of commitment certainly on the side of God to his people. Now, in making his declaration Thomas returns that favour by stating his commitment back to God – Jesus is his, Thomas’s, “Lord and God” to be honoured, worshipped, adored and followed to the ends of the earth. In fact, tradition has it that Thomas carried the Gospel to Syria, Persia and as far as South India.

The story of Thomas is not a story about the truth of the Resurrection, but a story about a commitment of faith and trust to a living, loving, personal God.

May we take time to explore the riches of God’s love and grace in our own lives. May we look beyond the obvious, and see the message of the love of God for us in the wounds of Christ. May we have the courage to place our faith and trust in Jesus. And may we come to an ever deeper personal knowledge of Jesus as our Lord and our God, to worship and adore him and follow him to the ends of the earth – whatever that may mean for us.

Fr John

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Thursday 6 July	<i>3.00pm Open the Book at All Saints School</i> <i>8.00pm Choir Practice</i>
Friday 7	10.00am Tiny Saints Toddler Group in the Parish Centre
Saturday 8	<i>6.30pm Renaissance Voices Concert in Church see p 4</i>
Sunday 9	10.00am Parish Eucharist for the Fifth Sunday after Trinity Worship for All Celebrant & Preacher: Fr John <i>6.00pm Sundays @Six Prayer Walk at Ray Mill Island</i>
Monday 10	9.30am Morning Prayer
Tuesday 11	9.30am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 12	10.00am Eucharist Celebrant: Fr John <i>11.00 am Tai Chi in the Parish Centre</i> <i>2.30pm Senior Saints see p 4</i> <i>3.00pm Open the Book at Larchfield School</i>

ADVANCE NOTICE

WAMCF CHILDREN, YOUTH & ADULTS CRICKET TOURNAMENT SUNDAY 27 AUGUST AT BOYNE HILL CRICKET CLUB

Adult’s & Children’s Competitions start from 10.00am Fr Jeremy presenting children’s prizes at 2.00pm. Full details on WAMCF website.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We pray for our Bishops Steven and Olivia and for Archbishop Justin, and for the Church of England General Synod meeting from 7 to 11 July in York. For the witness, mission and ministry of clergy and lay people of the Church of England.

For all places of unrest, violence and oppression. For asylum seekers and refugees, especially for those of our own community at All Saints, and for the work of Care4Calais.

On the 75th anniversary of the National Health Service, we pray for all who work in the NHS, for those in front line care services, and for those in management and leadership roles. We pray for the future of health and social care in our country, for its provision and for its funding.

We continue to pray for the Anglican Church in Kenya, for the Diocese of Taita Taveta, for Bishop Liverson, and for Grace Kitawa Karingo seeking confirmation of her call to begin training for the Priesthood.

We pray for those of our congregation and Parish in any kind of need. We pray by name for Michael, Kirsten and Maddy; for Suzette, Danielle, Paul Latham, Doris Winn, Birmta Zadinane, Kirsty Banner, Heidi Webb, Florence Harrison, Tadeusz, Teresa, Christopher, Sylvia Denison, Cheryl Brookes, Gordon Kerrison, Lorraine Ansell, Ruby Doughty, Andrew Collins, Jeremy Nordberg, Sylvia Telford, Eddie Sheppard and Carol Sheppard, and Barbara Bannister. May they all know the healing peace and presence of Christ. We pray for those who bring comfort and healing to those in need, and those who are caring for loved ones at this time, and for staff and residents of the care homes in our parish.

We pray for the recently departed, including Colin Woods, Michael Justice and Victor Franklin. We pray for their families and friends and for all who mourn the loss of a loved one at this time.

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 9 JULY THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

GOSPEL Matthew 11: 25 - 30

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

MUSIC

Prelude:	Intermezzo Founded on an Irish Air	<i>C V Stanford</i>
Opening hymn:	765 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	
Gradual hymn:	728 Meekness and majesty	
Offertory hymn:	666 I cannot tell	
Communion hymn:	563 Jesus Christ is waiting	
Closing hymn:	667 I danced in the morning	
Postlude:	Hornpipe From The Water Music	<i>G F Handel</i>

RENAISSANCE VOICES CONCERT 6.30pm SATURDAY 8 JULY IN CHURCH

A Celebration of the life and work of William Byrd and Thomas Weelkes. Tickets £15 on the door or £14 if booked in advance on 01628 624429. Supper included.

SENIOR SAINTS 2.30pm Wednesday 12 July

Do join us for a sociable afternoon at Pauline Hole's home, 58 Marlborough Road.

Margaret Hill

FOODSHARE & MAIDENHEAD CARE

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.

To learn more about the work of Foodshare do come to High Street Methodist Church on Thursday 20 July at 7.30pm. Nigel Cohen, Foodshare Trustee, will be addressing the Maidenhead Care Commissioning Service on the challenges a growing number of people in our community are facing and what further steps we can take to help in this vital work.

CARE4CALAIS TOILETRY APPEAL



We have had the pleasure of getting to know some refugees from Iran in our congregation over the past year. At our APCM recently, Sam Jonkers from Care4Calais spoke to us about the fantastic work the charity does in welcoming and supporting refugees.

Asylum seekers face many challenges even after arriving in the UK. They are not allowed to work so do not have money, even to spend on what we would see as basic essentials.

One practical action we can take to help is to donate toiletries.

If you are able to support, please bring your donations and leave them in the box at the back of church.

Thank you!

Claire Foley claire.foley@fit2live.me.uk



SAVE THE DATE - Saturday 9 September

WHY? It's the annual Ride & Stride event!

This national event happens every year across the country. Any mode of transport is fine – you could walk, cycle, ride - simply choose a route and find lots of sponsorship from all your friends and family, perhaps every person in the congregation could sponsor you?

You can go by yourself or in a group, any time between 10.00am and 6.00pm and many people make a day of it. There are so many wonderful and interesting churches to visit, many will be open and offering refreshments too.

There is also the Daphne Barnes-Phillips trophy which is awarded to the most successful church each year – this is a splendid silver cup which is still resting with St Peter's Woolhampton as they raised the most sponsorship in 2022.

All Saints will benefit hugely as we will receive half of your sponsorship. The remaining 50% goes to Berkshire Historic Churches Trust which in turn makes generous grants to churches in need; All Saints has benefitted from this in the past.

More details of the participating churches, together with sponsorship forms will be available soon, or can be found on the BHCT Ride & Stride website - <http://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk/ride-and-stride>

Stella Harding

All Saints Boyne Hill Ride & Stride Co-ordinator