

ALL SAINTS' HIGHFIELD PARISHIONERS' NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021



Golden Abelia, blue Ceonothus and yellow Laburnum near the south door, Courtesy of Brigid

A New Era for All Saints'

June will see All Saints' finalising its preparations for Leon's Licensing on the 6th July. In this newsletter James and Janet provide us with a brief description of the event. It will certainly mark the beginning of a new era for our church and for all of us who worship there. Leon has, of course, been a very welcome guest celebrant and preacher at All Saints' in recent times and, in this month's issue, he embarks on his first 'pastoral' message to us.

I would like to take the opportunity to record my gratitude to Peter Boulton-Lea, who has contributed such thoughtful messages each month throughout the health crisis. I know they have been much appreciated by us all and you will be glad to know that Peter will continue to contribute articles to the newsletter from time to time.

The first Wednesday of June will see the revival of the ‘Britannia’ lunch. Unfortunately, people will have to book by signing the list in church this Sunday (30th May) and numbers are restricted to 12. There is less positive news on the choir front; much to the chagrin of both church and secular choirs the Government is re-imposing restrictions on amateur singers, limiting gatherings to just six. Sadly, the City of Oxford Choir managed only one rehearsal in the church before the re-imposition. We do hope this is short lived as we know how eager choristers are to sing again. The *Church Times* of 26 May states:

‘The tightening of the Government’s coronavirus restrictions on singing, only 24 hours after the relaxation of rules covering the entertainment industry, has caused anger among church choirs’. The Bishop of London, the Right Reverend Sarah Mullally (the leader of the Church of England’s Recovery Group) said that the Group was ‘reminding the Government of the importance of singing to lift our prayers to God’.

Let us hope that the restrictions will be eased, if not fully lifted, on 21st June, for the sake of worshippers and choristers.

Readers will remember that Hannah, one of our sidespersons, celebrated her eighteenth birthday in May; grandmother Veronica has sent us a photograph of Hannah enjoying her first alcoholic drink in a pub. Hannah thanks everyone for the cards she received.



This month we send greetings to Bill Locke for his birthday on the 5th June. Bill has worshipped at All Saints' and been a member of the choir for many years. Sadly, he is unwell and unable to get to church now; we hope you have a very happy day, Bill.

Everyone will be sorry to learn that Father Bernard Dagnell, who until a couple of years ago was an Honorary Assistant Priest at All Saints', has recently undergone heart surgery and Simon Lee, a long time member of our congregation, is also undergoing hospital treatment. We send them both our very best wishes. Please remember them in your prayers.

The Diocese of Oxford has recently announced the appointment of eight new Honorary Canons, who will be installed in a special ceremony in June in Christ Church Cathedral. One of the eight is the Reverend Charles Chadwick, who advised us on the preparation of our Parish Profile, ahead of the selection process for an Interim Minister; his guidance was a great help. Best wishes and many congratulations on your appointment, Charles.

As ever, I must record my thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue. The July issue will be a 'special' one as it will be circulated the weekend before Leon's licensing. All contributions will be welcome; please email them to CEHodgkinson@aol.com. The deadline is Tuesday 29th June.

With all good wishes, *Catherine*

www.allsaintsheadington.org.uk

A Message from Leon for June

Dear friends. It was a joy to be with you last week to celebrate TRINITY SUNDAY. In some Christian traditions the season of the church year we are now in is known as 'Ordinary Time'. The tradition of the Church of England, however, has been to count the number of weeks 'after Trinity' (this year we will have no less than 21 such Sundays 'after Trinity'!)

The very length of this season helps to reinforce the bedrock importance of the Trinity to our faith. It is telling that there is firm agreement here among all Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant churches (especially when one considers how many things they disagree about!). The Trinity is not a negotiable or peripheral doctrine. It virtually defines classical Christianity.

That does not mean, however, that there isn't deep mystery here. There certainly is! After all, the Scriptures teach us that:

there is one God,
the Father is God,
the Son is God,
the Holy Spirit is God,
the Father, Son, and Spirit are not three parts of God,
the Father, Son, and Spirit are not three modes of God,
the Father, Son, and Spirit are three persons eternally sharing one divine being.

Faced with this testimony of Scripture, we are like toddlers at the beach with an inflatable ball many times bigger than us. But the very fact that we cannot get our arms all the way around it is what makes it so wonderful!



There are many beautiful flowers that only grow in Trinitarian soil. For instance, the fact that God is three-in-one means he is not lonely or needy - he didn't create us to *get* from us but purely to *give* to us. In any other sort of soil, God's mercy and grace quickly wither.

We can rest secure, too, that love and relationship are deeper realities than power and productivity. Long before he created the universe God was eternally Trinity.

Nor need we fear that difference must always mean conflict. The final destiny of the human race will not be bland homogeneity or brutal tribalism. For, at the very heart of reality, is the beauty of diversity in unity.

Perhaps we might also take this season as a reminder that life with our Triune God is never 'ordinary'. Even the most seemingly routine and mundane of our daily rhythms are dignified and elevated by the intimate presence of the one true and living God; Father, Son and Spirit.

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed trinity! (Bishop Heber 1783-1826)*

With warmest love and prayers,

Leon

Worship in June

After the excitement of three festivals in May, we enter “ordinary time” in June, where no particular events in the Christian story are commemorated.

This will be our last month without a minister, for which the churchwardens are especially grateful! We look forward with great anticipation to the licensing of Leon on 6th June, and there is a separate article about that. The ‘home team’ are dealing with most services this month.

Choral Evensong. We have been greatly blessed in the re-establishment of the choir over the last few months. This puts us in a position to re-consider Choral Evensong services. However, they do require a certain relaxation of Covid restrictions, and hopefully we can make plans when we see the situation after 21st June.

Date	Celebrant/Preacher	Readers	Sidesperson
6 th June 10 am Holy Communion 1st Sunday after Trinity	Peter Boulton-Lea	John and Vivienne	Veronica
13 th June 10 am Holy Communion 2nd Sunday after Trinity	Stephanie Bullock	Jerome and Janet	Valerie
20 th June 10 am Holy Communion 3rd Sunday after Trinity	David Knight / Christine Tucker	Patrick and Ginny	William
June 10 am Holy Communion 4th Sunday after Trinity	Peter Boulton-Lea / James Larminie	Barbara and Susan	Jerome

As well as these services in church, Christine will continue to offer a Compline service each Sunday evening at 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. The joining details are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82317742452>

Dial in for people joining by telephone in the UK.

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Meeting ID: 823 1774 2452

James and Janet

The Licensing of Rev. Leon Catallo:



6th July, 7:30 p.m.

We are all so looking forward to the licensing of Leon as our new minister. The service will be at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 6th July. Make sure that's in your diary now! Bishop Steven, the bishop of Oxford, will be presiding at the service. He will also be licensing Leon, installing him as priest-in-charge, and preaching. It will be a wonderful and joyous occasion.

The service will not be long, as the formalities are not so very complicated, and it is not a communion service. The social committee will be organising a reception afterwards. As this is written at the end of May there are some aspects of the service we do not yet know, as they are dependent on how much current Covid restrictions will be eased between now and then. The greatest unknown relates to singing, and whether or not the congregation will be allowed to join in that. The numbers able to attend is unlikely to be a problem.

As well as the bishop, the service will be attended by the archdeacon, the area dean, and clergy, pastors, and some lay people from our neighbouring parishes, especially the St Ebbe's congregation in Lime Walk. This will be a wonderful occasion of joy and hope, the first licensing of a new minister for over 64 years.

James and Janet

All Saints' PCC

The Parochial Church Council is elected every year at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which this year will be held on the 18th July. The APCM actually consists of two meetings, the first short one, originally called a Vestry meeting, at which the two Churchwardens are elected, followed by a longer one when the PCC is chosen.

Membership of the PCC is open to anyone registered on the Electoral Roll and, because more than 50 are registered on our Roll, we are entitled to have two members representing us on the Deanery Synod who qualify for automatic membership of our PCC. Other automatic members are the two Churchwardens and the Licensed Lay Ministers. Nine members from the Electoral Roll are elected at the APCM.

Current members of the PCC are:

Lady M B Crofton OBE.....	Acting Chair, Elected Lay Representative (ELR)
Prof J Burton (Marx).....	Church Warden
Miss V P Boulter.....	Hon Sec PCC, Sacristan & ELR
Prof J Glasson.....	Hon Treasurer, ELR
Mrs C E Hodgkinson	ELR
Mr D Hodgkinson.....	Safeguarding and Data Protection Officer, ELR
Mrs V John.....	ELR
Mr J Joseph.....	ELR
Mr J R J Larminie.....	Church Warden and Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)
Dr W Marx.....	Elected Deanery Synod Representative
Mrs S Morris.....	ELR
Miss R C Tucker.....	Elected Deanery Synod Representative & LLM
Rev. Peter Boulton-Lea.....	Co-opted member.

As the APCM held on the 18th July, probably at 3.30pm will be the first chaired by our new Minister, the Rev. Leon Catallo, it would be great to have as many parishioners as possible attending. By then current members of the PCC will have decided if they want to stand for re-election or not - hopefully most will agree to do so.

With very best wishes, and hoping to see you on the 18th July!

Brigid

Church House Activity Blooms

Like a rhubarb plant in springtime growing in the best South Yorkshire soil, activities have risen from virtually nothing to a glorious fruitfulness in the month of May.

Virtually all the groups that used to run are back in business, with some new ones. There are now FOUR support groups for families with pre-school children. The long-established Little Sharks playgroup is fully operational again, with about the same number of families as before. In addition, a New Parent Support group for those with very young children, more directed activities at Baby College, and the French language playgroup called Goûter Club. For older children there's aerial gymnastics, judo and Guides, and for adults Pilates, yoga and aerial gymnastics are on offer. The Saturday and Sunday churches are also worshipping again, albeit with reduced numbers.



To this joy unbounded can be added the fact that the roof leak does appear to be truly sorted.

James

OXUS at All Saints

We were delighted to welcome the OXUS String Quartet to All Saints' on Sunday 23 May when they gave two performances of their concert entitled 'Entr'acte'. The programme comprised John Dowland's 'Flow my Tears' (1596), Excerpts from 'King Arthur', by Purcell (1691), Haydn's String Quartet op. 77 no. 2 (1799), Caroline Shaw's Entr'acte (2011) and Danish String Quartet 'Intermezzo and Shine You No More' (2017). We thank Spike, Kate, Louise, and Heather for a wonderful concert, and we look forward to their next visit.



Janet

Harmony



Harmony provides us with the inner peace we need to appreciate the beauty that surrounds us each day, and beauty opens us to joy (Anon).

Valerie

Christian Aid 2021 – Feedback on All Saints Activity

Thank you to all who delivered Christian Aid envelopes this year; with Covid stalking the world, vulnerable communities are most at risk and desperately need our help. A particular thank you to all those who contributed to this most worthy cause. Whilst the returned envelopes were small in number, they were most generous in content. At the time of writing this brief note, the running total, including Gift Aid on many donations, is about £1300. I think this is our best outcome for several years, and it is likely to be even better with the possibility of a few more donations yet.

Carol

Commemorating on 5th June: St Boniface

Perhaps the greatest of all English missionaries was St. Boniface. Born in Crediton in Devon about 675, he acquired a remarkably comprehensive education at the monastery of Nursling in Hampshire and, despite preferment in the church in Wessex, chose a career as a missionary in Germany. He worked for a while with Bishop Willibrord in Utrecht, but after visiting Pope Gregory II, he became set upon breaking new ground across the Rhine. He preached in Hesse, Bavaria, Alamannia and Thuringia, renowned for the ferocity of its warriors. In Hesse he hewed down with his own hands the holy oak of Geismar, sacred to Thor, before an assembled crowd. With its timber he built a wooden oratory dedicated to St. Peter.



Saint Boniface felling the Oak in Hessen

In each region of Germany, as vicar appointed by the Pope, he established a church based on papal authority. In many areas he had to expel heretical and undisciplined clergy, some half pagan. Always he remained loyal to the Papacy, convinced that the unity of the Church was vital to its future strength. Yet Boniface remained a devoted member of the English Church, corresponding regularly with friends in England, including several nuns who saw him as their spiritual adviser. For example, Leofgyth, related to Boniface through her mother.

Although Boniface never wavered in putting the ministry of Christ in the forefront of his life's work, his missionary in Germany had political repercussions of great import

for Europe. The two successors to Charles Martel as Mayors of the Palace in the Frankish empire, Carloman and Pepin the Short, asked Boniface to reorganise the church in their territories. He carried out far-reaching reforms, recalling the church there to full submission to papal authority. Accordingly, when Pepin dismissed the Merovingian king of the Franks in 751, Boniface was required by the Pope to anoint Carloman as the new ruler. This began the Carolingian dynasty, under which a renaissance of Western culture would begin within a generation.

Boniface had been made Archbishop of Mainz in 743, in effect the Primate for Germany. At the age of nearly 80 he received permission from the Pope to leave Mainz for a final spell of his beloved missionary work. He passed down the Rhine and stopped at Dokkum in Friesland (now in Holland). With about forty companions he waited for the arrival of Friesian candidates for confirmation. On 5th June 754, into the camp came a violent throng of pagan Friesians, who butchered everyone of the Christian missionaries. Boniface died a martyr for Christ. He was buried at the Benedictine monastery of Fulda, which was founded in 744 by his disciple, Saint Sturm. Leofgyth was later buried with him.



Martyrdom of St Boniface

Brian

Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre: March 4, 1991

One winter's afternoon, sunny but with a cold wind, I was about to walk round the village with Candy, a delightful African with very impaired sight. I mentioned the sea and her face lit up, she had lived near the Indian Ocean until she came to England four years earlier, so we drove to St Leonard's. We could hear the waves, the seagulls, and the hiss of the pebbles from the promenade but as she could see virtually nothing we went down on the shingle. "I want to touch the sea" she said; so we approached the water's edge where she could almost see the large waves and foam. We stopped at a safe distance and a small wave lapped round her. I warned her that the next was bigger and would really wet her. "I don't care" she replied and, as I leapt backwards, she rapturously splashed, getting wet to her knees. Then concerned about her coldness and finding St Leonard's church locked, whose boat pulpit she wanted to experience, we visited a nearby friend of mine who gave her dry socks and shoes, and happened to have a key to the church so let us in and showed us round. As we returned to the Old Rectory Candy said with a radiant smile what a wonderful Sunday it had been.

Exchanging my reluctance to get into the very cold sea with Candy's enthusiasm, this is not a bad parable of intercession, especially as to me the sea has always been a picture of God's love and power. I didn't know what Candy wanted to do, and I didn't know what the sea would do, though I know a bit about its character. Similarly in trust and often without specific requests, we lead the one on our heart into God's healing presence and then He takes over and does beautiful things we would never have imagined.

I find a pile of prayer and intercession lists intimidating and going through many names and requests is not the best way for me to pray. But belonging to a group inspired by Brother Lawrence and committed to practising the presence of God, I find that when I am specially concerned about a person or situation my spare thought time which I give to Jesus can have that intention. Early in my Christian life, a wise Mother Superior told me that whatever or whoever my thoughts go to when not needed for the matter in hand is my god. I still find this challenging although I have been deliberately trying to "take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" for many years now. Surely there is no greater gift we can give anyone than to prayerfully walk hand in hand into a strong awareness of our loving heavenly Father's presence, with all that means of love and wholeness and worship.

Eve

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