

ALL SAINTS' HIGHFIELD PARISHIONERS' NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023



Japanese Anemones at the South Door of the church - Brigid

Brigid has taken a lot of trouble nurturing these plants over recent years. It's good to see them flourishing!

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A Message from the Reverend Peter Boulton-Lea

St Francis

On October 4th the Church celebrates the life of St Francis (1181-1226), about whom the 19th Century French Protestant writer Ernest Renan wrote ‘after Jesus, he was only perfect Christian’. It is a testimony to his discipleship that his influence is very much felt in the world today. It happens that the first church of which I was an incumbent was dedicated to him so I sought to find out the person behind the caricature of the friar who preached to the birds and the fishes.



Brought up as one of the bright young things in Assisi, his life changed dramatically when the Crucifix in the church he was praying one day spoke to him: ‘Francis, you see that my house is falling down, go and repair it for me’. He realised that Our Lord was not talking about stones and mortar but His Body, the Church. So he went about preaching in the towns and villages, gathering a following of those inspired by him. One of his insights was the realisation that all of creation is God’s gift and we are a part of it, called to steward and preserve it (possibly how the stories about him started).

So together with his message to live more in accordance with Christ’s own ministry-sharing his love and compassion, bringing his healing and comfort to those in need, was a call for us to recognise our responsibility to care for the world around us. In many ways he could be seen as an early ecologist. So as we are being made more aware of the need to conserve our resources and preserve our planet, and of our interconnectness with all of creation, we could well look at the example of St Francis and seek to live more nearly the Gospel and follow more closely the way of the Lord who inspired and guided him.

St Luke



The Church remembers St Luke on the 18th of this month- the author of the Third Gospel and ‘the beloved physician’ as Paul referred to him in one of his letters: Colossians: Chapter 4, verse 14. In fact he also wrote the Acta of the Apostles and was one of those who accompanied Paul on some of his missionary journeys.

His Gospel was written for Theophilus- a gentile- and throughout it Luke emphasises Jesus’ particular concern and compassion for the foreigner, the outsider. He records perhaps the two best known parables: the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan. It is Luke who records Jesus’ forgiving of those who are nailing Him to the Cross and Who offered the hope of Paradise to the penitent thief. Perhaps being a doctor gave him a sensitivity to the inclusivity of Christ’s love. And Luke gives us the beautiful post-Resurrection account of Jesus’ meeting with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and how they recognised him in the breaking of the bread- which we still do when we meet around His table to celebrate Communion.

So may these saints in their different ways, inspire us in our own journey of faith, particularly as we prepare for a new chapter in the life of the parish, wherever that may lead.

Warmest good wishes,

Your friend,

Peter

Worship in October

In October we begin an exciting time in the life of All Saints', and we have a series of experienced ministers to lead us in our 10 am service of Holy Communion, all of whom are Headington folk. **Peter Boulton-Lea** is known by all of us who have been around for a while, but the others are less well known. **Ginny Thomas** is a retired priest who was the vicar of the London church St Mary the Boltons (in South Kensington). She retired some time ago, but was for several years the priest-in-charge of an Oxfordshire church, Great Tew, on a 'house-for-duty' basis, a kind of semi-retirement. **Gordon Jeans** has only very recently come to Headington. For the last 23 years he was vicar of another London church, St Anne with St Faith (in Wandsworth). On 22 October we welcome **Laura Biron-Scott**, who is the Vicar of Holy Trinity Headington Quarry. Our Harvest Festival is on 1 October, and for that service we welcome **Tim Howles** to preach and lead our worship. He is an old friend of the parish, having previously been the curate at St Andrew's.

We have Choral Evensong again of the last Sunday, 29 October.

Time	Date	Sunday	Preacher/Celebrant
10:00 a.m.	1 Oct.	Harvest	Tim Howles
10:00 a.m.	8 Oct.	Trinity 18	Ginny Thomas
10:00 a.m.	15 Oct.	Trinity 19	Gordon Jeans
10:00 a.m.	22 Oct.	Trinity 20	Laura Biron-Scott
10,00 a.m.	29 Oct.	Trinity 21	James Larminie/Peter Boulton-Lea
5:30 p.m.	29 Oct.	Trinity 21	James Larminie

Editor's Note: British Summer Time ends the weekend of 28/29 October

Every **Sunday evening at 8:30 p.m.** one of our LLMs Christine Tucker will lead a service of Compline on Zoom, so accessible without leaving home. The joining details are: -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87698750905?pwd=cjk0OW1Md1VBeVhhSzM3SHU5UU9EZz09>

During the week there are services for prayer at **8:30 a.m.** as follows: -
Tuesdays, Book of Common Prayer Morning Prayer
Wednesdays and Thursdays, more informal prayer

A Sad Farewell to Leon and his Family

Sunday 17th September saw Leon's final service at All Saints' after just over two years as our interim minister. The service was well attended and the Area Dean of Cowley, the Reverend Geoff Bayliss gave the sermon. All Saints' will miss Leon, Charlotte, Elanor and John, and Bernadette and we wish them happy and fulfilling lives on Jersey, where they move on to a Reformed Presbyterian Church.

After the service, James presented them with gift tokens for the Jersey based department store Voisins and with a card signed by members of the congregation to wish them well in their venture.

Here is a selection of photographs to commemorate the occasion.



Simon Billington

Simon is an ordinand-in-training at Wycliffe Hall. He spent a short six-week placement with us through August and September. He joined in with various church activities, including our monthly service in St Luke's, he helped with the Thursday Lunch Club, preached once, and so on. He also led three drama workshops, mainly aimed at children, but which were appreciated by others too.

Sunday 17 September, when we said good-bye to Leon, was also Simon's last Sunday with us. For obvious reasons that meant we could not make anything of Simon's departure. However, I did write to thank him for being among us and for all that he had done. Part of his reply is below:



“I had a thoroughly enjoyable time at All Saints at the end of the summer, so please pass on my thanks to the Parish for making me feel so welcomed and part of the family there for the time I had with you.

It was a privilege to be able to pray and worship alongside you as you prepared for your interregnum, and also incredibly useful for me to experience. It will no doubt very much shape I engage with parishes in the future when considering a chapter's end in any future ministry.

I am pleased that I was able to offer what I had, especially re drama, such as it is and very much enjoyed putting the workshops together and leading them.”

James

Gift Day

Almost all churches have a Sunday, or a period of a few weeks, when the members are called to consider their giving to the church, both in terms of money and time. This is a vital part of the ministry of all Christians – supporting the running of the church. It was a feature of the Jewish temple worship in the Old Testament, and has always been a challenge put on Christians right from the beginning of the church. Many churches continually bang the drum about giving very loudly. We at All Saints' are very constrained, even timid, in our calls to give.

For many years in All Saints' the call to give has centred around our Gift Day. Recently this has been on the Sunday when the great Christian festival of All Saints' is celebrated. This year it will be on Sunday 5 November, the Sunday after All Saints' Day, which is our "Patronal Festival".

In the final weeks of October you will all receive a letter from the churchwardens and the treasurer asking you to consider your giving to the church. We ask you please to consider the challenge in the letter, and respond.

One reason All Saints' is comparatively quiet in its appeal to give money is that you are a very generous people. Thank you! We are not in a bad position financially. Month to month your generous regular giving, and other income, balances our expenditure. By far the largest of our outgoings is the "parish share" we pay to the Oxford Diocese, which they use to pay, train and house clergy. However, we need the boost that the Gift Day brings to cover things like repairs, improvements, and even some regular payments like our whopping insurance bill, over £3,000 per year. It would be good, for example, to improve the lighting in some places, to make it more efficient and brighter. Some roof repairs are not far away. With more resources would also come the ability to pursue mission opportunities.

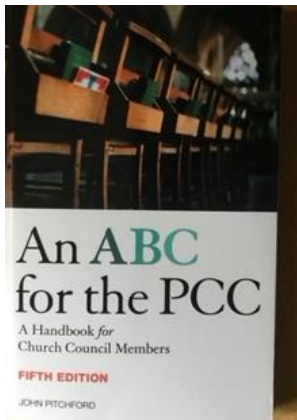
So, thank you for what you do now. But look out for the Gift Day letters and please respond!

James

Event in October

Wednesday 4 October: The regular informal **Lunch at the Britannia** from 12.15pm. Just turn up.

Recruitment of New Secretary to the Parochial Church Council



Miss Valerie Boulter is stepping down as our PCC Secretary. A replacement will be needed. Are you willing to take over this position?

Please contact either Valerie or the Church Wardens who will be happy to explain the duties required to fill this post

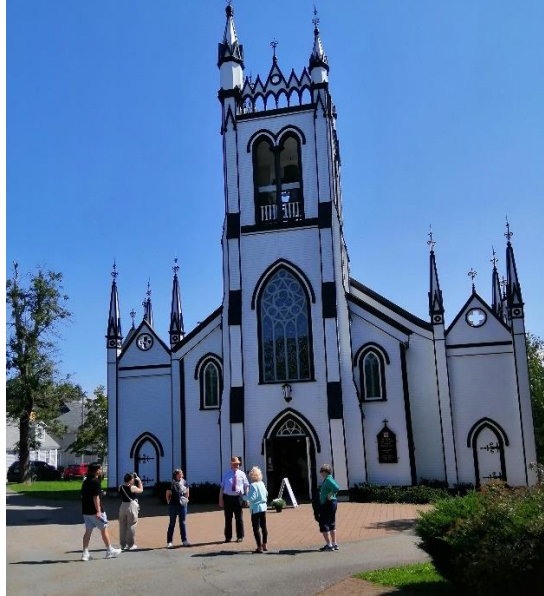
The Summer Garden Party

A large number of members of All Saints' and the local community thoroughly enjoyed the Party held in the church garden on 3 September. Many thanks to the Social Committee for the splendid teas and thanks to all the photographers for the selection of pictures below.



Two Churches in Nova Scotia

William and I recently returned from Canada after our first visit since Covid. The main purpose was to visit William's brother and sister-in-law in Toronto, but before that we spent a week in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where we visited two interesting churches.



The first was St John's Church in Lunenburg (the town itself is one of two World Heritage Sites in Canada, the other being Quebec City). St John's was established in 1753 when nearly 1500 German- and French-speaking 'foreign Protestants' were settled in Lunenburg by the British, and it is the second oldest Anglican foundation in Canada. The building of the first church was completed rapidly in 1754, but it was almost entirely rebuilt in 1871.



It suffered badly in a fire in 2001 and was restored in strict accordance with the nineteenth-century design. Particularly striking in the interior of the church is the chancel ceiling, where 700 gold stars are placed in a deep blue sky. The placement of the stars is thought to represent the Lunenburg sky at sunset on 24 February 1 BCE.

Discovering that our hotel was only minutes away from St Paul's Church in Halifax, we decided to attend Sunday morning Eucharist, and found that we were worshipping in the oldest Anglican church in Canada, which beats Lunenburg by four years, being founded in 1749, the year the English settled Halifax. The building was completed in 1750 and was modelled on St Peter's, Vere Street, London (England).



In 1787 Charles Inglis, the first overseas bishop of the Church of England arrived as bishop of Nova Scotia (now the diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island), making St Paul's his cathedral. The seat subsequently moved to All Saints Church. Until 1844 St Paul's was the garrison church of Halifax – it lies between the citadel on the hill and Halifax harbour.



We were warmly welcomed as we arrived in church and became part of a large congregation. We followed the Book of Alternative Services, and there was an enthusiastic choir and various instrumentalists. We picked a good Sunday to attend as

the service was followed by the monthly lunch, which we were pressed to join, and many people were eager to speak to us and learn about All Saints' Highfield.

The church proclaims:

St Paul's has been opening its church doors to pilgrims since 1750. It gives thanks to the Mi'kmaq [the first nations of the area] on whose ancestral lands it was built. It is committed to acts of ongoing reconciliation with them and their land.



[The sun did come out later!]

Janet

From the Editors

First of all our grateful thanks to our contributors of both articles and pictures. This issue sees the end of another chapter in the life of All Saints'. Everyone will wish Leon and his family well in a new chapter of their lives. So we must look forward to another interregnum and no doubt further changes in the parish.

May we ask you to continue to remember in your prayers those who are not well enough to attend church at present? We think of Marian Loudon, Margaret Gunstone, Bill Locke, and Audrey and Derek Woodcock.

As ever we welcome contributions to the newsletter. Please email them to us by **Tuesday 24 October for inclusion in the November issue.**

With all good wishes,

Catherine & Catherine

OXUS



out of the ruins

o albion - thomas adès

string quartet no.3 - michael nyman

different trains - steve reich

saturday 14th october 2023

at 4.30 p.m.

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