

# ENCOUNTER GOD THROUGH WARM HOSPITALITY AND INSPIRED WORSHIP

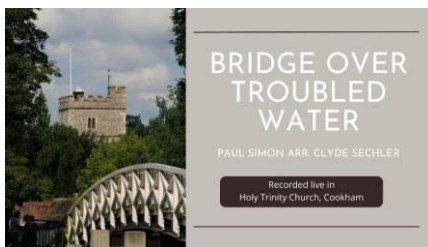
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, COOKHAM  
IN THE BENEFICE OF THE COOKHAMS  
SERVING AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

4<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Second Sunday before Lent



## Pastures new...

You will be pleased to learn that Fr John Ainslie, who served as a curate in our churches, is being licensed as Associate Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Maidstone, Kent, in the Diocese of Canterbury, on **Thursday 21 March**. Please pray for him as he starts a new chapter of his ministry.



## Bridge Over Troubled Water New to YouTube!

We are delighted to have a new version of Bridge Over Troubled Water by Paul Simon on YouTube. Sung by the Holy Trinity Church Choirs Quartet and directed by Sara Wood it was recorded live in Holy Trinity Church. If you're weary and feeling small take a few moments to listen...



## Rejoice in the Lord

**TONIGHT Sunday 4th February at 6.30pm**

We relish having such an enthusiastic, dedicated and friendly group of young people in our choir. Why not join us this evening for half an hour of worship led by them - with hymns, a reading, prayers and anthems.



## Please pray for those who are ill...

Philip Stacey, Valerie Hamer, Lucy Hull, Sylvia James

## We pray those who have died...

Pam Drayton RIP



## The Joy of the Gospel - Lent Course

**Starts Tuesday 20 Feb @ 2.00pm in SJB**

Thanks to everyone in our churches who have responded to the invitation to join 'The Joy of the Gospel' Lent Course based on Pope Francis' much acclaimed recent reflections on mission and evangelism, published as *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel). The course will run from 2.00pm to 3.30pm in the Jubilee Vestry, St John the Baptist Church, Cookham Dean on Tuesdays

**20 February SJB - 27 February SJB - 5 March SJB - 12 March SJB - 19 March SJB - 26 March WI Hall**

Please note that the final meeting on Tuesday 26 March will be in the WI Hall at Cookham Dean. Widely recognised as offering wisdom and vision for all Christians in a culture that is often hostile to the church, *Evangelii Gaudium* offers a positive and realistic approach to sharing faith in the modern world. We have ordered copies of the accompanying book, 'The Joy of the Gospel', by Paula Gooder, and they will be available for £7.20 (reduced from the cover price of £7.99). Please either speak to a Church Warden or email [office@cofe-thecookhams.org.uk](mailto:office@cofe-thecookhams.org.uk) We do hope as many as possible will join the Lent Course.



## Bishop Olivia to Retire

The first female Suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Oxford, Bishop Olivia will lay down her crosier on 30 September after five years of dedicated service. Reflecting on 27 years in ministry, Bishop Olivia said it had been a privilege to be a part of so many milestone moments in people's lives. She said: "It has been an absolute honour and privilege to walk alongside you as together we strive to live out God's vision for a more Christ-like church in the Diocese of Oxford. I have shared in ministry over the years with outstanding colleagues, and their commitment, wisdom and friendship has been a constant inspiration to me. As I prepare to step back from this role, I do so with unshakable confidence in the goodness of God, who is always doing a 'new thing', worked out through God's wonderful people in the diocese." Details of a farewell service and the appointment of the next Bishop of Reading will be announced in the coming weeks.

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### Honoured for their faithful dedication

John Sykes, who just retired following a 56-year career as a chartered electrical engineer, was recognised for his many contributions to the running of St John the Baptist church in Cookham Dean. He was admitted into the Order of St Frideswide by the Rt Rev Dr Steven Croft, the Bishop of Oxford, at a service at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday. The order, which is named after the patron saint of Oxford, was founded in 2001 and admits a small number of people each year. John is in his second three year term as chair of the House of Laity of the Oxford Diocesan Synod, and is a member of the Bishop's Council and finance committee. He also chairs the human resources panel and development fund panel. John previously served as the lay chair of Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery and was church warden at Cookham Dean for 14 years – where he currently serves as parochial church council secretary. He has been married to Lorna – who is also a churchwarden at Cookham Dean – for more than 30 years and the pair have three grown-up children and five grandchildren. John said: "I felt very humble to be nominated and even more so when I looked at the list of current and past members of the Order. "During my long career I acquired considerable experience of chairing meetings and getting decision-making bodies to work in a collaborative and constructive way. "It is really rewarding to be using that experience in the service of the diocese and God's kingdom."

Elsewhere, Rev Ainsley Swift, the vicar of Bray with Braywood, was installed as an honorary canon by the Diocese of Oxford. The award, recognising distinguished service at the church, was presented to Rev Swift during the service on Saturday. Honorary canons become part of the Cathedral's College of Canons, bringing wisdom and experience to promote the life and mission of the cathedral. The awards recognise the dedication of ordained and lay people to the Diocese of Oxford and the wider church across a range of areas. Rev Swift started his career as a teacher and took an interest in community development work in and around the Liverpool docklands area. He was ordained and finished a four-year curacy in the city before moving to Windsor. He

served in Maidenhead and Windsor for 20 years before moving to his current post. Rev Swift is a governor at two nearby church schools, has been part of the Diocesan Synod since 2009, and is also area dean for Maidenhead and Windsor. Rev Swift said: "I was not expecting to open that letter, the thought had not even crossed my mind. "It is a great pleasure and a great honour. "It made me reflect on what a long journey I have been on, from a community development worker in Liverpool to 25 years in ministry in Windsor and Maidenhead."

*Taken from the :Maidenhead Advertiser Author: Jade Kidd jadek@baylismedia.co.uk*



### The Way of Love Come and See

Many people are asking deep questions of faith. Come and See is a *free online* experience to explore spirituality and help you find out more about the Christian faith. Our 40-day journey begins **on 14 February 2024**. This year we will be exploring how Jesus invites us into the Way of Love. Register at [www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see#register](http://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see#register) and you'll receive bite-sized daily emails to reflect on and a weekly short film from the Bishop of Oxford.

In three of the four gospels, Jesus is asked which commandment is the most important. He answers not with one commandment but with two: you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and you shall love your neighbour as yourself. Come and See shows how these two commandments can give a rhythm and a shape to our lives. Who is it for?

#### **Searchers**

Listened to the church bells in your PJs and hoping to find out more?

#### **Thinkers**

Reflecting on the state of the world and thinking more deeply on faith?

#### **... Everyone – including families and children**

Whatever stage of life you're at, join us online. There are special resources for children and families too. Register at: [www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see#register](http://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see#register)

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.'*

*Luke 10:27*