

Funerals: None

Church Activities: All church groups and activities have currently been suspended following Church of England advice. We pray for those involved in these groups and hope that they will be able to start again soon.

If you find yourself in need of social interaction please call the church office (241721) or email office@olney.church and leave your details. We can then arrange for people to be in contact with you throughout the coming weeks.

Self-isolation. If any of you face a period of self-isolation please contact the church office as above, or any of the numbers on the Prayer Booklet you have been given. We can arrange for people to help you with shopping or collecting medications etc. If any of you live alone please feel free to contact the church office to leave details of a family member or friend that we can contact for you in case of an emergency.

Online resources. As well as the Prayer Book the church website has resources such as videos, audio clips and guidance on readings and prayers to help you through these challenging times. Go to <http://olney.church/> and click on the red banner to find out more.

Weekly service sermons. Those preachers that were due to deliver sermons in church will, where possible, make them available on the church website. Please go to <http://olney.church/sermons> for regular updates.

Bishop Steven will be streaming a Eucharist service this Sunday at 10am. The Diocese of Oxford plan to stream at least one service each week from now onwards so if you are able to, please watch on the following link:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>

The Weekly Sheet is available online at <http://olney.church/media>. However, if you would prefer to keep receiving a paper copy through your door please let the church office know and we can arrange that for you.

Thank you to one of Charles' younger bell ringers who kindly brought us two large bags of groceries as a Mothering Sunday gift which was appreciated. For her very thoughtful generosity she would not take any payment only requesting fruit and veg, when available, from his allotment! *Liz and Charles*

Following the directive of the government and the Church of England, the church building will remain closed until further notice.



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 29th March 2020

Today's Services - Cancelled



8.30am Cancelled
10.00am Cancelled

Welcome and notices

Reading: *Ezekiel 37: 1-14* pg 820
Romans 8: 6-11 pg 153
Gospel: *John 11: 1-45* pg 101
1 April: *Daniel 3: 14-20,24-25,28*
John 8: 31-42

Collect: Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions ®: Breath into us: **so that we live in you.**

We pray for the work of our church: We pray for our church. For all those coming into this church to take Jesus Christ into their lives and all of us serve Him in His love.

We pray for our world. For those suffering through trauma in physical loss, mental stress and difficult relationships. For peace and hope in their lives today.

We pray for the sick. *Toby O'Grady, Kevin, Michael Seabrook, Ted, Cyril, Rene Tourle, Pat Major, Emily, Helen, Gail, Martin, Keith and those who are self-isolating.*

We pray for the souls of the recently departed and their families.

We remember and give thanks for those whose Yearmind is now.

There will be a collection during the hymn immediately following the sharing of the peace. If you have already given through some other means or feel you are unable to give, please pass the plate on.

Eucharistic Prayer: A

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen

Listening Ear. This confidential listening service is offered after the 10am service every Sunday.

Some material included is

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Office phone: 01234 241721

Office email: office@olney.church

Rector's Letter

Dear Family,

Are you, like me, still processing the incredible changes that have taken place over these last days? A week ago I was free to meet with you, to shop, have a meal in a public place, go for a swim, and now I can only leave the house under limited circumstances.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on the 23rd March we received confirmation from the Bishop of Oxford that all churches must now close. So it is with a heavy heart that we have to lock the doors of our wonderful church building. Now the church family is not able to be together physically we have to trust God that there is an opportunity in all of this for us to be creative, prayerful and grow in intimacy with both God and each other.

One thing that we can do together is to adopt the practice of pausing at 11 am each day (if your schedule and work permits) to say Psalm 23 and the Lord's Prayer. In doing so, we will be joining in prayer with the Pope, countless Catholics, our Archbishops, Anglicans and Christians from many other Churches all around the world. If 11 am doesn't work for you, then perhaps another daily time will? Let us remember and be sure, that whatever the time is and wherever we are, "The Lord is my Shepherd" and "Our Father" is God Almighty. As I say to those I meet when I take my daily exercise walk, "Stay safe and God bless."

With love and prayers for all,

Andrew

Warning

Please be aware that there are many scam or hoax messages going around from fraudsters. If you receive any texts, emails or leaflets asking you for money or to give your bank details so that you may receive money or advice please don't respond to them or visit any websites they direct you to.

If in doubt contact someone from the church or the official Olney COVID-19 support group (<https://www.facebook.com/OC19SG/>)

A prayer for today

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Tips on self-isolating from Thelma

Having completed two weeks of self-isolating now I have a few things that I have found helpful:

- If you have a garden get outside into it, or at least open your windows. The fresh air makes you feel a little better.
- Try and contact one person outside of your family every day. Social contact is so important and with phones and social media it is possible to keep in touch with people whilst we stay indoors.
- Divide our day up so you are doing a range of activities. It doesn't have to be a rigid timetable, but just a way of giving your time some purpose. I've found it useful to ration my TV viewing as it can become tedious.
- Have a healthy diet – this will amuse my friends who know my usual eating habits! Fruit and vegetables will help to boost the immune system.
- If you are having difficulties getting supplies please ask for help! There are lots of local initiatives detailed on this sheet, and although we all value our independence at times like this, we need to accept the kindness of others.
- Keep washing your hands and sanitising things such as doorknobs.
- I bracket my day with prayer. Granted I say night prayer in bed which means I often fall asleep in the middle but it's a nice way to end my day!
- Above all else, stay positive! This too will pass and we will return to normal life with lessons learned and maybe new friends made.

God bless, *Thelma*

An extract from this week's Sermon

This is without a doubt a season that goes beyond our understanding, it is a moment in history that would try to scare us and demoralise us. But God is greater than the circumstances that we find ourselves in and He truly does love us, forgive us and care for us.

He is indisputably with all of us who turn to him and nothing is impossible to Him. So if you would like to, why not take a few now to take a deep breath, relax your body, know that God is with you and know that He is for you. Accept his love for you, His forgiveness and receive His peace.

Rev. Andrew

For the full sermon please go to <http://olney.church/sermons>

Don't forget: the clocks go forward on Sunday!