

Funerals. Doris Wright, 20th April. Please say a prayer for Doris and her family at this difficult time. This is a private funeral - mourners are not permitted to attend the funeral due to Government guidelines.

The office telephone is still being manned so if you ring and no-one answers please leave a message and Katie will get back to you. You can also still email the office at office@olney.church.

Prayers. You can request prayers by contacting Sue Haskell at prayer@olney.church. This can be done anonymously if you prefer..

Online safety. If you are going online please make sure you are keeping yourself safe and secure. Unfortunately fraudsters are taking advantage of these difficult times and there are scams that you need to be aware of.

In particular please be aware of messages related to taxes, mortgage or rent relief, fundraising links for victims or cures, refunds for bookings you may have made and websites claiming to sell protective equipment. If you are ever unsure about a link or message you have received check with someone before clicking on it – you can ask your church phone buddy or contact the office for help if you need to. We're here to help.

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> has more advice and allows you to report suspected fraud.

Home safety. There have sadly been cases across the country where people have been burgled after letting in people claiming to be offering home testing on behalf of the NHS. This service does not exist so please be vigilant. Always ask for identification from anyone claiming to be from an organization or company, and if you're still unsure telephone the company they say they are from to check if this is a genuine visit – very few companies are sending workers out to people's home at this time so it is possible to check if callers are genuine.

Weekly sheet. If you are able to receive the weekly sheet by email or by accessing the church website (www.olney.church) then please email the office and let us know.

Thanks. A heartfelt thanks to all who are volunteering their time to help keep our church family connected during these unprecedented times. It is much appreciated.

A special thank you to Gill Parker who provides the readings, Gospel, Collect and Intercessions each week.

Spiritual Guidance during Holy Week. This week we have sent you an extra booklet (available online on the church website) detailing events from Palm Sunday through to the Resurrection. This can be used to aid your own reflections during this special time for Christians. Don't forget the readings selected by Rev. Andrew and highlighted in last week's sheet, and for those of you who can get online please remember that we are updating the prayers and thoughts for the day daily. Hopefully this will be of use to you all, and a source of comfort.

IF YOUR WEEKLY SHEET COMES BY POST PLEASE OPEN CAREFULLY AND REMOVE CONTENTS, THEN WASH YOUR HANDS. THE SHEETS ARE PREPARED WITH GLOVES BUT THE ENVELOPES MAY HAVE BEEN THROUGH POST SYSTEM. ALL YOUR POST AND DELIVERIES SHOULD BE TREATED IN THIS WAY, TO KEEP YOU AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE FROM THE VIRUS.



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 12th April 2020

Today - Easter Sunday



All services cancelled

Welcome and notices

Reading: *Jeremiah 31: 1-6*
Acts 10: 34-43

Gospel: *John 20: 1-18*

Wed 15th: *Acts 3: 1-10*
Luke 24: 13-35

Collect: God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Intercessions ®: Life-giving God: **transform our lives.**

We pray for our church. During this period of crisis and uncertainty and with all our churches closed we pray that you would strengthen and guide those who are supporting and leading us through these difficult times.

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. *Doris Wright.*

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

Prayer: God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Listening Ear. Please email prayer@olney.church for prayers.

Some material included is

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Rector's Letter

At the moment I aim to have a walk around Olney between 2pm and 3pm every afternoon. It is my allowed exercise and the timing of it reminds me of Jesus' final hour on the cross and that what Jesus said on the cross was for me and everyone in our town.

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

It helps me to thank Jesus for what He did for me and for everybody else too. The proof that we can all be forgiven is seen in the incredible truth of what happened on the first Easter Day:

"...Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus had been raised from the dead with a new resurrection body. He had defeated the power of sin, sickness and death. The most amazing victory in history had been won. In this present age we sometimes see proof of His once and for all triumph over evil. One day in heaven we will see His conquest in all of its completeness. Then we will also see Jesus the magnificent victorious King in all of His Glory. It will be a time to be with God forever and a time to be reunited with our loved ones who have also been forgiven and raised to new life. All of this is a truth that we cannot understand completely now, but as Saint Paul wrote, "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known."

Here on earth we are fully known and loved by God. One day in heaven we will meet God who loves us totally and forever. Easter eggs remind us of new life. The empty tomb declares to us that we can have eternal life. They say "the proof of the pudding is in the eating."

The proof of God's love for you is in the resurrection!
Stay safe and God Bless. *Andrew+*

Dear Church Family, we are in Week 4 of our Olney St Peter and St Paul virtual church and we are pleased to say we are reaching out to 160 plus members of our church by post, email or via our website. Thank you for all the encouraging emails, please keep sending and let us know if we can improve the weekly sheet or add to it. If you would like us to, we are happy to ask your church family to link with you. So if you are lonely or need a cheery word, please ring 01234241721 and we will put you in touch.

Whilst looking at online sources I found that The Church of England have a site about **Guidance on Spiritual Communion and Coronavirus**, which you might find very useful and uplifting: <https://bit.ly/CommCor>. *Susan Bailey*

Hymns for Easter from Richard Heyes and Susan Bailey

You can hear the Kings College Cambridge choir singing both of these hymns by clicking on the video links below. Listen and enjoy or use it to help you sing along as we celebrate Holy Week and the Resurrection.

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
your sweetest notes employ,
the paschal victory to hymn
in strains of holy joy.

How Judah's Lion burst his chains,
and crushed the serpent's head;
and brought with him, from death's domains
the long imprisoned dead.

From hell's devouring jaws the prey
alone our leader bore;
his ransomed hosts pursue their way
where he has gone before.

Triumphant in his glory now
his sceptre ruleth all;
earth, heaven and hell before him bow
and at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we sing,
his mercy we implore,
into his palace bright to bring
and keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost to thee,
while endless ages run.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3vhPkUQFDw>

Jesus Christ is risen today

Jesus Christ is risen today, *Alleluia!*
our triumphant holy day, *Alleluia!*
who did once upon the cross, *Alleluia!*
suffer to redeem our loss. *Alleluia!*

Hymns of praise then let us sing, *Alleluia!*
unto Christ our heavenly king, *Alleluia!*
who endured the cross and grave, *Alleluia!*
sinners to redeem and save. *Alleluia!*

But the pains which he endured, *Alleluia!*
our salvation have procured; *Alleluia!*
now above the sky he's King, *Alleluia!*
where the angels ever sing. *Alleluia!*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMwPEmUMP7U>

Don't forget the Easter Sunday Songs of Praise at 1.15pm on BBC One.
