

Rector's letter. It is so hard to not see people 'face to face and in person'. However it is good to see people on my computer screen and to hear others on the phone. So, when do I get to make these 'technical contacts'? On Sundays at 10.00am I join with people from all around the Oxford Diocese and partake of Holy Communion, on Tuesday I meet with the Standing Committee and on Saturday at 10.30 am I pray with any who sign in or phone in to our 'Together in Prayer'. It is great to see faces and hear voices. I warmly invite you to join in with the Holy Communion and the prayer time.

Starting next Wednesday I plan to lead any who would like to join me in a virtual Morning Prayer at 9.30am. Details of all these opportunities to meet, worship and pray will be available on our webpage and on our weekly sheet. The verse in the Bible that captured my attention this morning was:

"Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

In these days many of us are facing such difficult and heartbreaking circumstances. It is a comfort to know that God knows us and cares about every challenge that comes our way. He is our help and He will not let us down!

Stay safe and God bless! *Andrew+*.

Telephone service. As well as being able to watch the online services from Bishop Stephen you now have the option to listen by telephone. Call 01865 920930 and press 0 for the short service or 1 for the long service. To watch online go to <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>

Wednesday Morning and Saturday Prayers via Zoom. Would you like to join Rev. Andrew for a virtual service on Wednesday or for Saturday morning prayers? All details via <http://olney.church/zoom/>. If you want to use phone-in Katie has all details, contact no. 01234 241721

Hymns from Richard and Susan. This week we have links to two hymns for you. The first is 'When Morning Gilds the Skies' with some beautiful images for you to enjoy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0slnNveJu4>

The second is 'The Day of Resurrection' – Again these video is pictorial and reflective.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mglx_0jhW1Y

We hope you are enjoying our selection; why not let us know your favourites susan.bailey@olney.church?



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 3rd May 2020

Today 4th Sunday of Easter



Welcome and notices

Reading: Acts 2: 42-end

Gospel: John 10: 1-10

Wed 6th: Acts 12: 24-13.5
John 12: 44-end

Collect: Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Intercessions ®: The Lord is my shepherd: **there is nothing I shall want.**

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, George Scott, George Woodhouse, Melissa Cheng, Gladys Johnson, Ebba Quenby and Dorothy Alder.*

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

Funerals: *George Scott, 4th May; Ebba Quenby, 14th May; Dorothy Alder, 14th May. These are all private.*

Eucharistic Prayer: A

Prayer: Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Some material included is

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There will be information, suggestions and advice in next week's sheet relating to 'regular giving' under the current lockdown.

<p>When morning gilds the skies, My heart awaking cries: May Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer To Jesus I repair: May Jesus Christ be praised!</p> <p>To Thee, my God above, I cry with glowing love, May Jesus Christ be praised! The fairest graces spring In hearts that ever sing, May Jesus Christ be praised!</p> <p>When sleep her balm denies, My silent spirit sighs, May Jesus Christ be praised!</p>	<p>When evil thoughts molest, With this I shield my breast, May Jesus Christ be praised!</p> <p>The night becomes as day, When from the heart we say, May Jesus Christ be praised! The powers of darkness fear, When this sweet chant they hear, May Jesus Christ be praised!</p> <p>Be this, while life is mine, My canticle divine, May Jesus Christ be praised! Be this th' eternal song Through all the ages long, May Jesus Christ be praised!</p>
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Inspiration from the older generation

At this time we often talk about the wartime spirit. All of us cannot help but be inspired by Captain Tom Moore. As we go to print he will have reached 100 and the total he has raised for the NHS will be around £30 million. Tom is also the oldest artist to reach Number 1, with Michael Ball singing "You'll never walk alone". Truly inspirational. Another small step for a man, but a giant leap for mankind.

I have long been inspired by the older generation of our own church. The lockdown has been eased by this generation embracing new technology; when I spoke to Basil he was playing Trivial Pursuit with his granddaughter. Many of you have taken to your iPads and Tablets to keep you in touch with friends and relatives and this Virtual Church. Just to prove that age is no barrier to an adventure, when I was chatting to Dianne, I discovered that she and June (who is 88) had managed, just before the lockdown, a wonderful London adventure. Posh gear on they headed by taxi, train and underground to the Royal Albert Hall to see the Lord Mountbatten Festival of Music featuring the Band of the Royal Marines, Tom Jones and Gloria Estefan. Before the show they called at Harrods and went to the V&A, before having a bite to eat. This would have exhausted many a youngster, but the two of them together with June's daughter and son-in law, took it all in their stride. After the concert they rounded off their evening by meeting a Chelsea Pensioner. I looked up the concert and found we could all enjoy this magical evening and soak up the atmosphere by going to

<https://www.royalalberthall.com/about-the-hall/news/2020/april/how-to-watch-the-premiere-of-the-mountbatten-festival-of-music-2020-at-the-royal-albert-hall/>

I have been inspired to write this poem in praise of our older generation (70ish plus). Hope I haven't missed anyone, but let me know and I will make up another poem. If you could breathe at the semi-colon it helps it flow. LOL. (Laugh out Loud). Susan

As we take stock and look around; It's time to thank those we have found;

Work quietly behind the scenes;...Support, amuse, so full of beans

I'm praising those of 70 plus: the ones who work and make no fuss;

Thelma and Janet through services lead us; diligent, steadfast they are our prayerful leaders

Gill and Ken take the funerals in their stride; but they are also there, to support the blushing bride.

Ken does our envelopes, Gill's a Knitty Stitcher; her warm and friendly help, makes this group's time so much richer

The candles' oil is filled by June, she does the linen too; together with Gill Parker, so it's clean for me and you;

Liz Knight is our church guide and history guru too; on Newton and Cowper there's so much she can tell you.

When he's not locking doors at church, husband Charles rings out our church bells; Helped by Judy, Roger, Graham and the younger ones as well(s).

Till recently Graham and Helen kindly counted all our cash; Counting machine, Excel sheets then to the bank he'd dash.

Joan and Joyce can be found each week, setting out at the Café; Joan at over 80 has an allotment that makes her happy;

Recently I stood outside Joan's home worrying and waiting; But she wasn't in as she said "her summer house needed painting!"

Gill and Rod's committee work is legendary and they do so much more too; Knowledgeable, and sensible, their kindness helps us through;

Gill is also on the Friday team who help get this letter done; the Memory Club, Soultime and lots more just for fun!

There's Rod on H and S with Brian our engineer and Tony too; For Fabric they are so encyclopaedic they know just what to do.

Our choir produce a glorious sound, senior choristers have such poise; there's Ruth and Coral for the ladies, Roger, Ron and Peter for the boys.

Roger skilfully plays the organ, Ruth and Coral are crucifers too; they serve, read, do intersessions, whatever they can do

Across the years first Joan P then Ann with years of expertise; have looked after all our flowers (and so much more), which never cease to please.

In the kitchen Gill B, as is often said; will work her socks off for hours to make sure we're all fed.

Serving soup or breakfasts, her contribution is key; as are Noriko and Marina who serve the coffee and the tea How bleak it would be, we know, without those of 70 plus; but, Wendy, Madeline, Dianne, June, Ann Thomas and her team, help out without a fuss.

There are Church Mice, Fun at 4, cleaning and the brass that all need looking after; this lovely crew above makes sure we are happy ever after.

Ruth and Rachel are fundraisers for Leprosy, and Olney Newton Link;

Where charities would be without those of later years, I dare not think;

Beryl is also a fundraiser and author, who reads and does prayers too;

Is there no end to the talents that our seniors can do?

Pat's no longer in the office where she held the fort for years; but she's still looking after fundraising, committee papers, preventing meltdown and some tears.

My own 3 score and ten are nearly here, I thought I'd be retired; But YOU the lovely older generation, keep all of us inspired;

I'm looking forward to seeing you all I've missed you all so much, but when we're back to church, follow the golden rule of smile.... but do not touch!

Special prayers. Teresia Ahn and her young son have been members of our church for many years. She has just finished her nurse's training, but very sadly is now in intensive care on a ventilator. Please keep Teresia and her family in your prayers at this difficult time.
