

Giving and Donations. We know many of you have asked about how you can still give to the church now that we are closed for services so the following guide should help make things clearer for you.

Parish Giving Scheme. As a church the majority of our income comes from the generous giving of our congregation. If anyone feels that they are able to help towards the costs of running our church and its mission and move to a monthly Direct Debit we would be very grateful for your support. We use the Church of England's Parish Giving Scheme to manage our donations and Gift Aid. The Parish Giving Scheme now has the option to set up new Direct Debits over the phone or via a paper form. To set up a new donation over the phone you can ring Parish Giving Scheme on 0333 002 1271, quoting our parish registration number 270627769. For a paper form or if you would like more information please contact Ken Noon on 01234 240187.

The main beneficiary of this scheme will be our church. Through your generous commitment, we can be assured of a regular, tax-efficient source of income which has the capacity to increase with the cost of living, yet involves virtually no administration. You will benefit from a system that is secure, confidential and easy to use, while supporting our church today and for the future.

Envelope Giving Scheme. We are aware that a number of people have been asking what they should do about their regular giving envelopes and we have spent some time discussing the way forward. There are a number of issues here. Firstly there is the security issue of having an amount of notes and coin accumulating around the house and on this issue we would ask you to use this cash, keep the empty envelopes and once we are able to accept money again that you give the church a cheque payable to 'Olney Parochial Church Council'. If you wish to give a cheque please contact Ken who will provide an address for the cheque to be sent to.

The second and vitally important issue is the safety of the people opening the envelopes, and counting the cash and coin. It has been proven that germs remain active for hours and days on hard surfaces such as coins and possibly longer when sealed in an envelope. This issue remains in place after the current pandemic is over as it is a continuing source of infection. We have therefore reluctantly taken the decision to permanently discontinue the envelope scheme for everything except cheques. At the same time we will be aiming to reduce the deposit of coin and cash in the collection plate at services and encourage the use of either card payments (chip and pin or contactless) for one off donations, or the Parish Giving Scheme for regular donations

For those people still using the envelope scheme, Ken Noon will be writing to you individually over the course of the next few days and he will be available to advise you on the options open in the future.

The PCC Standing Committee



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 10th May 2020

Today 5th Sunday of Easter



Welcome and notices

Reading: Acts 7: 55-end
1 Peter 2: 2-10

Gospel: John 14: 1-14

Wed 13th: Acts 15: 1-6
John 15: 1-8

Collect: Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen

Intercessions ®: You are my strong rock: **my strong rock and my shelter.**

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. 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. Ebba Quenby, 14th May; Dorothy Alder, 14th May. These are both private.

Eucharistic Prayer: A

Prayer: Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.

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

Some material included is

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Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.

Over the past five years alone we've raised over £11,000 during Christian Aid Week in Olney. Life is very different this year for all of us as we feel the impact of the coronavirus on our daily lives and our relationships with others. One consequence is that we will not be able to carry out our usual door-to-door or social fundraising activities to support Christian Aid. However, the impact of the pandemic is even more devastating for poor communities who are hit hardest by coronavirus. It's affecting families living in overcrowded refugee camps, and many vulnerable people who have no water to clean their hands. Christian Aid can limit the impact of the virus, with life-saving soap, clean water and medical supplies, so our support, through our gifts and prayer, is more important than ever for our poorest sisters and brothers around the world. **You can still be part of Christian Aid Week** as Christian Aid have asked us to set up our own personal Christian Aid Week donation page on Just Giving so that we can report back to our supporters in Olney what we have raised in our area. Your donation will go immediately to Christian Aid to help in their work in the world's poorest communities. If you would like to donate, please go to:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/OlneyChristianAidGroup

Also, if you take part in Quiztarian Aid below, please make any donations through our page rather than through their general link. *Malcom and Sally Jones*

Diary dates

10th May Locally, the Oxford Diocese regular online Sunday service on 10th May marks the beginning of Christian Aid Week:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>. Additionally, Christian Aid is streaming a special CAW service with Dr Rowan Williams at 1pm.

Monday 11 - Saturday 16 May, 11am: Live daily reflections from Christian Aid's staff and partners overseas. To find out more visit

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/daily-prayer-reflection>.

Sunday 10 - Saturday 16 May, 7.30pm: Daily fun quizzes for the whole family throughout Christian Aid Week. You, your friends and family can all get involved with a new quiz each day of Christian Aid Week, 10-16 May, 7.30pm on Facebook Live. Sign up by visiting

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/daily-quiz>.

Quiztarian Aid!

Available from now and throughout Christian Aid Week, hosted by Rev. Kate Bottley, Dr Rowan Williams and Giles Fraser, put your thinking caps on for their pre-recorded quiz

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=585083509054469>.

We have had a test run with our regular quiz team and it was good fun – but make sure you have a finger on the

pause button as the multiple choice questions come thick and fast and will test your knowledge on art and literature, history, film, science and nature, and entertainment. If you choose to do this quiz, either alone or with family and friends, please consider making a donation to Christian Aid using the Olney Just Giving link above.

Rector's letter

I write on Tuesday the 5th May so that the good people who take care of our weekly sheet can compile it and get it ready for posting and printing. I am humbled by and so thankful to all in our church and our town who are putting the needs of others before their own and serving one another so wonderfully. The parallels with those who cared for and gave to so many in the Second World War are there for us all to see. It will be an honour on Friday the 8th to remember the heroes who made 'Victory in Europe' (VE) Day a possibility and eventually a reality.

I have just heard news from the Rugby Club about the 'lockdown meat raffle'. ORFC had hoped to raise £250 for the NHS but in fact raised over £2,100. A wonderful achievement and I join with the Club in thanking Olney Butchers and everyone who gave so generously to the cause that is dear to all our hearts.

Will Trevitt gave an inspiring sermon on Sunday that is well worth listening to or even listening to a second time. In it he encouraged us all to think about how we can keep on serving our communities after lockdown ends. Will challenged us to consider how we will go on to help others in need when this pandemic is over. He is right; the challenge of the season we are in is bringing out the best in so many of us. We must now keep the momentum going and be committed to doing so in the future also. Stay safe and God bless! *Andrew+*

Hymns from Richard and Susan. This week we have two hymns for you, both of which are linked to below so you can hear them.

Jesus lives! thy terrors now

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Go7HEqvq8sE>

Love's redeeming work is done

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIRDdCzio30>

We're pleased to confirm that St. Peter and St. Paul Church has recently received its first payment from the Co-op Local Community Fund, £530.58 towards the Welcome area in the church.

For those would like to join our virtual prayer meetings held on Wednesdays and Saturdays, details are on the church website: <http://olney.church/zoom> **If you have no access to a computer you can ring in free. Weds at 9.30** Telephone: 0203 481 5240 Meeting ID: 825 0404 5581# Password: 407742#, **Sat at 10.30** Telephone: 0203 481 5240 Meeting ID: 892 1449 8821# Password: 706685#