

John Newton. Liz Knight has been researching into the history of Olney Vicarage and has some Olney documents that she discovered in the Staffordshire Record Office in the early 1980s. "Why Staffordshire?" I hear you ask yourselves. This is because an Olney heiress, Frances Nichol, married the 2nd Earl of Dartmouth in the mid - 1700s and took all Olney's old records with her when she went to live in Staffordshire! There are partial documents from the 1500s and 1600s, but the one from 1752 gives a detailed description of the Vicarage (pre-Newton's rebuilt one), the Church's 'furniture and utensils', the Steeple, and finally the stipend of the Vicar including the amount and who paid it! These documents will form part of history of John Newton, which in 2023 will form a large part of our church activities. They make interesting reading and Liz is happy to share them.

Hymns. Liz has also written about one of today's hymns: William Cowper's 'God moves in a mysterious way'. It was, she says, "the last hymn he wrote, probably late 1772 after, it is said 'a solitary walk in the meadows'. Shortly afterwards, on 2nd January 1773, Cowper suffered a severe attack of his depression, and sadly never wrote any more hymns. However we must not lose sight of the fact that in today's confused times, the poet's words of this hymn can still speak to us of hope after despair.

Our other hymn this week is an old favourite of many of us: 'Come, let us join our cheerful songs'. You can listen to both by going to the YouTube links below – and remember you can skip the adverts so don't be put off by them!

God moves In a mysterious way:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d04rK-OljW8>

Come, let us join our cheerful songs:

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

Christian Aid Giving. 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

An update on Teresia Ahn

Many of us have been following the progress of Teresia as she has battled with Covid 19. Teresia has been in a specialist intensive care hospital in London and has been very, very critically ill. Over the last week she has made so much progress that she has now been moved to MK Hospital. Her partner Jeff and son Jamie are obviously delighted and wanted to share their news. Jeff said the doctor told him, "most people don't make it ... she has been very, very fortunate ... it's been a miracle!". Teresia is still on a ventilator and her levels are good, but she has a long way to go, so please keep praying for her and her family. Keep fighting Teresia. God Bless.



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 17th May 2020

Today 6th Sunday of Easter



Welcome and notices

Reading: Acts 17: 22-31

Gospel: John 14: 15-21

Wed 20th: Acts 17: 15, 22-18.1

John 16: 12-15

Collect: Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Intercessions ®: You are the one true God: **and we worship you.**

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, Teresia and those who are self-isolating.

We pray for the souls of the recently departed and their families. Melissa Cheng, Gladys Johnson, Ebba Quenby and Dorothy Alder.

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

Funerals. Ebba Quenby, 14th May, Olney Cemetery, 2pm

Dorothy Alder, 14th May, Crown Crematorium, 2.45pm

Please pray for their families at this time.

Eucharistic Prayer: A

Prayer: God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

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

Some material included is

© The Archbishops' Council 2002



VE Day Now and Then

One of the pleasures of the lockdown is that I get to talk to so many of you. I am getting to know you all more and am able to share not only your everyday challenges, but also your happy memories. This week I have been talking to those who were able to remember VE day 75 years ago and contrast that with how they marked the anniversary this year. If you have any similar memories, please do send them by email to susan.bailey@olney.church and I will include in a later edition. Pinpointing those old enough to remember 75 years ago was a bit trickier than recognizing the 70+s!!! I started with Ron who was 12 at the time and Pat who was.... a little younger. Ron stayed in London and his house was at the end of the runway to Hendon airfield. An action-packed adventure for Ron, but a nightmare for his mother, who had to drag him off the top of the Anderson shelter, where he used to stand watching the dog fights. When VE day came it was one big street party in Camden where he lived, he was busy taking photos with his camera, but sadly the film got lost. Such a shame. When Pat came back to London, after being evacuated to a beautiful house and a lovely lady in Cheshire, she remembers being in the Anderson shelter listening to her mother singing Aloha 'oe Alloha oa' to her newly born and crying sister Judith. On VE day fortified by jelly, custard and sardine sandwiches she found herself on top of a stage (flat back truck) performing "How much is that doggy in the window?" And this Friday all was in lockdown at Pegasus, so Ron threw open the windows and said "Alexa, please play 'We'll meet again'." What a difference!

I found songs were becoming a bit of a theme. June was a teenager in 1945 and remembers being in Motherwell in Scotland for the war, but on VE day her grandparents visited and brought her best friend Lillian from London. And what did they rush out into the streets singing...?" "They'll always be an England" of course. And last Friday June and Dianne toasted VE day with disinfected J20 (just on the outside Dianne said!), socially distancing, facing the Dingleberry Knoll, and singing old favourites from the Dingleberry song sheet... Blue birds over; Somewhere over the rainbow; We'll meet again; You'll never walk alone; Pack up your troubles... Don't they still resonate with the situation we find ourselves in now? Then I discovered (as they did over coffee at church) that Ron and June went to the same infant, junior and girls/boys grammar schools in Burnt Oak and to St Alphage church where June's grandfather was the caretaker. Meanwhile Basil was 13 at the end of the war and having arrived at school, he was told he had the day off. Which would have been OK, but his dad was in the Air force and his mother in the Ministry of Food, so there was no-one at home. However, luckily for Basil, his neighbour invited him to cycle to Oxford Carfax Tower, for a real knees-up. So that evening he was able to join in all the fun and "kiss a few girls". This year was a much quieter affair for Basil, whose information in those early years was via the radio and the newspaper headlines (which he cut out and still has today). This time Basil marked up the TV guide, we

sent and watched and recorded some wonderful programmes, whilst his union jacks fluttered across his whole front garden. How things have changed for us all! And finally who do you think delivered VE Day activity packs to all the Sunday Club children and was to her delight (and theirs) able to speak or wave at them all. Yes, dear Susan Heron. What a star!!!!

Keep safe all of you. *Susan Bailey*

Rector's letter

This Sunday will be Rogation Sunday. Then Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are three more Rogation Days. After them on Thursday 21st we will celebrate Ascension Day.

Historically these days are a time to pray that the crops will come in safely. Today in the Western Church they are often days of prayer for the needs of humankind, the fruits of the earth and the works of our hands; very fitting in these times. Perhaps you would like to join with me in praying for food for the hungry on Sunday, a vaccine to cure Covid-19 on Monday, for our farmers and this year's harvest on Tuesday and for God's blessing on the NHS, the Emergency Services and all care workers on Wednesday?

On Thursday we remember the Risen Christ ascending into heaven. (At Christmas we celebrate that Christ's divinity came to earth. At the Ascension we celebrate that Jesus' humanity ascended to heaven). Looking back in history we can see that in many places both Rogation Sunday and Ascension Day have been celebrated with processions. On the Sunday, people have processed and prayed for God's blessing to come down onto the earth; on the Thursday people have processed to remember Jesus walking to the place from where He went up into the heaven. This week as we remember the divinity and humanity of Christ, let us pray for God's supernatural help and the human help of all those working on our behalf to defeat the terrible disease we are faced with at present. Stay safe and God bless! *Andrew+*



Thanks to Janet for the lovely photo of your handiwork.