

Funerals. None.

Hymns from Richard. This week we have 'Who would true valour see' and 'Will you come and follow me'. As always you can skip the adverts on the YouTube links. Don't forget that hymn suggestions can be emailed to the church office if you have a particular favourite you'd like to share.

Who would true valour see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTOu0-bCSIM>

Will you come and follow me:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zk6IUaIJ3sk>

Honoured with Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

What an achievement for a small town like Olney to have two separate groups of volunteers being honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service this month! Paul Collins, Chairman of Trustees of **Cowper and Newton Museum** tells us "For the museum's volunteers this was the culmination of a process that began in autumn 2019 and ended with the official announcement on 2nd June 2020. At last I was free to tell everyone our good news after 7 weeks of enforced silence. Coming just 5 weeks after the 120th anniversary of the opening of the museum which we were unable to celebrate, this has been a huge boost to volunteer morale. It has been very gratifying to see the hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm of our volunteers being rewarded with the most prestigious award a voluntary group in the UK can receive and is in effect a collective MBE. These are difficult times for the museum and I hope that the achievement of this Award will encourage more people to come forward when we eventually reopen, to help to revive our fortunes as we move towards the celebration of the 250th anniversary of Amazing Grace in 2022/2023."

Olney Rugby Football Club. Church administrator Katie and her husband Alasdair both volunteer at **Olney Rugby Football Club** and are proud to be part of the first rugby club to ever achieve this award. The club is entirely volunteer run, with everyone from coaches to the parents running the bar and barbecue giving up their time willingly. The rugby club is a big part of life in Olney, providing people with not only the chance to be active but to forge friendships. The children in particular learn fortitude, perseverance and the reward of making an effort. Although all of the volunteers are happy to give their time it's very nice to have that recognised by this award and we can't wait to celebrate once we are able to!

Cherry Tree Update. Trevor Yorke Chairman of the Trustees of The Friends of Cobbs Garden reports that the volunteer staff of The Cherry Tree have raised an incredible £3,174, so far for their charity with their takeaway pizza scheme. They have been serving pizzas at weekends and donating all the profit to this group. They will now be donating their profits to Willen Hospice. Their generosity of time and initiative has benefited the whole town.

Christian Aid update and thanks. Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Christian Aid Week online collection. We have raised a total of £580. Donations can still be made at <http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/OlneyChristianAidGroup> and will go directly to Christian Aid. *Sally Jones*



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 14th June 2020

Today – First Sunday after Trinity



Welcome and notices

Reading: Exodus 19: 2-8a

Reading: Romans 5: 1-8

Gospel: Matthew 9: 35-10.8

Wed 17th: 2 Kings 2: 1, 6-14

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

Collect: God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

Intercessions: A prayer from Andrew Pritchard-Keens

We pray that your presence Father may be felt in this world, more than it has ever been before.

We declare that you are a God that has already overcome this world.

Help us to be reminded of your promises, and the ultimate promise of everlasting joy.

Father we pray for our leaders that you've placed in power all around the world, we pray that they might be filled with wisdom and right understanding and for them to lead by compassion and love.

Father may we also remember those in the world that are suffering at multiple fronts, those experiencing natural disasters, famine and many other really difficult situations.

In this broken world Father, we just pray for your protection and your healing love to be poured out on to your children. Amen

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

We pray for the souls of the recently departed and their families. *David Adams and Ann Cahill.*

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

Eucharistic Prayer: A

Prayer: Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

Some material included is

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Contact details. Church Office 01234 241721 or by email at office@olney.church. The church website has links to the weekly prayer sessions, and to various support groups. These can be reached via <http://olney.church> or support@olney.church.

Rector's letter

The 12th June is the day we remember St Barnabas. What do we know about him? Barnabas sold some land to help provide for his fellow Christian believers who were in great need, he was a Levite from the island of Cyprus, he was either a cousin or an uncle to Mark the evangelist and Gospel writer and he was also a mentor to Mark. His original name was Joses, or Joseph, but the apostles gave him the nickname Barnabas, (*Son of Encouragement* or *Son of Exhortation*) and the nickname stuck. It was Barnabas who stood by and encouraged Paul when he converted to Christianity from persecuting the followers of Jesus, and it was Barnabas who mentored Paul and John Mark (Mark the Gospel author). Barnabas was an encourager, mentor, gave people the benefit of the doubt and gave people a second chance.

In these difficult and demanding days when there is much around to discourage us it is good to remember and learn from Barnabas. There are many who need our support and kindness, (like the early Christians in Jerusalem), there are those who need to know more of God's love, (like Saul who became Paul) and at times we all need to be given and give others the benefit of the doubt and a second chance. Barnabas took his example from the Lord Jesus. Let's take our example from Jesus and Barnabas and support, be kind, tell others God loves them, believe the best about others and be encouragers.

Stay safe and God bless!

Andrew+

Celebrating our volunteers. This weekend would have been **Cherry Fair Weekend**. This is an event which has struggled due to a lack of volunteers but we have always got there. Every year we think this will be the last one but we dust ourselves down and start again. Although we were sad to cancel this year it was a relief in some ways, as many of us older ones are wrestling to put up tents and tables, as well as manning all the church stalls. It would be wonderful if next year lots of new people came forward to help. We want to open this out further afield to bring in the people of Olney to offer their support. In fact don't wait... let Pat know via info@olneycherryfair.org.uk now, if you are able to help plan, assemble, and disassemble the stalls; attend, run and man events in June next year and Pat will be in touch. Talking of Pat, I have asked other volunteers to share their experiences and Pat is a brilliant example. Working in **Age UK** is just one area that Pat volunteers in; she is also our PCC secretary and sits on M.K. District Scouting Executive Committee as Secretary and is also Secretary to the Appointments Committee which sits 12 times a year. Her husband Ashley is also treasurer for the District. Here Pat writes about **Age UK**:
"Age UK came about in 2009 when Help the Aged and Age Concern merged. I started volunteering there after I finished working full time, the same year I started at the Church which was 9 years ago. Initially, I was put to work front of house and the only thing I was allowed to do was sort the rails out, make sure everything was in size order and tidy them. With a new Manager, I was then given the responsibility of the till and have met wonderful people over the years. It's fun seeing the young babies finally start

school, the mums looking for baby clothes, the young girls their prom dresses and at Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day (you see where this is going) they all come in to look for presents. It's also great for hats/fascinators and outfits for weddings and we do sometimes get the top brands donated i.e. Jaeger, Barbour etc. No Monday afternoon that I work in the shop is the same. The volunteers (there are 27 of them plus three paid staff, who are all part time) haven't even all met each other yet after all this time!" Thelma volunteers at **Olney Oxfam Books and Music**: *"Oxfam opened the shop in Olney in July 2004, just before I moved here. I visited initially to check out the stock, but was attracted to the idea of volunteering, chiefly because of my passion for books. For several years I had a weekly session; I was in charge of the crime fiction section and enjoyed the work, keeping the shelves full of the latest additions, and choosing my favourite authors. When it was suggested that we should advertise the shop in the Phonebox magazine by having a book reviews page, I volunteered for that, too, and have written one a month since autumn 2004. I try to range widely when choosing a book to review, so that there is something for everyone's taste. Although I no longer work every week, I am available for holiday cover, though I prefer to operate the till, rather than carrying armfuls of books up and down stairs! It is great fun, and I appreciate the friendships I have made throughout the years."*

Rachel's volunteering is for **Olney- Newton Link**. She tells us *"I am proud to have been a volunteer with the Olney-Newton Link since 2001. In this context Newton is a community near Freetown in Sierra Leone and in all probability was named after John Newton as Wilberforce and Hastings are in the same area. The link was started in the early 90's by Rena Partridge, but was disrupted by the Diamond War until the year 2000. It was administered by Rena and a committee of parish church members, using a PCC account, until 2005 when we became a Community Charity. The Link has supported many projects in Newton including the construction of a Skills Training Centre, support for schools and churches and the establishment of a tailoring project. Our latest project is the provision of solar radios for children to tune in to lessons 'on line' while schools are closed".* Sally and Malcolm volunteer for **Christian Aid** and say *"Christian Aid was set up in 1945 by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War. Since then, it has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide and aims to end poverty and injustice worldwide. Malcolm and I have supported Christian Aid in and around Olney for more than 30 years. Jesus inspired his followers to love God, love their neighbours and long for justice and we see our role as providing an opportunity for people in Olney to '... love, not in word or speech but in truth and action' (1 John 3:18). We are grateful to the wonderful Olney volunteers and donors who work alongside us year after year to raise funds and support the work of Christian Aid, standing with people living in poverty to fight for a more just world".*

Susan Bailey, Churchwarden