

Funerals. None.

Church re-opening. Our church is potentially re-opening for private prayer. The plan is subject to ratification by the PCC at this stage, however we are hoping to open for a limited number of hours twice per week starting next Wednesday 24th June. If you would like to be a steward for a one-hour shift please could you contact susan.bailey@olney.church or the church office (office@olney.church) or ring us on 01234 241721. More details will be on the sheet for next week and on the website as soon as agreed. *The Standing Committee*

Hymns from Richard. First we have a beautiful piece of music 'Such love, pure as the whitest snow'. This can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9R4N2G5RZng>
We also have another favourite 'Lord, for the years' which can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkTrFQLy6js>

Rector's letter. On the 15th June I had the honour to accompany Andrew Geary our new Mayor of Milton Keynes at the civic service to commemorate "Albert French - The Boy Soldier". We maintained social distance as we met at 'The Rose', we had a two minute silence and Andrew laid a wreath. My part was to read the letter sent by the army chaplain to Albert's father informing him of Albert's death. In that letter the chaplain wrote:

"He lies buried amid brave comrades in a wood, and his grave is carefully tended by his friends in his battalion. I offer you my deepest sympathy and pray that Almighty God in his mercy will give you comfort and strength to bear up under this great blow. May I remind you of that text which occurs in the 15th Chapter of St. John's Gospel and the 14th verse? "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"."

As well as remembering the "Boy Soldier" I could not help thinking of and giving thanks for those in the NHS and Emergency Services who have done and continue to bravely and unselfishly put their lives on the line for all of us. I also was reminded of all those who have lost loved ones recently.

Personally, on Thursdays at 8pm I miss the corporate opportunity to say thank you to those who continue to care for the sick and dying. However, I stop, thank God for them and ask God to bless them at that time. As we say of Albert and all heroes of the military, "We will remember them."

Stay safe and God bless! *Andrew+*

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.



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 21st June 2020

Today – Second Sunday after Trinity



Welcome and notices

Reading: Jeremiah 20: 7-13

Gospel: Matthew 10: 24-39

Wed 24th: Isaiah 40: 1-11

Luke 1: 57-66, 80

Collect: Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails: deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Intercessions from Malcolm Jones We thank God for our church community and our friends who we can't be with. We pray especially for Bishop Steven and all the churches and chaplaincies in the Oxford Diocese.

Thank you for all the volunteers, our neighbours and people around us who make our community a better place to live in.

Thank you for all the teachers and parents managing virtual school and those going back to school. We pray for all children coping with lockdown and change.

Today we think especially of people who are frightened or overwhelmed, and those who are sick who can't get help. Please help them get better and feel that you are there with them always.

Thank you for the wonderful doctors, nurses and other staff who look after us all, and for everyone helping defeat the coronavirus. 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, Ann Cahill and Ted Pankhurst.

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

Eucharistic Prayer: A

Prayer: Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

Some material included is

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Dear All. This week we focus on Dads because the 21st June is Father's Day. It was heartening to hear that Susan Heron has already been out and about, delivering packs to our Sunday Club children so they can make Father's Day presents and cards for their Daddies! With most card shops still out of bounds, it will be a joy for them to be able to make something creative and memorable for the occasion. Susan's husband Andrew writes that he is *"feeling very lucky at the moment because I have some unexpected bonus time with my daughter. So even with Bethany being 23 we are enjoying some beautiful shared moments. One of the most enjoyable things to do is read and share ideas to help shape a young mind. The added bonus is that when they grow up they want to read and share ideas with you."*

The lockdown has seen Chris Richbell being extremely creative. Her lovely husband David was also a great, much-loved Dad who would often bring his four boys into his sermons. We all miss those sermons; he always gave us food for thought as he was sincere, inspired, succinct and always made us smile. Many will also remember he had a dapper range of clothes and so Chris has just finished making a double quilt from David's old shirts. She says *"It is very colourful!"* and that the trim, which hangs over the mattress edge and looks like bunting, is made of collar points on one side and cuff corners on the other. It holds many happy memories for Chris and she spent quite a few afternoons sitting upstairs looking out of the window in the evening sun, whilst doing the hand quilting and people watching, so the stitches *"are not very even!"* but it means that David will keep her warm in the winter. When she put it over some chairs to air after washing, it also got the cats approval! You can see this beautiful quilt and the cats in this week's picture supplement.

This is not the only news from the Richbells as son Olly has been nominated for Wagon Wheel's Epic Dad of The Year. There were over 7,000 nominations and Olly is one of 5 shortlisted finalists! Olly was nominated for his charity work. His daughter Florrie and wife Lisa had a chat about what Daddy had done in lockdown and it turned out to be a huge amount. Like many people he is still working full time, but he has also done a marathon challenge (walking 26.2 miles around the green) on Florrie's birthday to raise money for a children's charity called Wooden Spoon (which aims to transform the lives of children and young people with a disability or facing disadvantage). He has finished his next book, *'The Star Witness'* (find his other books *'The Courageous Witness'* and *'Gloriana'* on Amazon); and also published a book about his business that he and David started writing together called *'Volcano Insurance: a guide to avoid, manage and resolve disputes'*. Olly has also raised £1,000 for Faces, a charity in Bedford that helps children with 'holiday hunger' and £4,000 for Keech Children's Hospice. He and Lisa also help a homeless charity and completed socially distance visits with local vulnerable people. Lisa says *"Olly is a great Daddy and always has time for Florrie, who like many children is still at home, he is her playmate and takes her on amazing adventures"*. Florrie says *"he should wear his pants on the outside of his trousers as he is such a superhero"*. Lisa adds *"We think he is an epic dad, but all Dads are, and Father's Day is a great time to celebrate all the epic Dads!"*

Haydn summed up what many of the dads thought *"Becoming a father was easy. Not too much effort at all. As*

a father it's just a case of dipping into one's wallet; helping with homework; being a taxi. But being a Daddy, however, is another beast completely. Being there, holding their hand. Wiping away the tears and sharing the joy. Picking them up when they fall, and encouraging them when they are down. Being supportive and not judging. Loving when it's difficult; love that knows no bounds. This is a lot harder, and immeasurably more rewarding. This is Daddy. And I am a very proud daddy indeed! And what a joy it has been to have extra time in lockdown, before Uni calls."

So many dads and mums have told me what a bonus it has been to have their older children home and being able to spend quality time together. Another exceptional and multi-talented dad is Andrew Geary. Andrew juggles fatherhood to Josh and Rebecca with farming, rosette collecting with Josh and Lisa, as well as being Mayor of Milton Keynes, a Lay preacher, musician (Rebecca shares his talents) and pianist. Hear him on our webpage at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stpeterandstpaulchurcholney>.

Finally, the joy of welcoming a new member to the Church Family... Marc, Sarah and Chloe welcomed new arrival Rosie Barbara Page at 9.54am Sunday 31st May weighing 7lb 9oz. Chloe loves her baby sister! Sarah tells us *"Birth in lockdown is a very different experience but a blessed and happy one. Due to being induced, saying goodbye to each other on the Thursday afternoon at the doors to the ward was a surreal feeling, not knowing when we would see each other again or whether Marc would be at the birth. Spending those few days in hospital, doing a coronavirus test, wearing a face mask, trying to understand and read the facial expressions of doctors and midwives wearing masks made it challenging and unnerving at times. However, all the staff we came across were amazingly supportive and it felt like one big family whilst on the ward. Conversations became more meaningful and I have kept in touch with two other mums that ironically live within a stone's throw of our house! After 58 hours of waiting, a bed finally came up on the labour ward and a healthy and happy Rosie was born quickly with her Dad there to welcome her into the world. We had a playlist of music playing and during those tough final moments it was the words of Hillsong, Cornerstone that gave me the strength to keep going. 'Christ alone, cornerstone, weak made strong in the saviours love, through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all!' Although it was a very different birth experience, it was an incredibly positive one, filled with love, smiles and happiness throughout!*

What a lovely account from Sarah. I have found a beautifully moving version of this song for you to watch and listen to at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLxZEU02ul>.

Warmest Congratulations to Marc, Sarah and sister Chloe on the safe arrival of Rosie and what beautiful & uplifting piece of music to come into the world to! God Bless, *Susan Bailey*.





This Sunday is Father's Day are here we feature dad Marc with his daughters Chloe, new arrival Rosie and wife Sarah & The quilt Chris Richbell made from David's old shirts, being approved by her cats