

Funerals. None.

Church re-opening. We will NOT be opening for services in the foreseeable future. However our church will continue to open for private prayer on Wednesday and Sunday 12-3 until further notice. **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.**

The Standing Committee

Rector's letter. On Sunday 28th and Monday 29th different places remembered Saints Peter and Paul our Patron Saints; two such different men with such varied backgrounds, gifts and ministries. They are a reminder to us all that God loves everyone wherever they come from and whatever their cultural heritage.

Then, for those who follow the Common Worship lectionary Friday the 3rd July was the day to honour St Thomas the apostle. He was a Jew and one of Jesus' closest disciples. Thomas was a devoted but impetuous follower of Christ. When Jesus said He was returning to Judea to visit His sick friend Lazarus, Thomas immediately exhorted the other apostles to accompany Him on the trip which involved certain danger and possible death. At the Last Supper, when Christ told His disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them to which they also might come after their deaths Thomas pleaded that they did not understand and consequently he received the beautiful assurance from Jesus "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" and that through Jesus anyone could come to the Father, (become a child of God). Perhaps Thomas is best known for his role in verifying the Resurrection of Jesus. He was unwilling to believe that the other Apostles had seen their risen Lord on the first Easter Sunday until a week later he saw Jesus for Himself. He saw in Christ's hands the marks of the nails and the spear wound in Jesus' side and exclaimed, "My Lord and My God," thus making a public Profession of Faith in the Divinity of Jesus. Thomas is a reminder to us all that we do not have to take the word of others, but that Jesus will make Himself known to all who really want to know that He is truly God and alive today.

Stay safe and God bless! *Andrew+*

Hope and the 'new normal'. Liz K thought we might like to share this poem from Oddfellows entitled 'NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED...'

Sunshine is not cancelled	Music is not cancelled
Spring is not cancelled	Dancing is not cancelled
Love is not cancelled	Imagination is not cancelled
Relationships are not cancelled	Kindness is not cancelled
Reading is not cancelled	Conversations are not cancelled
Naps are not cancelled	Hope is not cancelled.
Devotion is not cancelled	



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 5th July 2020

Today – Fourth Sunday after Trinity



Welcome and notices

Reading: Zechariah 9: 9-12

Gospel: Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end

Wed 8th: Hosea 10: 1-3,7,8,12
Matthew 10: 1-7

Collect: Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Intercessions: This week Andrew has shared with us The Collect for St Thomas.

Almighty and eternal God,
who, for the firmer foundation of our faith,
allowed your holy apostle Thomas to doubt the
resurrection of your Son till word and sight convinced
him: grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may
believe and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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

We pray for the souls of the recently departed and their families. *David Adams, Ann Cahill, Ted Pankhurst and Dean Ellis*

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

Eucharistic Prayer: A

Prayer: Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Some material included is

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Catching up and re-grouping.

Dear Church Family It will be a while yet before the Knitty Stitchers are able to meet again in church, but their membership has spread across the world and this week. Gill shares some GOOD NEWS.

*“Whilst we are in lockdown we have, I am sure, all been very busy finding time to turn out cupboards and discover things we had long forgotten; I personally must use up all my bags of wool etcetera before I buy more. Wonderfully one Sunday morning the phone rang and a voice said, “you didn’t expect to hear from me did you?” It was Jen from New Zealand who was worried about us all at Church in Olney, especially **Knitty Stitchers**. Jen and family came to England when her husband was seconded to work for World Vision. They rented a house on Johnsons Field and had two daughters Eve and Zoe, who attended Ousedale School. Jen knitted socks by the dozen, all beautifully made. She contributed to our stall to help make money but also contributed with love, laughter and prayers at Knitty Stitchers and morning services. Jen sends love and prayers to all and says how much she misses us and has great memories of her time in Olney.*

I also had a lovely phone call from Mary Rowlands in Stornaway. Mary is Cecelia’s daughter and lived in Olney for a while and knitted at least a hundred pairs of fingerless gloves for us (we still have some for sale on the stall). Mary has become a Granny to a beautiful granddaughter called Melody. Cecelia is in a home and has unfortunately lost her sight and hearing but is still smiling.

Then out of the blue I received an email from Amanda who lives in Grand Rapids USA with her family. They also were here because husband Ben was seconded to World Vision; they rented a house on Weston Road and brought their dog Bailey with them. Their children, Elizabeth and Oliver, were born when they returned to the USA. Amanda thanks Marina, who is Knitty Stitchers’ Social Secretary, for sending her a calendar from Olney every year - she has kept everyone to look at and remember us all. Knitty Stitchers who remember Amanda, Mary and Jen they really valued and appreciated your company and fellowship and it has stayed with them all these years; thank you all for welcoming them into your hearts. It is humbling to think our little group who met in homes at that time could have a lasting effect. It was so lovely to hear from them all. Thank you KNITTY STITCHERS in the words of Vera Lynn... WE WILL MEET AGAIN.”

Singing. Another thing many of us are missing is singing in church. One of our most rousing hymns “For All the Saints” is one of my favourites, especially as it is usually sung in two halves and allows you to get your breath back! With St Peter and St Pauls Feast day on 29th June, it would surely have been sung last week. So here is a link, please join in at home. This time it is from Songs of Praise - The Big Sing. This is an event I have attended, and it is so rousing and so uplifting; perhaps one year a group of us could go? The video is a little blurry, but with a little tear in your eye it works well! Skip the ads ASAP...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHVv79W_EpA.

Another hymn that we had ready for Holy Trinity in June was by John Newton. So although we are still far apart in physical terms let us “abide in union” in our hearts and prayers.

<p>May the grace of Christ our Saviour, And the Father's boundless love, With the Holy Spirit's favour, Rest upon us from above.</p>	<p>Thus may we abide in union With each other and the Lord, And possess in sweet communion Joys which earth cannot afford.</p>
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Finally I wanted to share with you **The Prayer**. It is not a hymn as such, but the words are moving and I think it’s worth listening to and the basic words are so current to us all now.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCzLU8gnWAQ>

As it says on the video “*This song represents God’s calling in our lives as Christians, because it is asking Him to help us and be our guide in life, whether in good times or bad.*”

<p>I pray you'll be our eyes And watch us where we go And help us to be wise In times when we don't know Let this be our prayer When we lose our way Lead us to a place Guide us with your grace To a place where we'll be safe. I pray we'll find your light. And hold it in our hearts When stars go out each night</p>	<p>Remind us where you are. Let this be our prayer When shadows fill our day Lead us to a place Guide us with your grace To a place where we'll be safe A world where pain and sorrow will be ended And every heart that's broken will be mended And we'll remember we are all....God's children</p>
<p>Reaching out to touch you Reaching to the sky.... We ask that life be kind And watch us from above We hope each soul will find Another soul to love Let this be our prayer</p>	<p>Just like every child. Needs to find a place Guide us with your grace Give us faith so we'll be safe.... Lead us to a place Guide us with your grace To a place where we'll be safe</p>

God bless. *Susan Bailey, Church Warden*

With hope in our hearts and a desire to create a “New Normal” for our Church Family, we have included an extra section. It contains questions about how we, as a Church Family, move forward together. Please could you answer the questions and email or post back to us (Church Administrator, 112 Dingleberry, Olney, MK46 5HA). Your opinions matter and help us to plan for the future. We will be back in church as soon as we feel it is safe and appropriate to do so. Thank You. *The Standing Committee*