

Funerals. None.

Rector's letter. It is a great relief to know that the government has assessed the national situation and where we have got to in dealing with the Covid-19 virus. It is good to now be able to meet with some others in our families and also that shops, restaurants and pubs are open subject to safety restrictions. We are still awaiting more information from the Church of England to enable us to make wise and safe decisions about when we can have services in our Church and the form of how things will need to be. **When we know more the PCC will decide what is right for us at this time and we will let everyone know. Until then the Church is open on Sundays and Wednesdays from 12.00pm until 3.00pm for private prayer and we have our virtual services on Sunday (with the Diocese) and Wednesday mornings (Morning Prayer) and we have our prayer time ('Together in Prayer') on Saturday mornings at 10.30am.**

At this time I want to recognize and say a huge thank you to David Phillipson, Susan Bailey and Haydn Langley. David chairs the Standing Committee and PCC and has steered us all through the legalities and regulations relating to all that the Church can and must do during these difficult times, Susan has organized the excellent weekly newsletter that goes out to everyone by email and by post to those without computer access and Haydn has looked after the Church website for us all. Together they have been the driving force that keeps us safe, up to date, informed and connected.

Stay safe and God bless! *Andrew+*

Hymns from Richard. This week we have two more hymns for you, and as lockdown starts to lift the words to 'Colours of Day' seem particularly appropriate.

'O for a Heart to Praise my God'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MWRgPxwtMs>

'Colours of Day'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4kFVUfM3PA>

Colours of day dawn in to the mind

The sun has come up, the night is behind,
Go down in the city, in to the street,
And let's give the message to the people we meet.
*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return,
Take seeds of His spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

Go through the park, on in to the town,

The sun still shines on, it never goes down,
The light of the world is risen again,
The people of darkness are needing a friend.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return,
Take seeds of his spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.*

Open your eyes, look into the sky,

The darkness has gone, the Son came to die,
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
But Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return,
Take seeds of his spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.*



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 12th July 2020

Today – Fifth Sunday after Trinity



Welcome and notices

Reading: *Isaiah 55: 10-13*

Romans 8: 1-11

Gospel: *Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23*

Wed 15th: *Isaiah 10: 5-7, 13-16*

Matthew 11: 25-27

Collect: Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessions: This week Andrew has shared with us a prayer for the world:

God of love and hope,
you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Some people are worried that they might get ill.
Others are anxious for their family and friends.
Be with them and help them to find peace.
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,
and all who are working to discover the right medicines
to help those who are ill.
Thank you that even in these anxious times,
you are with us.
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.
Amen.

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

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

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

Eucharistic Prayer: A

Prayer: Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Some material included is

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Week 17 - The Great Clear Out

Many of us have used our time in lockdown to sort out garages and tackle overdue home projects and so we now find ourselves with lots of items we no longer have a use for. As **charity shops** start to re-open again now might be a good time to make donations, especially as charities have experienced a loss of income over the last few months. Locally we have many lovely charity shops to choose from and this week we've included a round-up of places you can now make donations to (see the supplementary sheet).

Selling items. If you have items that can't be donated or you are unable to get a slot then you also have the option of selling items. Many families around Olney have left items on their driveway alongside donation boxes for cash donations and people have been able to take items they require. These have been advertised over Facebook or by popping notes through neighbours' doors.

Currently plans are being made to have a town-wide jumble sale where people set up items outside their houses, allowing people to browse and make purchases as they explore the town. The date and exact details are yet to be announced but we will let you know via the Weekly Sheet when things have been confirmed as this will certainly be an easy way to help people get rid of items they no longer have a use for.

If you're on Facebook you will probably know that there is a **Marketplace** section which allows you to upload photos of items and offer them for sale at a price of your choosing. You have to arrange how the buyer will get the item (collection or delivery) but otherwise this is an easy way to sell items and one that doesn't cost you anything. You need to decide how people are going to pay as well; some people allow payment by cash on collection but with the Covid restrictions it might be better to use a Paypal account so that you don't need to give your bank details to anyone or accept cash which might be difficult to spend yourself.

eBay is another popular internet selling site, although it does take a small percentage of the money you make. To use eBay as a seller you must first register for an account at www.ebay.co.uk using your email address. You can then click through to the selling section of the site and follow the step by step instructions to describe your items and add photos of them. You then have the option to sell you item for a set price (called *Buy It Now* on eBay) or to sell the item via an auction, with the highest bidder 'winning' the item. You can include postage costs if you are happy to send the items to the buyer or state that items must be collected from you (making sure you keep yourself safe at all times). Whilst eBay is a very useful site it is worth noting that clothing generally sells better if it is unusual, designer or sold in large bundles so if you only have a few pieces it might be better to use Facebook Marketplace instead. Paypal is the main method of payment on eBay and although you can offer other options such as postal orders or bank transfers you have to offer Paypal as part of the conditions of using eBay. Setting up a Paypal account is a simple enough process and offers you protection from people who may claim

they received damaged items etc. It also keeps your bank details hidden from people who are buying from you but allows you to receive money into your bank account. To register for Paypal you will need an email address and a bank account. Simply go to <http://www.paypal.com/gb/welcome/signup> and follow the instructions to register your email address, name and mobile phone number. This then allows you to nominate a bank account to receive your money into (and also allows you to use the account to buy things online yourself).

Finally, Wilford Auctions in Wellingborough <https://www.wilfords.org/> and Peacocks in Bedford <https://peacockauction.co.uk/valuations/household-valuations> are still doing free valuations and can sell your valuable items.

Don't forget that if you find any of this difficult to follow there is technical help available via the church website support section, or you can contact Susan or Katie via susan.bailey@olney.church, office@olney.church or 01234 241721.

Stay safe & God bless, *Katie, Church Administrator*

Prayers for the sick. Although many people have had to deal with great sadness during lockdown, we are always delighted to hear that some of those on the prayer list, have now made an excellent recovery. This week Peter Harrison is home and Sue Haskell thanks us for our prayers. He is back to his old self and now able to share a regular meal with his family, after being first in lockdown and latterly in hospital. Many of us have had to go to the doctors and hospital over the last 12 weeks. My husband and I have also had a car park Covid test (uncomfortable, but reassuring) after my husband had a very high temp. The tests were negative and it turned out he had a treatable infection. However I can only say that at all times, in all of these environments, the staff have been wonderful, the hygiene levels exemplary and the waiting time almost non-existent. As we celebrated 72 years of the NHS on Sunday 5 July, we must all be truly grateful. Thank you NHS, and especially Milton Keynes Hospital (MK), for its tireless work and excellent record over these last 5 months. Another lady we have prayed for over the weeks has been Teresia. When Teresia first had Covid19 she was sent to the Royal Brompton Hospital (RB), then to MK, then back to RB, then back to MK. Now she is recovering well. So what better way to finish our weekly sheet than to see lovely Teresia, enjoying her allotment God Bless, *Susan Bailey, Churchwarden*

