

Funerals. None.

Apology, Wednesday 22nd July. Last week we decided to have open prayer from 12-2 only. Sincere apologies to those who came after 2pm, but were unable to come into church. If more Stewards come forward we can open 'til 3pm again. This week (29th July) we will only open 12-2pm. **Susan Bailey Churchwarden.**

Rector's letter

Dear Family. This Sunday we can come together to once more meet in our Church building. My thanks go especially to David our Senior Churchwarden for all of his hard work and wisdom in leading us through the very complex and ever-changing guidelines and advice from the government and the Church of England. David has worked so hard on our behalf to get us to the point where worshipping God in the building is now possible. From this Sunday onwards we plan to have a Holy Communion or 'Everyone Together' service at 10am in Church each Sunday, Morning Prayer by zoom Wednesday morning at 9.30am, private prayer in the Church on Wednesday (noon till 3pm) and we will continue our prayer time every Saturday at 10.30am by zoom. For those who are not able or ready to join with us on Sunday in the Church there is still the Diocese Holy Communion online at 10am and various other services that are still being offered online.

It is really important that no one feels that one kind of Communion service is better than or inferior to any other. The term 'Spiritual Communion' has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ. Over the years I have celebrated 'Spiritual Communion' where people live, in care homes and in hospitals. It is what Jesus has done for us and not what we can do for Him that makes the difference in our lives. To not be able to physically receive the bread or the wine does not preclude anyone from remembering all that Jesus has done for them on the cross and receiving the benefits of Jesus' passion for them. The Church of England form of prayer below (after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester) offers Christians an opportunity to give thanks for their communion with Jesus, particularly at times when they would ordinarily be present at the Eucharist. The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ', although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves. Stay safe and God bless! Andrew+

Hymns from Richard. This week Richard will be playing the organ at our Holy Communion Service. Not the hymns we know and love, but some pleasant organ music to fill the church again. This week Richard explained the hymns we would have had he writes "'All my hope on God is founded' is from the Gospel from Matthew 13. The hymns that complement the Old Testament reading from 1 Kings: 'Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart' or 'God of grace and God of glory'. Three hymns which complement the Epistle from Romans 8 are 'The church's one foundation', 'King of glory, king of peace' and 'Lord, thy word abideth'" These are all old favourites. Here is 'The church's one foundation' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jotNbcFelX4>



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 26th July 2020

Today – Seventh Sunday after Trinity



Welcome and notices

Reading: 1Kings 3: 5-12

Romans 8: 26-39

Gospel: Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Wed 29th: Isaiah 25: 6-9

John 17: 1-8

Collect: Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions:

A Church of England prayer for those unable to physically take the bread and wine at Holy Communion

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. Amen.

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

We pray for the souls of the recently departed and their families. Adrian Escott, Peter Faulkner

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

Eucharistic Prayer: A

Prayer: Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

Some material included is

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Dear All. This week we catch up on what has been happening behind the scenes at church and with some of our Church Family as they start to socialise and get out and about with some sort of normality after many long weeks in lockdown. On 17th March, the Standing Committee first met by conference call (using Zoom) and have continued every week since then. The members are Andrew P-K, David P, Susan B, Lisa G, Pat P, Haydn L (co-oped). PCC meetings are suspended, but minutes are circulated to PCC from Standing Committee and all members have been voting on key issues. The last physical PCC was on 18th February when we discussed *Deanery of Newport – A Future Fit for Purpose*. Now, to add to that mix, we are looking at the *New Normal*. We are analysing and collating your views at present and will feed back in Autumn. We will also be focussing on our Mission and objectives for 2021 and beyond. Also, as published in 7th June, we are working on our John Newton area for AMFG250 celebrations in 2022/23, which will see Amazing Grace celebrated in many different ways. Its appearance during many Oxford and other Services, plus YouTube and special releases over lockdown has been very special and uplifting. As I write this it, is just being sung at this week's Oxford service. David Phillipson is our representative on the AMG250.

In fact, behind the scenes David has been very busy indeed. In the day David has a full time and very demanding job, but somehow he manages to fit in numerous church jobs, most of which are complex and involve a mountain of paperwork and legislation. For instance, last week David read 80 pages of Diocesan directions to compile a 38-point plan that covered all the areas we need comply with to enable us to reopen. Every Tuesday he chairs the Standing Committee on Zoom. He has also set up the Wednesday and Saturday Zoom groups. For many months he has been working with various bodies to plan, price and comply with the requirements needed for our new security and alarm system both in church and on the roof. These plans, including a new security door leading up to the Cowley Room, are coming to fruition. David has also used his drawing skills to produce a drawing for a faculty to remove some pews from the area which will become the John Newton area at the back of the inner vestry. This area, if all goes to plan, will contain the new Triptych, the churchwardens' chest and perhaps the old font. There will be seating for small groups and it will display items on John Newton, as well as containing thoughtful and mindful literature to support quiet contemplation and prayer. This will then allow us to look afresh at the re-ordering of the Welcome area within the space available. In addition, David and Susan B have worked with the nursery to draw up a new contract, rates and hours of opening, which David has now finalised. Finally, David together with Tim H (who has been regularly inspecting our building during lockdown), using Diocese guidance, prepared our church for its opening for private prayer (now Weds 12-2 and Sunday 11-12) and our opening on 26th July 10am. We intend to take the utmost care with you, our Church Family.

The reopening this Sunday

1. There will be a communion in one kind (i.e bread/wafer only) on 26th July at 10 am.
2. Maximum attendance of 47 people/families/bubbles
3. There will be NO 8.30am service during August
4. The 10am services on Sunday 9th and 30th August will be 'Everyone together' family services
5. There will be no midweek services of Holy Communion on the Wednesday mornings before September.
6. There will be no resumption of evening prayers in any format before September
7. Online prayers by 'Zoom' will continue on Wednesdays at 9.30 and Saturdays at 10.30
8. Private Prayer will continue throughout August. Weds 12-2 and Sun 11-12 only.
9. To book for any service from 26th July, until further notice, Email office@olney.church or call 01234 241721. The office administrator will need your name, the number in your bubble and your contact telephone number for track and trace purposes.

Track and Trace Scam. On the subject of Track and Trace: This is a UK wide system, which alerts you to the fact you have been in contact with a Covid19 sufferer. However if you get a call purporting to be from the Covid Track and Trace team telling you you've been in contact with someone and need to isolate and get tested - **which then goes on to ask for card details for payment for the test - It is a scam!** You won't be asked to pay for these tests. Sadly there are people out there trying con us, be on your guard. Don't give your bank details to any cold caller.

Catching up in pictures. With us opening up for private prayer, it has been a joy to see Church family members again face to face. Also, around the town they have been gathering in socially distanced groups to celebrate events or just to say hello. This week we have some lovely pictures (attached in two formats) of people enjoying being outside and in one another's company, again. Madeline had a birthday and met with Wendy, Ann M, Lorraine, Judith and Gill B for afternoon tea in the garden. Apparently Gill B made friends with Ann's parrot too! Gill B's lockdown had been saddened by the loss of her lovely dog Grace, who had been her constant companion until she passed away this May. So, it was wonderful to see Gill in high spirits with a new companion Poppy, who had come from Dalmatian Welfare. Poppy was friendly, yet calm and relaxed, with her new owner. When we all met near Rosemary's house, Poppy cheered everyone up and has been a wonderful boost to Gill. Then this week Rita came to church with her new grandson Albert and she had been uplifted to be able to take him out and enjoy his company in the sunshine. Now with the cautious and considered opening of the church, we are all looking forward to seeing each other gain, albeit from a distance.

Wonder Zone. The Holiday Bible Club are doing an online Wonder Zone version this year. Why not enrol your children into this exciting environment over the school holidays. Poster with details attached.

Susan Bailey Churchwarden