

Funerals. None.

To book for any service, until further notice please 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. Website <http://olney.church/>. Last week's service for 30 was very dignified and well-orchestrated. Please join us. We intend to take the utmost care with you, our Church Family.

1. There will be a communion in one kind (i.e. wafer only)
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 12-3 and Sun 11-12 only**

Link to Oxford Services. You can still watch any of the 21 services you may have missed.

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/video-on-demand/> OR each Sunday live at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/>

Rector's letter. Dear Family, Thursday the 30th July is the day in the Church of England calendar that we remember William Wilberforce (1759–1833).

He was born in Yorkshire, went up to St John's College Cambridge and became an MP in 1780. In 1784 he converted to the Christian faith. He considered becoming a clergyman, but accepted advice to stay in politics and with other Christians he set about doing what he could to change the society of his day for the better. He became the champion of the anti-slavery cause and made it his life's mission. In this he was greatly influenced by John Newton who had moved from Olney to pastor the Church of St Mary Woolnoth in the City of London. In 1833, just three days before William's death, the British government passed the Bill to abolish slavery. His lifelong battle had at last been won!

The modern day evangelist J. John says of Wilberforce: that he applied his faith to his daily life, he paid a great price for his committed leadership (he was a frail man with poor health), he had determination and persisted in his battle against slavery for decades, he was a man of great wisdom and he was someone who guarded his walk with God. He was definitely someone who knew that only God could be the source of the strength that he needed. To the very end of his life he remained permanently dependent on the "Amazing Grace" of God.

William Wilberforce was already a Member of Parliament when he converted to the Christian faith. He is an encouragement for us to pray for those in government to come to know God personally and to stand up for what is right as they debate and serve in Westminster.

Stay safe and God bless! Andrew+



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 2nd August 2020

Today – Eighth Sunday after Trinity



Welcome and notices

Reading: *Isaiah 55:1-5, Romans 9 1-5*

Gospel: *Matthew 14: 13-21*

Wed 5th: *Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14*

Luke 9: 28-36

Collect: Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

A prayer for the week from Andrew P-K: *Sittings in both the House of Commons and House of Lords begin with prayers. These follow the Christian faith and attendance is voluntary. In the Commons the Speaker's Chaplain usually reads the prayers. The form of the main prayer is as follows: "Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her government, to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of Your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may Your kingdom come and Your Name be hallowed. Amen."*

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

We pray for the souls of the recently departed and their families. *Adrian Escott, Peter Faulkner and David Minney.*
We remember and give thanks for those whose Yearsmind is now.

Eucharistic Prayer: A

Prayer: **Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever. Amen.**

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

Some material included is

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Dear All. This is our last double sided edition. Thank you for all your feedback and kind words and please don't forget to fill in your questionnaire.

The end of an era. Our dear Gill and Ken Noon are retiring as vergers. They write *"It is with sadness that after 23 years we decided to relinquish the Vergers Role in Church. We had just moved to Olney from Staffordshire in 1997 when Reverend Nigel Pond approached us to ask if we would be his Vergers. At that point we had no idea what a Verger's duties were but he promised to guide us. The very next week he rang on Boxing Day and said we have a very big funeral next week, (sharp intake of breath). The Church was overflowing and we were winging it. Fortunately everything seemed to go well and we heaved a huge sigh of relief! During the intervening years we have assisted at over 700 weddings, funerals and the Harvest and Christmas Services for the schools and enjoyed every minute. We have had some wonderful experiences listening to fabulous music groups and professional soloists. One funeral party invited seven professional harmonica players as a tribute to one of their own. The musicians who had travelled from all over the country stood in a semi-circle in front of the Chancel. The youngest boy who played had just participated on T.V. in Young Musician of the Year. For some reason there was a case of no Organist for a funeral so Ken was sent to fetch Roy Turner from his shop on the Market Square to play, he was in the middle of his lunch but agreed to help out in an emergency. Weddings are all quite different. One couple had an owl to deliver the rings. The owners of the bird flew him from the Balcony but he missed the Best Man and sat on the Reredos behind the Altar staring out at us. Eventually he was enticed to deliver the rings with extra food and all was well – until the photo with the Bride after the service when he pooped all down her dress. Oh Dear!!! Damp tissues helped a bit but do hope it didn't show on photos. On another occasion a Brides shoulder strap gave way in the Porch leaving her nearly indecent so we sewed her in there and then. Another left her bouquet at home so we crept round during the first hymn stealing from the arrangements to create a bunch of flowers for her to carry down the aisle. Unfortunately the Organist didn't appear for one wedding so we cheered and clapped the Bride in, asked Ann Minney from the congregation to do sound while Ken and a guest practiced 'Amazing Grace' in the Choir Vestry, this was sung by everyone for the signing of the Register then the Bride and Groom were cheered and clapped out. Thankfully the couple loved it and said it made them more relaxed. A Groom was married with the hems of his trousers held up by safety pins – only we knew. The sound system has its own problems, the use of discs has increased dramatically during our years with seven played at one funeral. If the discs are created at home they don't always play on our system and after one disaster we insisted on trying them beforehand. On arriving early for events we have encountered a fire in the kitchen- duly smothered. A flood by the font – duly mopped and a cat shut in, that was happy to escape on its own. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as your Vergers. THANK YOU OLNEY"*

And thank you Gill and Ken, you have been absolutely wonderful vergers. Who is ready to step into your shoes? I have the job description, so please let me know if you are interested in applying for this interesting post.

Music in July and August

The gospel according to Mica. The story of Gospel Music in Six Songs, will be shown on BBC Four this coming Friday (31st July) at 9pm. Mica Paris came to our Church last October. She recorded 'Amazing Grace' with St Peter and St Paul Church choir and she also spoke with David P. Tune in to see this programme, which can also be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000l9tk#:~:text=Gospel%20according%20to%20Mica%20%E2%80%93%20The%20Story%20of,out%20why%20some%20of%20her%20contemporaries%20have%20>.

Michael, our organ scholar, has also been busy practising during lockdown on a new organ in his home. He has recorded the following piece and you can watch it here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sqkcanefq42lcjj/AABMwoVsN21yRp8NUG3Yg0Oza?dl=0>. Michael and Amy are both singing in a choir find them on Facebook: Search for 'BMS Virtual Summer Concert'.

Hymns for August from Richard

2nd: 'The God of Abraham praise' (Epistle) and 'I come with joy' (Gospel),

9th (Everyone together): 'Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it' (Epistle) and 'Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you' (Gospel),

16th 'And can it be that I should gain...?' (Epistle) and 'In Christ there is no east or west' (Gospel),

23rd: 'Take my life, and let it be...' (Epistle) and 'Lift high the cross' (Gospel) and

30th (Everyone together): 'Brother, sister, let me serve you' (Epistle) and 'At the name of Jesus' (Gospel).

Finally a quick round up of items and news from your Standing Committee & PCC.

- Churchwardens and PCC members have been asked to extend their "contract" until October 2020.
- We are sorry that we are unable to handle cash, coin and envelopes in the same way as before. There are Covid related health risks in handling these, difficulties in banking items due to branch closures and an increased level of bank charges. In a move to embrace new technology a Donation Station (for cards) will soon be installed in church. This also has noticeboard space. We have trialled and now have in place handheld card readers too.
- With so many of our key fundraising events cancelled would you like to support **our church** by joining the Church of England's Parish Giving Scheme to manage your regular donations and Gift Aid? You can ring on 0333 002 1271, quoting **our parish registration number 270627769** to give them your details or complete the paper mandate attached.
- The John Kent fund for local students has been distributed.
- We have new cleaner, Megi, who has been working at church and will extend her duties to the Church Hall when restrictions are lifted. Megi and I are mastering the high brushes, so no Spring Clean until next year.
- We would like to bring our excellent and well appreciated, volunteer cleaners back to church eventually, but only when it is fully safe to do so.
- New British Legion Flags are to be installed.
- 11 Church Street has been demolished and rebuilt during lockdown, meaning little disturbance to our church so far.
- Renewal of our current preachers has been approved.

Looking forward to seeing you back in church soon.

God Bless *Susan Bailey Churchwarden*.



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Title: Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other

First name(s):
 Surname(s):
 Full home address:
 Postcode:
 Telephone:
 Email:

I wish to donate

Please tick one **per month** **quarter** **year**

to the Parish Giving Scheme Registered Charity Number: 1156606

Starting on the 1st* of..... (month)..... (year)

* Please allow one month from today

NB: Only you can cancel your existing Standing Order

I wish to remain anonymous to my parish's
 Planned Giving Representative -please carefully read
 'How will our parish be notified of my donation?' on info sheet

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Name and full postal address of your Bank/Building Society

To: The Manager Bank/Building Society
 Address:
 Postcode:

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Branch Sort Code

Bank / Building Society account number

Please complete this page and send it to: **Parish Giving Scheme, 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester, GL1 3BD**

Gift Form

I wish to give a regular donation for my church

Please tick to confirm you have read and understood the PGS information sheet pages 1 and 2, including the Frequently Asked Questions.

I wish my donation to be used solely for the benefit of:

Church / Parish name **ST PETER & ST PAUL**
 PGS Parish code **270627769**
 In the village / town / city of **OLNEY**
 In the Diocese of **OXFORD**

I wish to support my parish in the future by agreeing to an annual inflationary increase on my gift.

Please tick **Yes**

I understand that the new amount will be communicated to me by letter 30 days prior to the gift donation date. I have the right to opt out of this arrangement at any point in the future by communicating my wishes by letter, email or phone to the Parish Giving Scheme.

I wish to Gift Aid my donation

Gift Aid makes every £1 worth £1.25 *giftaid it*

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of my first gift on this declaration and in the future. I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less income Tax and/ or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p for every £1 that I give.

Signature

Title:



Service User Number

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Donor reference number (to be completed by PGS office)

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Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Parish Giving Scheme Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Parish Giving Scheme and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank / Building Society.

Signature(s)
 Date

CUT HERE

This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer

The Direct Debit Guarantee



- ✓ This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- ✓ If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit PGS will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request PGS to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- ✓ If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by PGS or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- ✓ If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when PGS asks you to.
- ✓ You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.