

Funerals. None.

There will be a private Memorial Service for Gladys Johnson on 17th September.

Rector's letter. We are starting a season of new things. My thoughts and prayers are especially with those who are beginning at university, new schools and in new classes this academic year. We in the Church are also finding our feet in new ways such as worshipping God on line and worshipping God in our church building. Last Sunday I spoke on some advice I found for those starting new things in education and how that advice could be helpfully adapted for us in our Christian lives.

Children getting ready for the new academic year and possibly starting at new schools need to get ready for new ways of doing things, new rules, wearing different clothes, sorting out their pencil cases, maybe buying new lunch boxes, getting ready for things like going to a new dining room or possibly having their school lunch brought to them in their classroom. Advice from one source encourages students to be confident, smile (it makes you more approachable) and be honest about who you are and what your abilities are. Adapting that advice for us in the Church:

"Christians can be confident as followers of Jesus: He has done everything for His followers, He has proven His love for us, we can follow Him with our heads held high and we can trust Him to always be there for us and ready to help us".

With regard to smiling, we cannot always be happy in our everyday lives as things come our way that are painful and difficult to cope with. However, we can always 'smile on the inside' when we remember how greatly we are loved by Jesus. Even if we are unable to smile on the outside we can always have an 'inner smile' which is the result of the joy of knowing that Jesus took up His cross for our sakes. We can 'smile inwardly' - or perhaps another way of saying that is we can be at peace inside because we know that we are loved, forgiven and cared for by God. Being at peace because we know God's love for us may well be noticed by those around us and it can bring peace to them too.

Children (in the advice I read) are encouraged to be honest as they start in a new place; Christians should be the same. It is OK as a Christian to not know all the answers, it is OK to have good days and bad days and it is normal to have ups and downs. Followers of Jesus don't need to be the best at everything in life. We all have different gifts and personalities and God loves us just as we are. If we are not good at one thing we will have abilities elsewhere. That is good news because it means that we don't have to 'keep up with the Joneses' in every area that they are good at. In life, we can be settled and at peace because of the truth that God loves us just the way we are. We don't have to prove how great we are to God or to anyone else because Jesus has already proved how great He is and shown us that He loves us.

Stay safe and God bless! *Andrew+*



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 6th September 2020

Today – 13th Sunday after Trinity



Welcome and notices

Reading: *Ezekiel 33: 7-11*

Gospel: *Matthew 18: 15-20*

Wed 9th: *1 Corinthians 7: 25-31*
Luke 6: 20-26

Collect: Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Intersessions: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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, Keith, Cyril, Rene Tourle, Pat Major, Helen, Gail, Martin, Hannah, Rena Partridge, Phill Stocking, Rosemary, Michael Seabrook and Eliza*

We pray for the souls of the recently departed and their families. *Russell.*

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

Eucharistic Prayer.

Prayer: God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

Some material included is

© The Archbishops' Council 2002



Contact Details

Email office@olney.church or telephone 01234 241721.

Dear All

To help keep everyone informed, we will, for the next few months, combine the Weekly sheet with the Monthly sheet. So, each month starting in September, there will be a letter from Andrew P-K, a calendar of events, latest and relevant guidance as it becomes available, our services, our plans, PCC news and your news.

New Verger. Now that Gill and Ken have retired after 23 years, we are looking to recruit a new verger(s). We have prepared a full specification for the job, which is available on request. The verger(s) looks after the funerals, weddings and special services in church. For this there is a small remuneration. Gill and Ken have found it interesting and sometimes challenging, but have had lots of lovely experiences over the years. Please get in touch with the church office or Susan (susan.bailey@olney.church) if you are interested.

Donating to Ride and Stride. As you may know, Alasdair and I have a just giving page (see below). However, a few people have indicated they would like to give cash or a cheque. If you would like to do this there will be a bucket available at the church on the 12th. There will also be a Ride and Stride Bucket out next Sunday and on 13th Sept to collect any cash or cheque donations. Cheques should be made out to **Bucks Historic Churches Trust** or go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/susanjanebailey>.

Andrew is also taking part and says: *"I am very excited that Susan and Alasdair are taking part in the Ride and Stride this year; please do support them if you can. I am also taking part but asking friends and contacts from further afield to support me as I want local folk to encourage Susan and Alasdair. Please however, do pray for all who are walking and riding for this good cause; a sunny day would be nice. Thank you and God Bless, Andrew+."*

Hymns from Richard. For the 6th September Richard has chosen: 'Soldiers of Christ, arise' (Epistle) and 'As we are gathered, Jesus is here' (Gospel). However last week we were unable to include the chosen hymns for 30th August. Which were 'At the name of Jesus' and a personal favourite of mine and my late sister's 'Brother, sister let me serve you'. So I have also included this week, link is https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_ufwqwquqY.

All the words of this hymn are very meaningful, but particularly as we try and make sense of Covid and all it has meant in our lives: *"We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load. I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you; I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through"*.
God Bless, Susan Bailey Churchwarden

Food Bank. Kate Nicholas has been thinking through ways to start collecting for the foodbank again in a safe fashion. Kate is happy to drive round to your house and you can put donations into the open boot of her car. She will then deliver safely to the MK Food Bank using PPE. If anyone has donations call Kate on 0777 900 6580 and she will arrange safe pick up. The food bank box will also be available in church.

Update and round up of news from Standing Committee and PCC.

1. David is working with DAC to finalise the plans for the John Newton Themed Area.
2. David is putting together a proposal for the upgrades and additions to our security system.
3. A dance group has used the Church Hall over the Summer helping us to raise much needed income.
4. From 7th September until further notice, the sole users of the Church Hall will be the Nursery.
5. No church groups will be meeting together in the Church or Church Hall at this time.
6. Currently we are posting 21 hard copies and 130 email copies of the weekly sheet. If you receive a hard copy and can rather receive an email copy, please let the church office know.
7. Susan and Megi have now completed the "Spring Clean". Megi's husband Hristo (Chris) will take over her role in September.
8. The PCC has had good feedback from the congregation on the services we have been providing since 26th July. Hundreds of people have now attended.
9. Review of services and plans for September are finalised and summarised in the weekly sheet and on our Noticeboards.
10. Katie, Richard and members of the choir are compiling "Olney Hymns" for future services.
11. Thoughts for the Day, sermons and other interesting information is still being uploaded to our website (<http://olney.church>).

Charity applications. Applications for charity tithing are now open. Details are attached to the electronic weekly sheet or are available via email from the church office. Applications close 1st November.

Pattern of Services for September. Throughout September the services will be as follows:

1. Holy Communion every Sunday 10-11am followed by Private Prayer until 11.30am.
2. Morning prayer each Wednesday 9.30-10.30am on Zoom. Call 0203 481 5240 or use the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82504045581?pwd=NWtQWVhUY2pSVllyRFFVTEFLOEZMUT09#success>
3. Private prayer in church. **12-1 only** Wednesdays.
4. Morning prayer by Zoom on Saturdays 10.30 -11. This is currently under review. See our website for the link. (<http://olney.church>)

Reminder of rules for church attendance.

1. To attend a Sunday service you must book a place via the church office. Please email office@olney.church or telephone 01234 241721.
2. Face coverings must be worn.
3. No church Bibles to be used; please bring your own if you wish to use one.
4. Hand sanitiser (available in church) must be used upon entry and departure.
5. Social distancing of 2m must be observed between individuals/family bubbles.