

**Funerals.** None

**Rector's letter.** The children have all started their new year back in their schools and autumn is definitely now with us. So what events do we have coming up in October? On Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> we have Bible Sunday, a day to reflect on how God speaks to us through His written word and how fortunate we are in this country to have unrestricted access to the Bible. On the 11<sup>th</sup> we have Harvest Thanksgiving; a day to thank God for His goodness and provision for us all. Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> is the feast of St. Luke when we remember the doctor who wrote one of the Gospels and the book of Acts. At the end of the month we have half-term ending with "All Saints' Evening" (Halloween). Then Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of November is All Saints in the morning followed by a virtual service in the evening (All Souls) when we remember loved ones who are no longer physically with us but who will always live on in our hearts.

Putting together a thought from each of these events it reminds me that:

- God loves us and speaks to us
- God provides for us and blesses us
- God has made Himself known to us and calls us to tell others about Him
- God has given us the Saints as examples of how we can live for Him and serve Him
- and God loves those whom we love

Details of all our services will be in the weekly sheets. I am sorry that we still cannot all meet face to face but grateful for computers and phones that allow us to keep in touch. Stay safe and God bless! *Andrew+*

**Introducing Walk through Church Mice and SDSC.** We are thrilled to be able to announce the return of Church Mice, albeit in a rather different format to our usual mornings together. The Church will be open every Thursday between 10.30am and 11.30am for a 15 minute 'walk through'. You and your little ones will have the chance to listen to some of your favourite songs, hear a Bible story, see some familiar faces and pick up a craft pack to take home with you. As we can't sing yet in Church we have put some of our Church Mice songs on our website for you to enjoy at home (a big thank you to Jonathan Heron and the choir members who helped us with this).

And, of course, we are longing and praying for a return to normal when we can welcome you into Church to play, linger over coffee and cakes, share homemade soup and enjoy learning more about our God who loves and cares for us. Looking forward to seeing you on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October (and many Thursdays after!)

You might be asking what is SDSC? *Socially Distanced Sunday Club* of course!

Starting on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 10 to 10.45am in The Church Hall, with crafts, challenges, music and fun. We will all have separate family tables and we will need to follow care rules to keep us all safe (so we will be asking everyone over 11 years to wear a face covering and we will be taking contact details). Parents are very welcome to stay for the session. I look forward to seeing you all. *Susan Heron.*

Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney



**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020**  
**Today – Bible Sunday**  
**Weekly and Monthly sheet for**  
**October**



#### **Welcome and notices**

**Reading:** *Nehemiah 8: 1-4a*

**Gospel:** *Matthew 24: 30-35*

**Wed 7<sup>th</sup>:** *Galatians 2: 1,2, 7-14*  
*Luke 11: 1-4*

**Collect:** Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through 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.

#### **Intercessions:**

*On the 25<sup>th</sup> September Police Sergeant Matiu Ratana was shot and killed whilst on duty at Croydon Custody Centre. This week we remember him and his family in our prayers.*

We thank Jesus for all that He did for us on the cross to enable us to be adopted into God's family. Lord God, through your grace we are your people through your Son you have redeemed us; in your Spirit you have made us your own.

We pray for ourselves in Olney: Make our hearts responsive to your love.

We pray for Your world: That the leaders of the nations would speak and rule in such ways as honour and respect You. Amen.

#### **We pray blessing and healing for those who are sick:**

*Toby O'Grady, Kevin, Keith, Cyril, Rene Tourle, Pat Major, Gail, Martin, Hannah, Rena Partridge, Phill Stocking, Rosemary, Eliza, Bar, Georgina, Philip Ramos, Michael Seabrook and Debbie.*

**We remember the recently departed and pray for comfort for their families and friends. Helen Dilley**  
**We remember and give thanks for those whose**  
**Yearsmind is now. Amen.**

#### **Eucharistic Prayer:**

**Prayer:** Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Listening Ear: Please email [prayer@olney.church](mailto:prayer@olney.church) for prayers.

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**Christian Aid.** This Autumn Christian Aid are asking us to set up e-offerings to raise funds for the poorest communities around the globe. Love never fails. In times of crisis, love unites us all. Communities living in poverty face crisis every day. Communities that do not have access to healthcare, clean water, nutritious food or a safe place to call home. With your support, vulnerable communities are joining forces with their neighbours to overcome crisis together. Just like Angela's farming community in Nicaragua whose coffee farms are threatened by climate change. With your support, they are coming together to share tools and knowledge. United, this community can make the urgent changes needed to help their family farms last for generations so their children can thrive. Please consider giving a donation so that we can show love to our neighbours and help them to come together to overcome a crisis. The current pandemic has had an effect on fundraising and so your support is very much appreciated. Donations can be made online at <https://e-offering.christianaid.org.uk/e-offering/eyJlb2ZmZXJpbmciOjI5MDYwLCAiY2hhbm5lbCI6ImNvcHkifQ>. A 30 minute service linked to this appeal can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVazn9y4en4&feature=youtu.be>. The sermon is particularly inspiring so please have a look.

**APCM.** The formal notice of APCM will go onto the noticeboard this week. It will be at 11am on 18<sup>th</sup> October. As there will also be a church service preceding this, you will need to book for either or both, so when you call or email please state 10am 11am or both. There are 4 vacancies on the PCC and the Deanery Synod members will need to be re-elected for a further 3 years. There is also a need for another warden, but subject to a resolution being passed at the APCM then Susan Bailey could continue. *Standing Committee.*

**All Souls.** This year the All Souls service will be a virtual one. It will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 6.30pm and can be accessed via Zoom. If you wish to have a loved one remembered, please contact the Church Office in the usual way. The Zoom log in details are shown below: visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83544332321> or go to Zoom and enter the meeting ID (835 4433 2321) or dial in from a landline by calling 0203 901 7895.

**Building Teams and support mechanisms.** There are now vacancies on Parochial Church Council (PCC), Deanery Synod and for the Verger's post. As wardens and supported by the rest of the Standing Committee, we have worked tirelessly all year, but especially since 15<sup>th</sup> March to maintain services, buildings and ongoing projects. Our Standing Committee have met by Zoom every Tuesday at 8pm for 28 weeks and we have issued minutes and matters for approval to the PCC. Our emailed or posted weekly sheet has run for 29 weeks and as requested will continue in this format indefinitely. However we do need a little help and here are a few areas, where this help would be very advantageous to our committees and our church...

**Vergers team:** to enable us to continue to support weddings, funerals and special services, could you help to form a trained team of people, who can pair up to support these events? Until a new verger is appointed the pair will receive a small fee for each service.

**Fabric Committee:** do you have an engineering or project management background? Could you work with our small team to handle all things fabric related, from spires to sewerage, pews to pumps, heating to hatches, lighting to lofts, walls to water? It is interesting work.

**Grant Applications:** Are you good at form filling and spotting suitable grants? We have a small grant coming from the Cop for the Welcome Area and have had an Archdeacons grant for the young people. However, there are larger grants to be had that would support the work we have to do on the spire and church building in the future. Can you help?

**The little things that make a big difference:** Would you like to care for the linen (altar clothes, corporals, drying clothes), fill the candles, be available to work with maintenance contractors when needed, manage the sound system during services, act as a sides person, or a reader? Have a little think and please come forward if you can help in anyway. Thank you for your support. *David and Susan, Church Wardens*

**Test and Trace.** The government this week launched its Test and Trace Programme. Basically, it requires you to download an application (App) *NHS Covid 19* on your smart phone. This link explains how it works:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>.

The privacy notice is particularly easy to read and understand. It takes you step by step through the basics.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/920962/NHS\\_COVID-19\\_app\\_privacy\\_information\\_easy\\_read.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/920962/NHS_COVID-19_app_privacy_information_easy_read.pdf).

You can check in to a venue by scanning a QR code like the one on the Church and Church Hall doors. This is an example of a QR Code:



By taking your name and telephone number every week, we will be able to inform you if anyone in church has tested positive. By using the App we can keep everyone better informed and ready to act. There is an attachment to show how it looks on a smart phone,

**Hymns.** 'How deep the Father's love' (Epistle) and 'My song is love unknown' (Gospel) - here sung by Kings College Choir Cambridge.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMart4wXsl0>.

#### Services for October

- 4<sup>th</sup> October:** 10-11am Holy Communion
- 11<sup>th</sup> October:** 8.30-9.30am Harvest Holy Communion  
10-11am Harvest Together service
- 18<sup>th</sup> October:** 10-11am Holy Communion  
11am APCM
- 25<sup>th</sup> October:** 10-11am Holy Communion
- 1<sup>st</sup> November:** 10-11am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Virtual All Souls service

Private Prayer continues 12-1 on Wednesdays in church.

**Harvest.** For the Harvest Together Service we will be donating dry and non-perishable goods, including toiletries, to *Olney is Kind*. There will be collection boxes available in church on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October.