



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020**

**All Saints**

**Weekly and Monthly Sheet**



### Welcome and notices

**Reading:** Revelation 7: 9-end

**Gospel:** Matthew 5: 1-12

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup>:** Philippians 2: 12-18

Luke 14: 25-33

**Collect:** God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age: as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Intercessions:** This Sunday we celebrate All Saints: United in the company of all the faithful and looking for the coming of God's Kingdom, let us offer our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness. Merciful Lord, strengthen all Christian people by your Holy Spirit, that we may live as Your royal priesthood and Your holy nation to the praise of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Bless Stephen and Alan our bishops and all ministers of Your Church, that by faithful proclamation of Your word we may be built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets into a holy temple in the Lord. Empower us by the gift of your holy and life-giving Spirit, that like all the Saints we may be transformed into the likeness of Christ from glory to glory. Give to the world and its peoples the peace that comes from above, that all may find Christ's way of freedom and life. 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, Eliza, Bar, Georgina, Philip Ramos, Michael Seabrook, Debbie and Coralie.

### We remember the recently departed and pray for comfort for their families and friends.

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

### Eucharistic Prayer:

**Prayer:** God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Some material included is

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### Social Media reminders:

Web site: <http://olney.church>

Twitter (new!): @olneychurch

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stpeterandstpaulchurcholney/>

Zoom services and online resources: <http://olney.church>

**Funerals.** None.

### Rector's Letter

Dear Family

I am writing before the half-term begins and it is always strange to write letters to you in advance. In these days you never know what changes a week, a day, or even hours may bring. Of course November starts with All Saints and All Souls. It is a time to remember that we are adopted into God's family and forgiven and cleansed by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Then on the 8th we have Remembrance Sunday; Holy Communion at 8.30am and 'Remembering Together' at 10am. During both of these services we will have a silence to remember those who have given their lives for our peace and security and to also remember those who live with the scars of conflict today. The 22nd is when we think of Jesus who is Christ the King and the 29th is the first Sunday of Advent. Let me give you a heads up about December. As we are beginning to have an 8.30am Holy Communion and a 10am themed 'Everyone Together' on the second Sunday of the month; on 13th December we will have an 8.30 Holy Communion and a 10am 'Advent Together'. In the Advent Together service we will think about the Patriarchs, Prophets, John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary all in one service; a really good preparation for Christmas. Do look out for more news about our Christmas Tree Festival, Christingle and other services. Decisions about some of these will be made in the next few weeks. So much change and all too quickly; it is wonderful that God and His love for us are constant. In Hebrews we read: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever". Stay safe and God bless! Andrew+

**All Souls.** Our traditional All Souls Service of Thanksgiving. This year we will have to hold the service virtually via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83544332321> or dial into 0203 901 7895. We will remember all the loved ones of our parish who are no longer physically with us as well as their family and friends, when we will say prayers and light candles at **6.30pm on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November**. You may like to light a candle at home, thank God for your loved ones and use this prayer: "God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy; You turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life. Hear us, O merciful Father, as we remember in love those whom we have placed in Your hands. (And say the name(s) of those whom you are remembering) Loving God, Give to us and to all whom You love Your comfort and peace, Your light and Your blessing, in this world and the next. We ask this in the Name of God, Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit, Amen".

**Would you like to read and explore the Bible more but find your time is limited?** The New Daylight, published by the Bible Reading Fellowship, needs only a few minutes of attention and can be a good way to start the day. Each booklet provides four months of daily Bible readings with comments, short prayers and thoughts to reflect on. If you would like to know more please contact Enid on 07836 240074.

**Hymns for All Saints.** 'Who are these like stars appearing...?' (Revelation) and 'For all the saints who from their labours rest' (Gospel). In addition, Janet is preaching and has asked us to find a version of "I sing a song of the saints of God." Here is a version which one commenter said is "radiant with energy and faith": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFo9hI-zfmg>. Or to bring a smile to your face and a warm glow, try this one sung by the children. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uhjz4lyYSsU>

**Helen Dilley.** Our church family was saddened to learn that dear Helen had passed away on 2nd October. On Tuesday 20th October, we celebrated Helen's life with an intimate and meaningful service lead by Andrew and enriched by a wonderful rendition by Andrea Bocelli of Amazing Grace, so clear he could have been in the church. Helen had shared 54 years of happy marriage with Graham, after meeting him on a blind date and whilst studying Mathematics with the History and Philosophy of Science, at Leeds University. They had two children, Julia and Richard. Helen used her talents to train as a College lecturer and also played bridge with skill and passion. She had a great love of dogs and we welcomed Penny (Richard's Rescued German Shepherd) to the service. Helen was a wise, caring and supportive wife, mother and friend. She loved Concorde, Crackers and serving great and generous meals. She had a talent for golf, sewing, and bell ringing; she volunteered at Cowper Museum, was a trustee there, treasurer for the Olney Bells Appeal and, until recently, counted and banked our weekly collections. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Now at peace...

**Knitty Stitchers** Annie has collected all the wool from church to sort and will be in contact with you talented knitters in the near future. We are always looking at ways to accommodate our church groups in this pandemic, but it will probably be Springtime before many of you are ready to meet up again. In a few weeks, we will be circulating pictures of the Knitty Stitchers stock, as there may be just the right gift or item for yourself, which you could purchase. We can then arrange safe pickup and payment. There are lots of woolly hats, fingerless gloves, mitts and soft toys. This leads neatly into the next article, which you may be supporting and need a knitted item for:

**Operation Christmas 2020.** Olney Baptist Church has been a drop-off centre for filled shoeboxes of Christmas gifts for needy children around the world for many years. This year they will not be sending out paper leaflets and so we are supporting them by summarising their appeal and attaching the official OCC leaflet, with details of how to take part this year. Boxes can be taken to Olney Baptist Church, Market Place, via **side entrance door** on Saturday, 14th or Sunday 15th November 2020 between 10.00-12.00 or 3.00-5.00 pm

**Ride and Stride.** Gill Parker and I have now finished adding up the donations for our Ride and Stride event in September. We thank Alasdair and Andrew P-K for taking part too. Between us, and with Gift Aid, we are delighted to announce that we have reached over £1300, 50% for ourselves and 50% for Historic Churches Trust. Thank you to you all for your support and encouragement *Susan Bailey Churchwarden*

**Christian Aid Reflection** Malcolm Jones has asked me to pass on this piece from Kerry McMahon Legacy and In Memory giving team at Christian Aid: "*We've all been through enormous change and loss during the coronavirus pandemic, especially those of us who have lost a loved one. This year we warmly welcome you to join us on Wednesday 4 November at 5:30pm, in a moment of reflection, which will be held entirely online. This special service of reflection is a time to come together in our grief, in what has been a difficult year and to remember as well as celebrate those we love, who are no longer here. It is also a chance for those experiencing a more general sense of loss to*

*carve out time to acknowledge and reflect upon these feelings. The service will be introduced by Amanda Mukwashi, our Chief Executive, and include a sermon from Dr Rowan Williams. It will give time and space for personal reflection, and there will be a moment in the service to light a candle at home. If you would like to see the name of your loved one on the screen during a moment of reflection within the service, we can arrange that. Just email to legacyteam@christian-aid.org. The service of reflection is open to all."*

**Christmas Day lunch.** It is with great sadness that we are currently not able to get together for our usual Christmas Day lunch. Last year it was hosted by Clifton Court and with residents and some of our usual attendees, we had just over 40 sit down for lunch. This year Ashley and I will be doing all the cooking here at home and, with delivery drivers, we will be able to deliver lunches to you. Please contact Pat on 07811 492137 to arrange for an order form or she will talk you through this with you. If you can donate anything towards the lunch these will be gratefully received. *Pat and Ashley Pankhurst*

**Olney is Kind (OIK).** There are already requests for help with food parcels and presents at Christmas for families in need. Present age ranges for children are boys age 2, 3, 7, 9 and 14 and girls 2, 4 and 10. If anyone is able to just donate one thing that would be amazing. I can either socially distance collect or just ring me on 07811492137 to arrange to drop off. It's a difficult time for some families and OIK is their lifeline at present. *Pat Pankhurst*

**Update & round up of news from Standing Committee & PCC.**

1. David has picked up the Tryptic from Cornwall in readiness for John Newton Themed Area, for which we are awaiting a Faculty. Meanwhile he is entertained by it in his dining room!
2. Some church groups that have been risk assessed have been allowed to meet in the Church or Church Hall.
3. We have managed to provide facilities for additional services with 8.30am Communions and 10am Harvest together.
4. Church opens for private prayer every Wednesday 12-1pm.

**November Services** **1st November.** 10am Holy Communion and 6.30pm All Souls by Zoom (not in church). Zoom opens 6pm

**8th November** 8.30am Holy Communion and

10am Remembering Together

**15th November** 10am Holy Communion

**22nd November** 10am Holy Communion

**29th November** 10am Holy Communion 4pm Christingle

**Christingle.** On 29th November at 4pm we are holding a candlelit Christingle service. Families will be encouraged to arrive between 4pm and 5pm for a 20 minute 'walk-through'. They will move round the church in their bubbles to six stations positioned up and down the side aisles. At each station, manned by members of the Fun@Four team, they will be given, and then make a component of, their Christingle whilst considering the gifts given us by God through Jesus his son. As they leave through the South door they will light the candles and receive a blessing. We hope that whilst different, it will be special for all who attend. *Fenella Pritchard and Susan Heron*

**Olney's Walk-through Christmas Tree Festival** at St Peter and St Paul Church, Olney, with free entry. We are planning, rules permitting, to hold a socially distanced, one-way walk-through Christmas tree Festival this year! You will be able to wander through the sparkly trees, pause at 2m+ viewing points, say a prayer if you like, bring along a gift tag for our Memory Tree, soak up some Christmas atmosphere. We would love families to make 2D trees, any size, to decorate the walls of the Church. If you would like to display a tree of your own (we do have some that just need decorating) please contact us :

[OlneyChristmasTreeFestival@Olney.Church](mailto:OlneyChristmasTreeFestival@Olney.Church). Look forward to seeing you. *Susan Heron*