



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 15th November 2020

2nd Sunday Before Advent
(Church Closed)



Welcome and notices

Reading: Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18

Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30

Wed 18th: Revelation 4
Luke 19: 11-28

Collect: Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions: On November 4th our Archbishops wrote a letter calling upon the Church of England to make November 2020 a month of prayer for our nation. They asked us to remember that we are in the faithful hands of the risen Christ who knows our weaknesses, tiredness and struggles - His steadfast love endures forever. Justin and Stephen have asked every church to join with them in prayer each day at 6pm. There are simple resources available on the Church of England website and social media channels and below are some prayers we may choose to pray. The Archbishops encourage us to pray, be calm, be courageous and to be compassionate as we all face the challenges that are set before us. Loving God, at this time of crisis when so many are suffering, we pray for our nation and our world. Give our leaders wisdom, our Health Service strength and our people hope. Lead us through these parched and difficult days to the fresh springs of joy and comfort that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord. Loving Father God, be with us in our distress; be with our families, friends, and neighbours, our country and our world. Give health to the sick, hope to the fearful, and comfort to those that mourn. Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers, insight to our Government, and patience to us all. Overcome disease with the power of your new life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Dear God, we are grateful for all that you give to us: for homes, clothing, food, fresh water, each other and our health. We pray for those who lack these things that we enjoy. Increase in us our thankfulness to You and give us opportunities to share your gifts with others. We lift before you our town and country and pray you would protect us, encourage us and keep us. **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, Michael Seabrook, Debbie and Lorraine.*

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

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

Eucharistic Prayer:

Prayer: Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

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

Some material included is

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Advent course 2020: Comfort and Joy. Update with materials being shared next week. Some well-known carols to think about in Advent. Four sessions which might take you an hour to do at home. No online sessions and phone contact only if you want it. Let Katie in the office know you want to take part and I will let you have the material by email or delivery. It begins on 25th November and you can make it last over four weeks. It would be good to know some of us are doing this together at home. *Janet Lawrence*

Christmas Lunch. Pat and Ashley will be cooking and delivering Christmas lunches to those in need over Christmas. Please contact Pat on 07811 492137 to arrange for an order form or she will talk you through this over the phone. If you can donate anything towards the lunches these will be gratefully received; contact Pat for details on how to donate. *Pat and Ashley Pankhurst*

Leprosy Mission. Ruth continues to collect old and used postage stamps. Please put stamps in an envelope labelled RUTH and post in Church or Church Hall letterboxes.

Knitty Stitches. There are still items available to buy from our own Knitty Stitches. Please contact the church office if there is anything you wish to buy – there are plenty of items which would make lovely Christmas presents. See last week's supplementary sheet for further details.

Remembrance Sunday. Last Sunday a short service took place in the Market Place. Our Rector, Andrew, and Andrew and Lisa Geary are featured. Here is the link if you missed it: <https://fb.watch/1HudtZFX0I/>. On 11 November for Armistice Day they were at The Rose, a little known Milton Keynes memorial space <http://miltonkeynesrose.org.uk/>. It is described as "A place for Celebration, Commemoration and Contemplation" and designed by Gordon Young "The Milton Keynes Rose is a vast and impressive open-air circle with markings based on the mathematical beauty of a flower. 106 granite pillars of varying heights emerge from the surface, many of which are inscribed with dates of events that have local, national or international significance." Worth a visit.

Church website. Don't forget that the church website (<http://olney.church>) doesn't just have links to daily thoughts, prayers and sermons. You are able to access practical support as well as finding people to talk to through our Phone Buddy system. There's also a section highlighting television and radio programmes that you may enjoy which is especially useful now the weather isn't as nice. Our church family is still here for you so please let us know if you need any support or just the chance to hear a friendly voice!

News. If you have any news to share please let the office know so we can share it in the Weekly Sheet. It's important to keep in touch with each other during these difficult times.

This week's hymns. 15th: 'Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart' (Epistle) and 'Lord Jesus, think on me' (Gospel); A gentle version of "Be thou my vision" to sing along to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CMclLT_Hjg

Update - Operation Christmas Child boxes will now have to be dropped off **12/13 December** due to lockdown.

Keep Safe. *Katie, Office Administrator (and newest member of the PCC...welcome Katie) and Susan Bailey, Churchwarden*

Social Media reminders: Twitter (new!) @olneychurch

Office: office@olney.church Phone **01234 241721**

Facebook:

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