



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
(Church Closed)



**Welcome and notices**

**Reading:** Isaiah 64:1-9

**Gospel:** Mark 13: 24-end

**Wed 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Isaiah 25: 6-10a  
Matthew 15: 29-37

**Collect:** Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Intercessions:** Happy New Year! Our Christian New Year starts on the first Sunday of Advent which is this Sunday. The word advent comes from the Latin, *adventus*, a translation from the Greek *parousia*, translated into the English words 'coming' or 'presence'. It is a time of waiting to celebrate the first coming of the Lord Jesus as a baby in the manger and a time to look forward to the Second Coming of Christ. Today, the season of Advent serves as a reminder of both Old Testament Jews waiting for the coming Messiah, and Christians waiting for the returning Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Traditionally, it is a season with a prayer emphasis: prayers of commitment, prayers of rededication, prayers of supplication, and intercessory prayers for salvation and deliverance. Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer. Let us pray that God may bring in His kingdom with justice and mercy. That God may establish among the nations His sceptre of righteousness. That we all may seek Christ in the scriptures and recognize Him in the breaking of the bread. That God may bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen. That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death. That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world. Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from Your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **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 Year's mind is now. Amen.**

**Eucharistic Prayer:**

**Prayer:** O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; 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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**Funerals.** None.

**Church re-opening.** When lockdown ends on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December Milton Keynes (and therefore Olney) will be in Tier 2. This means the church is allowed to re-open for worship, with our first service being Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 10am. It will still be necessary to book your attendance and leave your contact details for Track and Trace purposes as before. Places will need to be booked by 5pm on the Friday before the service to ensure there is time to allocate seating safely. Contact [office@olney.church](mailto:office@olney.church) or phone 01234 241721

**Advent.** Many of us are enjoying the Advent Course, 'Comfort and Joy' run by Janet. This week Janet shares Thoughts for Advent. Make time for enjoying the readings and hymns with God. You will need a Bible and a hymn or carol book if you have one. *Luke 2:1-* Luke puts the birth of Jesus right in its historical context. Do we have such autocratic leaders today? Was God using Caesar Augustus and his decree? "God rest you merry, gentlemen": a traditional Christmas carol probably from the 16/17 century. Note where the comma comes in the first line: What would your translation of that line be? Satan is mentioned twice in the hymn. Jesus won the war against evil but there are still battles to be fought. We cannot at the moment embrace each other - what can we do? *Luke 2:8-14* Fields are not the neat ones of the UK, but a whole area of scrubby hillside above Bethlehem, with rough sheep pens for protection from wild animal and robbers. So think of the angels' glory dominating the whole valley. "Do not be afraid" - where else does this greeting come? *Genesis 15:1, Exodus 14:13, Joshua 8:1, Dan 10:12, Luke 1:13, 1:30.* The angel's song comes also in *Revelation 7:12* and we use it in our liturgy in the Gloria. *Janet*

**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 a lunch or donate.

**Oxford Diocese Services.** Every week you can download the service and the order of service. For those without computers ring 01865 920930 and once connected dial 0 for the full version of the service, or dial 1 a short version of the service. Standard call rates apply. There will be a few seconds of silence before the service starts. Website is <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/>

**This week's hymns.** 'Lo, he comes with clouds descending' and 'The Lord will come and not be slow' (both to go with the Gospel). Not a hymn I was familiar with but the tune is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=saaHPgmps-g> © Susan

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

Keep safe and keep in touch, *Katie, Office Administrator and Susan Bailey, Churchwarden*

**Social Media reminders: Twitter (new!) @olneychurch**

**Facebook:**

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