



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 13th December 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent



Welcome and notices

Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Wed 16th : Isaiah 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-end
Luke 7: 18b-23

Collect: God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: Give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions: Christmas is ever nearer, and our time of celebrating the first coming of the 'Christ-child' is now not far away. So too, the second coming of the 'risen Christ' is one day closer every day. So with reverence and confidence we can pray: Watchful at all times, we pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer when He returns.

We pray that God may bring in His kingdom of justice and mercy. We pray that God may establish among the nations His sceptre of righteousness. We ask for God's grace that we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize Him in the breaking of the bread.

We pray that God may bind up the broken hearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen. We ask that the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

We pray that, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world and we commend the world, which Christ will judge, to the mercy and protection of God. 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: *Christopher Mann, Brenda Chennells and Pat Aitken*

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

Eucharistic Prayer:

Prayer: We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

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

Some material included is
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Funerals. Christopher Mann, 15th December. Private event.
Patricia Aitken, 23rd December. Private event.

Christmas Services. Sadly, this year our Christmas will not be as we are used to, however the Ministry Team and Standing Committee have worked hard to ensure we can worship together in some form.

This year our Christmas services will be as follows:
24th December 4pm Christmas Eve Nativity Trail
24th December 6.30pm Holy Communion for Christmas Eve
25th December 10am Christmas Day Holy Communion

Going into the New Year:
27th December 10am Holy Communion
3rd January 10am Holy Communion

Places will need to be booked in the usual way. We ask that you choose **either the Christmas Eve OR Christmas Day** service so that as many of us as possible can be accommodated safely. Bookings for services between 24th and 27th December will be limited to 6 people per bubble to allow us to accommodate as many people as possible. Please can all bookings for services up to the 3rd January be made by the **21st December** to allow the Wardens to allocate seats.

We will also have a recorded service featuring Reverend Andrew, the Ministry Team, church members and the choir available from midnight on Christmas Eve. This will be on the church website (<http://olney.church>).

In next week's sheet we will have a list of where you can find services on the television, radio and online so that you worship from home and celebrate this special time.

Nativity Trail. Join us to experience the Christmas story in a new way. Walk from Church Street, through the church yard and then into our beautiful candle-lit church, visiting scenes from the Christmas story depicted by live actors. Follow the star, listen to the angels, meet the shepherds, come face to face with the wise men and finally visit the baby Jesus.

As they start the trail children will be given a small craft gift that they add to at each scene, enabling them to take home a reminder of this miracle-filled story.

Book your preferred starting time by contacting Katie at office@olney.church or by calling 01234 241721. Slots are available between 4pm and 5pm, with each slot being 10 minutes long.

Our hymns this week are 'On Jordan's bank' (John's Gospel) and 'Tell out, my soul' (the 'Magnificat' from Luke's Gospel).

Office closure. The church office will be closed from 24th December through to the 4th January, apart from for emergency calls and emails.

Please Keep Safe and Keep in Touch, Katie, Office Administrator and Susan Bailey, Churchwarden

Social Media reminders:

Twitter (new!) [@olneychurch](https://twitter.com/olneychurch)

Facebook:

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

Church office: 01234 241721 or office@olney.church