



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 17th January 2021

2nd Sunday of Epiphany
(Church Closed)



Welcome and notices

Reading: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10

Gospel: John 1: 43-end

Wed 20th: Hebrews 7: 1-3, 15-17
Mark 3: 1-6

Collect: Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Response: Draw us closer: **closer to the heart of God.**

Intercessions: The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul – from the day we remember the confession of St. Peter until the day when we remember the conversion of St Paul. These two Apostles were called to bless the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians; God’s love is for everyone!

God of peace, God of love, in You is our hope!

God of life, You have created everyone in Your image and likeness. We praise You for the gift of different cultures and traditions. Help us to honour all the peoples of Your world and grant us the courage to stand against all injustice and prejudice.

Merciful God, You have shown us in Jesus Christ that we are all one in You. Teach us to use this gift of knowledge so that believers of all denominations in every country may be able to value one another, listen to each other and live together in peace.

Lord Jesus, you came into the world and shared fully in our humanity. You know the hardships of life that people suffer in so many different ways. May the Spirit of compassion move us to share our time, gifts and resources with all those in need and to serve one another to Your glory.

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, Rachel Lintern, Peggy Armitage and Lorraine.*

We remember the recently departed and pray for comfort for their families and friends: *Stewart Briggs and Barbara Trinder.*

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

Post Communion Prayer: God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

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Funerals. None

Church closure. We can confirm that, at the standing committee meeting held on Tuesday evening, there was unanimous agreement to continue the current closure of the church for all activities. In coming to this decision, we did take into account the positive news about the reducing number of positive cases in Olney, but against this is the worsening situation nationally and the speed and ease with which the new variant appears to be spreading. In addition, a number of members of the church family and the team that co-ordinate, organise and officiate at our services are shielding and unable to partake. We will continue to monitor the position week by week. *Standing Committee*

New Daylight. 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 is 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. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Plasma Program NHS are leading a programme to collect plasma for transfusion to COVID-19 patients. Plasma from people who've had COVID-19 may save the lives of people who are still ill. If you've had coronavirus, please consider volunteering. More plasma donors are needed to help respond to the increasing need for treatments.

[Plasma programme - COVID-19 research and trials - NHS Blood and Transplant \(nhsbt.nhs.uk\).](https://www.nhs.uk/research-and-trials/plasma-programme-covid-19-research-and-trials)

Reminder: Book Launch and TV series with Kate Nicholas. Please go to Kate’s website to find details of how you can watch and sign up at <https://www.katenicholas.co.uk/>.

Hymns for the week. This week we have 'I, the Lord of sea and sky', to fit the Old Testament reading. Enjoy this gentle version <https://youtu.be/2zr9SMm1gll>. For the Gospel: 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind'.

Prayers and Chalking. As we explained last week, Andrew P-K has chalked our church for the New Year with a blessing “May Christ bless this house”. He has offered to say a special prayer for your family and home, and would be happy to visit you outdoors (with or without chalk!) in the next few weeks. Send your address details and phone number to office@olney.church. If you would like Andrew to call or if you don’t have access to email call 01234 241721 and leave your details.

Evening Prayer service continues. Please get the link from the church website: <http://olney.church/zoom>. You can also phone in by calling 0131 460 1196 and entering the passcode 427368.

Every Wednesday at 9.30am Zoom Morning Prayer. Telephone: 0203 481 5240 and enter the meeting ID: 825 0404 5581# or follow the link at <http://olney.church/zoom>

Take care. *Susan and Katie*

Social Media reminders:

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

Facebook:

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

Church office: 01234 241721 email: office@olney.church