



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 21st February 2021

First Sunday of Lent



Welcome and notices

Reading: Genesis 9: 8-17

Gospel: Mark 1: 9-15

Wed 24th: Jonah 3: All
Luke 11: 29-32

Collect: Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Response: With our God: **all things are possible.**

Intercessions: In penitence and faith let us make our prayer to the Father and ask for His mercy and grace.

We remember all, (over 100,000) who have died from the Covid-19 virus and all their family and friends: Gracious God, as we remember before You the thousands who have died, surround us and all who mourn with Your strong compassion. Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair, and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

We pray for all Your holy people of all denominations that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace; that we would make good and wise choices in our daily lives.

We pray for the leaders of the nations, that You will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth; that they would rule their people as true selfless servants.

We pray for the needy, that they may not be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away. We pray Your blessing on our local foodbanks and those in need of their help.

We pray for those who are taking part in 'Come and see' that they may know Your love and grow in faith; and for those following our Lent course that they may know more of You and Your love for them.

We pray for the sick in body, mind and spirit that they may know your power to heal: **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, Rachel Lintern, Michael Cole and Rebekah Geary.*

We remember the recently departed and pray for comfort for their families and friends: *Bishop Keith Arnold, Dora Crawford and Kathleen Shacklady.*

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

Post Communion Prayer: Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**
Listening Ear.

Please email prayer@olney.church for Prayers

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Funerals. None.

Church re-opening. After careful consideration and the drawing up of a risk assessment document, the Standing Committee and the PCC have voted, by a majority, to re-open the church this Sunday (21st February). To book a place please email office@olney.church or call 01234 241721. As before Katie will need your name, the number in your bubble and your contact telephone number for Track and Trace purposes. Please book by 12pm on the Saturday to give Katie and the Wardens time to check numbers and safely allocate seating within the church. As the country is still in lockdown, we will have to marshal the church more closely and we will adhere strictly to the government guidelines, namely "You can attend places of worship for a service. However, you must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble. You should maintain strict social distancing at all times." The mandatory use of facemasks continues. In addition, at the end of the service, people will be asked to leave when advised by the person performing the marshalling duties. Our aim is to empty the church, starting from the back, pew by pew, and prevent a logjam forming just inside the south door. Please join us. We intend to take the utmost care of you, our church family. *Standing Committee*

Church Mice and Sunday Club. Further guidance will be issued soon on the recommencement of these groups, drawing on government advice, school re-openings, and related factors.

Dora Crawford. A moving and fitting tribute to Dora was held on 15th February on Zoom, sympathetically drawing together a large group of her family and friends.

Reminder of Lent Events:

Lent Course with Janet starts next week on the 24th Feb at 2pm. The theme for the first 2 weeks is Feasting and Fasting.

Come and See. A Zoom chat will take place with Andrew and Fenella to discuss the material issued through Oxford Diocese (<http://oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see>) every Wednesday between 8 and 9pm from 24thFeb through to 31st March, via <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89997157215?pwd=Q0tTbDdHbMlUdzFER2hqVE90a3FLdz09>.

Ash Wednesday. On 17th February at 9.30, 22 attendees joined together on Zoom for this Holy Communion service. From next week there will be a return to our usual Wednesday Morning Prayer at the same time. Call 0203 481 5240 and enter the meeting ID: 825 0404 5581#. We can post a copy of service sheet if needed or follow link to <http://olney.church/zoom>.

Sunday Evening Prayer Service. This will continue on Zoom each Sunday at 6pm. The link is at <http://olney.church/zoom> or call 0203 051 2874 followed by passcode 427368.

Children's craft packs. Every 1st and 3rd Sunday the Sunday Club and Fun@4 team are going to deliver craft packs (along with a yummy treat from Susan H!) for children to enjoy. If you would like one, please email the church office.

This week's hymns. 21st: 'Purify my heart' (Gospel). There is a beautiful and prayerful version to listen to at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKfuZVWr-8I>. Our 2nd hymn this week is 'Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us' (Epistle)

Take care. *Susan and Katie*

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Facebook:

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

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