

**Funerals:** None

**Church booking – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March.** Please let Katie know your name, the number in your bubble and your contact telephone number for Track and Trace purposes, through [office@olney.church](mailto:office@olney.church) or call 01234 241721. Katie is happy to take details until 12 midday on Saturday, ready to compile her list for the duty warden. Please continue to wear the mandatory facemasks and keep taking care. Look out for more news on Easter services in next week's edition

*Susan and David*

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

**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 through to 31st March, via <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89997157215?pwd=Q0tTbDdHbmVUdzFER2hqVE90a3FLdz09>

**Children's activities** Susan Heron has enthusiastically and impressively managed to provide entertaining craft packs, goodies, seasonal treats, Walkthrough Church Mice and Sunday Club, at every opportunity, within the government and Diocesan guidelines over 2020. This offers valuable support to both the youngsters and their parents and we congratulate her and her team for making this possible and for going that extra mile. Providing there are no changes in government policy Susan plans to have a Sunday Club on Mothering Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> and another session on Easter Day 4<sup>th</sup> April both at 10am in the Church Hall. There will be more details next week and as with all church activities, places will need to be booked through the church office, in advance at [office@olney.church](mailto:office@olney.church) or call 01234 241721.

**This week's hymns.** 7th March: 'How deep the Father's love' (Epistle) and 'We love the place, O God' (Gospel),

We love the place, O God,  
wherein thine honour dwells;  
the joy of thine abode  
all earthly joy excels.



A very appropriate hymn for this week. It mentions, the font, the altar, the very presence of being back in our church. Enjoy this version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl9a4Zp-5Tc>

Take care. *Susan and Katie*

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

Facebook:

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



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Third Sunday of Lent**



**Welcome and notices**

**Reading:** Exodus 20: 1-17

**Gospel:** John 2: 13-22

**Wed 10<sup>th</sup>:** Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9  
Matthew 5: 17-19

**Collect:** Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Response:** May we hear you Lord: **and want to obey.**

**Intercessions:** Almighty God, grant that we may know Your love and comfort in these difficult times. Fill us with the hope that only You can give.

Forgiving God, create in each of us a clean heart, a humble heart, a meek heart, a peaceful heart, a benevolent heart and a forgiving heart.

Loving God, You overcome evil with good, help us to not repay anyone evil for evil but to follow Your example and triumph over wrong by doing good.

God our provider, You give so much good to us, fill us with thankful hearts and generous spirits so that we may cheerfully give to others in need.

Almighty King of kings, bless those in authority over us, our Queen, the government, parliament, and all local officials, may they make wise decisions as they lead and serve us.

Merciful God, stretch out Your hand to defend us from all enemies that rise up against us and protect us from all evil.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**We pray blessing and healing for those who are sick:** *Toby O'Grady, Kevin, Cyril, Rene Tourle, Pat Major, Martin, Hannah, Rena Partridge, 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:** *Phill Stocking*

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

**Post Communion Prayer:** Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Listening Ear.** Please email [prayer@olney.church](mailto:prayer@olney.church) for Prayers

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**Rector's letter.** Dear Family, How wonderful it was last weekend to have some sunshine, warmth and light. It definitely lifted the spirits of many to be able to go out in better weather. Also, over the last few days the daffodils have joined the other flowers that were in bloom. There is a sense of a new season for us and new life emerging not only in the creation but also in our lives; as people are vaccinated and pressures are beginning to ease on our heroic NHS and others.

On Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> we celebrate 'Mothering Sunday' and give thanks for our mothers and all those who have nurtured us with a motherly care. On Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> we remember the Annunciation to Mary that she would be the mother of the Lord Jesus – do join us for a 'zoom service' of Holy Communion that day at 9.30am if you are able. Then on Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> it is Palm Sunday. A day to remember that Jesus was willing to go into Jerusalem and that He was prepared to 'give up' His earthly life in order to 'forgive' us our sins and 'give' us eternal life. During Lent some may find it helpful to think of those three words/phrases: 'give up', 'forgive' and 'give'. Many of us have already given up much or had a lot taken away from us during the pandemic so this year perhaps the best focus for us may be to think about the words 'forgive' and 'give'. To forgive means to release someone from a debt; that means that they don't have to pay us back for the wrong they have done to us. We may not easily forget what they have done but we can choose to free them from having to pay to put it right. To 'give' can be to provide for someone in need, to perform an act of generosity, (or to do both at the same time). Of course we can see all three of these loving acts in all that Jesus did for us on the cross. He chose to 'give up' His earthly life, 'forgive' us our sins and 'give' us new, eternal life through His sacrifice on the cross. Focusing on Jesus and all that He has done for us can help us to forgive those who have hurt us and give to people from a place of thankfulness.

On Easter Day we will have three opportunities to thank Jesus for His amazing grace and amazing love for us. We will have Holy Communion services in the Church at 8am and 10am and an Evening Prayer at 6pm by zoom. Do join us if you can. Every blessing, *Andrew+*

**Dear Church Family**, following on from Andrew's letter this month, I thought it time we had a monthly sheet to put a "Spring "in your step. Many of you have written to say you like a little update. Over the last few months I have been collecting photos that you have sent. Some of our church, that you may not have seen, have appeared on Facebook and there are a few of my own. So this month you get a Picture supplement too. Part of our theme this Lent, besides fasting and giving up something, has been to give in a different way as in **giving** and **forgiving**. So this Lent I thought I would suggest some **giving** ideas, close to our hearts. Looking at the picture supplement, the first picture is of the Air Ambulance landing in the Glebe field, which I took in 2019. What a surprise and relief to see it, as the crew rushed off to rescue a lady who had fallen in the High St. They do such valuable work and they are funded entirely by the public. Read about them

<https://www.tvairambulance.org.uk/> and perhaps donate

or perhaps consider our own supported charities of Christian Aid, Leprosy Mission, The Children's Society, Olney Newton Link and Advantage Africa, who are also suffering from lack of funding. If you want to **give** to any charity this Lent, every little helps.

Back in November Kevin Wiseman wrote and shared picture of his big lockdown project of building a church for his model railway. As you can see, it is now complete with a lovely window. Meanwhile a grateful couple wrote and said how they enjoyed the Holy Communion Service for Christmas Eve and shared the picture they took on the way home, of our own beautiful East window. Then Wendy Cox sent her picture of the delightful snowdrops near the church entitled "Where there's life there's hope" Not everyone will have had a chance to see this pretty display this year, so here it is.

Over on Facebook there have been several stunning pictures featuring our church. Many show the glorious skies that have been in evidence all winter. I have chosen two, which show our spire. This is to remind us of how beautiful our building is, but also how costly it is to maintain.

Recently the architect came to do the five year inspection, the quinquennial. He tells me the spire and stone work are in fairly good order and will be sending up a drone for closer inspection this week (weather permitting), but there will be work to be done. This brings me on to the lack of funds and fundraising in 2020, such an essential and vital part of our church life. Perhaps you are able to help and if you haven't done so already, you may like to join the Church of England's Parish Giving Scheme, which manages (free of charge), our donations which get paid directly to us and then sends us our Gift Aid regularly too. It is confidential and secure. If you would like to do this, you can contact the Parish Giving Scheme on 0333 002 1271, quoting our parish registration number 270627769 or use the paper form attached. Ken Noon on 01234 240187 can also give you more information. My photo taken last week shows the inside of our church, with our signs and tape, masks and hand gel providing safe distancing and careful management to ensure your safety. Finally I am including pictures of the early signs of Spring in my garden. Tiny bursts of colour to keep us cheerful. This year we cannot give out flowers on Mothering Sunday, but on a final theme of **giving** why not purchase your own daffodil and support the wonderful Marie Curie nurses at [www.mariecurie.org.uk/shop](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/shop) or call 0844 415 7845. Perhaps wear a daffodil on Mothering Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March or maybe make yourself a pretty buttonhole.

At this week's Lent course we explored the Beatitudes and other elements from the Sermon on the Mount. There was much discussion, but I will just relate two questions from the course to you. 1) How can we be salt and light – as a group, as individuals, as a church – in our communities. 2) What "small difference" will we commit to making this week? Let's help one another to raise our spirits, look forward to the future as a Church Family and **give** a little of ourselves to others in a warm and loving way.

*Susan and David*