

## Funerals.

**Rena Partridge service.** We have a couple of spaces left, if anyone would like to attend personally. Please email me directly if you would like to come contact me by email at [susan.bailey@olney.church](mailto:susan.bailey@olney.church) However, there is also the opportunity to link via YouTube. The funeral is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm. The stream will go live just before at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq4uA-QyLso4aqcnBKhe\\_eA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq4uA-QyLso4aqcnBKhe_eA), so please join if you would like to.

**Rachel Lintern service** is on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm. The service from Crownhill Crematorium Milton Keynes will be broadcast on webcast. You are invited to log in. Instructions attached. Link <https://www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view> Login/Order ID: 87705 Password: zvxmbsyy

**All places for 10am Easter Day service are now filled. A few places left at 8am.** Please email me directly at [susan.bailey@olney.church](mailto:susan.bailey@olney.church) for a place.

**April 4<sup>th</sup> Evening Prayer by Zoom resumes at 6pm. Join via website** <http://olney.church/> or by telephone 0203 051 2874 or 0203 481 5237 or 0203 481 5240

**April 7<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion by Zoom at 9.30 am (not pm as stated previously.)** Join via website <http://olney.church/> or telephone: 0203 481 5240 Meeting ID: 825 0404 5581#

**Easter Trail.** Discover the incredible story and meet some of the characters of the Easter story as told in the Bible. The Trail starts at the Catholic Church and, *en-route* to St Peter and St Paul Church you will need to find the five clues (letters) that give you a password to a special video. All you need is a phone to scan the QR codes and a good eye for detail on the posters and there are questions and activities for you to do and think about. The Trail will be available from 28<sup>th</sup> March to 6<sup>th</sup> April. You can do it in your own time and obviously please follow all Government guidelines.

**Children's activities.** The Sunday Club will meet again in the Church Hall at 10am on Easter Day 4<sup>th</sup> April. Church Mice will meet every Thursday from 15/04/2021 at 10am or 11am. Please book a place

**Amazing Grace Community Orchard.** Plans have now been drawn up for this new project. The council have agreed that a strip of land (about half an acre) on the field next to Near Town allotments will be used to create this new orchard. I am sure many of you will be interested in this, so I have attached their first newsletter. If you are not able to access, let me or Katie know, and we will arrange a printed copy

**This week's hymns. Good Friday 2nd April:** 'My song is love unknown' and 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?'

**Easter Day (4th April):** 'Jesus Christ is risen today', 'Now the green blade rises', 'The day of resurrection' and 'Thine be the glory' – So this week it has to be 'Jesus Christ is risen today' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u36vD2leaA8>

**For 11<sup>th</sup> April service, please book after 9<sup>th</sup> April as office closed from 2<sup>nd</sup> April to 8<sup>th</sup> April.**

Take care. *Susan and Katie*

**Website:** <http://olney.church/>

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

**Facebook:**

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



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Easter Sunday**



### **Welcome and notices**

**Reading:** Acts 10: 34-43

**Gospel:** John 20: 1-18

**Wed 7<sup>sh</sup>** Acts 3: 1-10

Luke 24: 13-35

**Collect:** God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

**Response:** You are our God: **who does all things well.**

**Intercessions:** In joy and hope let us pray to the Father: That our risen Saviour may fill us and all of His people with the joy of His glorious and life-giving resurrection That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love

That God may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter

That by His power war and famine may cease through all the world

That He may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day

That He may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon His people, so that we may bear faithful witness to His resurrection.

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as His death has recalled us to life, so His continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**We pray blessing and healing for those who are sick:** *Toby O'Grady, Kevin, Rene Tourle, Pat Major, Martyn, Hannah, Eliza, Bar, Georgina, Michael Seabrook, Debbie, Michael Cole, Rebekah Geary and Kate Nicholas.*

**We remember the recently departed and pray for comfort for their families & friends:** *Rena Partridge, Rachel Lintern and Edwin Horlock*

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

**Post Communion Prayer:** God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

**Rector's letter.** Happy Easter! Christ is risen! After stripping Jesus of His garments just a few hours later they nailed Him to the cross. Just before He died Jesus cried out, "It is finished" and at that moment the curtain in the Temple was torn from top to bottom. God the Father was making it very clear that the way to meet with God was no longer restricted to one person once a year at the feast of Passover; because of Jesus' sacrifice everyone in the world could now know God and His love for them.

On the third day Jesus was raised to life with a new physical body. We do not only have faith in Jesus who died for our forgiveness, but we also have the gift of a present day relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit because Jesus has beaten death and is alive. God has first loved us; done everything for us that we needed for forgiveness and is doing everything we need for us to know Him, love Him and to empower us to love one another. **Alleluia, He is risen!**

Praise God that we can now be together in Church, many have had one or two vaccination jabs to give us immunity to the Covid virus, weddings that have been postponed can now take place, children can meet with each other and their Church leaders, the sun shone brightly on Tuesday (and we had temperatures in the 20s), shops are beginning to open and last but not least, we can begin to meet with family and friends again.

Easter is a cause for great celebration, but we also remember all those who have lost loved ones or for whom life is not easy at this time. For those who are going through painful and difficult days we think of another side to the Easter message: God the Father knows what it is like to lose a Son, the Son knows the pain of physical suffering and the Holy Spirit knows what it is like to be separated from a loved One, (He was separated from Jesus when our sins went upon Him on the cross).

Easter then is a source of joy but also of consolation and comfort. Let's keep the truths of the love and sacrifice of Jesus clear in our minds and also be ready to receive and give comfort and help where it is needed.

Stay safe and God bless! *Andrew+*

**Tribute to Rena.** Rena's extraordinary work and mission have made a difference both at home and abroad. Kate Nicholas summarised her life and times. "Rena lived an extraordinary life full of faith. As a young woman, she was called to become a CMS missionary and, served together with her husband Alan, in Nigeria developing hospitals, training nurses, and caring for the local population. Later on, she returned to the land of her birth and served at the famous Christian Medical College Hospital in the Southern Indian town of Vellore. Rena and her family moved to Olney in the early 1990s and she played a key role in our church. She became a lay minister, started up Church Mice and founded the local charity the Olney Newton-Link raising funds to help rebuild the town of Newton in Sierra Leone after the civil war. And in 2013, Rena received Maundy Money from her Majesty the Queen in recognition of her service to the community. Rena was a truly Godly woman and a very dear friend. She will be much missed but she is now with the saviour she loves so very much

Joan Parkin's first memory was when she and Rena started Church Mice together. Joan did a tape recording of suitable songs for young children with a booklet of details to assist Rena. Joan said her enthusiasm was great. There were just a few children attending and how wonderful to see how this has grown over the years. A wonderful legacy. Susan Heron who now runs the group confirmed this was 25 years ago this September and was just one of Rena's legacies. Saying that Rena was responsible for two generations of children, singing, "We're Church Mice...." Caroline Eglington came to Olney in 2000 with a 20 month old son and decided to give going to church another go.... Caroline says "Rena was welcoming that day and guided us through church activities and where we could sit and introduced us to families with young children. She helped me settle into Church Mice and always asked encouraged me to get involved. She has always been an inspiration".

Liz Knight remembers Rena ran an excellent Cell Group for some years, which Liz attended and greatly enjoyed, along with Pam, Nicki and Shirley, along with a few others. Liz says they met at Rena's home with her husband, Alan and we called ourselves the Celler or was it Cellars Group? Thelma Shacklady reminds us that Rena was a medical doctor and a licensed lay minister. Thelma remembers the first time she attended St Peter and St Paul, Rena was leading the service while waiting for the priest who was taking a service at another church. Her enthusiasm was second to none, she not only started Church Mice, but also Moment on Monday and attended Memory Club - when she remembered! - And as long as she was able. She was absolutely thrilled to receive the Maundy money from the Queen - a major highlight of her later life. She had the money framed and hung on her wall together with a photo. Her determination was unparalleled as were her powers of persuasion! That was Rena ....



**Richard Colson has been awarded the Officer Lifetime**

**Achievement 2020:** Richard has completed over 30 years' service with Thames Valley Police and during his career he has worked in a multitude of roles including response, neighbourhood, custody and roads policing.

As a Neighbourhood Sergeant, he knew his community inside out and made a lot of great connections with members of public as well as partner agencies.

His nominator said: "He is the ultimate professional".

**Richard reflects.... Where did the time go?**

"Well, I suppose you will be punched." "You will lose your friends if you join." Back in September, 1990 I embarked on my chosen career as a police constable with Thames Valley Police and both of the comments came from two old chaps I knew in Olney.

Over the course of my service, I worked at different stations and on various teams but at all times I tried to remain the same, treating everyone with respect and decency, how I would want to be dealt with. In my folder of mementos, I have letters of thanks from various investigations and even from a prisoner when I was a Custody Sergeant dealing with him.

Back in June 2008 I gave the talk in a family service when I reflected on faith at work and why I would always seek to see the best in people. I have always wanted to see the potential for reform of offenders. I was not idealistic then and I do still believe that now. In my talk, I mentioned one young man I dealt with in the cell block. Sadly, he has continued to offend and in 2019 I led a team of officers that entered his flat and arrested him for serious offences. He is still a work in progress.

I completed my service with Thames Valley Police at the end of September, 2020. My last summer of work was a strange one, Covid-19 and Black Lives Matter protests dominated those last few months at work. I worked my last night shift at Milton Keynes, folded my uniform up and headed out into the big wide world. For all of my service I had my faith, my wife Nicole and our children as well, Daniel, Alex and Corrie, it really will be great to spend more time with all of them now.

And the comments of those two old men? I did and I didn't!

Here is Richard at Police Training Centre 1990 and involved with Black Lives Matter Oxford 2020

