



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 10am 4th July 2021

5th Sunday after Trinity



Welcome and notices

Reading: Ezekiel 2: 1-5

Gospel: Mark 6: 1-13

Wed 7th: Genesis 41: 55-end, 42: 5-7,17-end
Psalm 33: 1-4, 18-end
Matthew 10: 1-7

Collect: Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter & Paul glorified thee in their death as in their life: grant that thy Church, inspired by their teaching & example, and made one by thy Spirit, may ever stand firm on the one foundation which is thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth & reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now & for ever. **Amen**

Response: Lord, we believe, **help our unbelief.**

Intercessions: Heavenly Father, as we pray, may we believe in our hearts that for you, all things are possible. Help us to have faith in your power to bring the freshness of new beginnings and new life into the stale atmosphere of oppression and despair and the warmth of love and reconciliation into the frozen cold of anger and hatred.

Lord of the Church, we pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world who acknowledge your presence and power in their lives. We pray for those who are laughed at or victimized because of their faith in you. We also pray that you will give us strength to be true to our faith when it is questioned or belittled.

Lord of all nations, we pray for the needs of this world. We pray for those nations where communities are broken by prejudice and hatred, where the fear of violence is never far away. We pray that where human endeavours to find peace and reconciliation seem so inadequate your power to draw people together will bring renewed hope for the future.

Healing God, we pray for those who have knowledge and power in the fields of medicine and science. Let them not be corrupted by greed and ambition but grant them wisdom, integrity, humility and compassion to use the knowledge they have gained only for the good of all people.

Lord and Judge of all, we pray that throughout the world-wide community of nations there may there be a sense of responsibility for each other and a desire for equality and justice for all your children. Amen

We pray blessing and healing for those who are sick: *Toby O'Grady, Kevin, Pat Major, Bar, Georgina, Michael Seabrook, Michael Cole, Rebekah Geary, Kate Nicholas, Jo Lais, Louise Ramos, Ann Murtagh, Peter Tull, Rob Spray, Debbie Bowman and Joan Stickland.*

We remember the recently departed and pray for comfort for their families & friends:

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

Post Communion Prayer: O Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

Funerals. None

Weddings. None

The Knights' Open Garden. The Knight's Open Garden last week raised £53.50 towards the next Cherry Fair. Special thanks to Noriko and Ruth who supplied lovely plants, and to the few who came and were generous with donations. . Liz and Charles

Further fundraising. Don't forget that you can leave your printer ink cartridges in the church for recycling. Beryl Lavender has found a company who will pay us for each one recycled so you can help the environment whilst raising much needed funds for the church. Thanks to Beryl for arranging this for us all.

Holiday Bible Club. We very much hope that this year's Holiday Bible Club can go ahead in person this year. However, of course we will be following all Covid restrictions that may be in place. We are therefore opening bookings now. Our team meetings will be Thursdays, 1st and 29th July, at 8.00 pm in Sutcliff Baptist Church, outside in the garden weather permitting. We do have great needs for more team members, so if there is anyone who could offer to help in the kitchen, on the doors, paint us a large wall painting or help with the children's groups (including the creche for the leaders' children) we would be hugely grateful. Please contact Susan Heron or Hilary Terry if you can help in any way. Thank you. Bookings are already coming in quickly so if you are interested please book soon to avoid being disappointed as numbers will be reduced this year.

Photos. We're updating the welcome board inside the church board so that we can show visitors the wide variety of activities and worship we offer. If anyone has any photos of any of the church groups, or from past events such as the Cherry Fair and Dickens, we'd love you to share them with us. We can use the original photo or make a copy if you'd rather. Contact us at office@olney.church if you have something to share.

Church Mice will now run at 10am only. Please book.

Holy Communion in church continues at 10am please continue to book every week: office@olney.church. Additionally, there is morning prayer and Sunday prayer via the website <http://olney.church/zoom/>

This week's hymns. This week we have an old favourite, 'Lord of all hopefulness' and 'We have a Gospel to proclaim' which fits with our Gospel reading. As we head towards the proposed ending of restrictions hopefully we will soon be able to hear our choir perform and worship God ourselves with our own singing.

Take care. *Susan and Katie*

Website: <http://olney.church/> **Twitter:** [@olneychurch](https://twitter.com/olneychurch)

Facebook:

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

Rector's Letter. Dear Family,

The end of June saw our Patronal Festival and Andrew Geary's (Mayoral) Team complete the MK Marathon Relay. Perhaps both of these events are good reminders to us all that as God's people we are not merely individuals but that we are members of a team. The 3rd July is the day when we remember (Doubting) Thomas and when we are reassured that it is OK to have doubts as that is a part of being human and real. Doubts come to us all but there is a helpful saying that urges us to: 'Don't doubt your beliefs and believe your doubts. Instead doubt your doubts and believe your beliefs'.

Our General Synod meets from the 9th to the 13th and as always it is good to remember them all in our prayers as they grapple with issues that affect us all. The 11th is Sea Sunday and a day to remember in our prayers the RNLI, fishermen, all merchant sailors and the men and women of the Royal Navy. In Olney our schools break up on the 16th or 20th, and (God willing) a measure of normality will return for us as the Covid viruses are controlled and people are able to spend time together in a more familiar way – face to face in safety. In July I also hope that we will know more about how we as a Church are allowed to meet, celebrate, baptise, marry and (sadly) grieve together. I anticipate in the coming months we will be catching up with delayed baptisms, postponed weddings and having memorial services for those whose family and friends were unable to gather physically to honour and remember their loved ones.

The 25th is when we think of the Apostle James. He was the Apostle John's brother, and as brothers often do these two 'sons of thunder' may well have had many an altercation. James some tell us may well have had a 'fiery temper'. James' life is a reminder to us all that none of us is perfect, and that God can indeed use imperfect vessels to bring life and blessing to others. A tip that might have helped James with any anger he had, (and may help us too) is to use 'I' statements and not 'you' statements – 'I am feeling....', 'I'm struggling with....', rather than 'You should not.....', 'You have.....' etc.

Stay safe and God bless! *Andrew+*

