



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

**Sunday 10am 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**James the Apostle/Trinity 8**



**Welcome and notices**

**Reading:** Acts 11: 27-12.2

**Gospel:** Matthew 20: 20-28

**Wed 28<sup>th</sup>:** Exodus 34: 29-end  
Psalm 99  
Matthew 13: 44-46

**Collect:** Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Response:** Loving Father: **give us today our daily bread.**

**Intercessions:** Holy God out of Your goodness, a great crowd was fed and satisfied from a small offering of food. In this time of prayer we thank You for supplying all our needs and offer You the love of our hearts as we pray for our Church here in Olney, for the youngest to the oldest; for those of certain faith and for those who struggle with doubts.

Creator God we pray for those throughout the world who are physically hungry. We know that so many of the world's people lack enough nourishment; help us to be diligent in prayer and generous in giving to those agencies which work to alleviate their suffering.

Father God, we raise before You our homes and our relationships for You to work in. We thank You for the community of which we are part; for those who share with us in its activities, for all who serve its varied interests. Help us, to make our own contribution to the community and to learn to be good neighbours at all times.

Loving God we place in Your hands those who are sick. We ask that You ease their pain, and heal the damage they are suffering in body, mind or spirit. Be present with them through the support of friends and in the care of doctors and nurses. We remember especially .....

Merciful God we offer our thanks for lives well lived but now come to an end. Be close to those bereaved and console them with Your unfailing love. We remember before You those who have died and their family and friends. **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, Rob Spray, Debbie Bowman, Joan Stickland and Richard.*

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

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

**Post Communion Prayer:** Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever. Amen

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

**Funerals.** None.

**Weddings.** Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July. Michelle Robinson & Austin Lindley.

**Holiday Bible Club Update.** Unfortunately Holiday Bible Club will now not run in person this year, due to rising Covid numbers. An online version will be offered via <http://www.holidaybibleclubolney.org.uk/> from the 16<sup>th</sup> August. Please share this with your younger family members so that they can take part.

**Update from the Standing Committee.** The PCC standing committee met on Thursday evening to discuss just one thing and that was the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions from the 19<sup>th</sup> July. We discussed the 12 pages of guidance from the House of Bishops and a letter from Bishop Steven. This letter is significant for the statement 'Please remember that the advice sets out what is possible and not what has to be done. Changes do not need to be introduced all at once, and certainly not by this coming Sunday.' Our discussions were also held against a background of increasing infection and hospitalisation numbers both locally and nationally.

What was unanimously agreed was a phased and controlled easing of restrictions. In phase 1 covering this coming Sunday, and for review later in August, we will remove the socially distancing tape from the church, people no longer have to ring and book a place at the service and the congregation chooses their own pews. The use of the QR codes is encouraged and a register of attendees will be maintained by the duty warden for 'track and trace' purposes.

There will be no immediate change otherwise; the wearing of face masks is recommended, use of hand sanitiser remains, entry and exit by different doors continues, no change to the non-contact 'peace', no change to communion, no singing and no choir, no refreshments in church in phase 1. With regards to face masks these should be worn when entering and leaving church and whilst moving around to receive communion, etc. If anyone wishes to remove their mask whilst sitting this should only happen after considering the safety of the people around them.

We know that this approach will be reassuring to some but a disappointment to others. The first priority of Andrew, the wardens and the PCC is to ensure that worship can continue with your safety in mind, and we believe that the above approach achieves that. Please be assured that we will proceed to Phase 2 when we believe it is safe to do so and that the numbers of attendees at church during the summer holidays merits such a move. *Standing Committee*

**Church Mice** will run over the summer holidays and older siblings are welcome! Please contact the office for further details.

**This week's hymns.** 25th: 'The Lord's my shepherd' and 'Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim'. Both fit the Gospel reading. Here is a version of the Lord's my shepherd sung by Aled Jones from recordings he made as a youngster and now as an adult. The combination of the voices on this piece and his series of albums "One Voice" are extraordinarily well executed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKVTPzJFf3M>  
Take care. *Susan, David and Katie*

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