

Rectors Letter. 2nd November 2021

Dear Family, "Please to remember, The Fifth of November, Gunpowder, treason and plot;" November is a month of remembrance. At the beginning of the month we have All Saints' Day followed by All Souls' Day, on the 5th we have Guy Fawkes, then on the 8th we celebrate 'The Saints and Martyrs of England', Armistice Day is on the 11th and Remembrance Sunday on the 14th.

All of us have special people of whom we hold fond and lasting memories. One special lady for us is June Warde; we will be remembering and giving thanks for her at her funeral on the 12th of this month at 12.45pm. June will be dearly and greatly missed.

After losing a loved one we will have times when we remember how they looked, how they sounded; we will also remember the many things in life that we shared with them, and there will be moments when we acknowledge the extent to which they continue to be present with us – in our hearts and in our thoughts. There will of course be grief and pain but there will also be moments when we remember and give thanks for all of the good recollections that we have. There will be mourning, but there will also be thankfulness for the joy of togetherness, companionship shared, and there will be the appreciation for the chance that we have had to love and be loved. The Christian Faith does not rob us of life's joys, and nor does it insulate us from the extreme of life's hurts and pain. However, what Christ does give to us is the comfort that He rejoices with us when we rejoice, and He weeps with us when we weep.

With Christ, life on earth is to be lived, and life after death (which includes reunion with loved ones) is to be looked forward to. Stay safe and God bless! *Andrew+*

Exploring Faith: Advent 2021. Our Advent course for 2021 is another opportunity to explore your faith, this time through the lens of a well-known hymn by Charles Wesley, 'Come thou long expected Jesus'. Called 'Long Expected', the course is written by John Birch and explores the themes of Advent through bible readings and the words of the hymn. It's a chance to meet together in discussion, prayer, bible study and fellowship. We're hoping to run two Advent groups, depending on numbers: one on Wednesday mornings from 10.30 – 12.00am in the church led by Rev Janet Lawrence and the other at 7.45pm the same day, at the home of Ruth & Derek – both will run for four weeks, starting on Wednesday 24 November. Everyone is welcome: please register your interest with Katie in the Church Office on 01234 24172, or email office@olney.church

Olney Pancake Race 1st March 2022. Planning is under way for the pancake race to be held in 2022. For various reasons a number of people have stepped down from the organising committee this year. So I am appealing to the people of Olney for new volunteers to come and join us in organising this historic and important event in the Town's calendar. If anyone is interested in joining us and would like to learn more about what would be involved can they please contact me at

chairman@olneypancakerace.org or call me on 07912 059491. Many thanks *David Phillipson*



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

Sunday 10am 7th November 2021

Third Sunday before Advent



Welcome and notices

Reading: Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20

Wed 10th: Titus 3: 1-7

Psalm 82

Luke 17: 11-19

Collect: God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Response: Unfailing love is yours, Lord: **you are our rock of refuge.**

Intercessions: Creator God you gave to us the care of our planet and yet all that we seem to do is spoil it. We pray for a time when common sense rules and we all learn once again to be good stewards of your wonderful creation.

Holy Spirit, we ask You to inspire all political leaders to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society. Instil in all the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the poorest and most vulnerable, and commit their nations to caring for the Earth (Our Common Home).

Holy God, we pray for Your church throughout the world, for sceptics and believers, for clergy high and low. For all those who seek God at home, at work, in the streets, and in the pews, for all who search for life. We pray for all to find the stillness to listen to the voice of the Spirit, to recognise what you have already done for us and to give You our endless thanks.

Father God in this troubled world with so much uncertainty, we need more than ever the humility to accept how inadequate we are without your guidance, and we pray to you for wisdom, faith and hope. We pray for those who lead us, Clergy, Politicians, and Educators: for the Army and Police who guard us. Please grant them good judgement and integrity as they face the many problems of modern life, not least the ongoing Pandemic. Amen

We pray blessing and healing for those who are sick: *Toby O'Grady, Kevin, Pat Major, Bar, Georgina, Michael Seabrook, Rebekah Geary, Kate Nicholas, Jo Lais, Ann Murtagh, Rob & Judith Spray, Debbie Bowman, Richard, Poppy Bailey, Rosemary Palmer and John W.*

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

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

Post Communion Prayer: God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

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

Funerals. June Warde - Friday 12th November 12:45
Before joining them for refreshments at Emberton Village Hall, the family have asked us to provide tea and coffee in church, whilst they go to the crematorium.

Wednesday morning service at 9.30am. Zoom for this service has been discontinued due to technical difficulties 'Exploring Faith' will follow 10.30am – 12.15pm in the Church on 10 Nov.

Sunday Club on Sunday 7th and 21st of November at 10am in Church Hall.

Christingle Service 28th November at 4pm in church.

Church Mice each week on Thursday, in Church, 10 - 11am.

Kate Nicholas We have all missed seeing Kate Nicholas in church. Some of us have seen reports of her fight against cancer on Facebook and Kate has kindly send us a summary...



First of all my family and I want to thank you for your prayers during this, my second cancer journey. I must admit the last few months have been pretty tough. During 6 months of chemotherapy treatment, I was admitted to MK hospital on a number of occasions with complications including sepsis. Then a few weeks ago, after what should have been a 'simple' mastectomy, I was rushed into hospital where I had a pericardiac arrest and massive internal haemorrhage, was resuscitated, had emergency surgery and was given several pints of kindly donated blood. Apparently, I nearly didn't make it, a strange reality to get to grips with, but I know that God is with me. On the operating table, I remember seeing the faces of those most beloved to me in my mind's eye and then unbidden from somewhere deep within me, a presence and a single word rose up - Jesus. I didn't consciously call on him, but I didn't need to. He came to me in my hour of greatest need. Then last week, I heard the wonderful news that the surgeon got all the cancer. Praise the Lord. I still face a year's worth of treatment to prevent this aggressive cancer from returning, but my hope is that after a third Covid vaccine that I may be able to come back into church again. I so look forward to seeing you all. God bless you. Love and blessings, *Kate*

At the Food bank. Here is Andrew Heron delivering our generous donation to the MK Food Bank.



Table Top Sale. Church Hall 6th November. Free entry 11am–2pm. Please support this event All money raised goes towards cancer treatment for 6-year-old Poppy Bailey.

Christmas Appeal is to help support those in need at this time of year. Olney is Kind will be taking in donations for their food parcels as well as delivering gifts for both children and adults. I am organising the Christmas Day lunch for those on their own be it a single person, couple or a family, nobody should be on their own on this day. If you need to have a meal delivered because you do not want to mix or are housebound then we can do this. Please contact Pat (Pankhurst) on 07811 492137, for further information, to donate or to register for lunch e-mail Pankhurst.pat48@gmail.com. Thanks, *Pat*

Christmas Tree Festival will be on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th (Dickens Day) of December, 11am to 4pm, in our beautiful Church. Last time we had more than 50 trees and raised a good deal of money for charity. Anyone can join in by providing a tree, decorated however you like, to advertise your good cause, group or business.

Refreshments will be available, and visitors can vote for their favourite tree. We have opportunities for singing groups and performance acts to take part during the festival on our stage among the trees. To register your interest in providing a tree or to perform please email: christmastree@olney.church

Sheila Woolston died suddenly on 16th September. It was a shock to all who knew her. A lifelong supporter of Olney Church here is a short summary of her life. Sheila was born lived all her life in Olney. She was a very sociable person so joined the church Choir, took part in the youth club attached to it and joined in many activities. Sheila left school at 13 and went to Wolverton Tech. She met Alwyn at a dance and they married in 1972, and set up home. Karen and Nicola came along - and Sheila helped at school and kept a hospitable open house where all were welcome. She belonged to, and helped with, many clubs and societies. Sheila did like meeting people and chatting - all her life - as many of us can testify. Sheila and Alwyn loved travelling, and seem to have gone all over the world; Australia, Canada, Alaska, camping in earlier days and very often to Tenerife. For those of us who knew her as friend, as a fellow worker, as a cheery encounter in the park, her friendliness will have enriched your life. Sheila lived life to the full despite her difficulties. She trusted in the love of God and I believe he will have met and welcomed her into his presence.

This week's hymns: 33 – And can it be that I should gain, 525 - O Thou who camest from above and 302 - I want to walk with Jesus Christ.

Choir anthem: 'Lead me, Lord' by Samuel Sebastian Wesley.

Keep in touch and request a weekly email copy through office@olney.church or susan.bailey@olney.church

Website: <http://olney.church/> Twitter: [@olneychurch](https://twitter.com/olneychurch) Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stpeterandstpaulchurcholney>