

**Funerals.** None.

**Memorial Service for Ann Murtagh** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2pm

**Electoral Roll.** It is nearly time for the APCM and only people on the Church Electoral Roll are eligible to vote on matters at this meeting. If you are a regular attender and not registered but would like to be then please contact Richard Colson, the Electoral Roll Officer, who will be more than happy to give you an application form and guide you through the process. He can be contacted on 07724687107 or [richardcolson@btinternet.com](mailto:richardcolson@btinternet.com).

**Alpha 2022.** We are delighted to announce that members from the four churches in Olney are joining together to run an Alpha course.

What is Alpha?

Well, it is a series of sessions exploring the core principles of the Christian faith that all denominations agree on. In each session we watch a 25 minute film that is designed to engage and inspire conversation. The films address questions from "Who is Jesus?" and "How can we have faith" to "Why and how should I read the bible?" and "How does God guide us?"

We all have friends who we long to share our faith with and Alpha is a brilliant course to bring them to. Or come for yourself and ask the questions that recent world events have inspired. There is no charge, no pressure and it will be lots of fun.

Our course starts on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm and will run on subsequent Wednesday evenings until mid-July. We are holding it in The Swan Inn on High Street South, so come and join us for tapas, buy yourself a drink and consider life's most important questions in a relaxed environment. Everyone is welcome.

If you have further questions or wish to express your interest in coming, please phone us at the church office or contact [office@olney.church](mailto:office@olney.church) and we would be delighted to talk with you. *Fenella and the Alpha team*

**Easter Services.** A full list will be printed next week. Next Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> April is Palm Sunday.

**Easter flowers.** Ann Minney is collecting money for the Easter flowers. Please see Ann directly to arrange to donate in the memory of a loved one. Thank you.

**Knitty stitchers** will be meeting fortnightly from 7th April 1.00 - 3.00pm. Looking forward to seeing you all. *Gill Noon*

**Riverfest 2022** is on Sunday 3rd July 2022 from 12 noon till 6pm. Contact Susan B or Katie if you can help with either the Pimms stall or transport.

**Sunday Club** will meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 10am in the Church Hall. Sunday Club first and third Sunday.

**Fun @ 4** every 4th Sunday

**Church Mice** will next be held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 at 10am.

**Sunday evening prayers** via <http://olney.church/zoom/>

**Hymns: Opening hymn: 428** 'Lord, for the years'.

**Offertory: 346** 'It is a thing most wonderful'

**Final: 708** 'To God be the glory'

**Keep in touch.** Request a weekly email copy through [office@olney.church](mailto:office@olney.church) or [susan.bailey@olney.church](mailto:susan.bailey@olney.church)

**Services** can be found at <http://olney.church/rotas/>

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

**Facebook:** Relunched see details next week

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



Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Olney

**Sunday 10am 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**



**Welcome and notices**

**Reading:** Isaiah 43: 16-21

**Gospel:** John 12: 1-8

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup>:** Daniel 3: 14-20, 24-25, 28  
John 8: 31-42

**Collect:** Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**Response: Lord through your love: transform our lives**

**Intercessions:** Heavenly Father, You call us to Your service and so we ask that You make us worthy of our calling; hear us now as we give thanks to You and lift our prayers to You through Jesus Christ your Son. Lord of the nations, we pray for the countries of the world and for their right dealing, one with another, especially for Russia and Ukraine; where we pray for a cessation of hostilities and a declaration of peace. In Your world, may barriers of race, creed, gender and colour be broken down and political freedom established where there is oppression and suppression of new ideas.

Omniscient God, we pray for educational development in the world and that no-one should be denied a good education, whatever their colour, gender or creed. We pray especially for the girls of Afghanistan that they would be able to study and learn again.

Father God, we thank you that no matter how widely spread throughout the world our families may be, our hearts may be joined together in prayer. We also thank you for the means of modern technological communication that enable us to keep so closely in touch with those we love; which means we not only hear our loved ones but also see them.

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of His kingdom: confirm us in this mission and help us to live the good news we proclaim in all that we do and say.

**Amen**

**We pray blessing and healing for those who are sick:**

*Toby O'Grady, Kevin, Pat Major, Bar, Georgina, Michael Seabrook, Kate Nicholas, Jo Lais, Rob Spray, Debbie Bowman, Richard, Poppy Bailey, John W and Jo Spray.*

**We remember the recently departed and pray for comfort for their families & friends:** *Ann Murtagh, Pamela Brickwood, Julian Champion, Michael Edwin Evans and Jean Heron*

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

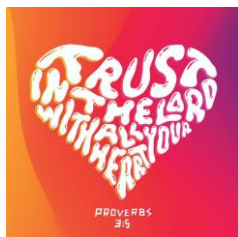
**Post Communion Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen**

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

**Rector's letter.** Dear Family,

We continue to hear news about atrocities in Ukraine and remain in prayer for everyone affected by this terrible war. It is also heart-breaking to see that girls are not allowed a school education in Afghanistan, and we pray for them also. April holds the Varsity matches and Boat races and I hope to get to see some of the action this year. Our ministry team are having an away day on the 9<sup>th</sup>; do pray for us as we seek God's will in serving the Church and the town.

In the middle of the month we remember the tragedy of Jesus being killed in our place on the cross, and then the joy of His resurrection also all done for us. Do get to the services that are helpful to you and a blessing for you; all the details will be in the weekly sheets and on our webpage.



My thought for April is that we can 'trust God'. We can trust Him because of who He is and that He is faithful. We can know this because of the Easter story; Christ died for our sins and rose to beat death and prove that there is space for all in heaven.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places..... I go to prepare a place for you...." Let's not forget those who will have a difficult Easter this year; but let's also celebrate all that Jesus has done for all of us. Happy Easter, *Andrew+*

**A little celebration.** This Sunday after the service I will be bringing some fizzy (alcoholic & non-alcoholic) and a big cake to share. As many of you know it was my 70th birthday on the 29th March. I know others are celebrating too and it's a good excuse to say thank you and a very big warm hug to all of our Church Family. I personally have been so appreciative of your support and love since returning in 2006, to my home town and Mother church (where we were married 50 years ago in October). Just had a little request played on Classic FM too 😊 that was special. So come and share a little celebration together. God Bless, *Susan Bailey*



**Walls.** It won't have escaped your notice that both the Churchyard Walls and Church Hall walls have been repaired over the last few months. The Churchyard ones have been done by Northampton Stonemasons on behalf of the Milton Keynes and Olney Councils. As this was a repair job it will take a little weathering to blend it in. However from a Quinnenennial perspective, the council have done us proud by

tackling jobs highlighted for 2022 to 2027, so we are in good shape. We have also acquired access to the triangle behind the shed, a useful space and in addition a plugging to the end of the shed, which will make refurbishing and sealing the shed roof possible.

David Rose a local builder tackled the Church Hall wall. It was in a poor state and although it was only due to be refurbished, David went above and beyond, leaving literally no stone unturned. What a wonderful job he made of it! Please admire his work. I also mentioned to David, that when my dad worked in the town he used to carve his initials into the mortar, so perhaps he and I could do the same. Again he went above and beyond and I saw he had carved in SJB 2022. Thank you David, it's a great job and safe at last. Here are some before, during and after pictures. *SJB*



**The Cherry Fair 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022.** Please contact Susan Heron, or email [info@olneycherryfair.org.uk](mailto:info@olneycherryfair.org.uk), if you can help with this event. People are needed to help in the run up to the event and on the day itself, and there's something for everyone to get involved with. Please help us make the event a success as it's a wonderful occasion that brings the community to our church family. Thank you.

**Amazing Grace 250.** We are going to be holding some very exciting events over the coming year, including a conference and exhibition with many internationally well-renowned guests. We plan to offer refreshments as part of this event so if you are available to help on 16<sup>th</sup> July, or help in the run up to the day, please contact Katie in the office. This event will help us to raise much needed funds for the church and help us to spread more of our good work and message with the wider community. Details for tickets for this event, and the concert the following evening, will be announced shortly so keep your eyes peeled!