

Weekly Pewsheet

Service Details and Notices

Christ the King

Sunday 22 November 2020



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Please contact one of the Ministry Team if you would like a chat or a visit.

Bereavement Support

If you would like ongoing support while the Bereavement Group is not meeting, please leave your name, phone number and email (if applicable) at one of the contacts below. We will endeavour to get in contact. Sian Cheverton (01572 755286); Madeleine Morris (07754 414437); Parish Office (01572 724007) or email bereavementsupport@oakhamteam.org.uk.

From the Team Vicar

Dear Friends,

I wonder if you remember me telling you a few weeks ago (pewsheet letter 20th September) about my friend who was dying... I talked about his very difficult childhood, his anger at the world leading him to commit crimes that resulted in him spending over half his life in prison, and his struggle to forgive himself and to find peace.

Steve's struggle in this life is now over, he died on 28th October, just a month short of his 66th birthday. I have been visiting him regularly in the care home he was moved to and when I last saw him on 24th October he was the most peaceful I have ever known him. As I sat with him, watching him doze at times, I noticed that the bruise he had on his forehead from a fall had developed clearly in the shape of a heart.

Over the years I have known Steve I have prayed of his being baptised and since being ordained I have hoped that it would be my privilege to do this, especially to anoint his head with holy oil and say the words 'Christ claims you for his own, receive the sign of his cross', a moment which always seems to be the visible confirmation of God saying 'mine'. As I looked at the heart-shaped bruise I sensed that God was making it clear that Steve no longer needed to go through the sacrament of baptism in this world, God had claimed him for his own and was ready to welcome him home as his dearly loved child.

I may not have had the privilege of baptising Steve but I had the privilege of leading his funeral service on Monday and was able to speak of a man who has now finally found the peace of knowing he is truly loved, accepted, and valued, of hearing God's eternal 'mine'.

Knowing Steve and having him in our lives has not been without trial and tribulation but he has also left us changed and blessed through his presence. I'm so glad that we dared to welcome him in and through his presence caught a glimpse of Christ that otherwise we would have missed. There is much more I could say, and may well do at another time, but for now I want to share a simple story which I hope will encourage us all to be alert to those who give us glimpses of Christ.

The story is a simple story by Leo Tolstoy and tells of an old cobbler, Papa Panov, who lives alone in a village in Russia. One night he has a dream in which Jesus comes to him and says that he will visit Papa Panov in person tomorrow, but that he will have to pay special attention since Jesus will be disguised and will not reveal his identity.

Papa Panov wakes up the next morning, excited about meeting his potential visitor. He looks out of his window and notices that a street sweeper is working early on

the cold winter morning. Touched by his hard work and dejected appearance, Papa Panov invites him inside for a hot cup of coffee.

Later in the day, a single mother with a worn face too old for her young age walks down the street clutching her baby. Again, Papa Panov invites them in to warm up and even gives the baby a beautiful brand new pair of shoes that he made.

As the day goes by, Papa Panov keeps his eyes peeled for his hoped for holy visitor, but he only sees neighbours and beggars on the street who he decides to feed. Soon it grows dark, and Papa Panov retires indoors with a sigh, believing his dream was only a dream. But then the voice of Jesus speaks and it is revealed that Jesus came to Papa Panov in each and every person he helped today, from the street sweeper to the local beggar.

The words that Jesus speaks to Papa Panov echo the ones we read in Sunday's gospel reading – *'I was hungry and you fed me. I was naked and you clothed me. I was cold and you warmed me. I came to you today in everyone of those you helped and welcomed'*. Helping others, particularly those who take us out of our comfort zones, can be challenging. Another friend of Steve's wrote these words *'Knowing Steve has challenged my values, my prejudices, and my resourcefulness in order to help him when he needed it, and knowing Steve has enriched my life in so many ways'*.

I ended Steve's funeral service with the words of Psalm 121, a Psalm which begins with crying for help and recognising the source of all help -

¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains –
where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

The remaining verses then become words of blessing for others –

³ He will not let your foot slip –
he who watches over you will not slumber;

⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The LORD watches over you –
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm –
he will watch over your life;

⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and for evermore.

Steve spent his life crying for help and often searching for it in the wrong places. I believe he has eventually found the source of true help – the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth – and I believe that those of us who dared to help him on the way have received and will continue to receive the blessing of the one we have glimpsed in Steve.

I pray that like Papa Panov I will keep looking out for and paying attention to other ‘Steves’ that I may glimpse more and more of the Lord who says to each and every one of us ‘you are mine, my dearly loved child’.

Love & blessings,

Deborah

Church opening times for prayer during the restrictions which commenced on 5th November continue as follows -

St Andrew’s, Whissendine

The church will be open daily for private prayer, Sunday - Wednesday, 9am - dusk.

Also for half an hour at 5pm Monday – Friday, and 9am Friday.

St Peter & St Paul’s, Market Overton

The church will be open every Sunday at 10am and every Thursday at 9am for an hour of private prayer.

Holy Trinity, Teigh

The church will be open daily for private prayer, 9am - dusk

St Mary’s, Ashwell

The church will be open daily for private prayer, Sunday - Thursday, 9am - dusk

Reverend Deborah’s prayer times in the churches continue to be as follows –

9am Morning Prayer

- Monday – Whissendine
- Tuesday – Ashwell
- Wednesday – Teigh
- Thursday – Market Overton
- Friday - Whissendine

5pm Evening Prayer Monday – Friday at Whissendine



A favourite hymn and why...

chosen this week Jo Onslow, 'From heaven you came'

Jo says "The Servant King' has always been a particular favourite of mine. I find the words incredibly moving and also inspiring. Christ humbled himself so completely, bore his sorrow and went through all of that for us - what an inspiration these words are during our own times of sadness and when facing difficulties. I feel closer to him when singing these words, and worshipping him and trying to follow his example of service takes on greater significance."

The Servant King



1. From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

2. There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn.
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

3. Come, see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space,
to cruel nails surrendered.

4. So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

Words: Graham Kendrick (b 1950)

Music: The Servant King, Graham Kendrick (b 1950)

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(Ancient & Modern – 489)

If you have a favourite hymn to share please send the title, and up to 200 words saying what makes it special, to Liz - ps@oakhamteam.org.uk

Collect & Readings for Christ the King

Collect

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Psalm 95.1-7

- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving *
and be glad in him with psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God *
and a great king above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth *
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us worship and bow down *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
- 7 For he is our God;

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Reading – Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24

A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have

been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reading – Ephesians 1.15-23

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reading – Matthew 25.31-end

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Amen

Reflection by Simon Aley

Loving the King of Love

Just sometimes don't you want to hug the compilers of the Lectionary (although we cannot because of COVID!) for combining 3 Scriptural passages together so well? These three readings are an example of that.

I suggest we start in the middle with Ephesians - the promise of the glory that is to come because of your faith in Christ the King; your hearts enlightened to know what is the glorious hope, the riches of His glorious inheritance and the immeasurable greatness of His power. Not just for this age but the age to come. Note the

validation of entitlement in verse 1; a) faith in the Lord and b) love the believers have for the saints, the haggios, the holy ones, the elect, who themselves are inheritors of this great reward. For Paul as also with Jesus, love in action clearly flows from faith. Let us next turn to Ezekiel and that pastoral image of the King caring for His sheep. Note here, how God takes on the role of shepherd personally; "I myself" in verses 11 and 15 + 9 other personal pronouns in 5 verses! The King acts like a shepherd, an often-despised individual in Biblical times, who did not keep feasts, go to Church or Bible study and worked on the Sabbath! The very same image that Christ the King ascribes to himself in John 10 and in the parable of the lost sheep in Matthew 18, demonstrating the love that He has for each of us. No wonder the Jewish leaders accused Jesus of blasphemy. Except that as we now know, there was no blasphemy because Jesus is Lord as well as King. When God says in verse 24, that he will set up His servant David as the one shepherd, God is neither contradicting himself, abdicating His role as shepherd nor referring specifically to King David, who has long been and gone. He is referring to the second person of the Trinity. This is a messianic prophecy, given a regal tone by reference to David, of whose line Jesus is adopted through Joseph. It also is a warning, to be the right sort of sheep. The distinction is made between lean and fat sheep, but it is really a judgement on the behaviour of those fat sheep who push and but the weaker sheep.

From these two passages, we see a picture of love of the King to those who have faith in Him and love His saints; a love promised and demonstrated by God in sending His Son and how we should respond.

Now we can turn to Matthew and we should start to see similarities with the other texts in this apocalyptic passage. Jesus is leaving his hearers in no doubt who He is. When the Son of Man comes in his glory, with his angels, he will sit on his throne. No doubt again who this is - Jesus is Lord as well as King. Like a shepherd He divides the flock, here sheep and goats, the sheep to the right and goats to the left. We can see where this is going; we know we want to be on the right. But, whether sheep or goats, neither can understand when it was, they saw Christ the King hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, a stranger or imprisoned? The dispute of the hearers is not their destinies, which are vastly different but what they missed seeing. The King answers, when you responded to the least of those who are members of my family (verse 40) you responded to me. Well that is a bit of a shock? No as we have seen, Scripture has been pointing in that direction for centuries. How God cares for His elect, His holy ones, His saints – All saints, greatest and least and how the believers should respond.

On the whole, I have not missed hymn singing this year as much as I thought I would but when we come to this season, the absence is felt more and it starts with the feast of Christ the King. As an admirer of Isaac Watts (perhaps a lingering Congregational trait!); this Sunday might have been the opportunity to sing "Jesus

shall reign wher'er the sun". Even if we could, we probably would not have sung all the 14 verses, Watts wrote! We would not have sung:

The Sceptre will become His hands
All Heav'n submits to His commands
His justice shall avenge the poor
And pride and rage prevail no more

God's justice is borne of His love for the poor and we, who love God, reflect His love to us on to others. So, should we be making a list, brushing up our CV for God? On an individual basis, no, a) because God knows already and b) because our inheritance is not dependent on our works but on God's grace. Because we love God, we will willingly welcome, clothe, visit, and offer food and drink to Christ the King by providing for the needs of His subjects, His saints. Collectively we should be ready to demonstrate our love for God in action. This revelation of Jesus is a very public affair with all the nations gathered before Christ the King (Matthew 25:32) and this leads to a verse from another Isaac Watts hymn, sung every year, leaving to poor Isaac spinning in his Walthamstow grave(!) as we treat it as a carol:

He rules the world with truth and grace
And bids the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love

Jesus says in John 14:15 "If you love me you will keep my commandments" – because we love we obey and Christ's second commandment is "love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22:39) and now we know who our neighbour is and what to do about it as loyal subjects of Christ the King.

AMEN

Prayers of Intercession by Michael Ellard

Loving Father, through your Son you bring us together to share in your kingdom and bind us into one through the power of you Holy Spirit. Strengthen us in healing the divisions that occur in our communities, guide us in ways to reduce tensions where they exist, and help us to restore equality and respect for all people as we live alongside one another at this time,

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

At this time of concern in our world, we pray for all those in positions of leadership. May they govern with wisdom and integrity, always serving the needs of the people, putting aside the interests of power for themselves. Guide all those seeking to find

solutions to the virus which is affecting all people throughout the world, and continue to strengthen all caring for those made ill through its effects.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We continue to remember those affected through conflict and violence between nations, families or individuals; help us in our search for peace and reconciliation at this time. We pray for those who work for peace throughout the world, and those who continue to defend the peace we have,

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your Church, the sign of your reign in our world today, may it always continue to extend its welcome to all people, reaching out to the needs of all, where cultures and communities may no longer have boundaries that divide or isolate. Strengthen our Bishops, Donald and John in our diocese, our Ministry Team in Oakham, and all who assist in the daily presence of your church through the world. Through your Holy Spirit you call us, and Christians of every denomination, into a royal priesthood that you bestow on us in Baptism, may your kingdom come to all parts of this world through all that we do in your name

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Loving Father, we bring before you those who are unwell at this time, those at home, in hospital, or needing daily care. In a moment of stillness, we pray for those known to us personally, and those who have asked for our prayers this day, ...

May your hands of strength and healing rest upon all in need at this time, and guide those who care for others at this time, thinking especially of all coping with the dangers of the corona virus in their daily work.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died in recent days, ...

May they now rest in your presence from the troubles of this world with all who have gone before them, and we remember those remaining in their sadness of grief and loss. May their pain be healed through the knowledge of your love for each of them at this time,

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you have taught us that the power of the heart is greater than the power of wealth and might. Hear us as we pray for the fulfilment of your reign, when we ask this through Jesus Christ our King; to whom be glory and power for ever.

Amen

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen**

The following short services are suggestions for a daily pattern of prayer and are what Deborah is using in the churches Monday – Friday.

MORNING PRAYER (All Saints to Advent)

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise

Your faithful servants bless you.

They make known the glory of your kingdom.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,

ruler and judge of all,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

In the darkness of the age that is passing away

may the light of your presence which the saints enjoy
surround our steps as we journey on.

May we reflect your glory this day

and so be made ready to see your face

in the heavenly city where night shall be no more.

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

The night has passed and the day lies open before us;

let us pray with one heart and mind.

silence is kept

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the
light of your presence, O God, set out hearts on fire
with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen**

The Word of God

(See also the daily readings list on the back of the Pewsheets)

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains –
where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot slip –
he who watches over you will not slumber;

- ⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- ⁵ The LORD watches over you –
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- ⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm –
he will watch over your life;
- ⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and for evermore.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning is now, and shall be for ever. **Amen.**

Gospel Cantic - Benedictus

1. Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel:
for he has come to his people and set them free.
2. He has raised up for us a mighty saviour:
born of the house of his servant David.
3. Through his holy prophets he promised of old:
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us.
4. He promised to show mercy to our fathers:
and to remember his holy covenant.
5. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
6. free to worship him without fear:
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
7. You my child shall be called the prophet of the most high:
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
8. to give his people knowledge of salvation:
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
9. In the tender compassion of our God:
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
10. to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning is now, and shall be for ever. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

‘When you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.
I will let you find me,’ says the Lord, ‘and I will restore your fortunes.’

(Jeremiah 29.12,14)

Prayers

We keep silence or pray in our own words for the church, the world, the parish, our families, friends, and neighbours, those we care for, those who care for us, and those in need...

Kyrie

Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Collect and Conclusion

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord,
the wills of thy faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
bring us to the dwelling
which your Son is preparing for all who love you;
give us each the will each day to live in life eternal;

let our citizenship be in heaven with the blessed,
with the whole company of the redeemed and
with countless angels, praising, worshipping and adoring your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ, who sits upon the throne forever. **Amen**

May Christ who has opened the kingdom of heaven,
bring us to reign with him in glory. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



EVENING PRAYER (All Saints to Advent)

○ God, make speed to save us;

○ Lord, make haste to help us.

Your faithful servants bless you.

They make known the glory of your kingdom.

Blessed are you, sovereign God, our light and our salvation, to you be praise and glory for ever.

Now as darkness is falling, wash away our transgressions,

cleanse us by your refining fire and make us temples of your Holy Spirit.

By the light of Christ, dispel the darkness of our hearts

and make us ready to enter your kingdom,

where songs of praise forever sound.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God forever.

The Word of God

(See also the daily readings list on the back page of the Pewsheet)

Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength,

an ever-present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way

and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

³ though its waters roar and foam

and the mountains quake with their surging.^[d]

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy place where the Most High dwells.

⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;

God will help her at break of day.

⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;

he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;

the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸ Come and see what the LORD has done,

the desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease

to the ends of the earth.

He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;

he burns the shields^[d] with fire.

¹⁰ He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.'

¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning is now, and shall be for ever. **Amen.**

Gospel Canticle - Magnificat

1. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
2. for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed;
3. the Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.
4. He has mercy on those who fear him:
in every generation.
5. He has shown the strength of his arm:
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
6. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones:
and has lifted up the lowly.
7. He has filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he has sent away empty.
8. He has come to the help of his servant Israel:
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers:
9. to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning is now, and shall be for ever. **Amen.**

Bible Reading

You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant. (*Hebrews 12.22a,23b,24a*)

Prayers

We keep silence or pray in our own words for the church, the world, the parish, our families, friends, and neighbours, those we care for, and those in need...

Kyrie

Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. **Amen**

Collect and Conclusion

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from our apathy, restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation may one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
bring us to the dwelling
which your Son is preparing for all who love you;
give us each the will each day to live in life eternal;
let our citizenship be in heaven with the blessed,
with the whole company of the redeemed and
with countless angels, praising, worshipping and adoring your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ, who sits upon the throne forever. **Amen**

May Christ who has opened the kingdom of heaven,
bring us to reign with him in glory. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

With grateful thanks to the Scottish Episcopal Church (Anglican) for this shortened liturgy for Morning and Evening Prayer.

Resources for Worship

During this time when we cannot worship together in church, there are a number of alternatives available:

- The Oakham Team Facebook page, where one of the ministry team will lead a live stream of **Morning Prayer at 8.30am** on weekdays and **Holy Communion or Morning Prayer at 10.30am on Sundays**. These will also be available on the Team website, together with the service sheet and Weekly Pewsheets
- **Compline**. David Perril continues a weekly service of Compline every Wednesday at 8.30pm on the Oakham Team Facebook page.
- The Church of England has an online resources page at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>.
- **Apps:** (for handheld or mobile devices)
 - Common Worship Daily Prayer
 - Lectio 365
 - Pray as you go

This Week – Online Services

Morning Prayer every weekday at 8.30am

Compline Wednesday at 8.30pm

Next Sunday – 29 First Sunday of Advent

Readings: Psalm 80.1-7; Isaiah 64.1-9; I Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37

10.30am Morning Worship on Facebook and 6pm Advent Service on Facebook

www.facebook.com/oakhamteam or on the church website

www.oakhamteam.org.uk. Live services can be found on the bottom right hand side of the homepage of the website.

News from the Team

Services

All Sunday and mid-week services are now suspended until further notice.

Music at Lunchtime

Regrettably, plans for Wednesday lunchtime recitals to return to All Saints Church have regrettably been thwarted by the new lockdown. These recitals will therefore continue to take place in Oakham School Chapel for their staff and pupils only, but can be viewed by anyone after the event online by visiting <https://bit.ly/>

The Link Magazine.

Thank you to all who have helped with the distribution into many homes of the Winter edition of The Link magazine. The magazine which you may like to share with others is also on the website: www.oakhamteam.org.uk under the heading 'Weekly Pewsheet' click on The Link from the dropdown list; go to the bottom of the displayed page to turn over the pages . Extra copies are at the churches or contact me on 01572 724103 . Beryl Kirtland

Traidcraft christmas orders and recent sales

I am now taking order from the new Traidcraft catalogue, please do get in touch if you would like a copy, it has all the usual seasonal selectin of foods and cards as well as inspiration for Christmas decorations and presents! Sales for September and October amounted to £219.55 so are bearing up despite the stall being run in the background; so as ever my thanks to all of you who are continuing to support it., it really does make a difference to peoples lives. Denise - necy.mcdonald@btinternet.com/07981639649/01572722729

Oakham Team Ministry Zoom Bible Study

The bible study group of Mark's Gospel led by Revd Simon Aley will continue as planned via zoom. The sessions will be weekly on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm and last an hour each session.

For details on how to join please contact Simon on simon@oakhamteam.org.uk

Revd Simon Aley

Ford and Etal and Lowick with Kyloe and Ancroft

The Bishop of Newcastle is delighted to announce that the Rev'd Charlotte Osborn, previously Assistant Curate in the Oakham Team Ministry in Peterborough Diocese, is to be Priest in Charge of Ford and Etal and Lowick with Kyloe and Ancroft.

Charlotte will be licensed by Bishop Christine early in the new year on a date which will be announced as soon as possible. Please keep Charlotte, her husband Leo, and all the parishes in your prayers as she prepares for this new ministry.

Charlotte's current address is *The Old Chapel House, Pond Lane, Knapton, Norfolk NR28 0SE. 01263 663 467*

Revd Iain Osborne

After waiting patiently for work to be completed on the new Rectory at Ramsey, Iain and Susan have now moved in. Their address is The Rectory, 18 Hollow Lane, Ramsey, Huntingdon, PE26 1DE. I am sure they would be pleased to hear from you if you wish to get in touch.

Oakham Hope into Action house (Project Sukkot) Update November 2020

It is now nearly two months since the second of our two tenants moved into the house and we are pleased and thankful to the Lord that both of them have responded well to their new situation. The chaps are getting to know each other and both of them are making great efforts to settle down responsibly in their new home.

After periods of homelessness, it takes time to adjust, to gain self-respect and confidence and it is great to see the strides that both chaps have been making. This is in a large part also due to them being given much needed support and encouragement by the team of friendship and support volunteers who represent our churches in Oakham and each one of the team is owed our thanks, and our continued prayers. The Rutland Foodbank too has been hugely helpful during the Covid restrictions and our thanks are due to them as well.

Christmas is approaching and some church members have asked what additional seasonal support might be welcomed. So, we would like to be able to provide a small decorated Christmas tree for the house and a small hamper of Christmas treats for the chaps to share.

In addition, a few Christmas cards from church members to “the chaps in the Oakham Hope into Action House” would also be much appreciated and would reinforce our message to them that they are not alone or forgotten. If you would like to help in one of the ways suggested, have a word with one of the following members of the support team:

For: Oakham Team Ministry churches: Heather Day, Peter Hart
Methodist Church: Barry and Vanessa Turner
St Joseph's: Hilary Davis
Baptist Church: Neil Kirk
Key contacts; Gary Marsh (marshuns@icloud.com) or Heather Day (heather.day@outlook.com)

Please continue to pray for the project and what it is seeking to achieve.
Thank you, Project Steering Group and Support Team

For sale:

STOVES SGB700PS built under gas double oven with electric grill.

Height 703mm; Width 595mm; Depth 550mm. Purchased new £600, only three months usage.

Viewing without obligation.

A donation to Teigh Church will be expected.

Telephone 01664 474424

Keeping in Touch

I am usually at home at my desk Wednesdays 2pm-4pm and happy to take calls if you would like to share news and chat. Please feel free to call 869483. *Stephen*

Church Family News

If you have any news which you would like to share with the church family through the pewsheets please phone the office 724007 or email notices@oakhamteam.org.uk. The deadline each week for the pewsheets is Tuesday evening.

HELLO!

This is a prayer that you may like to use.

God of hope be with me, calm my anxious mind and remove fear. Surround **me**, keep me safe until the threat passes. **Surround me with love, and deliver me from evil.**

Protect my **family**, preserve us O God, and keep us in health and provision. May my **community**, despite enforced isolation, be united through acts of loving kindness. **Surround us with love, and deliver us from evil.**

Help those in the **NHS** as they care for the sick and deal with the virus; for **businesses** as they manage the economic challenges and for employees sent home. **Surround them with love, and deliver them from evil.**

Grant wisdom to our **government** and may the PM be surrounded by wise counsel. Guide their decisions today to lead us safely. **Surround them with love, and deliver them from evil.**

May those working to stop the pandemic globally make the breakthroughs they need to **eradicate the virus**. Reduce its impact on other nations affected today. **Surround them with love, and deliver them from evil. Amen**

It is based on a variety of Psalms and traditional prayers.

Prayer © 2020 www.LondonPrayer.com

#ViralKindness

Praying Alone

Praying Together

Daily Prayer This Week

Morning Prayer is streamed live on Facebook at 8.30am from Monday to Friday, and is available after that on Facebook and the website.



Readings

Readings & Collect Prayer for Daily Prayer in the coming week

Day	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday 23 November	Psalm 96 Revelation 14.1-13	Psalm 80 Isaiah 40.1-11
Tuesday 24 November	Psalm 97 Revelation 14.14-end of 15	Psalm 101 Isaiah 40.12-26
Wednesday 25 November	Psalm 112 Revelation 16.1-11	Psalm 122 Isaiah 40.27-41.7
Thursday 26 November	Psalm 125 Revelation 16.12-end	Psalm 133 Isaiah 41.8-20
Friday 27 November	Psalm 139 Revelation 17	Psalm 146 Isaiah 41.21-42.9
Saturday 28 November	Psalm 145 Revelation 18	Psalm 150 Isaiah 42.10-17

Collect

**God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose Kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory. Amen.**