

Weekly Pewsheet

Service Details and Notices

Baptism of Christ

Sunday 10 January 2021



Bible verse for this year of hope –

*Now faith is confidence in what we hope
for
and assurance about what we do not see.*

Hebrews 11 v1

***Please remember to bring this pewsheet
with you to the services in church***

Please visit our website or Facebook page for
regular updates.



www.oakhamteam.org.uk

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Oakham Team Clergy

Revd Stephen Griffiths *Team Rector (Oakham & Langham)*

01572 869483 stephen@oakhamteam.org.uk

Revd Deborah Marsh *Team Vicar*

(Whissendine, Teigh, Ashwell & Market Overton)

01664 474652/07919 385314 deborah@oakhamteam.org.uk

Revd Chris Rattenberry *Team Vicar*

(Braunston, Brooke, Hambleton & Egleton)

01572 723447 chris@oakhamteam.org.uk

Revd Rachel Thompson *Minister in Secular Employment*

01572 724007 rachel@oakhamteam.org.uk

Revd Simon Aley *team Curate (Oakham & Langham)*

01572 737482 simon@oakhamteam.org.uk



Lay Ministers

Mr Michael Ellard *Reader* - 01572 722060 michael@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mr David Pattinson *Reader* - 01572 723884 david@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mr David Perril *Reader* - 01664 452117 david.perril@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mr Alan Rudge *Reader* - 01572 755570 alan@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mr Vyv Wainwright *Reader* - 01572 755752 vyv@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mrs Gail Rudge *Parish Evangelist* - 01572 755570 gail@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mrs Madeleine Morris *Lay Pastoral Minister* - 01572 898093 madeleine@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mrs Liz Nicholls *Lay Pastoral Minister* - 01572 759657 liz@oakhamteam.org.uk

Director of Music - *Position Vacant*

Oakham Team Office

Mrs Janine Weaver *Team Administrator* - 01572 724007 office@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mrs Sue Willetts *Finance Assistant* - 01572 724007 finance@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mrs Liz Needham *Parishes Support Officer* - 01572 724007 ps@oakhamteam.org.uk

Notices or reports for inclusion in the pew sheet and website should be sent by Tuesday evening to notices@oakhamteam.org.uk

Safeguarding Officers

Mr Adam Lowe *Oakham* - 07801541389 adamfromoakham@gmail.com

Mrs Alex Martin *Whissendine, Teigh, Ashwell, Market Overton* -

01664 474432 alex.martin@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mrs Jessica Blight *Langham* - 07557 333513 jessica.blight@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mrs Gail Rudge *Braunston* - 01572 755570 gail@oakhamteam.org.uk

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,

Happy New Year to you all.

I know that there are many reasons why it's not easy to say, or to hear, these words at the moment but I also believe that there are just as many, if not more, reasons that make it right and proper to say them. We are people of hope and I love the simple way in which someone has turned 2021 into an image of hope



simple yet, when I first saw it, I felt my heart lifting and a smile coming to my face. I hope it does the same for you.

The meaning of words can evolve over time and the dictionary says that the 'archaic' meaning of hope is 'a feeling of trust', and I sense that it is this timeless truth that makes me smile and lifts some of the weight of hopelessness that many are feeling at this time. I am reminded of what I trust in, or rather who.

Some time ago, during a particularly challenging time in my life, a friend sent me a card in which she wrote many words of wisdom and loving encouragement and among them were the following – *'God shines His light on what will give us security, that we have hope and life'*. These words, so personal to me, also echo for all Christians with the heart of what baptism is – the moment when God shines his light on what we can trust, and we chose to accept His way of hope and life.

The Affirmation of Faith in each of our services this coming week is the simplest of all the recognised affirmations and repeats the three questions that are asked at every baptism. Each question begins *'Do you believe and trust in...?'* and the response always begins *'We believe and trust in...?'* so far so good, but I wonder how often, as we go about our daily lives, do we dare to ask ourselves *'How am I doing with this?... How does my life reflect to others that I trust in God?'*. At the end of the baptism service the newly baptised is given a candle and reminded that they have received the light of Christ and they are encouraged to *'Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father'*.

In theory the darker it is then the easier it should be for a light to shine, and anyone who has seen the star currently shining from the top of Whissendine church tower will know that this is true. The lights of the beautiful star are in fact on all the time, but it is only seen to be shining when it starts to get dark. I wonder how we are doing at shining as God's lights in the world during these dark times...

Perhaps one of the lessons we could learn from the star is that it is not one big light but a string of many, many lights wound around the metal star. Yes, we are each, individual lights, but together we shine brighter, remember our response is ‘**We** believe and trust...’. I am greatly encouraged that communal worship is still being allowed in this new period of lockdown and I pray that many will still feel able to come, trusting that we are doing all we can to follow what we have learnt so far to keep ourselves safe as we gather to read the Bible together, pray together, and share Holy Communion, the three things that have always been at the heart of what it is to be a Christian. These are what truly help us to believe and trust in God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to shine as God’s lights in the world.

For those who feel unable to come to church in person at the moment I pray that the pewsheets help you in being Christian and being the church, the body of Christ, in each of our communities, and please contact me if there is more that you need or perhaps that you can offer to help us stay healthy at this time.

A new year is a time to make a new start, to make a new commitment to being Christian, and the Methodist Church has a beautiful prayer that is said at all first services of the new year. It is called the Covenant Prayer and is just that, a prayer that makes a new commitment to being Christian. Those who are able to come to services this month will be invited to say this prayer, and so that no one is left out here is the prayer –

I am no longer my own but yours.

Put me to what you will,

Rank me with whom you will;

Put me to doing, put me to suffering;

Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,

Exalted for you or brought low for you;

Let me be full, let me be empty,

Let me have all things, let me have nothing;

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

You are mine and I am yours.

So be it.

***And the covenant made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.***

Perhaps if you can't come in person you could say it at the time a service is happening so that you know you aren't saying it alone, or maybe give someone a ring and say it together, most importantly I hope that you will take the time to pray it.

My final question for this first pewsheet of 2021 is to ask – ***What new thing are you going to do this year to help you grow in being Christian?***

It doesn't have to be a big thing, but it does need to be something that is achievable and sustainable... perhaps you could pray the Covenant Prayer again and ask God to guide you to something, and it's always good to share it with someone else to keep you accountable and to help you in sustaining it.

So, I'm going to share with you the two things that I have committed to do this year to perhaps encourage you to do one or both of them too and to ask you to hold me accountable, please check how I'm doing with them throughout the year!

Firstly, I have joined the Big 365 Church Read for 2021. This is organised by St Andrews Bookshop (the biggest Christian Bookshop in the UK, based at Great Missenden) in conjunction with the evangelist and missionary to Burundi, Simon Guillebaud, and those taking part are reading Simon's book 'Choose Life'.

Find out more on the website - thebigchurchread.co.uk

Secondly, I have joined a 'journey' to Glasgow for the COP26 Climate Conference in November. Chad Chadwick, Children & Youth Missioner – Diocese of Peterborough, and his family have started a virtual pilgrimage to Glasgow (353 miles from their home), and have invited others to join them.

Find out more on the website – gettoglasgow.com

It's been a long letter this week but hopefully worth getting to the end. I end as I began wishing you a very happy new year, a year when we encourage one another and keep each other accountable... and let's make 2021 a year of hope!

Love & blessings,

Deborah

Services continue through January 2021 as follows

St Andrew's, Whissendine

Sunday 10th January 4pm Evening Prayer
Sunday 17th January 11am Holy Communion
Sunday 24th January 4pm Taize style service
Sunday 31st January 11am Holy Communion

St Peter & St Paul's, Market Overton

Sunday 10th January 10am Morning Prayer
Sunday 17th January 10am Morning Prayer
Sunday 24th January 10am Holy Communion

St Mary's, Ashwell

Sunday 17th January 10am Morning Prayer

Holy Trinity, Teigh

Sunday 10th January 9am Holy Communion
Sunday 17th January 5pm Evening Prayer
Sunday 24th January 9am Morning Prayer

Please remember to bring this pewsheet with you to the services in church

Midweek daily prayer follows a new regular pattern around the churches as follows

Monday	9am St Andrew's, Whissendine
Tuesday	5pm St Mary's, Ashwell
Wednesday	9am Holy Trinity, Teigh
Thursday	9am St Peter & St Paul, Market Overton
Friday	5pm St Andrew's, Whissendine

Church opening times continue as follows -

St Andrew's, Whissendine

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

St Peter & St Paul's, Market Overton

The church will be open every Sunday at 10am and every Thursday at 9am for worship.

Holy Trinity, Teigh

The church will be open daily, 9am – dusk

St Mary's, Ashwell

The church will be open daily, Sunday - Thursday, 9am – dusk

Collect

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading – *Genesis 1.1-5*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading – *Acts 19.1-7*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied – altogether there were about twelve of them.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading – Mark 1.4-11

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

MORNING PRAYER - Epiphany

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise

Your light springs up for the righteous
and all the peoples have seen your glory

Blessed are you, sovereign God,
king of the nations,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.
As the Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts
anoint our lips with the seal of your Spirit
that we may witness to your gospel
and sing your praise in all the earth.
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 our hearts on fire
with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen**

The Word of God

Canticle – A song of the New Jerusalem (or Psalm on the daily readings list on the back page of the Pewsheet)

Arise, shine out, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

Though night still covers the earth,
and darkness the peoples;

Above you the Holy One arises,
and above you God's glory appears.

The nations will come to your light,
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Your gates will lie open continually,
shut neither by day nor by night.

The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your land,
or ruin and devastation within your borders.

You will call your walls, Salvation,
and your gates, Praise.

No more will the sun give you daylight,
nor moonlight shine upon you;

But the Lord will be your everlasting light,
your God will be your splendour.

I For you shall be called the city of God,
the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 60.1-3, 11a, 18-19, 14b

**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 (see Sunday readings or daily readings list on the back of the pewsheet)

Reflection

Gospel Canticle – Benedictus

This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
the one who will bring healing to the nations.

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,
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,
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,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
10. **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.**

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made all things?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed the world?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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...

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May Christ, who sends us to the nations, give us the power of his Spirit.
Amen.

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

EVENING PRAYER - Epiphany

○ God, make speed to save us;

○ Lord, make haste to help us.

From the rising of the sun to its setting
your glory is proclaimed in all the world.

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

You gave your Christ as a light to the nations,
and through the anointing of the Spirit
you established us a royal priesthood.

As you call us into your marvelous light,
may our lives bear witness to your truth
and our lips never cease to proclaim your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God forever.

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
So may your mercy come down upon us to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise now and forever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

Canticle – Great & Wonderful (or Psalm on daily readings list on the back page of the Pewsheets)

**All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ,
and share in the feast of your kingdom.**

Great and wonderful are your deeds,
Lord God the Almighty.

Just and true are your ways,
○ ruler of the nations.

Who shall not revere and praise your name, O Lord?
for you alone are holy.

All nations shall come and worship in your presence:
for your just dealings have been revealed.

**To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb:
be blessing and honour and glory and might,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ,
and share in the feast of your kingdom.**

Bible Reading (see *Sunday readings*
or *daily readings list on the back of the pewsheet*)

Reflection

Gospel Cantic – Magnificat

Behold, my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; the anointed one on whom my Spirit rests.

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 ancestors:
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.**

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made all things?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed the world?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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...

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May Christ, who sends us to the nations, give us the power of his Spirit.
Amen.

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

Reflection – Alan Rudge

Readings - Acts 19:1-7 and Mark 1:4-11

What's in a name and why are names so important? What do names mean to us and what did they mean in the past? Parents-to-be sometimes spend a lot of time researching the meaning of names. If they were sports fanatics they might name a boy after a famous sportsman or in the case of one Liverpool supporter the whole of the team! Some people choose aspirational names for their children, such as Elijah or even Jesus! In the past names were very important because of what they revealed about your family and its history – we see the importance of family name and history throughout the Bible. When Elizabeth and Zechariah brought their son for baptism their friends were astonished when they said his name would be John as there had been no one in their family of that name! Today some names tell us immediately about the occupations of our forebears or their family - Cooper, Farmer, Johnson etc. More importantly, God himself has given a person a new name to reflect their new identity; Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah, Jacob to Israel. Jesus renamed Simon to indicate who he would be, he renamed Saul as Paul. So it's not surprising that, in the early church, naming became associated with the Baptism of new believers, often after a fairly long period of teaching, the adults frequently adopting new names for themselves. It was a public declaration of who they had become through their faith in Jesus. The Chinese Christians often have a western Christian name to identify themselves as Christians, a very obvious sign of their faith, and then their Chinese family name

When Jesus was baptised by John he was named by God

“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

How many other people heard this we do not know but Jesus did; he was given the confirmation of who he was which was affirmed by his anointing by the Holy Spirit. The Three Persons of the Trinity present together yet separate.

As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

Jesus didn't need to be baptised; he was and is the only sinless person who has ever existed. So why did he insist that John baptise him? Firstly it was the acknowledgement of John as his God-ordained forerunner; secondly, he was identifying himself with humanity; Jesus fully God and fully human, the promised Messiah, became one with us. The ceremonial washing he received was the example for us to follow. Right from the beginning, Jesus never commanded from behind, he led from the front. Ultimately, Jesus became 'sin for us' through his death on the cross, taking all our shame and sin upon himself so that through our belief and trust in him we could be released from its burden.

So, for Christians, Baptism isn't just about naming; it's also about being given an identity with Christ – he in us and us in him, as Paul describes it. Our reading from Acts clearly shows that, just as when Jesus was baptised, there are two parts; water and Spirit. The people had received John's baptism, a baptism of repentance, when they took the step to be cleansed, symbolised by being immersed in water. Paul enquires:

“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

So the people had been 'washed' through John's baptism – their decision – but they hadn't received the gift that God had for them. When Paul laid his hands on them God filled them with the Holy Spirit, evidenced by their speaking in tongues and prophesying! God had made them his own. If you have time read the rest of Chapter 19 of Acts – it is very revealing. It's not just the decision we make it's also God's response to our repentance and decision to allow him to deal with our shame and sin when we ask him into our lives. Of course, this isn't just a one off request; we continually need to ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit to help us to keep our new identity and to have the help to become the people God wants us to be - to fulfil our potential.

“Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

(Romans 12:1-2)

Our ambition should be to seek an increasingly closer relationship with God; to allow him to lead us along the path he has laid out for us, so we can search and determine what his priorities are. Peter explains it like this:

“As you come to him (Jesus) the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Meeting together to worship, pray and celebrate, strengthens us and encourages us to allow the Holy Spirit to unlock our potential to achieve great things for God, both individually and collectively as the Body of Christ; to achieve things we never imagined we could do. Our identity in Christ is shared by all Christians throughout the world, reaching down to us in our rural churches. There are many examples of individuals or small groups of people who have done amazing things sometimes against all odds because they had the courage to follow the vision God gave them: 24/7 prayer, Jackie Pullinger and the walled city in Hong Kong, Samaritans (I vicar), Water Aid, Open Doors (I Brother Andrew), Release International (I Richard Wurmbandt), and Send a Cow; in fact a large proportion of today's aid organisations. What about what has been achieved here; The Drop in Centre, the Food Bank and the Sukkot house? All three started with the vision of one or two people and their perseverance to see them to fulfilment.;

We read in Proverbs 19:17:

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to God, and he will repay them for their deed.”

What does all of this mean for us in 2021 and beyond? What is our response to the challenges we face – climate change, independence from Europe, the pandemic, inequality - in the future? Do we sigh and say it isn't possible to do all the things we want to? Or do we put our trust in the living God, seek his will for us and for our churches pray together and have an expectation that he will give us what we need to continue his work here? God will give us what we need in his good time and in response to the sacrifices we make to further his kingdom.

God says, “I will build my church.”

God **will** build up his church using us as his living stones. We, for our part need to:

Be **A**ctive in worship

Continue to support the work of the church

Find **T**ime to pray each day

Support those in need.

Just as the early church was identified through its acts so we too should be identifiable through our actions.

We have a significant part to play and the church here is still a focal part of the community. Let us pray and work together to keep it as such for years and centuries to come.

Prayers of intercession *by Yv Wainwright*

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Father.

Our response this morning is
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For the mission of the Church, for a Hybrid church witnessing both on line and in churches across the world, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, using the gifts you have given to us let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For those preparing for baptism and confirmation and for their teachers and sponsors, let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For peace in the world ...that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For the poor, the persecuted, for refugees, prisoners, and all-in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For those whom we have injured or offended, the sick, and all who suffer thinking particularly for those with COVID 19 where ever they may be for all those known to us to be ill or in need at this time let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, let us pray to the Father.
Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness, giving thanks for the lives of the recently departed and those whose anniversaries occur at this time...

let us pray to the Father.

Lord of compassion,

in your mercy hear us.

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your son our saviour Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

For all those parents, guardians, and child-carers, who are struggling as schools are forced to close again, may the following give you encouragement and help you to be kind to yourselves...

Parents remember it's OK ...

- not to aim for 'Outstanding' in Ofsted home schooling
- to relax the rules on screen time
- not to have a colour-coded activity chart
- for your children not to know how 'just to be'
- for teenagers to be missing their friends
- for siblings to argue
- for you to need some time out

**It's OK just to be there.
Everything else is a bonus.
Just get them through.**



Blessing for such a time as this –

Through the power and presence of God
may you never become cynical
may you never become jaded
may you never lose heart
may you never lose faith
may you see light and good in everyone
may you remain open to wonder and mystery
may you stay rooted in hope
Amen.

Resources for Worship

During this time when we may not be able to 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. Please use the new Compline booklet which is available from the team office or the porch at All Saints Oakham. Please email Liz on ps0@oakhamteam.org.uk if you would like a copy.
- The Church of England has an online resources page at <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>.
- **Lectio Divina**. Vyv Wainwright has produced a booklet as a quick guide to us all in the practice of daily prayer. The booklet is available directly from Vyv or there are some copies available in the south porch of All Saints Oakham.
- **Bishop Donald's Youtube channel**. All of Bishop Donald's sermons, Psalm talks, and other material, are available on his [YouTube channel](#)
- **Daily Hope** A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers. 0800 8048044

Services this week

Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th 8.30am Morning Prayer at All Saints Oakham – you are welcome to attend in person or watch online.

Tuesday 12th 9am Holy Communion at All Saints Oakham

Online Services

Morning Prayer – 8.30am Monday to Friday

Compline – Wednesday at 8.30pm

Next Sunday – 17 January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Readings: Psalm 139.1-9; 1 Samuel 3.1-10; Revelation 5.1-10; John 1.43-51

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.

BIBLE IN A YEAR – EXODUS

From Pharaoh to Freedom.

Exodus takes Jacob's family, who have settled in Egypt and prospered, into a time of adversity and enslavement when the ruling powers see the Hebrew people as a threat. God raises up Moses and prepares him for the task of bringing His people out of slavery and into the promised land. Exodus tells us of the life of Moses, his meeting with God at the burning bush, his confrontation with Pharaoh, of the Passover and how God works to enable his purposes. Exodus ends with Moses meeting with God on Mount Sinai and receiving the Law.

If you would like to find out more about the book of Exodus and engage with it prayerfully go to this weblink (<https://bit.ly/39J6W00>) where you will find readings, art, links to music, David Suchet reading the passages of scripture and to the Bible Project animated outline of the book of the week.

News from the Team

New Curate for the Oakham Team – summer 2021



Hi, my name is Shakeel Nurmahi, I'm 24 years old, and I am delighted to be joining the Oakham team as Assistant Curate in June 2021. I grew up in Southampton in a Christian home and attended a South-Asian Church with my family, which later evolved to be an international free church. At 18 years old I moved to Bristol to read Theology at Trinity College Bristol. After three years in Bristol, I moved to Kettering, where I was serving as an intern as a part of Peterborough Diocese's Echo Ministry Experience Scheme. During the two years I was in Kettering, I was exploring a sense of calling to ordained ministry with Peterborough Diocese DDO, Steve Benoy. In April 2019 I was recommended for training and moved to Durham in the

Autumn to begin training at Cranmer Hall. After two years of training, I will be moving back to Peterborough Diocese to serve my title post as a part of the Oakham team. I will be moving to Rutland with Cecily, my fiancée, after our wedding next June. We met in Durham at Cranmer Hall, where we have both been training for ordination. We will be getting married in the summer just before we move to Rutland. Cecily will be weekly boarding in Durham as she completes her final year of training and will be back in Rutland on the weekends and the holidays, so you will still see her around.

I am very excited about joining the Oakham team, and I am very much looking forward to meeting you all. I hope that I can bring my passion for Jesus to the ministry across the churches. In my spare time, I enjoy snooker, tennis, reading and audio production. Thank you for all you have been doing in preparation for our arrival. Please continue to pray for us in the run-up to next summer. We can't wait. See you in June 2021! - Shakeel Nurmah

Revd Canon Moseling

I am sorry to announce that Revd Peter Moseling died recently. He provided service cover in the Oakham Team from time to time. Peter was priest-in-charge and then vicar of Holy Trinity and St Paul's Northampton in Peterborough Diocese. He also served as a chaplain at Northampton University. Before retirement Peter served as a vicar and area dean in Southwark Diocese. Please remember Peter's wife Ann.

Latest lockdown instructions:

Public worship is permitted under the latest lockdown instructions and churches are allowed to remain open for private prayer. The instructions will no doubt be updated as the month goes on. Sunday services will continue in line with the pattern outlined above. 10.30am services will be broadcast online. In addition there will be public services of Morning Prayer at All Saints Oakham at 8.30am on Tuesdays and Thursdays and a service of Holy Communion at All Saints Oakham at 9am on Tuesdays. Please consider all the Government guidance as you decide whether to join in public worship, and continue to observe all the social distancing instructions if you do attend.

Churches Together in Oakham Prayer Breakfast

I write on behalf of Churches Together in Oakham and District to invite you to the annual breakfast meeting during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Unfortunately we cannot meet in person, but rather than miss a year the CTiO committee has arranged a Zoom gathering on Saturday 23rd January 9am-11am. The theme is 'Responding to COVID19 - the present and future of online and in person church'.

We will be guided through our thinking and discussion by The Venerable Bob Jackson, who has researched and written on the church's response to COVID19 over the last year <https://www.cpas.org.uk/browse-everything/everybody-welcome-online>. In

preparation for our event, each church has submitted a questionnaire to help Bob understand our strengths and weaknesses.

To access the event you will need to email me at stephen@oakhamteam.org.uk by Wednesday 20th January. I will send you the joining instructions and the format of the session. We will have some time for discussion in small groups. If you are new to Zoom or will need any assistance accessing the event please indicate this in your email. The CTiO committee realises that not everyone can, or wants to, join in church events online. The discussion will cover the broader picture of church life. We hope and pray our time together will equip us to support one another in our mission and ministry to Oakham and District. Stephen

Hope into Action tenants

A big thank you for your generosity in providing items for the hamper or donating money to help them buy their Christmas presents and gain access to the internet in the house. This plus the cards were very much appreciated and your love and support felt by them both.

Heather and Gary

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



**RUTLAND YOUTH
OPEN ART
EXHIBITION**

**THEME:
'OPEN
THE
DOOR'**

**Submission
Deadline:
19th March
2021**

**EXHIBITION
DATES:
9th April -
6th May
2021**

**We've
gone
virtual!**

**RUTLAND
ARTS
FORUM**

An exhibition of selected artwork by artists based in Rutland & its surrounding counties.
All selected works to be shared on the Arts for Rutland website and social media sites.

Entry forms available at: www.a4r.org.uk

**Rutland
County Council**

facebook **instagram** **twitter** **in**

**ARTS FOR
RUTLAND**

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 11 January	Psalm 2 1 Corinthians 1.1-17	Psalm 34 Amos 1
Tuesday 12 January	Psalm 9 1 Corinthians 1.18-end	Psalm 45 Amos 2
Wednesday 13 January	Psalm 20 1 Corinthians 2	Psalm 47 Amos 3
Thursday 14 January	Psalm 21 1 Corinthians 3	Psalm 61 Amos 4
Friday 15 January	Psalm 67 1 Corinthians 4	Psalm 68 Amos 5.1-17
Saturday 16 January	Psalm 33 1 Corinthians 5	Psalm 85 Amos 5.18-end

Collect

**Holy Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus your Son:
may we recognise him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen**