



PARISHIONERS' NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2024



Sedum by the back gate, New High Street - Brigid

www.allsaintsheadington.org.uk

Who's Who at All Saints

<p>Minister Rev. Paul Niemiec minister@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</p>	<p>Director of Music and Organist Stuart Donaldson organist@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</p>
<p>Honorary Assistant Priest Rev. Peter Boulton-Lea</p>	<p>Assistant Organist Keith Waters</p>
<p>Churchwardens James Larminie churchwarden2@allsaintsheadington.org.uk Janet Marx churchwarden1@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</p>	<p>Choir Administrator Vivienne Larminie</p>
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<p>Hon. Treasurer John Glasson</p>	<p>Social Committee Chair Susan Newey</p>
<p>Hon. Secretary PCC Vivienne Larminie pcc.secretary@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</p>	<p>Children's Team Catherine Donaldson Andrew Steane Emma Steane</p>
<p>Hon. Sacristan and Flower Coordinator Valerie Boulter</p>	<p>Welcome Team Valerie Boulter Veronica John Susan Newey Lucy Whitworth John Whitworth Alison Kempson William Marx</p>
<p>Garden Brigid Crofton Valerie Boulter John Macaulay</p>	

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A Message from Paul

Hello again,

It's been great to meet so many of you recently at our services, Garden Party, Parish Lunch and various meetings and gatherings, and to speak about the Bible to lots of you.

Do you have a Bible?

Do you read it?

The reason I ask is that, in my experience many can say 'yes' to the first and, sadly, far fewer to the second. So I thought I'd share some tips that have helped me and many others.

Find a translation that you feel comfortable with and understand. The Authorised Version is loved by many but understood by very few.

I would recommend RSV, NIV, NASB and 'New Living'.

You may wish to have a digital Bible; please be careful. There are all manner of rogue translations around; perhaps again, I might recommend the above.

Find a hard or electronic Bible you're happy with, Bible Gateway.com is a great site to try out and find things, and is totally free.

Would finding a special time, chair or place help you? Some like to have a "Quiet" time each day or a comfy chair to relax in?

Whatever helps you to read God's word and to hear His voice through it is, simply, wonderful.

God Bless

Paul

Worship in October

In October we begin with our Harvest Festival on 6 October. This lovely service, which is still very relevant to ‘townies’ like most of us in Headington, will be followed by our annual Harvest Lunch in Church House.

We have Choral Evensong, with soup afterwards, again on the last Sunday, 27 October. Do try and fit that service in if you are able. *Don't forget that clocks go back on the weekend of 27th!*

As an advance notice, the first Sunday in November, 3 November, is our Patronal Festival and Gift Day, the Sunday nearest All Saints' Day, a special Sunday in our calendar.

Time	Date	Sunday	Preacher/Celebrant
10:00 a.m	6 Oct.	Harvest	Paul Niemiec
10:00 a.m	13 Oct.	Trinity 20	Paul Niemiec
10:00 a.m	20 Oct.	Trinity 21	Paul Niemiec
10:00 a.m	27 Oct.	Trinity 22	Paul Niemiec
5:30 p.m.	27 Oct.	Trinity 22	James Larminie

During the week there are services for prayer at **8:30 a.m.** as follows: -
Tuesdays, Book of Common Prayer Morning Prayer
Wednesdays and Thursdays, more informal prayer

Readers should be aware that different members of the ‘All Saints Team’ also takes services in McMaster House, St Luke’s Hospital, and The Headington Care Home, but these are only open to residents of these places.

James

Report from the September PCC meeting

On Tuesday 17 September, the parochial church council met for the first time under Paul Niemiec's chairmanship. As in July, all members were present. Paul struck a keynote with a Gospel reading expressing the commission to spread the good news of Jesus to all, which, as he commented, extends to the All Saints PCC and congregation.

This theme recurred as we discussed one of the major items on the agenda – a draft budget for 2025 prepared by our treasurer, John Glasson. In a context where we are in a reasonably good position financially, but almost certainly face rising costs in some areas (e.g. energy), the aim of this is to plan ahead better for our necessary expenditure and for our giving. Our current commitment to giving away 10% of our income was reaffirmed. Building on existing links, we resolved to explore charitable and outreach projects that we might support and representatives of charities – local, national and overseas – who might come and speak about their work. This would be discussed at the next PCC meeting, but in the meantime we agreed it would be helpful to identify someone in the congregation willing to be responsible for promoting mission.

At a more mundane level, in the wake of the diocese's quinquennial (five-yearly) inspection of the church, we agreed spending on the repair of the church gutters and on numerous other minor works. We also agreed to purchase more cushions for chairs in the central part of the nave (burgundy colour) and for the Lady Chapel (cream colour); this was both for comfort and for ease in returning furniture to the correct place after being moved by the different users of our building. The possibility of installing a projector screen would be explored.

Otherwise, as usual, we heard reports from those responsible for different activities, and also received updates on the plans for Gift Day (3 November: see separate article) and special Sundays and other events in the run-up to Christmas. There is a great deal happening, so look out for it in this Newsletter, on the website and on the noticeboards. An additional outside noticeboard, to be installed to the east of the church in New High Street, will be arriving shortly.

Vivienne

Gift Day

Almost all churches have a Sunday, or a period of a few weeks, when the members are called to consider their giving to the church, both in terms of money and time. This is a vital part of the ministry of all Christians – supporting the running of the church. It was a feature of the Jewish temple worship in the Old Testament, and has always been a challenge put on Christians right from the beginning of the church. Many churches continually bang the drum about giving very loudly. We at All Saints are very constrained, even timid, in our calls to give.

For many years in All Saints the call to give has centred around our Gift Day. Recently this has been on the Sunday when the great Christian festival of All Saints is celebrated. This year it will be on Sunday 3 November, the Sunday after All Saints' Day, which is our "Patronal Festival". **In the final weeks of October you will all receive a letter from our parish priest Paul asking you to consider your giving to the church.** We ask you please to consider the challenge in the letter, and respond.

One reason All Saints is comparatively quiet in its appeal to give money is that **you are a very generous people. Thank you!** We are not in a bad position financially. Month to month your generous regular giving, and other income, more-or-less balances our ordinary expenditure. By far the largest of our outgoings is the "parish share" we pay to the Oxford Diocese, which they use to pay, train and house clergy. *We fully pay our way here, and receive no subsidy.* However, we need the boost that the Gift Day brings to cover things like repairs, improvements, and even some regular payments like our whopping insurance bill – over £3,000 per year. We need to do some 'wear and tear' repairs costing about £8,000 in all this year – which is hardly surprising on such a large building. With more resources would also come the ability to pursue mission opportunities.

So, thank you for what you do now. But look out for the Gift Day letters and please respond!

Treasurer and churchwardens

Goods for Harvest Festival



Are you able to supply dry goods for the Harvest Festival display on **6th October**?

It would be very helpful if you could bring them to Church on Saturday 5th October. I will put a box out at the back of the Church for these items.

Flowers can be brought into Church on Saturday 5th October 10.00am when volunteers will be needed to help me decorate the Church.

Thank you to all of you who will be able to help in any way.

Valerie

News from the Social Committee

Wednesday 2 October 12.15 pm - The Britannia Lunch

Although the Britannia is currently close for refurbishment it is due to open again on 26 September, so if all goes to plan we should be able to have our monthly lunch on Wednesday 2 October at 12.15pm.

Susan

Good Luck Elsie!

We all send our love and best wishes to Elsie Steane, who has just started a degree in English Literature and Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia at Norwich. Over the last few years Elsie has been coming to All Saints' with her mum and dad, Emma and Andrew (who sing in the choir and who with Catherine Donaldson form the Children's Team), and – when they are not at university – her older brothers Wilfred and Joseph. Elsie has done a lot for All Saints'. She has helped Andrew and Emma with the children and been part of the team serving tea and coffee after the service. More recently, she has been turning her creative and artistic talents to giving some TLC to the Nativity figures. They were beginning to look a little worn and we look forward to seeing them refreshed at our Christingle service on Christmas Eve.



Thank you, Elsie. We wish you all success and happiness in your university career and look forward to seeing you back in the vacations.

Janet

Nigel Boulter: BBC Radio Oxford Making a Difference Awards 2024

Nigel's name was nominated by Cathy Oliveira, Rob Sued and Councillor Mark Lygo, to be entered into the Volunteer Award category for his 50 years of service to Quarry Rovers Football Club. In that time he has been a Player, Secretary, Fixture Secretary and Welfare Officer.

There were eight sections and within each over 100 names were sent in. Radio Oxford sorted through all of the names and whittled them down to four in each section.

Nigel's name was selected. A short video was made of Nigel at the Margaret Road Playing Field, which was shown on BBC South Today television news. The sound was also broadcasted on Radio Oxford. Nigel told every one what he had done, and Cathy also said that "Had it not been for Nigel's support over 50 years, Quarry Rovers may not have survived". There are now ten boys' teams and seven girls' teams aged between 7 and 18 years.



On Wednesday 11th September, Nigel was invited with his nominees, and sister Valerie to go to the Kassam Stadium at Cowley. A Red Carpet for everyone to walk upon, a glass of bubbly on arrival and then shown to table 6 in the large conference room. School children had made table decorations with a light inside and we sat facing the stage where Jerome Sale and Sophie Law were there to make the announcements. Guest celebrities had been invited to choose from the four selected and either came onto the stage, or spoke via a video link.

Nigel's celebrity was Debbie McGee, who said how hard it had been to make the winning selection.

We had Graham Bell the commentator from Ski Sunday on BBC television sitting at our table, he was also featured in the Dancing on Ice programme.



Everyone from All Saints send their congratulations to Nigel for receiving this very special award. Very much deserved.

Valerie

Parish Garden Party

The annual Parish Garden Party was held on Sunday 8 September. The morning started damp and grey and it seemed likely we would be entertaining in the church. Happily, by mid-day the weather improved and we were able to set up chairs and tables outside on the grass.



We welcomed a large number of people from our regular congregation and the wider community as this was an ideal opportunity for many people to meet Paul and Helen.



An excellent selection of food was prepared by the Social Committee and others with a choice of sandwiches, cakes and homemade scones with jam, cream and strawberries and copious cups of tea.

The Quarry Wind Quintet again provided a varied programme of music, which was much enjoyed by everyone. As usual, games were provided for the children.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the afternoon a very successful and enjoyable occasion yet again.

Susan



I'd like to thank all who were involved in any way in making our garden party such a special afternoon. With the rain holding off, the music being played, good food, great chat and so many helping in so many ways. I know, from numerous conversations that I wasn't the only one who appreciated everyone's hard work.

Thank you all.

Paul

Choral Evensong 29th September

Choral Evensong is always a tranquil end to the day and so it was last Sunday. One of the main themes of the service was Harvest and the congregation rejoiced in singing some traditional Harvest hymns and our hearts were further uplifted by the choir's rendition of Maurice Greene's great anthem 'Thou visiteth the Earth'.

Having been sustained spiritually by the lovely service, we were then well catered for by Stuart's excellent soup and bread, as these photos taken by Janet illustrate.



A Courtier Bishop: Brian Duppa (1588-1662) and the Church of England

As may have been evident from my series of articles in the Newsletter about the Oxford diocese in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, some of my research concerns bishops, here and elsewhere. Two who have been mentioned previously, Robert Corbett and the much better-known John Fell, served as dean of Christ Church before becoming bishop of Oxford. Fell, uniquely, held both posts simultaneously for ten years after 1676, and consequently wielded enormous influence over both the diocese and the university, but fifty years earlier Corbett (pictured to the right in a somewhat uninspiring pose) relinquished the deanery on his appointment as bishop. Unfortunately, he failed to appreciate that this involved stepping back from the day-to-day control over the cathedral. When he added to his already dubious reputation (for inappropriate pranks and drunkenness among other things) by highhandedly arranging ordinations and confirmations in the cathedral without consulting the cathedral chapter, his successor as dean correctly insisted that Corbett should have asked them first, at which Corbett huffily went off and organised these services elsewhere.



Judging by what else we know about that new dean, he was likely to have expressed himself in eloquent but diplomatic language. Brian Duppa, who was dean of Christ Church between 1629 and 1638 (outstaying Bishop Corbett), was an accomplished scholar and knew how to conduct himself in public life. His father Jeffrey had been a royal servant, ‘purveyor of the buttery’ to Elizabeth I and brewer to James I – not menial roles but key positions in providing the monarch with food and drink, offering opportunities for acquiring wealth and influence. Brian himself had excelled at Westminster School, where he was taught Hebrew by the eminent scholar, preacher and eventual bishop Lancelot Andrewes (brought to modern notice through the poetry of T. S. Eliot). After studying for his BA and MA at Christ Church, Duppa travelled for a few years in France and Spain, before returning to Oxford and receiving his



doctorate in 1625. Then 'the comeliness of his presence, the gentleness of his carriage, and the variety and smoothness of his learning' [*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, citing BL, Lansdowne 986, f. 11] gave him too an entrée to the royal court, by this time that of Charles I. Patronage from leading courtiers the earl of Dorset (to whom he was chaplain) and the duke of Buckingham provided him with church livings and the deanery of Christ Church.

While at Christ Church, Duffie remodelled the cathedral, removing a clutter of old memorials and stalls, and installing a new pulpit and screen, with the aim of making worship more decorous. He commissioned the two stained-glass windows by the van Linge brothers which are still visible, the one showing Jonah sheltering under the

gourd being especially memorable. In the college Duffie nurtured several promising students who later became notable; in a double stint as vice-chancellor he promoted the administrative reforms of its chancellor, Archbishop William Laud, supported the archbishop's campaign against unregulated preaching, and issued decrees designed to curb unacceptable student behaviour, including drunkenness, inappropriate dress and language, absence from college and non-payment of bills.

Alongside this, Duffie maintained friendships with other clergy, scholars, and literary luminaries, including John Donne, Ben Jonson, and future bishop Henry King. He not only supported the publication of their works, but also on occasion contributed his own verse. By 1636 his reputation was such that he was appointed tutor to the Prince of Wales, the future Charles II, who was then only six years old. This responsibility continued when he was made successively bishop of Chichester in 1638 and bishop of Salisbury in 1641.

When civil war broke out in England in 1642, Duffie, assuming the role of mouthpiece to the twelve-year-old prince, presented to Charles I a plea that he should

seek reconciliation between himself and his Parliament, soon published as *Prince Charles His Gracious Resolution Concerning the present Affaires of this Kingdome*. It depicted a prince ‘oftentimes’ in tears about the ‘miseries’ that had been endured by the king’s subjects and, to those familiar with the later reputation of the prince as the ‘merry monarch’ Charles II, a boy who was implausibly intellectually gifted and pious. It deployed what seems like emotional blackmail: the prince was so melancholy about the situation that it was adversely affecting his health. Would the king please act to ensure that the prince’s inheritance of the kingdom was preserved? Here was a consummate courtier at work.



The plea achieved nothing, but as the war continued Duppa remained at his post with the prince and, as the king established his alternative capital at Oxford and his headquarters at Christ Church, published prayers sustaining adherents of the royalist cause. A propaganda campaign hotted up on both sides, in which Duppa was a butt of the parliamentary press: ‘he frames enchanted prayers for Christ Church Chappell; and so makes the organs (at once) pipe out Impiety against Heaven, and Treason against the State’ [anon. *The character of an Oxford-incendiary* (1645), 4]. However, Charles I held him in high regard. When, defeated on the battlefield, the king left Oxford in 1645 and surrendered to a Scottish army stationed at Newark (reasoning that he would get a better deal from them than from the English Parliament), it was Duppa (along with Bishop William Juxon of London) whom he consulted on a matter of conscience. Was it morally and legally justifiable to concede to the Scots the price of peace that they demanded – confirmation of the abolition of episcopacy and agreement to the imposition of a Presbyterian Church of England – when he intended to renege on this whenever opportunity afforded? Duppa and Juxon assured him that ‘a temporary compliance in matters of religion’ would not contravene his coronation oath or the dictates of conscience. Herein they helped the king gain some short-term respite, but, since the insincerity of his concession became obvious over the next few years, they also contributed to the conclusion that he could not be trusted to keep his word on religious (or any) matters. That was a significant contributory factor to the process that led to Charles I’s execution in 1649.

Over the following 11 years of the republic and protectorate, Duppa produced private prayers for use by those who wanted to mark the anniversary on 30 January of that execution. He was at the centre of a group of clergy who worked covertly with

members of Prince Charles's court in exile on the continent to preserve and restore an episcopal church of England and who largely ignored the arguably more effective efforts of some other bishops not connected to that court – like Bishop Robert Skinner of Oxford. Soon after the restoration of the monarchy in May 1660, Duppa was duly rewarded with a summons to the side of his former pupil, the newly installed Charles II – ‘that I might be more useful to him’, as he told a friend [Bodleian Library, MS Tanner 49, f. 17]. Once at court he rapidly found that opportunities to influence the king were limited, but within a few months he was ‘promoted’ to be bishop of Winchester, traditionally among the wealthiest and most prestigious dioceses, and carrying with it membership of the Order of the Garter.

Duppa only had a few months to enjoy his reward, dying in April 1662. In a funeral sermon delivered in Winchester Cathedral, his old friend Bishop Henry King recounted how Charles II had come to visit Duppa on his death-bed. ‘As once the King of Israel came to see the dying prophet Elisha ... so did a Better King than He, the King of our Israel, repair to this dying Prelate a few hours before his expiration ... to require a *Benediction* from Him at Parting; which in the lowest Posture of Humility He besought’. Duppa had duly given a blessing, ‘like Jacob on His Death-bed ... with one Hand laid upon His Masters Head, and the other lifted up to Heaven’ [H. King, *A Sermon Preached at the Funeral of ... Bryan, Lord Bp. of Winchester* (1662), 37-8]. Like Duppa's characterisation of twenty years earlier, Bishop King's rose-coloured description of Charles II stretches credibility somewhat, and his account of Duppa's (and his own) responsibility for saving the Church of England is by no means the whole story. But his remarks about Duppa's generosity and hospitality are borne out by the scholars he supported when living and the many legacies he left on dying (including to Christ Church and All Souls College). Meanwhile, the charm of manner to which his friends testified and devoted service he gave to two kings seem beyond dispute.

Vivienne

Diocesan News

Here are a few items of Diocesan news which you may find of interest:

A Vigil for Peace, Remembrance and Unity: *Sunday 6th October , 7 pm. Bonn Square*

Join faith and community leaders in an act of solidarity with all who suffer from conflict and war in Israel, Palestine and across the world. The vigil has been organised by the Oxfordshire Civic, Community and Faith Leaders' Group, led by Bishop Steven and Imam Monawar Hussain. See poster later in the newsletter.

Scam Calls targeting women in churches

The diocese has received reports of a scam targeting women in a church setting. 'Steve', who has a strong Irish accent, contacts by phone asking to meet. He wants to talk about money and he uses an emotional story to obtain it. You should avoid meeting him and call the police if he calls you.

Safeguarding: Independent Audit

In June 2024, the diocese underwent an independent audit of its Safeguarding work and it was found to have ' a solid safeguarding foundation delivered by its exceptionally well-led and blended Safeguarding Team'. The report commended its 'safeguarding first' philosophy and congratulated the parishes on the sense of optimism on the frontline.

Catherine H snr

From the Editors

Once again we express our gratitude to all the contributors to this issue, which we think will provide readers with a taste of the welcoming nature of our parish. On the subject of 'welcome', we editors know we are fortunate in having a solid nucleus of contributors on whom we can rely, but we would welcome other contributors. As the days shorten perhaps you will be spending more time reading? If you are particularly impressed by a book, you could share your enthusiasm with us by writing a review.

My attention was caught by a recent letter in the 'Financial Times'. Edward Tulasiewicz, the Head of Policy and Public Affairs at National Churches Trust wrote to draw attention to how church buildings provide massive social support to people and communities throughout the UK. The National Churches Trust estimates that the yearly social value of churches in the UK and the activities undertaken is around £55bn. For every £1 invested in a church building, the return is over £16. The letter

goes on to say that church buildings are doing extraordinary work in increasing wellbeing in communities throughout the UK.



Brigid has kindly sent us this picture of Phyllis Bolt; we were all very concerned to learn she had had a fall and then relieved to hear from her daughter Christine that the irrepressible Phyllis is recovering well. At 99, she is a remarkable example of Christian faith and fortitude to us all.

So we ask your prayers for Phyllis' sustained recovery and we ask you to remember the members of All Saints' who are no longer well enough to join our worship in church; please pray for Sheila Fitzgerald, Marian Loudon, Eve Vause, Joan Turner and Audrey and Derek Woodcock .

There is much to look forward to in church this month, including the Harvest Festival on the first Sunday of October and Choral Evensong & Soup on the last Sunday. We wish you a blessed October.

Catherine & Catherine

PS Another date for your diaries : The very popular OXUS quartet have a concert in All Saints' on 30th November (late afternoon) – but this time they will be joined by Catriona Scott to play clarinet quintets. Full details in our next issue.

A Vigil for Peace, Remembrance and Unity



Bonn Square, Oxford
7pm Sunday 6 October

Join faith and community leaders in an act of solidarity with all who suffer from conflict and war in Israel, Palestine and across the world; and to stand in unity against all forms of hatred, racism and division.

oxford.anglican.org/vigil

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