



**PARISHIONERS' NEWSLETTER**  
**MAY 2025**



*Choisya Aztec Pearl, in All Saints Rd – Brigid*

**[www.allsaintsheadington.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsheadington.org.uk)**

## Who's Who at All Saints

<b>Minister</b> Rev. Paul Niemiec <a href="mailto:minister@allsaintsheadington.org.uk">minister@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</a>	<b>Director of Music and Organist</b> Stuart Donaldson <a href="mailto:organist@allsaintsheadington.org.uk">organist@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</a>
<b>Churchwardens</b> James Larminie <a href="mailto:churchwarden2@allsaintsheadington.org.uk">churchwarden2@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</a> Janet Marx <a href="mailto:churchwarden1@allsaintsheadington.org.uk">churchwarden1@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</a>	<b>Assistant Organist</b> Keith Waters <b>Choir Administrator</b> Vivienne Larminie <b>Editors: Parish Newsletter</b> Catherine Hodgkinson and Catherine Hodgkinson <a href="mailto:newsletter@allsaintsheadington.org.uk">newsletter@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</a>
<b>Licensed Lay Ministers</b> James Larminie <a href="mailto:churchwarden2@allsaintsheadington.org.uk">churchwarden2@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</a> Christine Tucker <a href="mailto:llm1@allsaintsheadington.org.uk">llm1@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</a> Michael Oberuohwo	<b>Website</b> Christine Tucker Catherine Donaldson <a href="mailto:webmaster@allsaintsheadington.org.uk">webmaster@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</a>
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b> Emma Steane <a href="mailto:safeguarding@allsaintsheadington.org.uk">safeguarding@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</a>	<b>Social Committee Chair</b> Susan Newey
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b> John Glasson	<b>Children's Team</b> Catherine Donaldson Andrew Steane Emma Steane
<b>Hon. Secretary PCC</b> Vivienne Larminie <a href="mailto:pcc.secretary@allsaintsheadington.org.uk">pcc.secretary@allsaintsheadington.org.uk</a>	<b>Welcome Team</b> Valerie Boulter Veronica John Susan Newey Lucy Whitworth John Whitworth Alison Kempson William Marx
<b>Hon. Sacristan and Flower Coordinator</b> Valerie Boulter	
<b>Garden</b> Brigid Crofton Valerie Boulter John Macaulay	

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## A Message from Paul – God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Hello Everyone

We are now in a most sacred time of the year; we can look back just a while ago to Easter and in a while to come Pentecost will be with us. Now we remember the resurrection and Jesus' promise that when He left, He would send a helper, HIS HOLY SPIRIT.

There are some who think that the Holy Spirit was for then, and that the signs and wonders that were seen and performed then are not for today. Let me prove to you and any who might doubt that they most certainly are.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025. Our Church, 5:30pm special “Good Shepherd” Service**

I'd had a really busy week and knew there was more to come. I'd celebrated Communion in the morning and was feeling tired. I checked what was wanted of me [not being a singer] - welcome at the beginning and blessing at the end. No problem! Between I'd sit at the back and enjoy the music. About halfway through there was to be a reflection upon the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. Nothing happened and I was waved to the front. I was empty and as I walked, I could think of nothing, even as I got to the lectern.....

Later folk thanked me for my “wonderful” words. Honestly, I couldn't and can't tell you a word I said, it was pure Holy Spirit Blessing, and it's very far from the first time!

You too can know the blessing to ask God, right now, to fill you with His Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit changed Jesus' Disciples at Pentecost: they became the Church; the Church changed the world then and is still changing the world today, and God knows how it needs to change!

Let us all pray for ourselves, each other and our Church that we too shall be changed by God, in the example of His Son, Jesus, through the power of His Holy Spirit.

God Bless,

***Paul***

1 Come, Holy Spirit, our souls inspire  
and lighten with celestial fire;  
thou the anointing Spirit art,  
who doth your sevenfold gifts impart.

2 Your blessed unction from above  
is comfort, life, and fire of love;  
enable with perpetual light  
the dullness of our blinded sight.



3 Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
and thee, of both, to be but One;  
that through the ages all along  
this may be our endless song:

4 Praise to your eternal merit,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Source: *Ancient and Modern: Hymns and Songs for Refreshing Worship*, p. 241.



*Paul leading the worship at the lovely Easter Carol Service' (Thanks to Brigid for the photo)*

## Our Worship in May

We had a very busy April, with very encouraging numbers at our Holy Week and Easter services. As well as this, there were two weddings, one of which had just over 300 guests! May is a little quieter than normal this year, following a later Easter, so the great Christian Festivals of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday fall in June. We still have one wedding this month, of two members of the Oxford Chinese Christian Church.

On 11 May Paul and Helen will be away on leave, and we are delighted to have the Archdeacon, Ven. Jonathan Chaffey, as our preacher and celebrant.

Time	Service	Date	Sunday	Celebrant/Preacher
10:00 am	Holy Communion	4 May	Easter 3	Rev. Paul Niemiec
10:00 am	Holy Communion	11 May	Easter 4	Ven. Jonathan Chaffey, Archdeacon
12:00 noon	Marriage	17 May		The wedding of Ivy and Shervan
10:00 am	Holy Communion	18 May	Easter 5	Rev. Paul Niemiec / Christine Tucker
10:00 am	Holy Communion	25 May	Easter 6	Rev. Paul Niemiec
5:30 pm	Choral Evensong	25 May	Easter 7	James Larminie

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

The All Saints team also take services in McMaster House, St Luke's Hospital and The Headington Care Home once a month in May as usual.

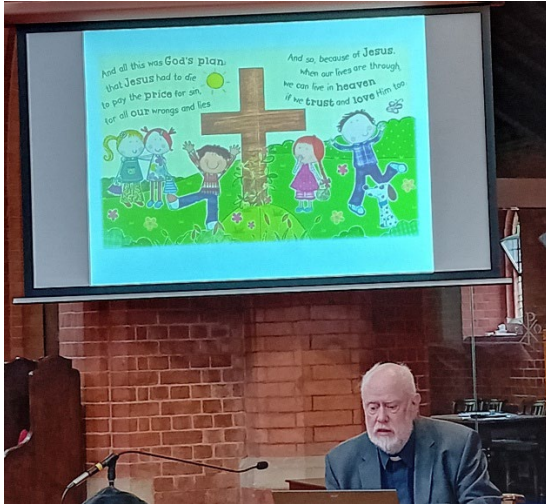
*James*



## Good Friday Morning and the Easter Garden

On the morning of Good Friday, the children met in church for the traditional telling of the Easter story (this year told by Paul with the aid of the new data projector and screen), and the building of the Easter garden (as usual, led by James). The rain threatened but stayed away, and after their efforts the children enjoyed toasted hot cross buns (as did the rest of us!) and played happily in the church for some time afterwards.

Thanks to all concerned.







*The finished Easter Garden*



*Valerie's beautiful Easter flower arrangement*

*Janet*



## Weddings in April

It was a great joy to welcome two couples, with their families and friends, for the most important day of their lives together – their marriage.

Emily and David had just over 300 family and friends at their wedding on 4 April. This involved bringing some chairs over from Church House in order for everyone to have a seat. They also had a little bit of a reception in the church afterwards, so there was a lot of work to do with tables as well! Emily was living in the parish, and was previously chair of the Oxford Brookes University Christian Union. We let them have their meetings in the church for no charge, and that was her introduction to All Saints. She and David met while they were students here. Although a British citizen, David is of Nigerian heritage, so the singing and dress of the guests had great variety of style!



Oluwaseun, normally shortened to Seun, and Michael were married two weeks later. They are both Nigerian citizens. Seun was brought up in Oxford, and now lives in Kidlington, and her adoptive parents were married in All Saints in 2009.



Both weddings were very colourful events! We have one more wedding coming up in May, this time to a Hong Kong couple from the Oxford Chinese Christian Church, Ivy and Shervan. They met while studying Architecture at Brookes University, and Ivy lived in the parish for two years.

For the last fifteen years or so we have had one wedding every couple of years, so to have three in one year, and one last year, is great. However, as they usually take a long time to plan, that might be it for this year.

*James*

## **Notice of this year's Meeting of Parishioners (MoP) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

The Meeting of Parishioners, for the election of churchwardens, and the Annual Parochial Meeting, for the election of a new parochial church council (PCC) and to receive the annual report on the life and the finances of the church, will be held on Sunday 18 May. This year it will take place in the church itself, immediately after the morning service. Coffee and tea will be available as is usual at that point and it is hoped that the different time will make it easier for people to participate. Voting is restricted to those who have signed up to the new Electoral Roll, prepared afresh this year, but others present are welcome to listen to proceedings.

*Vivienne, PCC secretary*

## **Social Committee**

Wednesday 7 May, Lunch at the Britannia at 12.15pm. Everyone welcome.



## VE Day Celebrations and World Red Cross Day

Throughout the Allied World, millions celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945.

In Britain pubs could stay open until late, and red, white and blue bunting could be bought without ration coupons.



Streets were filled with singing and dancing, parties and parades. Special thanksgiving services were held.

In England there will be a day of reflection on the war's impact with a nationwide Two Minute Silence on **8<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm** to remember the sacrifices made during World War II.



*WWII Medals belonging to Mr Vincent Boulter*

**World Red Cross Day** will be celebrated on the same day, 8<sup>th</sup> May. The Red Cross is the world's largest independent humanitarian movement, and often the only organisation able to cross borders and front lines to bring help wherever it is needed.



*Red Cross items belonging to Valerie Boulter*



## New Signage at the West End of the Church

The screen and data projector (seen in Brigid's photograph in the last issue of the newsletter) are not the only additions to All Saints Church in recent days. Thanks to James, new signage has appeared on the outer wall of the west end of the church – two signs advising on access to the church. Regular users who know their way in may well not even notice them! It is hoped, however, that the church will appear more welcoming to visitors and make sure that they know that there is ramp access at the south door on All Saints Road.



Once again, we have to thank our hardworking churchwarden and LLM.

*Janet*



## Ukraine Talk

# UKRAINE

What the papers don't tell you

A personal view of life within Ukraine today.

Brenda Gratwicke has supplied humanitarian aid to Ukraine since the start of the war, driven and delivered vehicles for the military, and since June 2023, worked for an NGO feeding thousands of Ukrainians daily throughout the country.

**Thursday 1st May, 1930. Corpus Christi Parish Hall.**

**St. Margaret's Rd, Headington. OX3 8AJ.**

All welcome.



# **Saying Goodbye Remembrance Service Oxfordshire**

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**CHRIST CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL OXFORD**

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**17TH OF MAY, 2025 - 1PM**

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**A SERVICE FOR ANYONE WHO HAS  
LOST A BABY IN PREGNANCY, AT BIRTH  
OR IN EARLY YEARS, WHETHER THE  
LOSS WAS YESTERDAY OR 80 YEARS  
AGO. THIS EVENT IS ALSO FOR THOSE  
GRIEVING THAT THEY HAVE NEVER  
BEEN ABLE TO HAVE A CHILD.**

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## Lye Valley Event for Children

### Lye Valley Event for Children: Creation, Conservation, Creativity



Date: **June 14<sup>th</sup>**

Time: **9.30 to 1pm**

**Bullington Centre**

61 Peat Moors, Headington OX3 7HS

and **Lye Valley**

Starts at Bullington Centre with crafts and activities, followed by a guided walk in the valley, with Dr Judy Webb. For all ages – children must be accompanied by an adult – parent or carer. Refreshments available. Bring a picnic if you wish – picnic tables near the centre.

To book your **FREE** places contact:

[headington.churches.events@outlook.com](mailto:headington.churches.events@outlook.com)

**before June 1<sup>st</sup>**

Churches Together in Headington  Friends of Lye Valley 



## ISIS Chamber Orchestra Concert



**Saturday 10th May**  
**7.30pm**

**KARL JENKINS — Palladio**

**VAUGHAN WILLIAMS**

**— 5 Variants of Dives and Lazarus**



**GRIEG — Holberg Suite**

**COPLAND — Quiet City**

**FINZI — 5 Bagatelles**

**ELGAR — Serenade**

**Conductor:**

**Caroline Hobbs-Smith**

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or online from**

**[isischamberorchestra.org.uk](http://isischamberorchestra.org.uk)**



## From the Editors

Dear Friends,

All Saints' has enjoyed a wonderful Easter, which we hope is reflected in this newsletter. Our grateful thanks go to all who have contributed to this.

Just as the celebrations were ending, the world heard the sad news of the passing of Pope Francis. Here are some extracts from Bishop Steven's tribute to the great 'Vicar of Christ':

*'The death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday is a loss for the whole world....He centred his life on the joy of the gospel of the risen Jesus, the subject of his first encyclical. Francis recalled the whole world, people of every faith and none, to the care of the earth, our fragile home. His example and his words have called the Church throughout the world to greater humility and compassion for the poor..... He tried to build a church more inclusive of women and LGBT Christians. He reached out to other churches and other world faiths.'*

The Catholic Church will soon have a new leader. No doubt many Anglicans, like ourselves, are impatient for news of the appointment of a new archbishop of Canterbury.

As ever we ask you to remember in your prayers those members of all Saints who are unable to join our worship in church because of infirmity. Please pray for Eve Vause, Joan Turner, and Derek and Audrey Woodcock, and for Lucy and Wocky, who is beginning his recovery from serious illness.

Lastly, a brief reminder of Christian Aid week running from 11 to 17 May. There is an online prayer launch on 12th May at 12:30 pm. For details of this and other events connected with Christian Aid week, please go to their website: [Christianaid.org.uk](http://Christianaid.org.uk)

With all good wishes from

***Catherine and Catherine***

### **Thinking of our friends Wocky and Lucy Whitworth**

We were all shocked to hear of Wocky's sudden illness and he and Lucy have been much in our thoughts and in our hearts. Wocky is at the beginning of what may be a long period of recovery. We'd like them both to know that we continue to hold them in our prayers.

***Janet***

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