

Notices: 17th January 2021

New Lockdown

Although communal worship can still take place during this third lockdown, we have taken the difficult decision to pause communal worship and continue with online services only. A letter setting out this decision in more detail can be found on the church website. Funerals will still be able to take place in church, with a maximum of 30 people attending. The church will be open for private prayer at weekends only, owing to the electrical work taking place during the week. We hope to resume communal worship, even in a limited way, in time for Lent and Easter, and we will keep the situation under review over the coming weeks. Please do get in touch with Laura or the churchwardens if you have any questions or concerns about this.

Electrical Works

Let there be light! We are pleased that the first phase of our building project will begin on Monday 11th January, and we look forward to new lighting, a new sound system, and interior redecoration. Please note that there will be no access to the church building during the week, and anyone with a church key who needs to arrange access must contact the site manager (via the parish office). Please pray for the contractors and all involved with our building project as we begin this first phase, and plan for the next:

*Eternal God, Father Son and Holy Spirit
Bless the work that is taking place over the coming weeks
May the contractors work safely and diligently.
May the work that takes place be done
to the glory and honour of your name,
that all who visit this house of prayer,
may be drawn out of darkness into your marvellous light.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Children's Society: Please donate!

We always take a collection for the Children's Society at our christingle services, but this year we were unable to take a cash collection, and asked people to donate online instead. This has led to a smaller amount of money being raised so far, and it would be so good to raise more if possible. If you are able to make an online donation, please go to this link which will enable you to donate directly to the Children's Society:

<https://thyg.uk/CUS050778>

Oxford Hospitals Trust Staff Appeal

Support during the COVID-19 crisis can help make a real difference to the NHS staff working across our hospitals and the patients they are caring for at this difficult time. Donations go towards a range of items including specialist medical equipment, care boxes and hampers for staff who are most affected, care packs for patients, virtual music concerts and phone chargers to help those on wards who feel isolated or bored, especially with visiting restricted. Please go here to donate if you are able:

<https://www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/Appeal/staffsupport>

Morning Prayer: Weekly on Mondays at 9am

A chance to pause for prayer at the beginning of the week. The focus for prayer will be the psalms, which offer ancient wisdom for contemporary times.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86782891843?pwd=S25BN0E3QUF6aXk5cHBETktaRmhldz09>

Meeting ID: 867 8289 1843

Passcode: 309879

Prayers for Hope and Healing

A fortnightly time of silent prayer for hope and healing of our world, with an opening reflection leading to a time of silence. The next meeting is Thursday 21st January.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86007797102?pwd=S2FoNmVORkx6VHZZa3lNYXJuUWZhaZz09>

Meeting ID: 860 0779 7102
Passcode: 603291

Covid-19 Study

Dr Merlin Wilcox, a member of our congregation and researcher at the University of Southampton, is running an online study on Covid-19, which is looking for volunteers:

Help beat Covid-19! Whether you have had COVID or not, you can help researchers understand how to beat the virus by completing a survey run by the University of Southampton. You could win one of 62 vouchers (£5 to £500). See www.rtocovid19.com for more details.

Big Garden Birdwatch: 29th-31st January

As we continue to stay home, some of us may be able to take part in this year's big garden birdwatch. Spend one hour in your garden watching and counting the different birds you see. More details can be found on the [RSPB website](http://www.rspb.org.uk), including some tips on attracting birds to your garden, and a chart to help you identify the birds you see.

*'the birds of the air make their nests
and sing among the branches.
O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all
the earth is full of your creatures' (Psalm
104.13,26)*

How the Light Gets in: A short retreat with Angela Tilby

An afternoon online retreat on **Saturday 13th February**, run by the Oxford Centre for Spiritual Growth, reflecting on Leonard Cohen's quote: 'There's a crack, a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in'. With priest, journalist and broadcaster Angela Tilby. Please see <http://www.ocsg.uk.net/> for more details.