



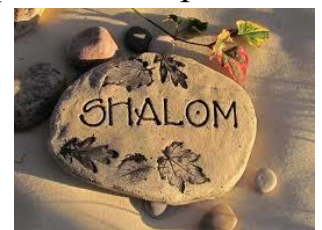
Sunday 21st April

Peace I leave with you;
MY PEACE I GIVE YOU.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and
DO NOT BE AFRAID.
JOHN 14:27 NIV

‘When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, And the waves will not overcome you. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, You are Mine’.

These are words from the famous hymn ‘Do not be Afraid’, which is based on the words of the Prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 43: 2. These words are more apt than

ever as I reflect on the state of our world. Like many, I went to bed last Saturday with news of the stabbing in Australia and woke up to the news that Iran has sent so many bombs towards Israel. I had a terrible feeling of fear and terror. What on earth is going on? Added to these events are the situation in Gaza, Ukraine, Haiti, South Sudan, Yemen and many other places. I cannot but wonder if our world will ever have peace. Why can't we learn to love each other by emphasising our common humanness rather than our differences? In church last Sunday, our Bible reading from Saint Luke Chapter 24 reminds us of Jesus' words to his disciples, Peace be with you, he said. Later, he promised that the peace that he leaves with them is not the same as the one the world gives (John 14:27). What exactly is the peace that Jesus leaves with his disciples and, by extension, for us? The clue to this question is our understating and interpretation of peace. More often than not, we interpret peace as the absence of war or violence. The dictionary defines it as a state of tranquility, freedom from disturbance or calmness. But the peace that Jesus gives us is more than any of this. The word translated into English as peace is Shalom in Hebrew. Shalom is richer and more detailed. It is not just a form of saying hello and goodbye. It is a shorter way of saying, “ma" you be filled with a sense of complete and perfect peace. You be full of well-being” o", “ma" health, prosperity, and peace of mind and spirit be upon you.” Beyond a simple wish for peace and happiness, the word suggests fullness and perfection, overflowing inner and outer joy and peaceful serenity. This inner joy is what we need more than ever today. If, like me, you feel dismayed about the present state of our world, then may you know the Shalom of Christ, for He is in Charge! Knowing that God is in charge is an inner joy and assurance. Knowing God is with us is a divine and blessed assurance, for Emmanuel is His name. This Sunday is Vocations (Calling), and we will meet at 8 and 10 am. At 10 am, there will be facilities for younger children, and refreshments will follow in the Church Hall. We will also meet at 4 pm for the Family Praise Service to baptise Oliver and Lily. The service will be followed by Hot tea in the Hall. We will also meet at 10.30 am on Wednesday. Please do come and join any of these services. May you and all of yours know the Shalom and goodness that comes from Christ. Amen.



With much love

Revd Folli Olokose vicar@oatlandschurch.org.uk / 01932 840077

This Week's Bible Readings: Acts 4: 5-12, 1 John 3:16-end and John 10: 11-18. **From the Diocesan Calendar of Prayer:** Anselm, Abbot of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher of the Faith, 1109. **Anglican Church:** The Anglican Church of Australia. **Parish:** Ripley and Ockham with Hatchford & Downside. **Incumbent:** Anna Norton. **Other clergy:** Elizabeth Burke (PTO) and LLMs Clare Bevan (PTO). **Prayer requests:** For our bell ringers, choir, and orchestra; for our community groups, including MU4All and the Beehive; for our faith and fellowship at Ripples Bible Study **We are praying for:** All victims of abuse, violence and discrimination. We remember, in particular, victims of wars and atrocities in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Yemen, South Sudan, the Congo and Haiti. **Please remember our Mission Partner:** The Leprosy Mission. **We pray for the sick in our parish:** especially remembering all who suffer from mental ill health and are victims of abuse and discrimination.

Please pray for Lily and Oliver, and their families as they prepare for baptism on 21st April. **From the Memorial Book at their year's mind:** John Hunter, Charles Rickard, Henry Bakewell, Mary Lewis, Cordelia Hardwick-Dawe and Enid Wilson.

The recently departed: Vaughan Reading, Douglas Baynes, Paul Richmond and Anne Smith. **St Mary Oatlands News Reverend Folli's Final Service** Sunday, 30th June, will be Revd Folli's final day and service at St Mary Oatlands. Join us for the 10 am service of Holy Communion. Followed by a 'Bring & Share' lunch on the Church lawn (in the church hall in case of bad weather). A time of food, fellowship, and memories as we celebrate Revd Folli's extraordinary ministry and friendship here at St Mary Oatlands and wish the Olokose family a very fond 'au revoir'. Please use the sign-up sheet at the back of the church to let us know you are coming. **Memory Book** There will be a memory book for messages rather than a 'leaving card'. The book will be available each Sunday. **Leaving Gift** If you would like to contribute towards a gift for Revd Folli, please use the link <https://pay.collectiv.com/rev-follis-leaving-gift-9969> Alternatively, you can pay into the Church bank account using the reference "Folli". Please do not contribute using the SumUp machines in the Church (we cannot link any receipts to this particular appeal). Cash also accepted. Please see Brian S (Treasurer) or Liz Davies (Church Warden). Thank you. **Revision of Electoral Roll.** Please check your details at the back of the Church. If you would like to be added to the Roll, please contact Darrell Greenwood. **Meeting Point** Wed 24th April 12.30-2.30pm. The Revd Lynne and Paul Bowden are coming to talk about their life in the High Peak, since leaving SMO. We invite everyone who knows them to join us at 12.30 for the lunch and talk. Contact Jane R 07775 9317333 for more details. **Plant Swap Day** Sat 27th April 9am-12noon on the Church lawn. Browse, swap plants and information. Refreshments will be available. Please contact Rachel Bainbridge if you can help or need more information 07557408085. **Oatlands Village Fayre** Sat 11th May 12.30-4.30pm. We will be there once again with our Cake and Children's Crafts stalls. If you can help on either stall or pledge a cake for the cake stall, please use the sign-up sheet at the back of the Church or contact the parish office.

Quiz Night Sat 18th May 7-10pm in SMO Church Hall. Spag bol supper with wine. Supporting Leon's Ministry and the charity LTHT (Let Them Help Themselves). Following last year's fundraising to support the management of menstrual hygiene in schools in SW Uganda, LTHT has sourced 750 Menstrual hygiene kits from Days for Girls Uganda. Tickets (£20) are on sale now. **APCM** 19th May 11.30 in the Church. Everyone is encouraged & entitled to attend. **Kim & Malcolm Groom's Open Garden** Sat 15th June 2-5pm 'West Lodge', 169 Burwood Road, Hersham, Walton-On-Thames, KT12 4AT (near Squires Garden Centre).