



19th September 2021



I hope this message finds you and all yours well. The weather this week has been a reflection of the general mood of our country. We have had a bit of sunshine with the announcement that the Government has a plan in case there are more COVID cases. It contrasts with many clouds of uncertainty and dismay around what the future

holds, especially for refugees and asylum seekers, the homeless, and those who have to depend on food banks. This dismay matches the desperate plea for the Government to maintain the current benefits available to many families struggling with the current epidemiological and financial situations. I hope you will join me in praying for all who are struggling financially, spiritually and emotionally at present. Please do consider helping in any way you can. You could help our local food bank, do visit their website.

During our Service last Sunday, I announced the decision to fell some of the trees in our churchyard. The decision to remove these trees were not taken lightly and as can be imagined has been well discussed and thought out. Taking down the trees impacts the environment. As an environmentally friendly church, stewards of God's gift, we will not do this lightly. Although this decision is taken in consonance with resurfacing the car park, this is not the main reason. There are multiple other reasons. Some of the trees are becoming health and safety hazards with branches falling intermittently. Some have roots damaging the drains under the car park, and many drop leaves that have blocked the gutters, roof pipes and encumbered the flat roof over the hall. To compensate for this, we will be sponsoring the planting of 20 trees, if possible, within our parish. Although these would not replace the trees, we hope it shows our commitment to the care of the environment and helps a bit. Would you please contact me if you have any comments?

Last Sunday, we also announced the decision to have our 3rd Sunday 10 am Service as a non-Eucharistic Service whilst the 8 am Service will remain a Holy Communion Service. This, we hope, will give us more room to spend more time on the Bible readings and preaching. I know there will be some who would rather have the Holy Communion every Sunday. Please could I encourage each of us to take this as an experiment? This decision was taken after a survey of our congregation and a reflection from a PCC Vision Group. The PCC has agreed to do so until next April? If you have any comments, please contact me. This Sunday, we will be meeting at 10 am and will be the first time we have the non-Eucharistic Service and 8 am Holy Communion. Please join us if you can or on Wednesday at 10.30 am for the Holy Communion Service.

As you go this week, could I remind you of the words from our reading last Sunday 'the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell'.

James 3: 5-6. Whatever you do this, watch your tongue! Have a blessed week.

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

This week's Bible Readings Jeremiah 11: 18-20, James 3: 13-4:3, 7-8a & Mark 9: 30-37

Praying for the sick in our Parish: Freya LeHunt, Kieran Chalkley, Christine, Charlotte, Tony Sutton, Doreen Clements, Amelie, Alex, Penelope and Shamila.

Praying for the world especially: The People of Afghanistan, wisdom for worldwide Government decision-makers and individuals bettering the lives of others in unseen ways.

We Remember the Recently Departed: Sheila Winterbottom, Mary Biederman and Eliza Hamilton. From the Memorial Book: Captain Crickmay, Peter Brewer, Barbara Felgate, Dorothy Heatley, Janet Gulland, Joyce Cheyne and Daphne Gillard. Please pray for Penelope Taylor being baptised on 19th September and for Ronnie Squires' baptism on 26th September. Remember in your prayers Rachel Pitcher and Harry Barwick as they prepare for their wedding on 14th October. The church is open for private prayers Tue-Fri 10 am-5 pm. If you would like someone to pray with you please contact Reverend Folli or Hugh Montgomerie.

Diary Dates SMART Mother and Toddler Group: Tuesdays during term time 10-11.30am in the Church Hall. MACMILLAN Coffee morning Friday 24th September 9 am-12noon in the Chapel. Join us as we raise funds for MACMILLAN Cancer Support. A time of community and fellowship whilst supporting the work of MACMILLAN.

Church Cleaning and Garden Tidy Saturday 9th October 9 am-12noon. Please spare an hour to come and help spruce up the Church and Church Garden. Please let the Parish Office know if you can help. Harvest Service 10 am Sunday, October 10th followed by a Harvest Bring & Share lunch in the church hall. Harvest gifts of dried and tinned foods will be welcomed at this service and will be donated to the Walton and Hersham Food Bank. Please use the sign-up sheet at the back of the church if you plan to stay for lunch.

Time to Remember Service Sunday 31st October 4 pm A service of remembrance to remember those we have loved and no longer see. Refreshments and fellowship in the church hall afterwards. 0022

Annual Winter Fair Saturday 20th November 11 am-2 pm. One of our biggest fundraisers of the year! If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Claire Goodfellow clairegoodfellow@hotmail.co.uk or 07956 590665

Eco-Box: There is a large Eco-Box at the back of the Church for you to dispose of used ink cartridges in a way that is safe to the environment. Please do use this service.

Light up the Church:

If you would like to sponsor the lights for an anniversary or other special occasion please contact, parishoffice@oatlandschurch.org.uk 01932 231274.