



Sunday 23rd June



In the last couple of weeks, a word that has returned to our usual vocabulary is Manifesto. According to the dictionary, it means a public declaration of intentions, motives, or views. It is thus no wonder that as we approach the July 4th elections, each political group has launched its own Manifesto. In each, heaven and earth are

promised to everyone, all with the intention of wooing voters. A quick perusal of each tends to show the electorate they want to win over.

Irrespective of the political party, experience has shown that politicians generally only do some of what they have professed in their public documents.

Nonetheless, we should pay attention to each party's Manifesto, not because they are promises they will keep but as a basis for our decision-making. In making my decision, I have found a helpful rule of thumb. The questions I often ask are the following. Is the policy good for my age, class or race alone? Or is it suitable for everyone? Will it benefit my category alone, or is it good for the country? Many policies all parties propose aim to satisfy one group over the other. We must ask ourselves whether this will improve our country in the long run. Is this for the common good or my good? Whatever we decide to do on the 4th of July, I encourage each of us not to ensure that we not only vote but spend time prayerfully considering who we will be voting for and why.

Let us also pray for all the men and women standing to be elected that they may seek the common good and, most importantly, have in their hearts the words of Jesus in His Manifesto from Luke 4, quoting Isaiah 61:1-2,

'The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

I pray that whoever is elected will seek to proclaim good news to the poor and freedom to those imprisoned in their spirit, soul, and body, open the eyes of those blind to the truth and love, and help bring God's Kingdom closer to us all. Amen.

I wish you a wonderful week.

Revd Folli Olokose.

This Week's Bible Readings: Job 38: 1-11, 2 Cor 6:1-13, Mark 4: 35-end.

From the Diocesan Calendar of Prayer: Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely, c.678. **Anglican Church:** The Church of England. **Location:** Surrey Archdeaconry. **Clergy:** Catharine Mabuza.

Prayer requests: Continued settling into the diocese, building of relationships and friendships. **We continue to pray for** peace in Ukraine, Sudan, Gaza, Israel, and so many other places. Landslide in Papua New Guinea. For all refugees and displaced people and all who welcome and support them. For families, individuals and businesses who are suffering from the impact of the increased cost of living.

Please remember our Mission Partner: The Leprosy Mission. **Please pray for:** Chloe Dowsett and Max Barton and for Debbie Newman and David Hawkins as they prepare for their forthcoming weddings. **We pray for the sick in our parish:** especially remembering all who suffer from mental ill health and are victims of abuse and discrimination. **The recently departed:** Paul Richmond, Anne Smith, Gary Scott and Keiran Chalkley. **From the Memorial Book at their year's mind:** Irene Wright, George Morris, Viva Martin, Jenny Smith, Harold Ashforth, Leonard Griffiths, Katharine Thomas, William Allan and Leighton Charles.

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 signup sheet at the back of the church to let us know you are coming.

Memory Book There is a memory book for messages. The book will be available on Sunday and via the parish office. **Leaving Gift** If you would like to contribute towards a gift for Revd Folli, please use the link below.



<https://pay.collectiv.com/rev-follis-leaving-gift-9969>

Alternatively, pay into the Church bank account by contacting the Parish Office. **Open Garden** Kim & Malcolm Groom's Open Garden last weekend raised £1,739 despite the dreadful weather! Thank you to everyone who helped in any way and thank you to everyone for coming in the rain. Of course, the biggest thank you goes to Malcolm and Kim Groom for sharing their haven with us each year and raising funds for St Mary Oatlands. **Sokkie Night** Sat 22nd June 6-10pm Join us for a unique experience! We are supporting the work of Leon Chaunga St Mary Oatlands Pais apprentice with a Sokkie Night including a Fish & Chip supper and wine in the Church hall. Sokkie is a style of dance that is unique to Southern Africa, is great fun, easy to learn and take part in. Come and dance or have a fish & chip supper and cheer on the dancers! Tickets £20 If you haven't got a ticket but would like to come contact Leon 07881 786309.

Meeting Point: Wed 26th June. 12.30-2.30 pm. Lunch and Beetle Drive. Contact Jane R 07775 9317333 for more details. **July 4th UK Elections.** The Church halls will be used for voting. The parish office will be closed to visitors. Emails and phone calls will be answered as usual. **Knit Wits and Colouring Club** Wed 17th July 12.30-2.30pm in the Octagon Room. Bring a packed lunch, tea and fellowship provided! **Film Night:** Wed 17th July 6.30pm for a light meal and drinks. 7pm Film. Please use the signing-up sheet at the back of the Church.

Community Strawberry Tea: Wed 14th Aug 2-24pm on the Church lawn (in the church hall in case of rain). Price freeze, same as last year £5 per person. Under 12's free. Please use the sign up sheet at the back of the church.