



Sunday 7th July



A big thank you to all who were involved in last Sunday's farewell service and lunch for Folli, Patricia and Emma. I was thinking of what to say, but I will repeat David Davis's words: "On behalf of the entire congregation at SMO and the wider community in Oatlands and beyond we say a big thank you for an exemplary seven years of service. You came into the community in July 2017 as our vicar and spiritual leader and you have done so much to transform and enrich our lives. Looking around the church, there are so many improvements during your tenure - the car park, the audio visual set up, conversion of the stage to an office with a meeting room on the ground floor to name just a few. Most of all, Revd Folli, we shall miss your leadership and the clarity of your vision for the church. You lead from the front and by example; you have set up so many groups and worked closely with each to ensure the delivery of objectives in our church development plan (e.g. vision, discipleship, fellowship and social, fundraising and growing the church younger, to name a few). I recall the incredible leadership and ingenuity you showed in moving our church services online during Covid-19; creatively improving the online experience, week on week, with very little resources to support this transformation from a physical to a virtual worship and fellowship. You are a natural evangelist, and we shall miss the love and energy you bring in declaring the gospel. The personal attention you give to individual members of the church and the way you make everyone feel special and a part of SMO will be sorely missed. You have been a trusted and supportive spiritual leader to many of us at SMO and an amazing mentor to many including developing and established members of the clergy team. We cannot thank you enough for your selfless service and dedication. We wish you, Patricia, Emma and Whiskey all the very best as you begin a new chapter of your lives." I'm not as eloquent (nor as knowledgeable) as Folli. So, our Daily Bread Ministries produce many excellent resources (and with their permission) I would like to share some extracts from some of their publications, such as: Prophets of the Bible, Women of the Bible, Heroes of the Faith, Prayers of the Bible and Kings of the Bible. Please let me know what you think. I think the words of King George VI in his speech 'The Gate of The Year 1939', are an appropriate ending: "I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be better than light and safer than a known way. May that Almighty Hand guide and uphold us all."

Hugh Montgomerie. Lay Minister.

This Week's Bible Readings: 8am Service of HC. Eze 2: 1-5, 2 Cor 12:2-10 and Mark 6: 1-13. 10am Alive at Ten Service. Gen 2: 2-4 & Matt 11: 28-30.

From the Diocesan Calendar of Prayer: Thomas Becket may be celebrated on 7 July (instead of 29 December) **Parish:** Christ Church, Crookham.

Incumbent: Steve Franklin. **Other clergy:** Haydon Wilcox (PTO). **LLMs:** Ros Fox.

School: Crookham CofE Infant School. **Prayer requests:** Bless our Little Bells toddler group; Thanksgiving for our engagement with the community; the Face to Faith will encourage discipleship. **Anglican Diocese:** The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean. **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: Debbie Newman and David Hawkins and Laura Henry and Mikkel Austin-Bennett as they prepare for their forthcoming weddings. Please pray for James and his family as they prepare for baptism. **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: Gilbert Basham, Janet Stevenson, Alice Dendy, Gordon Dean, Brian Warburton, Tony Gorton, Cuthbert Jones, Derek Grinahm, Dorothy Morrad, Anthony Burrow, Myra de Dawe, Sheila Winterbottom, Ronald Morgan, Frank Morrad and Gerry Ellis.

Funeral: The funeral of the late Kieran Chalkley will take place on Monday, 29th July, at 11.15am here at St Mary Oatlands. (SW Middx Crematorium at 1.20pm).



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 2-4pm 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.

Meeting Point: Wed 24th July. 12.30-2.30 pm. Meeting Point welcomes James Fraser (husband of Jenifer Fraser SMO's organist) as speaker 'Treasury Connections – a family story from the First World War' Contact Jane R 07775 9317333 for more details.

Light up the Church

This week, the floodlighting of the church has been sponsored by **John and Robert Winterbottom**

'In Memory of Sheila Winterbottom. Giving thanks for the life of a lovely and wonderful mother and wife'.

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