



All Saints' Church

Minister: Revd Rachael Hawkins
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Sunday 8th May

10am Holy Communion

led by Revd John Kirkby

(in church and on Zoom)

4pm Messy Church

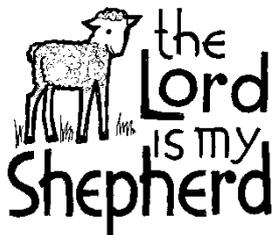
Readings

Acts 9 vv 6-end
John 10 vv 22-30

Hymns

295 Alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord
479 The King of love
568 Alleluia sing to Jesus
596 Now let us from this table rise

Dear All Saints',



Those of you who have been out and about in recent weeks, will have noticed a distinct change of behaviour in shops etc, with a smaller proportion of people now wearing masks and hand gel much less available. There will be differing opinions on the rights and wrongs of this, but it is clear that behaviour has changed.

Those of us in the church need to decide how we respond to this change, both in shops and at church. Some have commented to me that they are keen to get rid of masks completely, whereas I know that there are some who are still being very careful and are wary of mixing in large groups, especially without masks.

It made me smile that I'm writing about this when the readings for this Sunday all think about sheep and shepherds. Sheep are notoriously difficult to herd, following one another or wandering astray. A shepherd is needed to guide them. Have those who are choosing not to wear a mask made a decision to do so, or are they being sheep, following what others are doing? Even if they have made a decision, who have they listened to? who has guided them? In the Gospel passage this week, Jesus says "My sheep hear my voice".

Many of us know however, how difficult it can sometimes be to work out what God is saying to us, which direction he is guiding us in, particularly when there are competing voices. It's important for us to take time to pray, to listen, to consider and talk to others as we try to follow where God is leading. A big factor for me is also the influence of love. As John tells us in his first letter, 'God is love', and so if we are following the path of love then I don't think we can go far wrong.

With that in mind, we discussed the use of masks at Leadership Team this week and felt that we could be more relaxed with whether or not we wear masks when at church, but that we were still concerned to acknowledge and provide for those who want to be more careful. Our suggestion therefore is that we no longer recommend that masks are worn when moving about the building, but that we keep the lower section of the church as the area where masks are worn throughout services so that those who still want to be careful have a space. Alongside that, I'd want to urge us all to continue to be considerate and loving of each other. For some social distancing is still important, masks are generally worn to protect other people, so we need to be careful not to assume that everyone will feel comfortable with the same things as ourselves.

It continues to be strange times, but the readings remind us that the Lord is our shepherd, that he does guide us and provide for us. As we continue to love and support each other, we listen for his voice and pray that we are following where he leads.

Blessings,
Rachael

Morning Prayer at 9am and **Eucharist** at 9.30am continues on Tuesdays.
Evening Prayer will be on Fridays at 4pm.

Travel Survey: the Eco-Church group are gathering information to work out the carbon footprint of the church. As part of that, we will be doing a travel survey, beginning on 15th May. The intention is to find out how many miles are travelled for church activities in an average month and in what kinds of vehicles. We hope you will be happy to give us that information. In preparation, you may wish to keep an eye on how many miles you travel over the next couple of weeks. This may include journeys to services or meetings or pastoral visits. Each journey will only count once, so if you are a passenger in a vehicle that will be noted differently and we will be noting journeys by bike or on foot. Ultimately the aim will be to reduce our carbon footprint, but for the moment we just need to know what is happening at the present time. Many thanks for your help with this as we try to become a more Eco-friendly church.

We were sorry to hear this week of the death of **Lyn Curtis** on 1st May. She was member of this church for many years and we will miss her smile and her energy. There will be a small family funeral on 16th May with a Thanksgiving Service at All Saints' during the summer to celebrate her life. Please remember her family and friends in your prayers.

Bob Davis's funeral will be at the Chilterns Crematorium, Milton Chapel at 4pm on **Monday 9th May**.

Newsletter: Hello, the copy date for the next newsletter is this coming **Friday 13th May**. As this edition covers June and July I wondered if we could have your remembrances of the Queen: any time you've met her, visited something that she is also visiting, any remembrances whatsoever and they can be as short or as long as you like. If you don't want to write something down, give me or Ruth Treves Brown a call and tell us about it and we will write it down for you. Any photographs are also gratefully received as are any jokes or anything else you want to write about. Christina Billington

Sue and Rebecca Judd moved house on 6th May. If you would like their new addresses, please contact Kate Spall or Ruth Treves Brown.

Streaming of services: As you know, we have been streaming our Sunday services on Zoom since the beginning of the pandemic and we are very grateful to Andrew and Steve for their time and expertise that has enabled this to happen. As we move into a summer that will be restriction-free (we hope!) there will inevitably be some Sundays when they are both away. This will mean that for those weeks, the services will not be streamed and will be in church only. We hope we will be able to advertise the dates when there won't be an online service at least a week in advance. Going forward it would be good to have more people trained to operate the technology, so if you are interested in finding out more, please speak to Revd Rachael, Andrew Hawkins or Steve Spall. It would also be very useful to have help in preparing the powerpoint slides which are used to display the words of the service and prayers, so please speak to Revd Rachael if you could help with this. Thank you in advance

The 2022 Berkhamsted Walk to raise money for the Children's Society will be held again this year on **Sunday 8th May**. Since its inception in 1968, the annual event has raised over £300,000 in sponsorship for the Children's Society. More information is available at: <https://berkhamstedwalk.com/>

Christian Aid Week will run from **15th – 22nd May** this year.

A **CAP money course**, which is a free course helping people to budget, save and spend well will be running at the Open Door on **Mondays May 9th, 16th and 23rd** from 7.30 – 9.30pm. To book go to www.bookwhen.com/OpenDoor

Ukraine - Both the Church of England and the Methodist Church have produced information and advice around Ukraine including prayers and ways to help including if you are thinking of hosting refugees. The advice can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/Ukraine%20toolkit%20for%20Churches%20and%20Individuals%20CofE%20v2-160322.pdf> and <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/ukraine/>

Prayer requests on the following page

Prayer Requests:

For: Debbie Saunders; Janet Jackson; Revd Mike Eggleton; Val Allcott; Ann Braddick; George, with thanksgiving; for Bob Davis who has died and for his family and friends; for Lyn Curtis who has died and for her family and friends;

From our website:

Dawn, who is in hospital with a bad chest infection and for her family;
Anders Valeur; Ludovic, that he may continue to heal so he will be able to walk normally and to drive again and for his parents and Oksana Ostreinova, who is disabled and lives in Kiev.

We pray for our neighbours throughout the world whose lives are being changed by recent events; especially at this time we pray for the people of Ukraine and Russia;

The people of Afghanistan with the Taliban in control of their country, for those living in fear and those who do not have access to sufficient food;

Those in Tigray and Yemen facing starvation;

We also pray for:

All who have been affected by climate change, in such a variety of ways: floods, wild fires, shortage of food through crops not growing, remembering especially those who have few resources;

All who are refugees;

All for whom life is a struggle at the moment,

We pray that the issue of climate change may not be forgotten and that all the nations may act to secure the safety of our world;

Nearer to home we pray for:

the children and their families of our church and town and for their teachers;
all who work in the NHS;

Social Services and the charities who are supporting the sick or frail;

We also pray for those who are helped by Karibuni Children; the Leprosy Mission; Phakamisa, DENS; the Way Inn with the Open Door and for all those who work in these organisations.

We continue to pray for those whose need is ongoing:

Tara Ginn; Julia Wright; Corinne & William; Jonathan, Ann and Katy Hayes; Julie Murdock; Gary Andersen; Charlie; Penny Perry; Valerie Ruddock; Chris Billington; Graham Rule; Jane and Martin Hillier and their family; Clare Hancock; Kathleen Whitfield; Heather Gifford; Marnie Taylor; Ann Thompson;



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