

PRAYERS We give thanks for the promising news of a vaccine for Covid this week. We pray that will begin to bring about the end of the current pandemic around the world and offer a ray of hope to people everywhere. We also give thanks for the skill of the scientists who have worked tirelessly for months to get the vaccine to this stage.

We remember all who ask for our prayers and those who are unwell in body or spirit: **Ron Backhouse, Graham Webster, Nick Ward, Jennifer Morshead, Eileen Steeden, Sally Calvert, Betty, Nicky, Sandy, Douglas James, Win, Clare, Finlay Relf, Mary Clarke** and all who are still very vulnerable and continuing to shield, including Zofia Golebiowska.

We pray for the families of **Ashley Waite and Joan Probert** who have died recently. We ask for God's blessing and comfort on all who mourn.

Thank you

Thank you to our **Bellringers** for ringing the bells each evening at 6.00 pm as a Call to Prayer.

Looking Ahead to December

Depending on the regulations in December, we will be gathering to put up the Christmas trees on Saturday 5th December at St John's. We will of course be adhering to all Government guidelines on social distancing and safety and not everyone will be there at the same time. Sally Wyborn has more details. 01306 711575.

Teas on **Sunday 6th December** Again, depending on Covid rules, we hope to put on a socially distanced Christmas Church Teas between 3 and 5pm. We will advise nearer the time.

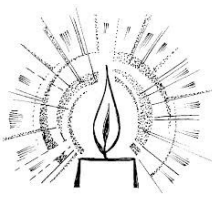
As we approach Advent ...

"God showed His great love for us by sending Christ". Romans 5:8

The Parish of Capel & Ockley

Sunday 15th November 2020 - Second Sunday before Advent

Welcome to your church



On this second Sunday before Advent we have before us a set of challenging readings today but don't fear - what seems challenging will turn out to be positive! Something we all need to remember currently. The first reading from the book of Zephaniah originates from the seventh century BC. It develops older prophetic traditions, especially the concept of the 'day of the Lord' which also is mentioned in our second reading from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. Here Zephaniah re-envisions a celebration of the conquest of Israel's enemies as the time of God's judgement on Israel itself. This reworked theme is expressed in shocking terms, since far from feasting on sacrificed animals, the guests at this coming day of the Lord will find themselves the sacrificial victims in judgement on their crimes. I hasten to add however, that later on in Zephaniah he prophesies that through this terrible judgement there will be 'a people humble and lowly ... the remnant of Israel, the Lord is in your midst' (3.12 -15) which is some comfort. So, moving swiftly on to Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians Paul reassures the church that although the Lord will come suddenly at the end of time, they will have nothing to fear for they are children of light, not of darkness. The reference there to 'the peace and security' probably refers to a slogan associated with the Roman imperial rule. Of course peace 'as the world gives' is always fragile, since it is maintained only by military might with its threat of violence. Jesus came to bring a different kind of peace, a peace which the world cannot give, neither can we find outside of Him. The destructive note rather continues with our gospel reading as Jesus says some will lose everything they have in this challenging parable of the talents. Bishop Andrew tackles this in his sermon which is attached with this mailing. As Bishop Andrew says Jesus concludes the parable with a rather puzzling statement 'To all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away'. Jesus gives this very shocking message to his generation as to the choices they have before them in the last week of his life but the need to use what God has given us in our individual lives is a message for us all, the special gifts he has given us to use in our lives. So perhaps in this second time of lockdown we could reflect on all that God has given us and whether we are using our gifts to the full, those we know and those still waiting to be discovered? I hope you are all keeping well and safe and look forward from hearing from you should you wish and to seeing you all soon.

Love, prayers and blessings
Revd Liz.

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