

The Parish of All Saints' Ockbrook with St Stephen's Borrowash

Making Christian disciples who love God, love one another, and live out God's love in the world.

Services February 2021

Church buildings:

NO SERVICES until further notice – our buildings remain closed.

Church without walls:

Streamed on our Facebook and YouTube channels - Each Sunday morning at 10.00 am except 27th December 2020.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/allsaintsockbrookststephensborrowash>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsockbrookandststephensborrowash/>

Items for your prayers...

Please pray for the following: Margaret Miller, Hazel Salisbury, David Roberts, Barry/Margaret Wilson, Sheila Bye, Jason & Jean Thomas, Mary Hodges, Sheila Sykes, Christine Hunt, Shirley & Philip Churchman and Don Fisher.

Please also pray for: The family of Michael Hart, who died on Thur 21st January. Michael was in the church choir for many years. Tim will lead Mike's funeral at Trent Valley Crem. on Thursday 11th Feb. and for the staff at Conifers Residential Home, Station Rd, after the death of Naomi Hill (who used to worship at St Stephen's) died on 16th Dec.

Please pray also for:

- All bereaved due to Covid-19.
- The Vaccination programme and all NHS staff and volunteers.
- School, college and Uni. staff and children/students and other keyworkers.
- Our local and national political leaders.

Prayer activities:

Evening Prayer: Sarah & Bruce will be continuing their daily Evening Prayer via Facebook. Please contact Sarah via our:

<https://www.oandbparish.com/whats-on/adults/evening-prayer/> or email slistuk@yahoo.co.uk

Weekly Zoom Prayer Breakfasts on Sat. @ 8.30 am

Tim or Bruce will send you an e-invite each week.

A prayer: God, we know as Father, enfold us all in your welcoming, protective, loving arms. Help us to rest in Your embrace with our sorrows, fears, anxieties, depressions, worries and loss, alongside our joys and hopes and longings. Help us to allow Your love to love us, and then help us to share Your love with this grieving, struggling, laughing world; amen.

From the vicar:

As I write we are between snow! Recent heavy snowfall has melted and been washed away by heavy rain, with more snow and wintry temperatures forecast. I've recently connected on Face Book with a geography teacher from school days. He loves winter, with its short darker days, longs for snow, and pours over various complicated Met Office charts, which constantly predict scenes from Narnia for us.

Winter is a great metaphor for the times through which we are living. It seems that so much of what we once knew, cherished, and trusted in has died away. Life seems laid bare. This is a season of subtraction, diminution, and loss. We spend time looking back, romanticising the past, and looking forward with longing, fantasizing about the future. Anything to take our minds of the dreary and difficult present.

We must though try and feel the texture of this unprecedented time. Leaning into the present will repay us deeply, for whatever this present time holds, it is where life must be lived for now, and where, therefore, God is to be encountered. It may be a dark time, but there will be spiritual treasure for us in the darkness (Isaiah 45:3). As we discern what that might be, perhaps we will be able to say with Paul: *'...we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, whom have been called according to his purpose'* (Romans 8:28).

And every winter carries within it signs and seeds of hope. Even in the coldest, darkest times, the sap is already rising within many of the trees and hedgerows around us. Though it may be indiscernible, spring is coming, or in the words of CS Lewis, referring to Jesus: *'...Aslan is on the move'* (The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe p74).

It is foolish to predict what that spring will look like for us in our churches. There will be continuity with what was before, like a tree still standing. There will also be things that are new and different about how we worship and engage in ministry and mission, same tree but different buds and leaves.

I look forward to discovering together what our future holds. But just now, as we wait, let's remember that some seeds need winter frost before they can grow. So, as we wait, I offer you some more words from Paul, who knew what it was to work out his Christian discipleship in the best, and the worst of times: *'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer'* (Romans 12:12).

With my love and ongoing prayer. **Tim X**

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Web: www.oandbparish.com Facebook: <https://bit.ly/3lcMoiJ> YouTube: <https://bit.ly/33j8pGq>

Lent, Holy Week & Easter Day 2021

This year we are planning a selection of events for Lent, Holy Week and Easter Day. Currently these will be via Zoom, as we are not using our buildings. If this changes, then we may use the buildings for some of these, especially Easter Day. The links to the different services will be sent out each week to all on the church's newsheet distribution list (**Tim**).

Morning prayer each Wed at 10 am:

17th Feb
24th Feb
3rd March
10th March
17th March
24th March
31st March

Evening prayer

Each Mon to Fri at 5.30 pm led by Bruce and Sarah via Face Book live.
Holy Week Mon 29th-Tue 30th Stations of the Cross-Bruce & Sarah via Zoom.
Wed 31st Passion narrative reading-David via Zoom.

Zoom Book club: *A Like on Our Planet* by Sir David Attenborough-Thurs, 25th Feb. @7pm (hosted by Tim).

Meditations based on the East Window of All Saints' Ockbrook:

Thurs. 4th March 7pm – Jesus calls the disciples (image bottom right of window)
Thurs. 11th March 7pm – The wedding at Cana (image bottom left of window)
Thurs. 18th March 7pm – Jesus healings a blind man (image top left)
Thurs. 25th March 7pm – Jesus anointed by Mary (image top right)
Maundy Thurs. 1st April 7pm – the Last Supper (image centre left)
Good Fri. 2nd April 2pm – The Cross (Cross behind main image on window)
Quiet Sat. 3rd April 7pm – Waiting.
Easter Sun. 4th April 10am - Resurrection (Main image of window)

Children's & Youth Activities

Rise and Shine – for children aged 3-12 meets straight after the 10 am CWW service each Sunday via Zoom.

Shining Stars- Our parent and toddler group still can't meet due to COVID restrictions.

WOW- Youth group for years 6 upwards – meets on a Friday night at 7pm via Zoom.

Cookie Empire- Bible Study group for years 6 upwards- We continue to meet via Zoom, but have changed our time to Sunday morning at 11.15 am.

We continue to review all guidelines and as soon as we are able to meet in person, we will communicate this.

You can contact Nat using the form on the Children & Youth section of the website: <https://www.oandbparish.com/whats-on/children-youth/>

Some dates:

The PCC will meet at 7.30 pm via zoom on: Tues. Feb 2nd and Tues. March 2nd

The next two monthly staff meetings at 10.30am via zoom are on:

Wed. Feb 3rd and Wed. March 3rd

The 2021 AGM will at 11.00 am in All Saint's Ockbrook on: Sun. 25th April.

CHURCH FINANCES / GIVING / FUNDRAISING

Message from Martin our Treasurer:

I wish to thank all the members of the congregation who contribute to the Church using Standing Orders, for the recently completed financial year of 2020 the PCC receive 100% of expected income from this source. Magnificent!! Many folks who use the Regular Giving Envelopes have also made their payments, and thanks to them too. The amount received via the collection plate, and regular envelopes is significantly reduced for 2020 to the tune of about £8000.

If any members would like to change to use a Standing Order, then please contact me and I will help to make the change.

Regular giving envelopes: If anyone wishes to receive a set of envelopes (or for anyone wishing to stop donating by this method), please contact David drdaviddisney@outlook.com

Donating via the Website We are working on providing a way to donate via our website and this should be ready early February - please visit link - <https://www.oandbparish.com/giving/ways-to-give/>

Easy Fundraising Update: Thank you to everyone who uses this whilst they are shopping online. You have helped us raise £1986.05 to date. If you shop online, remember to activate donation each time you visit a store to ensure we receive the donation. If you have not signed up yet, please do so using the following link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ockbrookborrowash/?invite=HPKA7C&referral-campaign=c2s>

Amazon Smile: If you shop on Amazon you can now raise funds for our churches. Please sign up using this link - <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1168870-0>. Once you have signed up, each time you shop remember to logon to www.smile.amazon.co.uk with your usual Amazon account details. If you are signing up to shop on Amazon for the 1st time, please sign up to Amazon Smile at the same time.

Website: We continue to update our new website www.oandbparish.com Should you have any suggestions for improvements, content etc please get in touch with Tim, Bruce, or Moira.

The Next News Sheets, for March 2021, will be issued for w/c 28th February 2021

Any notices to be included in the News Sheet, must be with Moira Dick by **no later than Tuesday 23rd February 2021**