



# Prayer Evening



**All Saints Oakham**

**Thursday 14 June 2018**

**6:00pm-9:00pm**



# Evening of Prayer for the Oakham Team as a new Team Rector is sought

**Welcome to All Saints Parish Church this evening as we gather to pray for the Parish of Oakham and the two candidates who have accepted an invitation to come for interview next Thursday.**

The Patronage Board, who will conduct the interviews, consists of the following members, for whom we also pray:

The Bishop of Peterborough, Rt Revd Donald Allister  
The Archdeacon of Oakham, Venerable Gordon Steele  
Team Vicar, Revd Deborah Marsh  
Rural Dean, Revd Jane Baxter  
Sir Laurence Howard (representative of the northern parishes)  
Jennie Page (representative of the southern parishes)  
Mrs Alison Long (representative of All Saints Oakham)  
Mr Des Cook (representative of All Saints Oakham)  
Canon Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral, Revd Dr Paul Overend

The evening runs from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, and will be broken on the half hour chimes of the church clock and by a sung Taizé chant.

Each half hour will be introduced by a brief reflection and introduction of a theme to pray through in silence, but please do not feel restricted by this – it is only a suggestion and if God puts something else on your heart, then of course follow that!

Prayer is a two-way conversation, as much about listening to God as petitioning Him, and so at the door you will find a flip chart upon which to write anything you have heard from God which will encourage or challenge us, be that in the form of a verse from Scripture, a picture or just a recurring word.

Also, on the floor at the front of the nave is a map of the parish of Oakham and it may be during your prayer that there is a particular area for which you would like to pray – for example The Vicarage, Cutts Close, Foodbank, Barleythorpe, schools, police station, council offices etc. At any time during the course of the evening do place a lit tealight on that spot, as a symbol of light.

**6:00 – 6:30pm**

***St Paul offers advice for overseers... Pray through this alongside the Church Times advert and the person specification.***

### **Reading – 1 Timothy 3.1-9**

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

### **Team Rector of Oakham**

We seek an able, experienced and collaborative priest to lead the Oakham Team Ministry, serving the county town of Rutland and nine surrounding villages. The team comprises two Team Vicars (one in post, one to be appointed, who have pastoral responsibility for the villages), two curates and nine licensed lay ministers, supported by a number of retired clergy. Rutland is the smallest of England's counties, served by a single Anglican Deanery, and as Vicar of All Saints, Oakham (USA 206) the Team Rector has the opportunity to play a significant role in the life of both the church and the wider community. Oakham is surrounded by attractive countryside and within easy reach of the cities of Peterborough, Leicester and Nottingham, and there are excellent schools.

We are looking for:

- An inspiring and engaging preacher, able to grow the church and encourage others in discipleship and missional engagement;
- A person of vision and discernment, capable of being a good training incumbent, bringing out the best in a large and diverse team and nurturing new vocations;
- A priest comfortable with a breadth of churchmanship and worship styles, who is willing to develop that diversity;
- A compassionate pastor, sensitive to the needs of others and attentive to their own spiritual wellbeing;
- An effective leader of ministry amongst people of all ages, particularly the young and the old, in both a growing town and smaller villages.

## **Person Specification**

During our recent parish consultation, we agreed that the following qualities were desirable in the person we would be looking for. We would like to find a priest and leader who:

- will preach imaginatively and effectively, appealing to all and drawing from the scriptures and from the experience of life;
- will inspire and support people on their journey of faith;
- will lead, nurture and enable the growth of our pastoral provision, to reflect on our practice and respond to changing needs;
- has the ability and experience to work in ways which will encourage and enable the church in this place to flourish;
- is able to draw out gifts and talents in people and enable them to own their faith;
- will help us to discern where we are as a church and take us forward;
- responds with love and compassion to those in need, and offers guidance;
- attends carefully to their own spiritual life;
- can lead and manage a team of clergy and lay ministers with wide ranging and diverse gifts;
- can respond to the differing challenges of a growing town and the rural parishes where people are committed but few in number;
- will help us to grow our work with children and young people as part of the church community, without losing sight of the changing needs of older people;
- is keen to play a part in the wider church life of town, community and county;

## 6:30 – 7:00pm

***The Lord calls Samuel... Pray through this passage and for the two candidates who will attend for interview.***

### **Reading – 1 Samuel 3.1-10**

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. One-night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So, he went and lay down. Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So, Samuel went and lay down in his place. The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

## 7:00 – 7:30pm

***The anointing of David... Use this passage to pray for the interviewing panel, whose names you will find above. It may be that you know one of them well – pray for them in their role.***

### **Reading – 1 Samuel 16.3b-13**

And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither

has the LORD chosen this one.” And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.” Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest,[a] but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.” And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

**7:30 – 8:00pm**

***God shepherds through his designated leaders... Use this passage to begin to pray for our developing relationship with a new leader.***

**Reading – John 10.1-18**

*The Good Shepherd and His Sheep*

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

**8:00 – 8:30pm**

***For this last half hour before compline, let's look towards the future, confident that God will hear and answer our prayer as is best for us...***

**Reading – Romans 8.24-28**

For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

**8:30pm**

***We end by saying the service of compline together.***

Please use the separate booklets for this and move into the front pews. At the end we shall extinguish our candles and leave in silence.