



St Peter & St Paul Langham

Village Carol Service



Sunday 15 December 2019

6:00pm

Oakham Team Clergy

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9am- 2pm (closed Wednesday)

Mrs Sue Willett *Finance Assistant* - 01572 724007 finance@oakhamteam.org.uk *Tuesday*

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Notices or reports for inclusion in the pew sheet and website should be sent by email by 11am Wednesday or delivered to the office by 2pm Tuesday.

Safeguarding Officers

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Please contact one of the Ministry Team if you would like a chat or a visit.



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www.facebook.com/oakhamteam



[@oakhamteam](https://twitter.com/oakhamteam)

Welcome and Notices

After the welcome, the service proceeds without announcements. A collection will be taken up during the carol after the fifth reading, to support the ministry of the church and chapel. Please sit for the readings and the choir carols and stand for the congregational hymns.

Processional Hymn

1. *(Choir)* Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
2. *(All)* He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, and mean, and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honour and obey,
love, and watch the lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.
4. For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.
5. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.
6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

Words: C. F. Alexander; Music: H. J. Gauntlett, harmonised, A. H. Mann, descant, David Willcocks

Please remain standing

Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels; and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God, from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child;

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially within our village. And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in

mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of God.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

May the Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

Amen.

Carol

Listen to the message that the angels bring,
telling frightened shepherds of a newborn King:
'Glory to God in heaven,
peace to the earth is given,
Christ is born, Christ is born.'

Listen to the shepherds as they shout for joy:
'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this boy.
He brings us all salvation –
give him your adoration –
Christ is born! Christ is born!'

In the stable wondering shepherds kneel in awe,
gazing at the holy baby in the straw,
'Is this the one who's given?
Yes, he's the King of heaven!
Christ is born! Christ is born!'

Join the happy shepherds as they all rejoice,
shout and sing and praise him with your heart and voice.
Born of a humble mother,
Jesus, our friend and brother,
Christ is King, Christ is King!

Words: David Iliff Music: Moravian traditional melody, arr David Iliff © David Iliff / Jubilate Hymns

First Reading – Isaiah 9,2,6-7

Reader: *Julia Gaulby*

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing
plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hymn

1. Unto us is born a Son,
king of quires supernal:
see on earth his life begun,
of lords the Lord eternal,
of lords the Lord eternal.
2. Christ, from heav'n descending low,
comes on earth a stranger;
ox and ass their owner know,
becradled in the manger,
becradled in the manger.
3. *(Men)* This did Herod sore affray,
and grievously bewilder,
so he gave the word to slay,
and slew the little childer,
and slew the little childer.
4. *(Ladies)* Of his love and mercy mild
this the Christmas story;
and O that Mary's gentle Child
might lead us up to glory,
might lead us up to glory!
5. *(All)* O and A, and A and O,
cum cantibus in choro,
let our merry organ go,
benedicamus Domino,
benedicamus Domino.

Words: tr G R Woodward; Music: from Piaie Cantiones 1582, arranged by David Willcocks

Carol

Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus est natus
ex Maria virgine, gaudete!

*Rejoice with heart and voice! Now is our Saviour
of the virgin Mary born – so rejoice!*

At this time our God fulfils all our expectation:
let us offer hearts and wills in rededication.

God of God when time began, Lord of all creation:
we revere the Son of Man at his incarnation.

Alleluia! Let us sing hymns of adoration:
blessing Christ our worthy King in this celebration!

*Words: Piae Cantiones 1582, English words from the Latin, Michael Perry (1942-1996)
© Mrs B Perry / Jubilate Hymns, 4 Thorne Park Road, Torquay TQ2 6RX www.jubilate.co.uk*

Second Reading – Luke 1.26-38

Reader: Peter Rawson

Mary says Yes to God

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born upon this day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. From God our heavenly Father
a blessèd angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born:
the Son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

3. The shepherds at those tidings
rejoicèd much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding
in tempest, storm, and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway
this blessèd Babe to find:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

4. But when to Bethlehem they came,
whereat this infant lay,
they found him in a manger,
where oxen feed on hay;
his mother Mary kneeling
unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings of comfort and joy

5. Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Words & Music: English Traditional, arranged by David Willcocks

Third Reading – Luke 2.1-7

Reader: Margaret Foot

Jesus is born in Bethlehem

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol

O come and join the dance that all began so long ago,
when Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem.
Through all the years of darkness still the dance goes on and on,
O take my hand and come and join the song.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! O lift your voice and sing,
and open up your heart to welcome him.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! O welcome now your King,
for Christ the Lord is born in Bethlehem.*

2. Come shed your heavy load and dance your worries all away,
for Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem.
He came to break the power of sin and turn your night to day,
O take my hand and come and join the song.

3. Let laughter ring and angels sing and joy be all around,
for Christ the Lord is born in Bethlehem,
and if you seek with all your heart, he surely can be found,
O take my hand and come and join the song.

*Words & Music: Graham Kendrick, arr Richard Hubbard
© 1988 Make Way Music*

Hymn

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2. 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind);
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3. 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4. 'The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

5. Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

6. 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.

Words: Nahum Tate; Music: Este's Psalter 1592

Fourth Reading – *The Oxen*, by Thomas Hardy

Reader: Ingrid Heldt

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
“Now they are all on their knees,”
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
“Come; see the oxen kneel,

“In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,”
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

Carol

Wise men seeking Jesus, travelled from afar,
guided on their journey by a beauteous star.
But if we desire him, he is close at hand;
for our native country is our Holy Land.

Prayerful souls may find him by our quiet lakes,
meet him on our hillsides when the morning breaks.
In our fertile cornfields while the sheaves are bound,
in our busy markets Lord Jesus Christ is found.

He is more than near us, if we love him well;
for he seeks us ever in our hearts to dwell.

Words: James T East (1860-1937)

Music: Jonathan Willcocks (b 1953)

Fifth Reading – *Matthew 2.1-12*

Reader: Evelyn Lane

Wise Men come to pay homage to the new King.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned

from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Carol

Small wonder the star, small wonder the light,
the angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright;
but stable and manger for God –
no small wonder!

Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore
the gold and the incense, the myrrh, to adore;
but God gives his life on a cross –
no small wonder!

Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace,
the power, the glory, the light of his face;
but all to redeem my poor heart –
no small wonder!

*Words: Paul Wigmore (1925-2014)
Music: Paul Edwards (b 1955) © Jubilate Hymns*

Hymn

During which a collection will be taken

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee to-night.

2. O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.

3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas Angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Words, Phillips Brooks; Music, English traditional arr. Vaughan Williams, descant, Thomas Armstrong

Sixth Reading – Christmas, by Sir John Betjeman

Reader: Judith Green

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze
And Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says "Merry Christmas to you all."

And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare –
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine..

Hymn

1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of Angels.
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*
2. God of God,
Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created.
3. See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:
4. Lo! star-led chieftains,
Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ Child
bring our hearts' oblations:
5. Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?
6. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God
in the highest'.

Words: Adeste Fideles, translated, F Oakeley, W T Brooke & others; Music: J F Wade, arr David Willcocks

Seventh Reading – John 1.1-14

Reader: Debbie Sowter

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Collect & Blessing

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

1. Hark! the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations rise!
Join the triumph of the skies!
With the angelic host proclaim:
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
Hark! the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King!'

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord:
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell:
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King!'

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born King!'

Words: C Wesley, G Whitefield & M Madan; Music: J L F Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, arr David Willcocks

Organ

Chorale Prelude on 'In Dulci Jubilo'

J S Bach (1685-1750)

Today

5:00pm – **CAROL SERVICE**
St Andrew Hambleton

6:00pm – **CAROL SERVICES**
Langham, Braunston & Teigh
Laudamus will be singing at Langham.

This Week

Looking Ahead

TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER

11:00am – **ADVENT STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUP - All Saints Oakham**
Joy.

6:30pm – **CAROL SERVICE**
St Peter & St Paul Market Overton
Laudamus will be singing.

WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER

1:30pm – **MUSIC AT LUNCHTIME**
All Saints Oakham
Catmose College Pupils
No concert on 25 Dec or 1 Jan.

WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER

2:00pm – **CAROL SERVICE**
Chapel of St John & St Anne

6:00pm – **CAROL SERVICE**
St Edmund Egleton

7:00pm – **ADVENT STUDY & DISCUSSION GROUP**
Chapel of St John & St Anne
Love.

THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER

7:30pm – **NINE LESSONS & CAROLS**
All Saints Oakham

SATURDAY 21 DECEMBER

7:30pm – **A QUIET CHRISTMAS SERVICE**
All Saints Oakham

A simple service of readings, prayers and Christmas hymns for those who are bereaved, or weary, or simply prefer a less jolly, and more quietly reverent celebration of Christ's birth.

SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER

10:30am – **CAROL SERVICE**
St Mary Ashwell

6:00pm – **CAROL SERVICES**
Whissendine & Brooke
Laudamus will be singing at Whissendine.

CHRISTMAS EVE

CRIB SERVICES

3:30pm: Journey to Jesus at Braunston;
4:00pm: Oakham, Langham,
Whissendine; 6:00pm: Market Overton.

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

9:00pm: Hambleton; 11:15pm: Langham,
Whissendine; 11:30pm: Oakham.

CHRISTMAS DAY

HOLY COMMUNION

8:00am: Oakham, Brooke; 9:00am:
Teigh, Market Overton; 9:15am:
Egleton; 10:00am; Oakham; 10:30am:
Ashwell; 11:00am: Braunston.

FRIDAY 27 DECEMBER

10.30am-12:00pm – **COME AND CHAT**

All Saints Oakham Church Hall

All who feel they might benefit are welcome, from the recently bereaved, to those who experienced a significant loss long ago. Members of the Bereavement Supporters Group will be available to offer informal listening support and signpost to other services as appropriate. People are welcome to turn up on the day with no pre-booking required. More details on the website.

WEDNESDAY 1 JANUARY

10.30am – **TEAM WALKING GROUP**

Hambleton Peninsula

The next walk will be our New Year's Day walk around the Hambleton Peninsula followed by a Bring and Share Lunch at 8 Peterborough Avenue. It is approx 5 miles (walking time 2¼ hours) and the terrain is on good tracks throughout. Please bring your lunch contributions to Peterborough Avenue for 10am then drive to the Fisherman's carpark at Hambleton for the walk to commence at 10.30am. We will car share as required. Anyone wishing to walk only meet at the Fisherman's park. To enable us to monitor numbers and lunch contributions please ring Sally or Dennis on 01572 722272.

SATURDAY 4 JANUARY

7:30pm – **EPIPHANY CAROL CONCERT**

All Saints Oakham

With the **Cambridge Fundraising Choir.**

Please pray for

- The family and friends of **Valerie Crowder**, whose funeral took place at Oakham on Wednesday;
- The family and friends of **Anthony Watchorn**, whose funeral took place at Whissendine on Thursday;
- The family and friends of Clarice Whitwell, Rosamund Wood, Christopher White and Olive Lewis (Mary), who have died recently;
- The victims of environmental disasters and all those still trying to rebuild their lives;
- The victims of terror attacks and who continue to suffer from the effects of violence;
- The people still facing severe famine in Nigeria, Somalia, Southern Sudan and Yemen;
- Dedicated and effective action against climate change and the pollution of our seas;
- Those returning to Iraq and those in Syria as they try to rebuild their lives and for help and a safe place for the refugees;
- Give thanks for the release of some of the Nigerian girls, and pray for those still held captive;
- Victims of religious extremism and persecution especially in Sudan, CAR, Kenya, Syria, Somalia, Eritrea, North Korea, China, India, Northern Nigeria, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, and Pakistan;
- The Brexit negotiations, that they may be conducted with wisdom and fairness;
- The Rutland Foodbank and the Drop-in Centre;
- Justin and John our Archbishops and Donald and John, our Bishops;

– Stephen, Deborah, Chris, Iain, Charlotte & Rachel, our Team Clergy, and all lay members of the Ministry Team;

Generous Giving

On 6 October we launched our Generous Giving 'Giving for Growth' project at All Saints Oakham. Thank you to all those who prayerfully considered the challenges and opportunities we face in the area of money and giving. Whether you were able to respond with an increase in giving or not your ongoing support of our church is very much appreciated. The good news is that, when we take the tax refund from HMRC into account, we estimate that our regular giving will increase by £14,000–£18,000 in 2020, around 15%. We hope and pray this new level of giving will be sustained for the coming years. We have 4/5 new givers, which helps to compensate for the inevitable losses we see each year. It means we maintain around 135 regular givers. In addition, we have received pledges totalling approximately £2,500 for the projects we identified in the 'Giving for Growth' brochure, and promises of more when the projects get underway. Your generosity has given us the platform to make these projects a reality. On behalf of the PCC the finance sub-committee thanks you all for your financial support of our mission and ministry.

Tea Parties

We have now had the final Tea Party of the year, at which as well as partaking

in the food the participants had to 'sing for their tea' as we sang a few Carols. We have averaged 30/35 to each tea party, a mixture of Church attendees and others from the town. I have to thank all the helpers (too numerous to mention by name in case I forget someone), and also the many cake, scone and sandwich makers. I must also thank the many people who 'turn up for tea' but then stay to tidy up. Finally the Davis family who provided the music for the Carols. Thank you all and see you next year (probably in February). *Merry Christmas, Peter Kinal.*

Friends Visit to Rockingham Castle

What was it like to be a governess in a stately home 150 years ago? The Friends discovered all about it on their tour of Rockingham Castle on 4 December. In the company of our severely dressed governess, Helen, we had a fascinating tour of some of the impressive rooms in this ancient castle and were regaled with anecdotes of the reality of life below stairs. Our guide was an excellent raconteur who laced her account with clarity and humour and encouraged us all to respond to her pertinent and amusing questions. We had time to explore the grounds and the tasteful gift shop before being regaled with mulled wine. An excellent meal followed which met with widespread approval. Warm thanks are due to Liz Plummer for organising this highly enjoyable day.

Remembrance

The Chairman of the Oakham Branch of the Royal British Legion has written to thank All Saints Oakham for supporting the Remembrance Day service and concert. Almost £900 was raised in church for the Poppy Appeal bringing the overall sum raised this year by the branch to £20,311.34. The RBL branch particularly thanks Peter Kinal and Janine Weaver for their additional help.

Autumn Fayre Final Total

We can confirm that the final total raised by the Autumn Fayre this year is £2706.65. Our thanks again to all the many people who contributed in any way. Next year the Summer Fayre will be on Saturday 27 June and the Autumn Fayre will be on 21 November. We hope to see you there!

Oakham PCC – 27 November

Finance: pleased and relieved to report that, thanks to so many of you engaging with ‘Generous Giving’ stewardship campaign, and for your enthusiastic support of the Autumn Fayre, the budget for 2019 looks set to be achieved, with no overspend. If promises made during the campaign are met, All Saints looks set to be able to establish a more ambitious programme of mission for 2020. Finance Assistant, Sue Willetts, is busy introducing a modern accounting system which will simplify her current role, enabling her

to take on much of what Peter Hill, retiring Treasurer was charged with till now. There still remains the need for an Honorary Treasurer to present and explain accounts to the PCC at their bi-monthly meetings; please step forward if you believe you can accomplish this vital role in your Church.

Safeguarding issues are always forefront for the PCC to consider, and grateful thanks to Ruth Bray for continuing as our Officer in Charge.

Fabric: repairs to plaster, gulleys, and stonework continue as funds allow. Major project ahead is the replacement of the audio system for which further funding will be needed. Moving up the list of jobs to be done is lighting – enhancement, replacement, repairs – this item now features high on our list of priorities.

Ministry updates: bibles to be purchased for use in Church groups; possible connection for All Saints to ‘Major Churches Network’; Samaritans Purse shoe-box appeal to be looked at again for Christmas 2020; Michael Ellard to be relicensed as a Reader in January and John Feehally to be invited to retest his Ministry as a Reader shortly.

Full minutes and reports are available on the noticeboard in the North Transept.

Marilyn Tomalin, PCC Secretary.

Mike Vecqueray

Grateful thanks for all the love, prayers, and support shown to our family during Mike's final weeks. We have been overwhelmed by the number of cards, letters and messages received. Your presence at the funeral was much appreciated. Jackie, Richard and Janet.

Treasurer Role at All Saints Oakham

We are looking for someone to take on the role of honorary treasurer for All Saints Oakham PCC. The role of treasurer is changing – our new cloud based accounting system means that our Finance Administrator, Sue Willetts, will be managing most of the day to day accounting, online banking, writing cheques and the input of data into the system. The

monthly reports are generated through the new accounting package. We are looking for an honorary treasurer who can work alongside Sue, helping to monitor our income, spending and budgets; join the PCC and present reports at our meetings; support the vision of the church through the wise use of money; help with some practical jobs like counting and banking money; be part of a finance sub-committee which oversees stewardship, HMRC gift-aid, and payroll. Please speak to Stephen if this is of interest to you.

Oakham Church Hall

Have you thought of hiring the Church hall for a 'one-off' party or event? The hall is available for hire for both one-off events and regular weekly/monthly events. Please contact Janine at the Church office to discuss

**All Saints' Church
Oakham**

**Festival of
Nine Lessons & Carols**

a Carol Service for the
whole of Oakham

with Laudamus, Oakham-Team Choir

followed by wine & mince pies

Thursday 19 December - 7:30pm

**All Saint's Church
Oakham**

The Season of Advent

A series of study and discussion sessions will be held on themes for Advent this year, and all are warmly invited,

Tuesday 3rd December,	theme: Waiting
Tuesday 10th December	theme: Hope
Tuesday 17th December	theme: Joy

**Venue for these will be All Saint's Church,
at 11:00 am**

Wednesday 11th December	theme: Peace
Wednesday 18th December	theme: Love

**Venue for these will be St John and St Anne Chapel,
Oakham, at 7:00 pm**

and there will be

**Quiet Evening for Advent,
on Wednesday 4th December**

A time of readings, music and quiet reflection for Advent in a candle light setting,
St. John and St. Anne Chapel, Oakham,
at 7:00 pm

Regular Groups & Activities

CHILDREN'S GROUPS

Tiny Tots (age 0-4). Thursdays 9.45am during term-time. **Oakham Church**

Sunday School (age 5-11) Sundays 10.30am (except 3rd) **Oakham Church Hall**

Fishes Club (up to age 10)
Sundays 11.00am (except 2nd)
Whissendine Church

All Saints Youth (Year 7 upwards)
Sunday evenings fortnightly 6.30-8.00pm in term time

2 Wensum Close, Oakham LE15 6FU
(home of Revd Charlotte Osborn). See website or phone 01572 724198.

HOME GROUPS

Leader: Catriona Drye (770429)

2nd & 4th Tuesdays 10.00am

25 Willow Crescent, Oakham

Leader: Patrick Wilson (723288)

2nd & 4th Thursdays 2.30pm

6 Peterborough Avenue, Oakham

Leader: Monica Compton (755734)

2nd & 4th Mondays 7.30pm **Oakham**

Leader: Alan & Gail Rudge (755570)

Mondays fortnightly 7.30pm

34 Church Street, Braunston

Beatitudes Home Group – Leader:

Revd Deborah Marsh (01664 474652).

First Monday of month 7–9pm

3 Paddock Close, Whissendine

EVERYDAY FAITH

Leader: Revd Stephen Griffiths

Wednesdays monthly (see *calendar for dates*)

All Saints Oakham

CHOIR

Laudamus Joint Choir Practice

Tuesdays 6.45-8.15pm **Whissendine Church**

Langham Choir Practice

Tuesdays before 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays

11.00am-noon **Langham Church**

BELL RINGING

Oakham Bells Tuesdays 7.30-9pm

Braunston Bells Wednesdays 7.30pm

Hambleton Bells alternate Tuesdays
7.30-9pm (with Wing)

Whissendine Bells Thu 7.30-9pm

MOTHERS' UNION

Oakham & Braunston 2nd Thursday
2.15pm **Oakham Church Hall**;

Corporate Communion 3rd Wednesday
10.00am **Chapel of St John & St Anne**

TEAM WALKING GROUP

Fourth Thursday of month, with pub lunch during winter and picnic during summer. See pew sheet for details.

Dennis Corton (01572 722272)

OTHER GROUPS

Drop-In Centre Tea, coffee, chat & lunch Wednesdays 10.00am-3.30pm

Oakham Congregational Church

Oasis Tea, coffee, biscuits and & chat
Fridays 10.30-11.30am

Oakham Church Mayhew Room

Open House Monthly coffee morning in someone's home – see Diary for details..

Bereavement Supporters Training Group Second Tuesday of alternate months 7.00pm in **Oakham Church Hall**

Come & Chat Bereavement Support Drop In Group Last Friday of each month

10.30am-12pm in **Oakham Church Hall**

Friends of All Saints Oakham

Social events throughout the year – see pewsheets for details. **Liz Plummer** (01572 720506).

Services During The Week

<i>Monday</i> 16 Dec	08:30 Morning Prayer <i>Oakham</i> 11:30 Funeral <i>Rosamund Wood Braunston</i>	14:00 Funeral <i>Christopher White Oakham</i>
<i>Tuesday</i> 17 Dec	08:30 Morning Prayer <i>Oakham</i> 10:00 Holy Communion <i>Oakham</i>	14:30 Funeral <i>Olive Lewis Langham</i> 17:30 Evening Prayer <i>Ashwell</i> 18:30 Carol Service <i>Mkt Overton</i>
<i>Wednesday</i> 18 Dec	08:30 Morning Prayer <i>Oakham</i> 10:00 MU Corporate Com <i>J&A</i> 12:00 CTiO Prayer Mtg <i>Cong Ch</i>	14:00 Carol Service <i>J&A</i> 17:30 Meditation <i>J&A</i> 18:00 Carol Service <i>Egleton</i>
<i>Thursday</i> 19 Dec	09:00 Team Communion <i>Oakham</i> 09:45 Tiny Tots <i>Oakham</i>	12:00 Ecumenical Prayer <i>Oakham</i> 19:30 Carol Service <i>Oakham</i>
<i>Friday</i> 20 Dec	08:30 Morning Prayer <i>Oakham</i> 10:00 BCP Communion <i>Oakham</i>	13:30 Oakham CofE School Service <i>Oakham</i>
<i>Sat 21 Dec</i>		19:30 Quiet Christmas <i>Oakham</i>

Services Next Sunday – 22 December Fourth Sunday of Advent

<i>Oakham</i>	8:00 Holy Communion (CW Trad) 10:30 Parish Communion	18:00 Evensong
<i>Whissendine</i>		18:00 Carol Service
<i>Teigh</i>	9:00 Matins	
<i>Market Overton</i>		
<i>Ashwell</i>	10:30 Carol Service	
<i>Langham</i>	11:00 Holy Communion & Baptism	
<i>Braunston</i>		
<i>Brooke</i>		18:00 Carol Service
<i>Hambleton</i>	10:15 Holy Communion & Baptism	
<i>Egleton</i>		

Next Week's Readings

Fourth of Advent: Psalm 80.1-7; Isaiah 7.10-16; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25

Oakham Evensong: Psalms 113; 1 Samuel 1.1-20; Revelation 22.6-21