**St Olaf’s Church Poughill**

**NOTICES FOR WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 28th September 2025**

**“*All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it*.”**

**1 Corinthians 12: 27 (Church verse for 2025)**

**Rector: Rev Teresa Folland** contact 01288 352599 (home)

**Churchwarden: Howard Emmens** contact07769 188858 (mobile)

**Churchwarden: Kathy Emmens** contact07795 909054 (mobile)

**Note:** If in any danger on church premises ring 999

**Sunday 28th September 10.00am** Morning PraiseRev Douglas Adams

 **6.00pm** Informal Prayer and Praise in The Old School

**Sunday 5th October 10.00am** Harvest Festival Mark Sinden

**Sunday 12th October 10.00am** HolyCommunionRev Douglas Adams

**Sunday 19th October** **10.00am** Morning PraiseTim Symonds with Nigel Paget preaching

**Church Prayer Meeting:** Fridays 7.00pm meeting in The Old School.

**Saturday Prayer Breakfast :** Saturday 27th is the ladies’ prayer breakfast at 8.30am in the Old School.

**Bude Concert Orchestra.** "Last Night of the Proms". Sat 27th Sept. Parkhouse, 7.30pm. Tickets £10 on the door. Light Refreshments.   <http://www.budeorchestra.com>

**ALPHA:** TheNorth Kernow Benefice ALPHA has begun. It is still not too late to join. Beginning at 6pm, ending at 8.30pm. The venue is St Andrew’s Church, Stratton.

There will be a meal to begin the evening, followed by a short video, then a discussion in a small group, with no obligation to say anything – but it is an opportunity to ask questions or put your point of view forward. Do come and maybe bring a friend? For further information contact Rev Teresa or Dan and Cherry. (Contact details are on the red invitations at the back of church.)

**Hot Lunch 5th October:** After the Harvest Festival Service there will be a ‘Hot Harvest Lunch’ in the Old School. Main course provided but puddings please if you are able to.

During the service there will be an opportunity to bring goods that will be donated to Bude Foodbank. They need:

Breakfastcereals, pasta, rice, noodles, pasta sauce.

Tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, tinned tomatoes, tinned meat (like ham or salmon), tinned fish, tinned spaghetti

Tea, coffee, long-life UHT milk, long-life fruit juice or squash. Also biscuits, savoury biscuits, jam, and peanut butter

You can also bring the harvest of your garden to sell at the lunch and the money will go to the Foodbank. As long as people remember to bring cash. (That’s what we had in our pockets and purses before the pandemic, in case you’ve forgotten.)

**Parish Giving Scheme**

The scheme are updating their software and will be offline from Monday 13th October to Thursday 30th October. If you would like to make changes to your direct debit please do so before 13th October. While offline they will be unable to manage or set up gifts. If you are normally contacted by letter the scheme suggest that you might like to register an email address with PGS to stay connected and benefit from the enhanced system.

Unless you want to make changes to your giving, just sit tight: the new system will be in place by the end of October.

**Alison has written the following to update everyone now she and Mark are home**

Over several years, this church and many other individuals have been sponsoring children through secondary school at the Crown of Life. If the children complete this secondary education, they pass grade 12 which is GCSE equivalent. In theory the students would pass onto tertiary education which means college or university. The numbers who are able to do this are very small.

Dorothy, the founder of COL, has started vocational courses for those who have passed grade 12 but have returned to just living on the compound unable to find permanent employment. She is offering Food Production (Catering) and Computer Studies, with an aim to extending this to other disciplines. The vocational course involves 6 months study and then placements in relevant businesses for practical training. The cost of this one-year course is a one-off cost of £220. The student would then receive a recognised qualification allowing them to work in industry e.g. in  a hotel.

If any of you individually would like to help by donating towards these costs, I should be very grateful, as would the potential students!

**Donation for A Vocational course:** ifyou can manage a one-off £220, please let Alison know. This is a worthwhile investment in a young person’s future.

**Saturday Zoom Quiz 7.30pm:** Join with others in the benefice via Zoom: Meeting ID 874 2385 3298 Passcode 564 786.

**Hollabury Fellowship:** Wednesday 1st October there will be **no meeting this week**.

**Morning Prayer:** 9.00am Monday to Friday Via Zoom: Meeting ID 818 0754 3068 passcode 342 493 or you can join by phone on 0203 051 2874 or 0203 051 5237.

**Daily Bread notes** for September–November are available at the back of the church.

**SOCKS** (St Olaf's Children's Klub) Fridays 5.30–6.30pm in The Old School and **Pants** (Youth Group for those 11+): Contact Rachel on 353842.

**Recordings of sermons:** Sound recordings of sermons are now available from Rich. Tel 07772 775591 or email docrichpage@hotmail.com.

**House Groups** meet on various days during the week. If you are interested in joining one, please contact Kathy or Howard. There are vacancies just waiting for YOU!

 **Communion at home:** Rev Douglas Adams and Rev Teresa Folland can arrange for communion in your home when you find yourself unwell and unable to attend services for a period. Please phone if this is something you would like: Rev Teresa Folland 01288 352599 or Rev Douglas Adams 01288 353842.

 Tim Symonds Sermon Sunday 21st September 2025

**The power of intercession** 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The message of Paul writing to Timothy is so relevant to our country at this time when we are living in such turbulent and frightening times. He says, ‘I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness’ (1 Tim 2:1,2). The way to resolve the problems of our nation and the world is first through intercession, the power that can be released through intercession is immeasurable. It was when King George VI called the nation to pray in our darkest hour in the Second World War when our troops were facing obliteration at Dunkirk that the tide of the war began to turn. Churchill feared only some 30,000 of our troops might come home from Dunkirk and in God’s mercy 300,000 were rescued and able to retrain and rearm and together with the Americans launch the D-Day invasion which led ultimately to victory in Europe.

I have been reading a most inspiring book called “Rees Howells, Intercessor”, which was first published in 1952 since when there have been at least fourteen reprints. Born in a Welsh mining village in 1879, Rees Howells is best known as the founder of the Bible College of Wales. Leaving school at the age of twelve he worked in a tin mill and then a coal mine. As he came to know the redeeming power of Jesus as Saviour, he faced the challenge of surrendering his life to him, learnt to love the unlovely and found the key to the power of prayer. He developed such a relationship with God that he was able to hear God telling him to build a Bible College before he had the funds and as he trusted and obeyed God so the funds were supplied. So his whole life was lived like this in complete dependence on God through prayer and faith and never appealing to anyone for money. God would prompt people to send money when he needed it and the Bible College of Wales gradually increased in size. Rees Howells also heard God call him to Africa as a missionary where he became the channel of a mighty revival

‘On the day of the declaration of war Howells published the following statement: ‘The Lord has made known to us that He is going to destroy Hitler and the Nazi regime, that the world may know that it was God and God alone who has scattered the dictators. Three and a half years ago the College prayed this prayer for weeks and months, and we firmly believe He will now answer it. He has isolated Germany so that He may get at this evil system and release Germany, the land of the Reformation. He will deal with the Nazis as He dealt with the Egyptian army in the time of Moses’. You remember how the children of Israel escaped from Egypt by God providing a path for them to cross over the Red Sea on dry ground by holding back the water on either side of them and then when the Egyptian army went in after them the waters rolled back and drowned them all.(See Exodus chapter 14).

The Bible College held meetings three times a day on most days at this time. They numbered about one hundred and they held on in faith to the fact that victory would be ours even though our soldiers across the water were retreating mile after mile, whole countries surrendering and the enemy within sight of their goal. From this time on through all the years of the war, the whole college was in prayer every evening from seven o’clock to midnight, with only a brief interval for supper. They never missed a day. This was in addition to an hour’s prayer meeting every morning, and very often at midday. There were even many special periods when every day was wholly given up to prayer and fasting. Rees Howells is quoted as saying at this time, ‘We are going up to the battle, and I am as sure of the victory as of the dawn. If you know you have faith for something, would you not go on until you got it? I would like this to ring out to the world: ‘The Lord, He is the God’. ‘When the Germans say, ‘We have got the Allies on the run’ keep your eyes on God and get this victory. The Lord has made it very plain that the victory is from Him and no one else, and He is to have all the glory’. ‘God will not do a bit more through you than you have faith for’.

People whom we engage in conversation in our daily lives such as folk who come to Cameo or other contacts are shocked by the news and what is happening in the world and they need to know that we are in a battle against evil but God is in sovereign control and our prayers can help bring about his will for the world. A recent survey by the Bible Society indicates that Christianity is quietly but decisively growing again, and regular church attendance is on the rise, particularly among young adults whose numbers have quadrupled in just six years. This has been termed ‘The Quiet Revival’ and while not yet obvious in many small churches like ours many people are indicating they would attend church if invited by a friend. One of the reasons for this quiet revival must be I believe because of awareness of the power of intercession and the fact that the desperate situation we are in is driving many people to their knees. One group called the National Day of Prayer and Worship (NDOPW) has been calling people to intercession for at least 15 years and now every Thursday evening hundreds attend an online prayer meeting by zoom from 7.0-8.0pm with many joining in on YouTube or Facebook. Some of this National Day of Prayer group also pray daily at 7.0am and 7.0pm for half an hour. A report by Youth for Christ that came out recently found that a majority of British teenagers are open to learning more about God with 67 per cent saying they believe in a higher spiritual force. So signs are that times are changing. Jesus is building his church as he said he would do and as Hezekiah, who was a good king in Old Testament times, said when the king of Assyria attacked the people of Judah, ‘With us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles’.

A Ukrainian church leader has reported how his church is seeing God move powerfully, even amidst the chaos of war and in the past three years they have witnessed more baptisms that in the previous 15, not because of programmes or strategy but because war has stripped away the illusion of control and into that raw emptiness, Christ whispers, “I am still here. I am still calling you”.

Dear friends, it is Jesus our country needs more than anything and a turning back to God and His laws. He is in sovereign control over all that is going on and the more we invite Him into our churches and national life the more we will see recovery from and victory over the power of evil. We read in the second book of Chronicles that when Solomon had finished building the temple, the Lord appeared to him at night and said, ‘when I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among the people, if my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land’ (2Chronicles 7:14) We are in trouble as a nation because we have turned our backs on God but there is hope if we turn back to him. Only Jesus has the long-term answer to our national problems and the problems of the world.

Returning to the passage set for us today are, ‘I urge then, first of all that requests, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for everyone’ (1Timothy 2:1). There is a sense of **pressure,** of this being imperative, and that this is a **priority** and there are four types of prayers he mentions to be made for all **people,** requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving. There is pressure, **‘I urge’** he says, and it’s a priority, ‘**first of all’,** and it’s ‘**for all people**’ including kings and those in authority. You may not feel you get very much from the services sometimes, particularly when I am taking them, but if you pray along with the intercessions you are helping bring about God’s purposes in the world and that is what we are here for. I am sorry to hear from someone who preaches in other denominations besides the C of E that some denominations don’t include intercessions in their services and this is a serious omission. The outcome of our intercessions, Paul says, is that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness and people will be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. (1Tim 2:2,3). There are intercessions provided on our notice sheet, thanks to Kathy, for use at any time and there are also intercessions on Zoom for those with access to the internet, provided by different people in the benefice at 9.00am every weekday morning.

On Saturday 2nd August a group in London called the Kings Army joined forces with NDOPW and other ministries to pray over the nation. Starting from Trafalgar Square hundreds of intercessors, Evangelists, Pastors and Leaders marched together making Proclamations over Parliament, the House of Lords, Downing Street, and Westminster Abbey and the report I have says, ‘there was an atmosphere of heaven as they marched, sang declared and praised God!’ By the time the operation was over they had been marching and praying for five hours. The report by the leader quotes the verse ‘Now at this time Jesus went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God’ (Luke 6:12). The leader then concludes, ‘Let’s turn this Nation back to God through a Revival in the Church and an awakening in Society’. Amen.

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**Intercessory Prayers:**

*Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will*

*Put me to doing, put me to suffering*

*Let me be full, let me be empty*

*I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service (John Wesley)*

Our Father, we come before you, we bless your name and we are thankful for all we have and are and have been given by you. Thank you for your amazing grace and mercy that covers our sins and brings us into your kingdom. We praise you for your deep love and for empowering us to live a new life in your Spirit. Help us to never forget the sacrifice of Jesus. Because our sins are covered we dare to come into your presence.

We give thanks for St Olaf’s, our local church, this community of believers that serves as a beacon of Your love and truth in our area. We thank you for the people who serve, the teaching that nourishes us, and the opportunities to share your goodness with those around us. We pray for continued growth, wisdom, and unity as we strive to be a blessing to you and a light to the world. May your Holy Spirit fill us, empowering us to serve faithfully and reach out to others with your grace.

We ask for your hand on the Alpha Course this coming Tuesday. Bless those who come to seek answers. May they have an encounter with you. Knowing you is not to know the answers but the Answer. We pray for all who help to make the evening successful by preparing food and setting up the video and tables. Mostly we ask that your Holy Spirit will be in all that is said and done that your name will be glorified.

We pray too for Churches Together in Bude and Stratton: honour the efforts to bring the light of Christ to a needy community.

We pray for our suffering world. So many countries at war: Gaza, so many suffering starvation, injuries and disease; Ukraine continuing to suffer aerial attacks from Russia, and peace seems far off; Sudan now enduring malaria, Dengue fever and typhoid outbreaks. Bless your suffering people, and may the warring leaders have compassion for the suffering they are causing.

We pray for persecuted Christians. Violent chaos continues to be a cover for persecution in countries like Myanmar, Yemen and Sudan; civil wars have become places for targeted attacks against Christians. Bless your suffering people.

We pray for the sick in our own community. Continue to heal and sustain Pam Kemp, Bella, Sandra Shepherd, Paul Whybrow, Molly Hooper, Peter Harrison, Mary, Debbie, Denise, Liz and Irene Webster. We continue to pray for Remy, eight and suffering with a serious cancer, and for his family too. We pray for Sue Dickinson whose injuries are still serious. We pray for Ferg and Ellie and Kitty as they go through this dark time. We ask that all these we have named may receive a touch from you. May they know your peace and hope in their situations. We pray for those who mourn, that they will be comforted.

We pray for children in our community. There are young people in Bude selling drugs and looking out for likely customers, so we ask for protection for the children but we also ask that the young dealers change their lives and turn to Christ.

We pray for those who are starting college or University that they will keep their faith and find good friends.

This week we pray from our electoral roll for Gillian Brown and her family and Paul Carr and his family. Bless them we pray and we thank you for them and everything they contribute to our fellowship.

This week we pray for the charities Barnabas Aid who are an international aid agency that aims to support Christian communities, churches and individuals around the world who face persecution and discrimination because of their faith. We ask that you bless this charity. We also pray for Care for the Family who aim to build strong family bonds by helping those who face family difficulties. Give their work a blessing too we ask.

We pray for the King and Queen and all the royal family that they will set good examples of family life and faith. For the government we pray for stability and leadership.

We pray for the armed services and the intelligence services we are grateful that they work to keep us safe.

We ask for your hand on the Assisted Dying Bill and pray that your will may be done.

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to your will.*

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

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