**St Olaf’s Church Poughill**

**NOTICES FOR WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 31st August 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 31st August 10.00am** Benefice Service at St Andrew’s, Stratton – Creationtide: Rev Teresa Folland with Val Barker, Sheila Waring, and Judy Dunne

**Sunday 7th September 10.00am** Morning PraiseRev Richard Ward-Smith

**Sunday 14th September 10.00am** Holy Communion Rev Teresa Folland

**Sunday 21st September 10.00am** Morning PraiseTim Symonds

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

**Saturday Prayer Breakfast :** This week on Saturday 30th is the ladies’ prayer breakfast at 8.30am in the Old School.

**ALPHA:** North Kernow Benefice is running ALPHA again thisyear, beginning on 2nd September at 6pm, ending at 8.30pm.

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.)

**Alison and Mark news**

No new news to give except that Alison mentioned a three-hour praise service!

**Prayers:** Please remember in your prayers Sue Dickinson, wife of the Rural Dean, Rob. They were in a very bad car accident and Sue is in a critical condition. She has had some surgeries but still has a long way to go in her recovery and is in a lot of pain. Also please continue to pray for Mark and Alison as they work hard in Lusaka improving the schools and bringing encouragement.

**Fish and Chips Together in Poughill**

Join others at the Preston Gate on 12th September at 12.30pm for a sociable lunch. Please let Keith or Tim know if you would like to come.

**Christians Together in Bude and Stratton AGM**

The date of the AGM is Monday 22nd September. The venue and time: Oceans at 7.30pm.

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

**Hollabury Fellowship:** Hollabury next Wednesday 3rd September: Tim Symonds.

**CAMEO:** The next Cameo will be on 11th September.

**Man Down**

On Tuesday October 14th at 7.30 p.m. at the Brendon Inn, Bude. I am organising a charity fun quiz as a fundraiser for Man Down. As you may know Man Down charges nothing for attendance and exists by virtue of donations so it is important to try and raise money for them. We are looking for teams of six. The cost is £10 per person which includes small fish and chips during the interval. Any items for the raffle would be very gratefully received. No alcohol please. If you would be willing to support, can you please let me know. Thank you for supporting Man Down!!! Keith

**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](mailto:docrichpage@hotmail.com).

**House Groups** meet on various days during the week. If you are interested in joining one, please contact Kathy or Howard.

**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.

**Rev Douglas Adams Sermon**  **Isaiah 43:8–13, Luke 22: 24–30**

It is common for people in organisations to compete for position.

It happens. In Churches too. One of the reasons we have elections so that a clear choice is made.

It can cause resentment within organisations of course as people jockey for position and power.

It was obviously what was happening among Jesus disciples

Luke tells us “24 A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest.”

Perhaps we are shocked that Jesus followers should think that way and argue with each other

But they were ordinary people like you and me and what others thought of them mattered

Reputation was an important consideration then as it is now

Perhaps it was that Jesus had not yet conquered that part of their lives and ambitions where this temptation lies.

Jesus goes out of his way to show them by his actions that being the greatest or being first wasn’t what his kingdom was about

It wasn’t position that mattered but being ready to serve that was important and having a servant heart.

So he points out that though in human society sitting and eating at the top table was important in his kingdom it was the one who served that mattered most

He underlines this by the words you see on screen - But I am among you as one who serves

So that’s the teaching and what does it mean for us in 2025?

Well it’s a Christian virtue or value that being a servant of others really matters

Hence Jesus’ words ‘But I am among you as one who serves’.

The Greek text uses the word *diakano* which means ‘to serve’.

Dictionary definition: to serve, wait on, help, attend to; this often refers to spiritual and practical ministry in the Church. “To wait upon tables” (Acts 6:2) may mean to literally help in serving food, though some believe it refers (also) to the handling of finances

Jesus came not as an earthly king or ruler but as one who served others he met.

He helps them, supports them, and provides for their needs

We talk about leaders in Church as “Ministers”. The word ‘minister’ in Greek is *diakanos* which means ‘servant’ or ‘one who serves’.

When someone is ordained, they spend their first year of service as deacons. They are there to serve God by doing servant like actions.

Visiting the sick, supporting the bereaved, teaching the young, preparing folk for baptism and so on.

I know churches who prepared meals when a member is sick or has come home from hospital.

When mums with babies don’t have time to prepare meals they take food to them.

They also preach in Church because preaching and teaching is a servant activity.

And we are all called to be servants if we believe in Jesus and follow his call.

Here are some of the things that involves:

1 caring for the sick and elderly

2 walking alongside if the poor, hungry and homeless (The food hub is a servant role)

3 Teaching the young and those who are new to the faith

4 preparing couples for marriages

5 keeping in touch with the bereaved

6 praying regularly for the needs of the church and the needs in our world

7 Jesus sets us the example of how we care for one another and those in need.

8 In particular we need people with a servant heart to help with the Alpha Course at St Andrew’s Church by praying for those who are there and offering lifts to people both to and from the course. It’s for 10 weeks on Tuesday evenings.

A servant heart values others above self, not looking to our own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Wow - that’s powerful stuff for us to take on board.

Having a servant heart and using every possible way to serve others who God has brought us to.

One of the greatest servant like attitude I have come across was a lady called Mrs Andrew who was our landlady for the first few lives of married life at Staines.

She rented her upstairs to us and we settled there.

She had lost her minister husband, a Baptist pastor.

When we moved in and put our empty boxes ready to put them for the rubbish, she picked them up and disposed of them.

When we got home from work there was nearly always a cup of tea to share and offers if help.

She never complained but accepted our young people thundering up and down the stairs on a Sunday evening.

She used all that she had to bring joy and happiness to others. She was a lady with a servant heart who showed her faith by the way she lived.

Christ calls us all to learn to be servants of his. To be his hands and feet in this world.

It’s in our hands now.

Amen.

**Intercessory Prayers:**

*Great are you, O Lord, and exceedingly worthy of praise; your power is immense, and your wisdom beyond reckoning. And so we men, who are a due part of your creation, long to praise you – we also carry our mortality about with us, carry the evidence of our sin and with it the proof that you thwart the proud. You arouse us so that praising you may bring us joy, because you have made us and drawn us to yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.*

*St Augustine of Hippo*

Almighty and Ever-Loving God, in faith we bring our prayers to you: for the Church, the world and those whom we love, rejoicing in the certain knowledge that you will hear and answer our prayers.

We come today to worship you knowing that saints have praised your hallowed name for thousands of years. As we pray, we join not just with the believers who have gone on before us but with those across the world, worshipping through different time zones and in different languages. But we are conscious too that this is a privilege not enjoyed by all people. Some dare not speak of their faith for fear, and others who do are severely dealt with by cruel and evil regimes. We pray that you will be with our persecuted brothers and sisters. Keep them from harm we pray and fill them with the hope of eternal life in your kingdom where all tears will be wiped away. Help them as they suffer for their faith. We also pray for women in countries where they have few human rights and are subject to violence, forced marriages, and have little access to legal redress.

Women and girls in many other parts in the world have become marginalised because of war and misplaced religious beliefs, so many having suffered violence, starvation and have lost homes. We pray for these women as they endeavour to care for their children without their men who are fighting wars and other who just have no autonomy over their own lives. We pray too for young boys who know no other life but fighting. Heal Sudan, Gaza, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Russia and their people we pray.

We know that you said you would give us your peace but that in the world there would be trouble. Because you have overcome the world, help us to have peace in our hearts and not to be anxious.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we thank you for your blessings we have in our neighbourhoods and we pray especially on those who live and work in this parish. Grant unity to the Church, healing the divisions which hinder the work of our witness. We pray for our rector Teresa as she works in the benefice and preaches and takes services and many other duties, that you will give her strength to persevere in all her work. We pray too for Bishop David and Archdeacon Kelly and all those who serve you in our churches, using their skills and talents in practical ways, often unseen and unacknowledged. May our motives always be pure and help us to be kind and respectful to each other.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those from our fellowship who are away on holiday, that they may find rest and refreshment and return to us safely. We also pray for the young people who have received their ‘A’ level results and GCSE results, that whatever the results, they may find fulfilment in their choices for the future.

For those holidaying in this area we pray for their safety on the roads and especially in the sea. We thank you for the work of the RNLI and those who volunteer helping to keep us all safe and rescuing when people get into difficulties.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God of all goodness, we thank you for the beauty we see around us and the joy of spending time with friends and family.

We pray for men, women and children throughout the world who lack what we have in such abundance. For people who have no peace or security in their lives. For displaced families, who feel they have no hope for the future. For volunteer medical staff who risk their lives to save and treat victims of war. For all who work to bring peace and reconciliation into places of violent conflict. Bring the leaders of nations to a common purpose and a desire for peace. Give them wisdom to avoid conflict, that all people may live in security without fear of war.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, we pray that love will be present in our homes. Give us grace in our families and let each generation value what the others have to give. Make us channels of peace when we meet anger in our daily lives. Look with compassion on broken and divided families in our community and grant reconciliation in the quarrels that have caused a breakdown in relationships. Be with children suffering because of family breakdown and heal the long term harm that this can cause.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we look at all you have created in wonder and amazement. We also look in sorrow at the destruction and pollution caused by our hands. We pray that you will raise up people with knowledge and influence, who will make effective changes, who are not afraid to speak out against apathy and greed and will cause us to do better and reverse the damage. Help us to be aware of our attitudes and judgements and help us all to make a difference for the good of all.

We pray for the Alpha course beginning in September and ask for your hand on the planning and on the hearts of the participants, and those helping in preparing food or facilitating discussions or in other ways. Be in it all we pray so that your Kingdom will come.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God of Healing, we thank you for your blessings on all health workers, doctors, and nurses and those who work in the background supplying data for diagnosis. Give them compassion for those they treat. We pray for all who are suffering today in body, mind, or spirit. Give them courage, hope and peace, and the knowledge that you are present in their weakness, pain, and suffering. Our hearts have been touched by the awful news of the car crash in which our Rural Dean Rob Dickinson and his wife Sue were injured. Sue has been operated on but has more to come and is in pain so we ask for her healing and peace for Rob and their daughters. Continue to heal and sustain Pam Kemp, her granddaughter Bella, Sandra Shepherd, Paul Whybrow, Molly Hooper, Peter Harrison, and for Mary, and Debbie. We pray too for Irene Webster as she is still unable to join us in church. And we continue to pray for Remy, eight and suffering with a serious cancer, and for his family too. We ask for your healing touch on the lives of these your suffering children, give them peace and hope.

From our electoral roll we pray for Leonard Tozer and his family, and Terence Voaden and his family. We give thanks for all Len meant to so many schoolchildren in Bude and we give thanks for Terry as a part of our fellowship.

This week we pray for Christians Missions Trust (India) as they work to uplift the poorest and Good News for Everyone as they spread your word by giving out Bibles. We ask for God’s blessing on these two organisations as they work in very different ways.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the King and all the Royal Family that they will have good health divisions will be healed too. We ask that the government will seek your will and do what is right for the benefit of all.

We pray for those who defend us: the brave people in the armed forces and the intelligence services. Help them as they guard our safety. We pray that war will not touch this country.

God of Love, we thank you for your gift to us of salvation through our Lord Jesus. We thank you for the lives of those who have gone before us. We pray for those who feel the pain of grief at the loss of a loved one. May they each feel the comfort of your loving arms around them as well as the support of loving family and friends.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, throughout this coming week, help us to we fix our eyes on Jesus. May our hearts be like the servant heart of Jesus, so that others may see the light of Christ in our lives.

So we can; *Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ**

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