

WEEKLY NOTICES

WEEKLY REFLECTION

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BEING ALONE WITH GOD IS IMPORTANT

'When He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.'

Matthew 14:23 NKJV

Jesus was both human and divine. Because we tend to think of Him as the Son of God more than the Son of Man, we overlook what we can learn from His human experience. When Jesus miraculously fed five thousand people, His divine power and prerogatives were on display (see Matthew 14:13–21). Yet after the event, we see His humanity in ways we should be able to identify with. After dismissing the crowd and sending the disciples away, Jesus withdrew to a solitary spot on the mountainside to be alone with God. After such a miracle, most of us would be celebrating. And those around us would have a hard time understanding why He sent them away. But Jesus understood that His power did not come from the crowd but from His Father, so He created time and solitude to be alone with Him. The relationship Jesus had with His Father is a picture of the relationship you, too, can have with God. Three things describe it: 1) Intimacy. ***'For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does'*** (John 5:20 NKJV). 2) Dependency. ***'The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner'*** (v. 19 NKJV). 3) Obedience. ***'I can of Myself do nothing...I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me'*** (v. 30 NKJV). What do you need to send away in order to have such a relationship with the Lord?

PRAY FOR GOD'S HELP TO GIVE YOU MORE TIME TO BE ALONE WITH HIM. WE NEED IT!

SOURCE: UCB WORD FOR TODAY WRITTEN BY BOB & DEBBY GASS. FREE COPIES OF WORD FOR TODAY AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH OR UNITED CHRISTIAN BROADCASTERS, WESTPORT ROAD, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST6 4JF, TEL. 01782 363000.

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CHW CHURCHES



CHW.CHURCHES

LET'S RECLAIM WHAT OUR FLAGS STAND FOR

Social justice advisor at Oxford Diocese Hannah Ling takes a look at Operation Raise the Colours and discusses how we can respond, as Christians...

A different kind of justice

On the surface the raising of Union flags and St George's flags across the country under 'Operation Raise the Colours' could appear to be a patriotic pursuit, but it's quickly apparent that what should be symbols of unity and pride are being used to represent a divisive and exclusionary agenda, with asylum seekers being used as scape goats. And I don't see this approach as aligning with how we're called to live as Christians.

Love your neighbour as yourself

So I'd like to reclaim what our flags stand for and our actions reflect, with the type of justice and compassion I see spoken about in the Bible and embodied in Jesus. We belong to a heavenly kingdom before we belong to the United Kingdom, but I truly think we should be people who love our country and are active in our communities so they can flourish and be joyful places to live ('Seek the peace and prosperity of the city' – Jeremiah 29:7). It's beautiful when neighbourhoods pin up flags and pretty bunting for jubilant street parties, people enthusiastically wave the UK flag to support Team GB Olympians, or fly a flag to illustrate they're behind the Three Lions or Lionesses in the footie.

But the raising of our flag shouldn't be hand in hand with exclusion, hate, and fearmongering, and I don't think the love for our country should be at the expense of vulnerable people seeking sanctuary and safety. There are clearly problems in the UK. Alongside rising costs and stagnating wages, poverty levels (including deep poverty) are worryingly rising. There's widespread disconnection and isolation, NHS waiting lists are far too long and schools' finances just aren't adding up. As Christians, we're called to care about these things. But they aren't the fault of asylum seekers, refugees, and other migrants. They're outcomes of deeper, often systemic, issues which require strong, creative, and brave solutions, both from our politicians and from us as churches and individuals.

When I read the Bible, I see us being told to welcome strangers, give food/drinks/clothes to those who need it, and speak up for those whose voices are ignored. I don't see the Bible saying justice is about self-preservation, villainising vulnerable people seeking sanctuary and safety, or brandishing a whole group of people 'criminals'.

Ultimately, the greatest commandment given was to love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and to love your neighbour as yourself (Matthew 22:36-40). In Luke, Jesus teaches us that anyone in need, regardless of their background, ethnicity, or belief, is our neighbour. Therefore, the question for us is:

'What does loving asylum seekers and refugees look like for me?'

Here are a few ways we can extend love, counteract the hate directed at asylum seekers and refugees, and embody unity, community, compassion, and justice.

1. If you feel frustrated or angry at poverty, rising costs, and other social issues you and your community are facing, consider what practical and creative things you can do to respond. Perhaps it's volunteering locally, starting a community group, or organising to ensure politicians hear your voices and solutions. There are some ideas on the website below.
2. Learn the facts about refugees and asylum seekers (and share them) via [Refugee Action](#) and in [Asylum Welcome's open letter](#).
3. Call out hate when you see it, and offer love and community as an alternative.
4. Display messages of hope and community welcome, such as these [posters from City of Sanctuary](#) or from [Hope Not Hate](#).
5. Reach out to local charities supporting asylum seekers and refugees – perhaps you or your church could offer support to staff and volunteers, as well as those supported by charities, who are on the receiving end of hate and abuse.

For the full article please visit https://www.oxford.anglican.org/news/Let's_reclaim_what_our_flags_stand_for

SAFEGUARDING

ST. ANDREW'S, ST. MICHAEL'S AND ST. THOMAS' CHURCHES ARE COMMITTED TO THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF ALL CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS WHO FALL WITHIN OUR CARE. A COPY OF OUR SAFEGUARDING POLICY MAY BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBPAGE. IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS AT ALL ABOUT THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN OR VULNERABLE ADULTS YOU CAN CONTACT OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER HEATHER HERMES EMAIL: SAFEGUARDING@CHWCHURCHES.ORG, 01784 391417, OR YOU CAN CONTACT THE DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING TEAM: EMAIL: SAFEGUARDINGREFERRALS@OXFORD.ANGLICAN.ORG 01865 208295, OR THE LOCAL AUTHORITY SOCIAL SERVICES TEAM ON 01628 683150.

LITTLE LAMBS MUMS & TODDLERS GROUP [TERM TIME ONLY]

If you're looking for a stay and play, drop in baby and toddler groups in Wraysbury then look no further. Little Lambs Toddler Group is based at St Andrews Church in Wraysbury, where you can drop in **without prebooking** a place.

There is a small fee of £2.00 per family to cover the cost of drinks and snacks, and it's a great way to get out and entertain your children and meet other parents, carers, grandparents and childminders too.

For more details email: LittleLambs@CHWChurches.org



DURING THE WEEK @ CHWCHURCHES

Monday 6th October

09.10 Morning Prayer at St. Michael's Horton
10.00 Horton Coffee Morning, Champney Hall
13.30 CHW Churches Team Meeting

Tuesday 7th October

09.10 Morning Prayer at St. Thomas' Colnbrook
11.00 Midweek Communion at St. Michael's
14.00 St. Andrew's Cafe at St. Andrew's Annexe
7.00pm United Prayer, St. Andrew's, Wraysbury

Wednesday 8th October

09.10 Morning Prayer St. Andrew's Wraysbury
10.00 Little Lambs at St. Andrew's Annexe
19.30 Bell Ringing Practice at St. Andrew's

Saturday 11th October

10.00 Church Clean St. Andrew's, Wraysbury
10.00 The Flower Team will be decorating St Andrew's Church for the Harvest Festival.
Please email lynn_moran@hotmail.com if you wish to join us.

14.00 Burial of ashes of Norman Mooney at St. Thomas' Colnbrook

Sunday 12th October

18.30 Deanery Confirmation Service, Langley Marsh

PRAYER CYCLE @ CHWCHURCHES

**(TERM TIME ONLY) FOR APPROX. 20 MINS.
BASED ON THE PATTERN BELOW**

- **Mondays** St. Michael's Horton 9:10 a.m.
- **Tuesdays** St. Thomas' Colnbrook 9:10 a.m.
- **Wednesdays** St. Andrew's Wraysbury 9:10 a.m

MONTHLY COMBINED PRAYER

First Tuesday of every month

- 4th November 2025 7:30 p.m. St. Thomas'
- 2nd December 2025 7:30 p.m. St. Michael's
- 6th January 2026 7:30 p.m. St. Andrew's

Rotating to Wraysbury, Colnbrook, Horton venues

SUNDAY SERVICES & READINGS @ CHWCHURCHES

5th October 2025 (16th Sunday after Trinity)

Readings: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Psalm 37:1-9; Luke 17:5-10
(Harvest readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Philippians 4:4-9 or Revelation 14:14-18; Psalm 100; John 6:25-35)

ST. MICHAEL'S HORTON – 9.30 a.m. Harvest Parish Communion, lunch at 12.30pm
ST. ANDREW'S WRAYSbury – 10.30 a.m. Refreshments, 11.00a.m. Contemporary Service
ST. MICHAEL'S COLNBROOK – 11.00 a.m. Parish Communion

12th October 2025 (17th Sunday after Trinity)

Readings: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Psalm 111; Luke 17:11-19
(Harvest readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Philippians 4:4-9 or Revelation 14:14-18; Psalm 100; John 6:25-35)

ST. MICHAEL'S HORTON – 9.30 a.m. Family Service
ST. ANDREW'S WRAYSbury – 11.00 a.m. Harvest Parish Communion, lunch at 12.00
ST. THOMAS' COLNBROOK – 11.00 a.m. Parish Communion

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

For Your Prayers

Paul Friar, Baby Louie Lazarou, Lorna Pullen, Annie, Doug Robinson, Margaret, Mark Blackman, Greg Scott, Judy Osborne, Olga Cheeseman, Anne Munday, Bea Tucker, Sue Wynne-Davies, Pam Thomas, Roy Talbot, Kelly Hughes, Sue Waller, Margaret Lenton, Pauline Blackman, George Blackman, Alison, Helen, Jilly and her family.

Our Mission Partners

- St. John's Mission Gwelutshena, Zimbabwe.
- Open Doors, the international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide.
- Operation Restoration working with street children in Bolivia.
- Canaan Ministries and Bookshop in Staines.

4TH SUNDAY SERVICES

Following the Joint PCC meeting on 16th September, where a discussion was held about the availability of cover for services, it was agreed by a majority vote that the 4th Sunday of every month should be a Joint Benefice Service from October 2025.

Please see below the schedule of COMBINED services of 2025 for your diaries: *[please note: these do not include all the special services for the season, that information will follow in a separate notice]*

26th October St. Andrew's 11.00am [4th Sunday]

23rd November St. Thomas' 11.00am [4th Sunday]

30th November St. Andrew's 11.00am [5th Sunday]

25th December St. Michael's 11.00am [Christmas Day]

28th December St. Thomas' 11.00am [4th Sunday]

Many thanks for your support in this matter, please pray for the continued unity of our three churches.

COLIN WALSH (RIP)

It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of Colin Walsh on Thursday 25th September 2025. Colin was taken to Wexham Park Hospital where he went to be with the Lord on Thursday morning with his family by his side.

We will share the details of Colin's funeral as soon as the date and time is confirmed. In the meantime, please remember his family in your prayers as they come to terms with their loss.

Thank you for your prayers.



The Lord God will bless you in all your harvest
Deuteronomy 16:15

HARVEST FESTIVAL

ALL WELCOME

CHW CHURCHES

SERVICES

Colnbrook, St. Thomas' 19th Oct 11.00am

Horton, St. Michael's 5th Oct 9.30am

Wraysbury, St. Andrew's 12th Oct 11.00am