

All Saints MILTON

Church at the heart of the community

January 2023 News



www.allsaintsmilton.org.uk
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All About Us



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'AS Chat' email group
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Prayer Diary January 2023

Tue 3 rd	Pray for the Warm Hub today and for all those returning to work after the holiday.
Wed 4 th	Pray for those who are struggling financially this winter.
Thur 5 th	Term begins at Milton Primary School: Pray for the head teacher, staff and children that they would have a safe, happy and fulfilling term.
Fri 6 th Epiphany	As we remember the journey the Magi made to find Jesus, pray for all those who are seeking him today.
Sat 7 th	Pray for all those who work in Tesco, that it would be a happy place and a real asset to our community.
Sun 8 th	Epiphany Carol Service with the Wren choir: pray that this would bless and challenge all those attending and taking part.
Mon 9 th	Parliament resumes sitting today: pray for our MP Lucy Frazer.
Tue 10 th	Pray for our Parish Councillors and those who represent us on the District and County Councils.
Wed 11 th	Pray for all those who work and study at the College of West Anglia in Milton.
Thur 12 th	Pray for the children being cared for in/by the Children's Hospice, their parents and carers.
Fri 13 th	Remember those who are suffering hardship because of their faith; pray that God would give them an unexpected blessing.
Sat 14 th	Pray for those who work in our doctors' surgery that God would give them wisdom, love and patience. Pray too for those who work in the village vet's surgery.
Sun 15 th	Pray for our services today, that we really listen to God and truly worship him.
Mon 16 th	Pray for those who work in the small businesses in Milton.

Tue 17 th	Pray for the Warm Hub today and for all those who are lonely.
Wed 18 th	Pray for those known to you who are sick or suffering, that God would bring them his comfort.
Thur 19 th	Pray of peace in Ukraine and for all those Ukrainians now living in our village.
Fri 20 th	Remember those known to us who have gone abroad to share the good news about Jesus; ask God to keep them safe and pray that their endeavours would be fruitful.
Sat 21 st	Pray for the young people in our church and for those who work with them. Pray that the vacancy for a youth worker would be filled.
Sun 22 nd	Chinese New Year: pray for the members and mission of the Chinese church in Cambridge.
Mon 23 rd	Pray for the PCC meeting tonight and for everyone on the church leadership team.
Tue 24 th	Pray for the Phoenix Trust, their volunteers and the people they support.
Wed 25 th	Pray for Praise and Play: those who run it and the families who attend.
Thur 26 th	Pray for the fight against Climate Change, that God would raise up leaders who can inspire others to take action.
Fri 27 th	Prayer for Toddlers, those who help at it and all the families who attend it.
Sat 28 th	Give thanks for the work of the Edmund Trust and pray that God would bless its staff and Milton residents.
Sun 29 th	Pray for the children in Junior Church and their leaders.
Mon 30 th	Pray for all those whose work is stressful and for those working away from home and their families.
Tue 31 st	Pray that God would be preparing the right person to become our new rector and preparing us to work with him/her.

January Services

1st January

8am Communion

10.30am All together worship

8th January

8am Communion

10.30am Holy Communion with prayers for healing and anointing

3.30pm Epiphany carols with Wren choir

15th January

8am Communion

10.30am Morning worship

22nd January

8am Communion

10.30am Communion with Junior church; children present for communion

29th January

8am Communion

10.30am Morning worship

Dates for your Diary



8th January at 10.30am

**Service of Holy Communion with prayers
for healing and anointing**

*Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders
of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him
with oil in the name of the Lord; (James 5.14)*



8th January at 3.30pm

Epiphany Carol Service with the Wren choir

MAKING SENSE 2023

St John's, Waterbeach

All sessions will be at 7pm in the Church Room

Sunday 29th January 2023

Making Sense of God's Good Creation and the Origin of Evil

The Revd Dr Matthias Grebe

Matthias Grebe is a lecturer and tutor at St Mellitus College, an Anglican theological college in London, Associate Vicar at St Edward King and Martyr in Cambridge, and the Church of England's Adviser for European Church Relations for the Council for Christian Unity. He holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge and was previously a research fellow at the University of Bonn. Matthias read Theology, Philosophy and Rhetoric at the University of Tübingen, where he also trained for a professional certificate in psychotherapy. He is co-editor of the forthcoming T&T Clark Handbook of Suffering and the Problem of Evil.

Sunday 26th February 2023

Making Sense of Mission Teams

The Revd Dr Ian Silk

Ian Silk is a practical theologian and researcher in mission spirituality. He grew up in Bristol and came to a personal faith in Christ at Pembroke College, Cambridge while studying classics as an undergraduate. He taught English to internationals in Cambridge before training for ordination in Bristol and a ministry in Lincolnshire, and the completing a doctorate at the University of Chester. Ian and his wife Alison live in Littleport where they are part of the mission of the churches in the local community, as well as the Friends International team in Cambridge. Ian loves singing, long-distance walking, photography, reading history and guided tours.

Sunday 12th March 2023

Making Sense of Trauma in the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament

Dr Alison Gray

Dr Alison Gray is Tutor in Old Testament Language, Literature & Theology at Westminster College. She was previously Director of Studies and Tutor in Old Testament at Westcott House. Alison is a Lay Preacher and an Elder in her local URC church in Fulbourn. Alison teaches Ancient Hebrew, Biblical Exegesis and Interpretation, and Adult Education and Discipleship in the Cambridge Theological Federation. She has recently completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education at the Institute of Continuing Education (University of Cambridge) and is an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Her research interests include the Theology of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Semantics of Ancient Hebrew, Reception History of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, the Book of Psalms and Metaphor in Bible translation and interpretation.

Sunday 21st May 2023

Making Sense of Movements in World Mission

The Revd Dr Ian Randall

Ian Randall comes originally from the north of Scotland. His Christian experience developed while at university in Aberdeen, where he and his wife, Janice, met. Following some years working in human resources, Ian trained in Oxford for Baptist ministry and had two local church pastorates. He then joined the staff of Spurgeon's College, London, teaching church history and spirituality. He has written extensively on movements of renewal and mission. For five years Ian and Janice lived and worked in Prague, assisting with training younger leaders in Central/Eastern Europe. They have two married daughters, who live in Czech Republic and Sweden. In Cambridge, Ian was one of the ministers at Cambourne ecumenical church and was a part-time chaplain at Addenbrooke's Hospital. He is involved in the Cambridge Theological Federation and in spiritual direction and Ignatian guided prayer, mostly accompanying theological students and ministers.

**For more information, contact Paul Butler:
revpbutler@gmail.com**

New Digital Giving Device

The Diocese has given us a new digital giving device as part of their Digital Giving Programme, and it has been placed by the entrance between the church and the main hall.

This can be used for contactless or and chip and pin donations, and is a replacement for the plate collections we used to have. Donations of up to £30 will automatically be included in our gift aid claim as part of HMRC's Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. Should you wish to make a larger gift-aided donation, please complete a gift aid declaration. Do try out our new digital giving device and let us know what you think of it.



Scan to access our online gift aid form

For any questions: please email treasurer@allsaintsmilton.org.uk or contact the church office.



Special Needs in Uganda

Ekisa Newsletter

The new year is a good time to catch up with all of you ASM supporters of Ekisa!

Much has changed in the 11 or so years since Ekisa was founded. Perhaps the biggest change has been the focus on creating a community that recognizes that children should be cared for within a family rather than in an institution. Central to this idea is the VALUE of every child with disability. Ekisa is working hard to make sure children can stay with their own family, or be adopted or fostered into a new family.

To help 'rewrite the story of disability', Ekisa is developing and expanding. This is **The Next Chapter**. A large plot of land in Jinja has been purchased and Ekisa UK is now busy helping to raise funds its development. The first building will be the new Ekisa Academy. This is a very important part of the community program: currently around 50 children attend the Academy each day, travelling from their family home. There are 5 classes and all the children receive a high-quality Christian-based education, together with therapy

they need, delivered by a team of around 45 dedicated professionals.



Here is the Blue Class at Ekisa

There is a new and rather inspiring video out from Ekisa: you can find it here:

<https://vimeo.com/753144596/0ff357254f>

Another important development is Ekisa’s **Training and Equipping Department**: this is dedicated to expanding the role of Ekisa beyond Jinja to other parts of Uganda (and indeed well beyond Uganda), passing on the experience gained at Ekisa by training individuals from other organisations tackling childhood disability in the developing world. Here in Milton, **Ekisa UK** has continued to send its

regular, quarterly financial support to the team in Jinja; in 2021 this amounted to over £29,000! Our supporters have continued to fund Kate Tolhurst, who directs the Ekisa Academy.

This level of support is largely thanks to the loyalty of our generous followers who make a regular donation to support Ekisa UK. I cannot stress enough how important this support continues to be. If you would like to set up a regular donation, please go to our 'Donate' webpage:

<https://www.ekisa.org.uk/giving>

or contact our local treasurer by email at:

treasurer@ekisa.org.uk **Thank you!**

....and finally..... **Please remember the important work of Ekisa in your prayers, especially as it is under a new threat from a fast-spreading outbreak of the deadly Ebola disease.**

Roger Lemon

Ekisa UK

Charity Number 1167405

Summary of 2022 COP Conferences



The UN Climate Conference COP27 took place in Sharm el-Sheikh, in November 2022, bringing 45,000 people from around the world including indigenous peoples, local communities, civil society and world leaders. The following points were agreed:-

- A historic agreement for a “loss and damage” fund to help poor nations to counter climate crisis risks – however NO details were agreed.
- The 1.5°C Paris Agreement renewed despite rising current fossil fuel emissions which make it unlikely to halve by 2030 as targeted. Most scientists believe 2.5 degrees likely which would be catastrophic for world weather.
- UN plans for 3.1 billion USD to be used for early warning of hazardous weather conditions by 2027.
- The agreed global transformation to a low carbon economy requires 4–6 trillion USD per year and concerns were raised that developed countries show no signs of working together.

- A 12-month masterplan to make cleaner energies more accessible. 125 collaborative actions to be delivered for COP28 (10/11/2023 in Dubai), within power, road transport, steel, hydrogen and agriculture.
- Forest & Climate Partnership launched, aiming to halve forest loss/degradation by 2030 by uniting action within governments, business and communities.

Aloh Sharma (COP26 president) said “It was a battle to maintain commitments made in Glasgow, never mind building on them”.

David Attenborough believes “Nature and climate crisis are inextricably linked - you cannot tackle one without facing the other,” but biodiversity is deteriorating globally and is worsening. COP15, the UN Biodiversity Conference, has just finished. It aimed to agree new goals for nature over the next decade through the Convention on Biological Diversity framework.

According to research from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Zoological Society of London, in their biennial “Living Planet Report”, world wildlife abundance declined by more than two-thirds between 1970 and 2018; the 89 scientists urge world leaders to “slash carbon emissions and halt the rampant destruction of nature”. They believe we are living through the sixth mass extinction, driven by humans; the largest loss of life on Earth since the dinosaurs.

A report from Kew scientists says “Many scientists agree biodiversity is at a tipping point so decisions made at COP15 may be our last chance to conserve the natural world and our existence as we know it.”

Despite these dire warnings, COP15 meeting reports are downbeat with the UK government heavily criticised. We will be summarising COP15 in a future news.

Please pray for the deteriorating world, our leaders, disappearing wildlife and our grandchildren who will suffer.



Reverse St. Francis Prayer

**Lord make me a channel of your
disturbance.**

**Where there is apathy, let me provoke,
Where there is silence, may I be a voice.
Where there is too much comfort, and too
little action, Grant disruption.**

**Where there are doors closed and hearts
locked, Grant me the willingness to listen
When laws dictate and pain is
overlooked, Grant me the willingness to
listen. . .**

**When tradition speaks louder than need,
Grant me the willingness to listen. .**

**Disturb us, O Lord, Teach us to be radical.
Grant that I may seek rather to do justice
than to talk about it;**

**To be with as well as for the poor;
To love the unlovable as well as the
lovely;**

**To touch the passion of Jesus in the Pain
of those we meet;**

To accept responsibility to be church.

**Lord, make me a channel of your
disturbance.**

~Author Unknown

Prayer for the Persecuted Church

All Saints Milton continues to support the work of Open Doors financially and in prayer in their support for Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith. You may find additional resources via the Open Doors website and daily Prayer Diary at:

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/prayer/>

For those of you who read these monthly, you will know the Qatar World Cup stopped me finishing prayer points for the 9 Commonwealth states whose treatment of Christians (and others) puts them in Open Doors' top 50 most difficult places to follow Jesus (prompted by the Queen's funeral attendees).

INDIA (8): it is to be emphasised that Muslims, Christians, Buddhists and all faith groups fear the extremists Hindu nationalists who are more militant than ever. Pressure for anti-conversion laws is not resisted by a government that still claims to support all Indians in their chosen faith. There are 69 million Christians in India (only 5% but a lot of people); the most threatened are isolated believers and Hindu converts. Sumi* is supported by Open Doors as she and 7 other believers were expelled from their village for following Jesus. The pressure is intense, mob violence is common, extremists accuse believers of bringing crop failures, bad weather, miscarriages on their communities. Yet there are many stories of Christians resisting such discrimination by choosing to return to villages and use their abilities to serve

the poor and in so doing show God's love as a response to terror.

Pray for a change of heart of those in authority to stem the discrimination.

BRUNEI (46): Sharia law is the norm in Brunei, non-Brunei citizens may be allowed to attend churches but are pressured to become Muslims. Converts are pressured at every turn and many committed Christians are reluctant to be public believers. Elora* is a Brunei native Christian and travels abroad a lot. She feels the public pressure and the oppression whenever she returns to her home; a very common way of people ending up renouncing a love of Jesus is by marrying a Muslim and the financial security that brings as long as you join the family faith too.

Pray for boldness and security for pressured believers.

The MALDIVES (16): The paradise island is no paradise for Christians; being a citizen of the Maldives is to a Muslim and if you are not one, you have no rights and citizenship. Believers are so fearful that almost all the few hundred there are secret believers and hence have no fellowship. Migrant workers who are Christians are many but they will lose their work and livelihood for sharing Jesus' good news with a citizen.

Pray for protection for those who fear and a great work of the Holy Spirit to change their beautiful nation.

* not their real names



Milton's Warm Hub

Milton's warm hub will take place in our church hall on Tuesdays from 10am to 4pm in December, January and February.

It is free and everyone is welcome (though please no unaccompanied children).

How can you help?

- By telling your friends and neighbours all about it
- By making cakes (with ingredient list please)
- By joining the rota to make hot drinks or chat to our guests
- By popping in (it will be much easier for our guests to join us if there are people already here)
- By praying for us

Thanks everyone

Kathy English



Tea, Cake and Conversation

Milton Community Café
Milton Community Centre Lounge
Fourth Tuesday of the month
2.30 - 4.30 pm



£2

All Welcome!



An idea from the Milton Surgery Patient Participation Group

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Bible verse for 2023

Isaiah 43.18-19:

'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!'