



# St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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## Lenten series on the Beatitudes



God of gentleness and love

Draw near to us as we draw near to you

Dwell in every heart and conversation

Fashion in us the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Help us to discern together all that you are calling us to be

And all that you are calling us to do.

Assist us, by your Spirit, to become a more contemplative,

more compassionate and more courageous Church

For the building of your kingdom and the glory of your Son.

Amen

(Oxford Diocesan Prayer)

## **Matthew 5: 1-12 (New Revised Standard Version)**

5 <sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## Matthew 5: 1-12 (The Message)

5 <sup>1-2</sup> When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

<sup>3</sup> “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

<sup>4</sup> “You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

<sup>5</sup> “You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

<sup>6</sup> “You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

<sup>7</sup> “You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

<sup>8</sup> “You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

<sup>9</sup> “You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

<sup>10</sup> “You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

<sup>11</sup> “Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable.

<sup>12</sup> You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

**Lent 2018 Sunday Sermon Series**  
**Called to be Christ-like**  
 Contemplative, Compassionate, Courageous

*From Fr Paul:*

As I mentioned in my sermon on Ash Wednesday at our Corporate Liturgy, there will be a series of Sunday Sermons during Lent based on the Beatitudes. This is in response to Bishop Steven's Diocesan Vision to be a more Christ-like church where we are first Contemplative, then Compassionate, and then Courageous. In order to embrace this diocesan vision Bishop Steven is encouraging every parish to 'dwell deeply in the Beatitudes' over the next year, the words of blessing which were proclaimed by Jesus himself.

Each congregation in our parish will be studying the Beatitudes during Lent. Here at St Nic's there will be a Sermon Series on Sundays, at each service, beginning today – the First Sunday of Lent, Sunday 18 February. Please find below more details and do come, praying that together we may become a more Christ-like church.

1	14 Feb.	Ash Wednesday	Blessed are the poor in spirit (Matt. 5:3)	Revd Paul Smith
2	18 Feb.	Lent I	Blessed are those who mourn (Matt. 5:4)	Revd Jane Baun
3	25 Feb.	Lent II	Blessed are the meek (Matt. 5:5)	Revd Jane Baun
4	4 March	Lent III	Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matt. 5:6)	Revd Paul Smith
5	11 March	Lent IV (Mothering Sunday)	Blessed are the merciful (Matt. 5:7)	Revd Paul Smith
6	18 March	Lent V	Blessed are the peacemakers (Mat. 5:8)	Revd Jane Baun
7	25 March	Palm Sunday	Blessed are the pure in heart (Matt. 5:9)	Revd Jane Baun