



*St* **NICOLAS' CHURCH**  
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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**Sunday 24 June 2018**  
**Birth of John the Baptist**

**11:15am Holy Communion**

**Revd Paul Smith / Mrs Beryl Clements**

- Hymn** 2 Christ whose glory fills the skies
- Collect** Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour by the preaching of repentance: lead us to repent according to his preaching and, after his example, constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Reading** **Isaiah 40: 1 - 11**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** **Acts 13: 14b - 26**
- Gradual** 235 The great forrunner of the morn
- Gospel** **Luke 1: 57 - 66,80**
- Hymn** God has spoken by his prophets
- Hymn** Wait for the Lord, his day is near  
Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart
- Hymn** 38 The people that in darkness sat

No collection will be taken at this Service, but a plate for your donation is available at the back of the Church Thank you

## God has spoken — by his prophets,

God has spoken — by his prophets,  
Spoken his unchanging word;  
Each from age to age proclaiming  
God, the one, the righteous Lord.  
‘Mid the world’s despair and  
turmoil  
One firm anchor holding fast:  
God eternal reigns forever,  
God the first, and God the last.

God has spoken — by Christ Jesus,  
Christ, the everlasting Son,  
Brightness of the Father’s glory,  
With the Father ever one;  
Spoken by the Word incarnate,  
God from God, ere time was born;  
Light from Light, to earth  
descending,  
Christ, revealing God to all.

God is speaking — by the Spirit,  
Speaking to our hearts again,  
In the age-long word expounding  
God’s own message, now as then.  
Through the rise and fall of nations  
One sure faith is standing fast;  
God still speaks, the Word  
unchanging,  
God the first, and God the last.

George Wallace Briggs (1875–1959)

**THANKS:** Our warmest thanks go to Andrew and Emma Coker for their generous hospitality in providing their garden for our service last Sunday morning, followed by the wonderful barbecue. It was good to welcome Canon Emma Percy as our preacher at that service. It was also the service where Jane Baun officiated for the last time. We said farewell to Jane on this occasion, with her husband Peregrine and daughter Clare. Thank you to all who came to support Jane. We grateful to her for her ministry among us and wish her Godspeed and God's blessing for her continued work and service. *Fr Paul*

## CHURCH NEWS

**COACH TRIP TO GUILDFORD:** £25pp Thursday 26th. Leaving Abingdon at 10am, morning free in Guildford before meeting up again to view Guildford Cathedral in the afternoon. Return to Abingdon about 4.45pm. A sign-up sheet is on the notice board at the back of church, and participants are asked to pay the cost of the coach £25.00pp in advance. Susan Scott 01235 522960. Susan.scott21@btinternet.com.

Introduction to **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION TRAINING COURSE**: The next ecumenical training course run by the Spiritual Direction Network for Berks, Bucks and Oxon begins in September 2018 and finishes in June 2019. The aim of the course is to increase the skill and confidence of those who find they are already being turned to by others for help on their spiritual journey. For further information, go to [www.soulfriend.org.uk](http://www.soulfriend.org.uk) or email Sue Sheppy, who is one of the course tutors, at [susan.sheppy@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.sheppy@btinternet.com).

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Don't forget the **Friday sales** - 11am-1pm.

**Summer in the Parish**: pick up the programme of summer events from the back of church, and get to know some of our fellow Parishioners.

**Tuesday 26 June, Silent Reflections at St. Michael's** from 7.30 - 9.00pm. Enjoy prayerful activities in the quiet of the sanctuary with the option of coming together to share your journey at the end of the session. Open to anyone who wants to 'come and see'. Theme: You are the Beloved!

**Friday 29th June, Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, 7.30 pm.** *Kentaro Machida* (who has played for several of our services at St Nic's) will be playing the first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Piano concerto, the magnificent "Emperor" concerto, in a concert also featuring a world premiere of David Knotts' oboe concerto, and Schubert's Mass in G. Tickets: £15/£12/£2.

<http://www.artsfestivaloxford.org/whats-on/friday-29-june/orchestral-and-choral-concert>

**Saturday 30 June, Christian Aid mid-summer walk.** Starting at 10 am from All Saints and ending back at All Saints with a soup, bread and cheese lunch. Donations to support the work of Christian Aid and to cover costs will be welcome. The walk will follow a route by the Thames (ground conditions willing). Sponsorship forms will be available from your church's Christian Aid rep, or from Cliff Marshall on 01235 530480.

**Thursday 5 July Moving into Stillness**: circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes at St Michael's from 9.45 – 10.45 am, before the regular circle dancing session. Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed.

**How can heritage be a tool for mission? The Wesley Memorial Annual Lecture, Thursday 12 July, Oxford, 7.30pm (refreshments available from 7pm).** Could we use our heritage to say something about the love of Jesus in a way that non-Christians find intriguing and attractive, rather than aggressive or off-putting or peculiar? Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street.

