



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

Sunday 2 December 2018
First Sunday of Advent

*A warm welcome to all who join us to worship God
in the love and peace of his Holy Spirit*

11:15 am Mattins

The Revd Paul Smith

Hymn 31 Lo he comes with clouds descending

Venite

Psalm 25 vv 1-9

1st Reading **Jeremiah 33: 14 - 16**

Te Deum

2nd Reading **Luke 21: 25 - 36**

Benedictus

Collect Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Hymn 24 Come thou long expected Jesu

Hymn 29 Hills of the North rejoice

Hymn 35 People look east

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

NEXT WEEK at St Nicolas

Monday 3 3:00 pm Communion by Extension
Bridge House

Sunday 9 8:00 am Holy Communion at St Helen's this month

11:15 am Holy Communion
The Revd Mary Williamson

5:30 pm Patronal Evensong

The Revd Paul Smith / The Revd Kevin Beer

& IN THE PARISH

Mon - Fri StH 9:10 am Morning Prayer – The Lady Chapel

Mon - Fri StH 5:10 pm Evening Prayer – The Lady Chapel

Wed StH 10:30 am Holy Communion – South Aisle

Thurs StM 11:00 am Circle Dancing

12:30 pm Said Mass followed by lunch

Sun 9 StH 8:00 am Holy Communion (1662)

9:15am Morning Praise

10:30 am Sung Eucharist

5:30 pm Service at St Nicolas' this week

StM 9:30 am Sung Mass

CHURCH NEWS

Advent and Christmas leaflet: The leaflet giving details of the Advent and Christmas services in the parish is now available. There are still some roads that need deliverers - if you are able to help please speak to Eluned or simply take a labelled bundle from the back of church.

THE SCOUTS' POST BOX will be in church until Sunday 16 December. They will deliver your Christmas cards/letters to Abingdon, Radley and Shippon for only 25p per card.

Advent labyrinth walks at St Michael and All Angels, Park Road, Abingdon: the church will be open on Tuesday 4, 11 and 18 December between 11 am and noon, and 7 pm and 8 pm. There will an opportunity to walk the labyrinth or simply to enjoy the sacred space. Material for reflection will be available on a different Advent theme each week. A short prayer will be said at the beginning and end of each session, but feel free to come and go as you please. Entry will be through the porch on the south side of the church.

The Magnitude of Meekness: *Christmas for Twelve Days* by Charles Miller.

Reprint now available from the Parish office for £9.95.

LAMPS presents '**Beasts of Bethlehem**'. Christ Church Barn, Monday 17 Dec 4pm & 7pm and Tuesday 18 Dec 1:30pm & 7pm. Tickets £10/£5 (under 16s) from 07452 982705, bookings@lampscollective.com or www.buytickets.at/lampscollective.

Are you 'home alone' for Christmas? Peachcroft Christian Centre invite you to join them for Christmas Lunch 1-3pm on Christmas Day. Assistance with transport is available. Places are free but booking essential – contact Ruth or Adam on 07379 469311 or events@peachcroftcc.org

Equipping for Life: Learning for Discipleship and Ministry: The Spring Directory of courses provided by the Diocese of Oxford as part of the Local Ministry Programme is now available - see copies on the North noticeboard. These courses are open to anyone with a passion to learn more about their faith, about God and our place in his world.

God-Shaped People - Enneagram Course. All Saints' Church, Marcham, 1-3 March 2019. This is a weekend course for those with no previous knowledge of the Enneagram. Come and discover more about who you are and how God might want to shape you. See leaflets at the back of church.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This Evening: Service of Advent Readings and Music, at St Helen's, 5:30pm

Abingdon Christmas Tree Festival, 4 – 8 December, the Community Free Space, Bury Street, 10am--4pm. Afternoon activities. All proceeds to Action for Carers, Oxfordshire and Late Spring.

Thursday 6 December, Moving into Stillness: circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes at St Michael and All Angels on from 9.45 – 10.45 am, before the regular circle dancing session. Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed.

Saturday 8 December, the Abingdon More in Common group invites you to attend our **Communi – Tea**. A free, festive-themed coffee morning, open to all. We offer a warm welcome and an opportunity to mix and mingle in a friendly atmosphere. Drop in any time between 10am and midday

Saturday 15 December, Crib Fest at All Saint's Church 10:00am – 4:00pm. Come and see a feast of Nativity Sets, children's quiz, tea, coffee, mince pies, Xmas biscuits. Admission free, donations to The Gatehouse, a calm safe refuge for people in Oxford. All welcome.

Monday 17 December, Evergreen Club meets at Trinity Church, with entertainment by 'Pandemonium'. Speak to Eluned if you would like a ticket.

Copies of the December / January edition of **The Window**, are now available in Church.

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. If you visit a church during this time you will not find flowers but instead many churches will have greenery on sills etc. This allows us to recognise that the Christian life isn't all about celebration. It's about hope and faith during times of sadness and challenge too. There have been many times in history when God's people have longed for God to come and save them, and there are times in our own lives when we pray that God would come and help us too. Those times can feel like a long, dark night. We long for the greenery to turn to flowers, just as we long for our sadness and our hope to turn to joy.

*From **Baptism Matters**, a letter from the Parish to families who have had children baptized in the past year.*

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- All those for whom this time of year, in the run-up to Christmas, is one of stress or loneliness;
- Our elected politicians;
- The many visitors to St Nicolas and all who support the ministry of teaching and welcome in this place;
- Justin our Archbishop, Steven, Colin & Henry our Bishops, Charles, Paul, Mary and all who serve in this Parish;
- Our Church family, especially those unable to be with us today;
- Those who are suffering and in particular need.

Contacts

Team Rector	The Revd. Dr. C Miller	01235 520144
Team Vicar	The Revd. Paul Smith	01235 534654
Church Wardens	Mr Paul Rast-Lindsell	07876 277363
	Mr Andrew Coker	01235 539929
Parish Office	Mrs Jenny Balshaw	01235 520144
Website:	https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/	
Facebook	www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon	

Items for Pewslip to Eluned Hallas 01235 529462, eluned@hallas.org.uk please