



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 23 December 2018
Fourth 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 Holy Communion

The Revd Paul Smith / Mrs Beryl Clements

Hymn Advent candles tell their story

Collect God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

1st Reading Micah 5: 2 - 5a

2nd Reading Hebrews 10: 5 - 10

Hymn 242 The Angel Gabriel

Gospel Luke 1: 39 - 45[46 - 55]

Hymn 505 Lord Jesus Christ

Hymn 383 Be still for the presence of the Lord

Hymn 362 Tell out my soul

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

Advent candles tell their story

Advent candles tell their story as we watch and pray,
Longing for the Day of Glory, 'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness changed for gladness
On that day.

Prophet voices loudly crying, making pathways clear,
Glimpsing glory, self-denying, calling all to hear.
Through their message — challenged, shaken — hearts awaken:
God is near!

John the Baptist, by his preaching and by water poured,
Brought to those who heard his teaching news of hope
restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady, and be ready
For the Lord.'

Mary's gift, beyond all telling, was to give Christ room.
She gave God a human dwelling in a mother's womb.
Who could guess the final story? — cross and glory;
Empty tomb!

Mark Earey (b 1965) CCL 57519

CHRISTMAS at St Nicolas

Christmas Eve	4 pm	Crib Service
	11:30 pm	Holy Communion The Revd Paul Smith
Christmas Day	10:00 am	Holy Communion
		The Revd Mary Williamson
Sunday 30	<i>8:00 am</i>	<i>Holy Communion at St Helen's this month</i>
	11:15 am	Family Communion
		The Revd Mary Williamson

For details of all Christmas Services in the Parish
see the Christmas Leaflet, or look online.

CHURCH NEWS

A Very Big Thank you to Andrew Coker (and Plumbedwright) for getting the new heating system working in time for this weekend and our celebration of Christmas. This is in addition to having the church cleaned after the extensive work that has been completed. On behalf of all of us, can I thank those who have decorated the church so beautifully for Christmastide, and to the Choir, Musicians, Readers, Stewards, and those who provided hospitality, for our Christmas Carol Service last Sunday 16th. It was a joyful and memorable occasion.

Thank you! *Fr Paul*

Can you help? St Nicolas will be hosting the Midday prayers in the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Monday 19 - Friday 25 January**. Offers to prepare / help with a light lunch for those attending to Julia please. Many thanks

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ABINGDON PASSION PLAY New Year's Eve Party, 31 December, at Trinity Church Hall (Conduit Rd) 8:30pm to 1:00am to raise funds for the Passion Play that will take place on the 6 April in the Abbey Grounds. The Party, offers a 3 Course Meal + Celebratory Drink, Entertainment and Dancing all for £20 per person. Tickets must be purchased in advance from Anne Green (01235 520171), The Bookshop in the Precinct Abingdon, or on-line at www.abingdonpassionplay.org.uk.

The 2019 **New Year's Day walk for Christian Aid** starts 10am at Peachcroft Christian Centre. The route is up Boars Hill with refreshments at Bayworth Baptist Chapel. Donations may be made at the start or at the refreshment stop. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/christian-aid-sponsorship-form>. More information Cliff Marshall on 01235 530480.

Thursday 3 January: Moving into Stillness, circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes at St Michael and All Angels from 9.45 – 10.45 am, before the regular circle dancing session. Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- All those for whom this time of year, is one of stress, anxiety or loneliness;
- Those who are homeless, especially in our own town and parish;
- The work of the Children's Society;
- Our worship this Christmas and all who may visit us;
- 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.

The parish office will be closed until Wednesday 2nd January

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