



St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 22 March **Mothering Sunday / Fourth Sunday of Lent**

CORONA VIRUS Following instructions from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, that "our usual pattern of Sunday services and other mid-week gatherings must be put on hold" all Parish Sunday & weekday Services and activities are suspended until further notice. We know not for how long, but this is likely to include Easter. This is an unprecedented time for us all and the loss of gathering together is painful.

There will be a service available on our website this week (having been recorded on Saturday 21 March), and we hope this will continue during the interim. Resources for prayer on-line are listed elsewhere in the pewleaflet, and the parish will be issuing further resources in hard and soft copy as soon as possible. If you are in need, especially if you have to self isolate, please do let me know. We are in the process of getting people together who may be able to offer practical support, including shopping. As we pray for one another, I pray for each of you.

Fr Paul

The readings for today

1st Reading	Exodus 2.1-10
Psalm	34.11-20
2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 1.3-7
Gospel Luke	2.33-35

Collect for Mothering Sunday

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord ...Amen.

On-line Resources for Private Worship

Church of England Daily Prayer

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-andresources/common-worship/daily-prayer>

Daily prayer for the current day

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

A simple form of Daily Prayer – St Peter’s Church, Earley, Reading

<https://www.earleystpeters.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/A-Simple-Guide-to-Daily-Prayer.pdf>

CHURCH & OFFICE OPENING

Jim will not be opening the church during this time. Fr Paul and the Churchwardens are working to open the church for private prayer. They are looking for help with this and may be in touch.

Details of the opening times of all our Parish churches will be posted on our websites.

We hope that the Office will be open as usual.

CHURCH NEWS

The Archbishops, with other church leaders, have called for a **day of prayer and action this Sunday**. As one action, they call on everyone to place a lighted candle in their window at 7.00 p.m. as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished. Read more:

<https://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=569010>

AgeUK Oxfordshire, has launched a new, free of charge telephone support service offering advice and assistance to older people concerned during this time. For more information visit

www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/

Electoral Roll: We are currently revising the parish electoral roll, and would welcome anyone not on the register who worships with us to join. A lay person is entitled to have their name on the parish roll if they have been baptised, and are aged sixteen or more. At St Nicolas a simple application form is available from the the website, and should be returned by 28 March please.

Annual Church Meetings: are currently suspended. We will keep you informed on the situation.

Foodbank: do continue to remember the foodbank at this time. Donations may be taken to Christ Church, Northcourt Rd (drop off in the entrance hall Monday - Friday 9am-4pm), or cash donations (cheques to North Abingdon PCC Christ Church, and marked for Foodbank) posted to Christ Church Abingdon, Northcourt Road, Abingdon, OX14 1PL.

DIARY DATES

Church in Abingdon Lent Lectures - Cancelled

FESTIVAL OF PRAYER, Saturday 11 July, Ripon College, Cuddesdon. Featuring a keynote address from Gemma Simmonds CJ, thought-provoking workshops led by authors, speakers, teachers and clergy, one-to-one sessions on spiritual direction, as well as dedicated time and space for personal reflection. It is advisable to book early to avoid disappointment. <https://www.brfoonline.org.uk/fop2020>

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- That we grow in grace during this season of Lent;
- those affected by the Coronavirus, for those self-isolating;
- the vulnerable, frightened, and the lonely;
- our Government, and all leaders, at this difficult and uncertain time;
- for all medical professionals and those in the care sector;
- for those whose livelihoods are threatened and all who are struggling in business;
- all those suffering from sickness of mind, body or spirit and those working to heal, support and comfort them;
- our ministers, and all who support the ministry of teaching, and welcome in this place;
- our troubled and divided world.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus:

Keep us, good lord, under the shadow of your mercy.

Sustain and support the anxious,

Be with those who care for the sick,

and lift up all who are brought low;

that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.

In Christ Jesus our lord. Amen

Alongside your prayers, why not take the opportunity to telephone or email someone who is isolated? We may not be able to be in touch physically, but we can make connections in so many other ways



**DON'T FORGET
CLOCKS GO FORWARD ON 29 MARCH**



Team Rector	The Revd. Dr. C Miller	01235 520144
Team Vicar	The Revd. Paul Smith	01235 534654
Associate Priest	The Revd Charles Masheder	01235 520959
Church Wardens	Mr Paul Rast-Lindsell	07876 277 363
	Mr Andrew Coker	01235 539929
Parish Office	Mrs Jenny Balshaw	01235 520144
Website:	www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk	
Facebook	www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon	

***Please send information for next week's pew slip to
eluned@hallas.org.uk by Wednesday please***

"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you" 1 Peter 5:7