



St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 2 August 2020

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Dear Friends

It was a great joy to be able to worship together last Sunday in our church building after eighteen Sundays away. Can I offer my grateful thanks to the Wardens for all the preparations for that occasion, to Bishop Henry for officiating at that important service, and for all involved in other preparations.

During this period of transition it is important that those of you wishing to come to church book to do so. This is in order that we keep ourselves safe. So on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday there will be a service of Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer at 8am and you will need to book with Peter Penfold; and on the other Sundays (2nd and 4th) there will be Morning Worship, a service of the word, for which you should book with Andrew Coker. Contact details for them both are in this pewleaflet.

When there is a lot going on and we find ourselves immersed in busyness it is important to step back. The summer is an ideal time for that, not least as we enter August. Going away, however, is going to be difficult this year. During the pressures of his ministry, Jesus took time to 'get away'. The busier he got, if you like, the more time he set aside for stillness, inner renewal, and prayer. We are reminded of that in today's gospel when the crowds are surrounding him and more demands are placed on him. In busy, pressured, and tumultuous times, how shall we retreat in order that we may renew our inner selves and meet with God in prayer? At this time, more than ever, there is a call on us to pay special attention to this very important detail in our lives.

With love and prayers

Fr Paul

WORSHIP

The Readings & Collect for the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 55.1-5

Psalm 145.8-9,15-22*

Romans 9.1-5

Matthew 14.13-21

Collect: Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

CHURCH NEWS

Next Sunday, 9 August, our service will be Morning Worship at 11:15am and will be led by The Revd Paul Smith

Our service on Sunday 16 August will be Holy Communion (BCP) at 8am and will be led by Canon Charles Masheder

Congregation members will need to register in advance to attend a service in one of our three churches by 12noon on the preceding Friday. Please see details below for contacts.

- ❖ 8.00 am - Holy Communion (1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays) – St Nicolas' Church
Register with Peter Penfold papenfold@aol.co.uk
- ❖ 9.30 am – Mass – St Michael & All Angels Church (each week)
Register with Peter Squire ptscwatstms@gmail.com 01235 797051 / 07711 548015
- ❖ 10.30 am – Holy Eucharist – St Helen's Church (each week)
Register with the Parish Administrator, administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk
01235 520144 /07395 943957
- ❖ 11:15 am – Service of the Word (2nd & 4th Sundays) – St Nicolas' Church
Register with Andrew Coker andrew.r.coker@gmail.com 01235 539929

We will make the 11:15am Service at St Nic's available, live, via Zoom.

Extracts from the Service will also be loaded onto the [St Nic's website](http://stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/download.html)

(<http://stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/download.html>) as soon as possible during the day.

The Service at St Helen's will be up-loaded in full to the [parish website](http://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html) and YouTube

channel each Sunday afternoon [https://www.abingdon-st-](https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html)

[helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html](https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html)

Parish Opening for private prayer:

- St Nicolas': Mondays 10 am – 1 pm
- St Helen's: Wednesdays and Saturdays 11 am – 1 pm.
- St Michael's: Thursdays 11 am – 1 pm.

Due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 crisis, for the first time, the Diocese has issued an online-only, PDF version of [Pathways magazine. Issue 5](#) available as a PDF to download or read online:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/DOX-043-pathways-5-screen.pdf>

COMMUNITY NEWS

Abingdon Foodbank: this week the Foodbank is appealing for: Squash, Toothbrushes, Tins of fruit, Puddings - tinned rice or sponge puds, Shampoo and conditioner, Laundry tablets or pods. Donations can be made in some stores or direct to Christ Church, Northcourt Road between 11am and 1pm on Tuesdays or Fridays.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- All those who lead the church, our bishops and clergy;
- All involved in the process for the appointment for a new Bishop of Dorchester;
- This period of transition as we move back into worship in our church buildings;
- For those who are unable to join us physically for worship at this time;
- For those who are fearful following the easing of Lockdown and those suffering with Covid-19; all those affected by the Coronavirus pandemic in our own country and throughout the world;
- Our NHS, for all its dedicated staff everywhere;
- The Church in Abingdon and all its congregations;
- For safety and and protection for all those in our town and parish;
- Residents, relatives and all the staff of the care homes in our parish, especially Old Station House and Bridge House with whom we are especially linked.

WORSHIP RESOURCES

The [Parish resources](#) page contains links to Sunday's Service at St Helen's, plus an archive of Parish resources.

The St Nicolas' website will have recordings of 11:15am Services.

ONLINE:

[Diocesan Church at Home](#) (Live-streamed) page. During August a range of family, all-age, modern and traditional services will be available. Two different churches are streaming their services each Sunday. Please check the web page for service times as these vary.

The Diocesan Church at Home services resume on Sunday 6 September

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>

[Oxford Cathedral on-line services](#) (includes service booklets and sermons)

<https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/oxfords-cathedral/online-worship>.

An archive of cathedral services and sermons is available on Soundcloud

<https://soundcloud.com/user-867515242>

RESOURCES ACCESSIBLE BY TELEPHONE

Diocesan Eucharist not available during August.

Daily Hope A Church of England resource offering hymns, prayers and reflections as well as full services via a freephone number 0800 804 8044.

From the St Michael's Newsletter:

This week The festival of the *Transfiguration of Our Lord* falls on Thursday.

Commemorations include the priest and hymn writer John Mason Neale on Friday.

The Transfiguration of Our Lord From Archbishop Michael Ramsey's book Be Still and Know: In Eastern Christianity especially there has been the continuing belief that Easter is the beginning of a transformed cosmos. There is a glimpse of this hope in St Paul's Letter to the Romans, a hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain 'the glorious liberty of the children of God'. The bringing of mankind to glory will be a prelude to the bringing of all creation. Is this hope a mere fantasy? At its root there is the belief in the divine sovereignty of sacrificial love, a sovereignty made credible only by transfigured lives.

The Collect:

Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may see him as he is; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

CONTACT US

The Parish office is closed to visitors for the time being. You can contact the Parish Administrator as usual on administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk leave a message on the office phone [01235 520144](tel:01235 520144) or use the new office mobile: [07395 943957](tel:07395 943957).

Parish Support: If you are on your own and feel cut off and need a chat, or help with shopping, or for us to pray for you, do please get in touch.

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 277363
	Mr Andrew Coker	01235 539929
Parish Office	Mrs Jenny Balshaw	01235 520144
Website:	www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk	
Facebook	www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon	

We now have a new [online donations page](#) accessible from the website

Please send any information for next week's pew slip to

eluned@hallas.org.uk by Wednesday