



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 9 August 2020
Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Dear Friends

Welcome to today's Morning Worship: a Service of the Word when we listen to the scriptures, hear the word of God preached, and pray for the world, the church, and the local community, together with those who are in need at this time.

In today's gospel we encounter frightened disciples who see Jesus walking towards them on the water. It is not 'normal', or typical to see people walking on water. It is something which has been the subject of jokes over time. But, whether or not Jesus actually did walk on water, this is a fascinating moment. Life is never boring with Jesus – despite what the world may say – and in this moment perhaps it causes us to ask of ourselves some questions. How do we respond chiefly to this vivid image of Jesus? Do we resist it, or dismiss it out of hand? Or do we embrace it? Are we embarrassed or encouraged by it? Are we comfortable with this Jesus? These are supplementary questions, perhaps, to what is the fundamental question: 'What chance is there that we would get out of our boat and walk towards Jesus?' What prevents us? What asks us to remain frightened? Just like Peter our little faith and doubts are put to one side by the Lord who simply uses one word and says to us too: 'Come'.

It is strange circumstances in which Jesus issues this invitation and it demands courage. But is it an invitation we will accept?

With love and prayers

Fr Paul

WORSHIP

The Readings & Collect for the Ninth Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 19.9-18

Psalm 85.8-13

Romans 10.5-15

Matthew 14.22-33

Collect: Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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.

CHURCH NEWS

Next Sunday, Sunday 16 August, our Service will be Holy Communion (BCP) at 8am led by Canon Charles Mashedor

Our service on Sunday 23 August will be Morning Worship at 11:15am led by The Revd Rosalind Rutherford

Congregation members need to register in advance to attend a service in one of our three churches by 12noon on the preceding Friday. Please see the [website](#) for details of how to book for all three Churches.

For St Nicolas:

- ❖ 8.00 am - Holy Communion (1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays) – St Nicolas' Church
Register with Peter Penfold papenfold@aol.co.uk
- ❖ 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>) as soon as possible during the day.

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.

Jim Barker: is retiring as Verger of St Nicolas at the end of September after 16 years of wonderful service to the church and community.

Originally engaged to keep the church open and clean, Jim created the role of pastoral care and good company for many people in the town. His knowledge of the building's history was also a great resource for visitors who come from all over the world.

There will be an opportunity to thank Jim properly at a future Sunday service when we will also present him with a gift in recognition of all his hard work, but more importantly his care for our community.

We wish Jim a very happy retirement and send him and Linda our prayers and very best wishes.

Fr Paul

Traidcraft: thanks to sales through St Nicolas', Jan has been able to send a donation of £100 to the Traidcraft "Recovery" appeal. Jan is always willing to order Traidcraft items for members of the congregation, so we can benefit from bulk orders and reduced postage – why not take a look at the [online catalogue](https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/): <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/>

Traidcraft Recovery Appeal: For many, the economic and political aftershock of the coronavirus could be more damaging than the disease itself. The future is uncertain, and things could still get worse before they get better. Across the world, markets have closed – some may never reopen. Crops have been harvested, never to be sold. Others sit rotting in the field. School books – bought with hope of a better life for the next generation – are filled only with blank pages. Parents are skipping meal after meal to keep their children fed.

The Recovery Appeal will help rebuild businesses, support farmers, and prepare people for a new and more challenging world through, paying for basic essentials such as food and soap to help those who are the most vulnerable to survive, and supporting poor communities to provide for their families, stand up for their rights and look forward to a better future. We know these communities are full of capable, determined people who can build a brighter future.

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.

Abingdon Community Fridge: The fridge is situated at the Health & Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon, OX14 3GD. It distributes surplus food from supermarkets. Current opening hours are 10.30 - 11.30 am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- For those whose faith is diminished and are in times of doubt;
- For the people of Beirut and the Lebanon following last week's explosion;
- All those who lead the church, our bishops and clergy;
- For those who are unable to join us physically for worship at this time;
- All those suffering, throughout the world, from the health, economic and political effects of the coronavirus;
- 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>

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.

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 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 Mashedor	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