



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 16 August 2020

The Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear Friends

The place of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the story of our salvation is vital. Her response to God's call through the message of an angel was a dramatic moment in her young life and shows her qualities of character: courage, trust, faith, obedience and humility. She knew that her response to be the bearer of God's Son would bring about disgrace for her and yet she was still willing, even in her perplexity and fear, to say 'Yes'.

Her song of praise, known as the Magnificat, and used every time the evening prayer of the church is celebrated either individually or corporately, has sounded across the church throughout the generations. It is indeed a song of praise and joy, but it brings with it challenges as to how the world is to respond to the gospel: how the hungry might be fed; the low raised up; the powers thrown down. Perhaps these themes, and others that touch you as you consider once again the Song of Mary, could be the substance of your prayer in the coming week?

It has been a great joy to return to public worship in the past few weeks. I want to assure you that the absence of Holy Communion at 11.15am is temporary and I hope to re-introduce it into our service pattern as soon as possible. Notice will be given as soon as I can and I thank you for your patience and understanding in this respect.

With love and prayers

Fr Paul

WORSHIP

The Readings & Collect for the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Isaiah 61.10-end

Psalm 45.10-end

Galatians 4.4-7

Luke 1.46-55

Collect for the Blessed Virgin Mary: Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; 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.

Collect for the Tenth Sunday after Trinity: Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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

This Sunday our Service is Holy Communion (BCP) at 8am led by Canon Charles Masheder

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

On Sunday 30 August our Service will be Holy Communion (BCP) at 8am led by The Revd David Bevington

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.

VJ Day – 15 August. On the 75th anniversary of VJ (Victory in Japan) Day the the Mayor of Abingdon will lay a wreath at 11 am and the town crier will read out the "Cry for Peace Around the World".

The bells of St Nicolas and St Helen's will sound 75 times at 11:10am.

We are hoping to bring out Issue 7 of 'A Candle in the Window' in September. Thank you for your encouragement! The theme will be 'Journeys', possibly in time, possibly in space. Think laterally and send us your contributions on the theme, or not, to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk by the end of August. *Thanks.*

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*

Parish Electoral Roll Due to recent Covid-19 lockdown the Parish Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was postponed until 22nd October so a further revision of the Roll is required. Lay people who worship with us can join the roll if you have been baptised and are aged 16 or over. You need do nothing if you completed a form in 2019 and have no changes to contact details. Application forms are available from Eluned Hallas – Ab 529462 or eluned@hallas.org.uk.

Buying on-line? Don't forget, by signing up to EasyFundraising and selecting St Nicolas' as your chosen charity you could make a contribution to St Nic's while shopping online – at no extra cost to yourself. **Read more:** <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stnicolasabingdon/>. So far we have raised almost £300

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/> Read more about the [**Traidcraft Recovery Appeal:**](#)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- That we might have the obedience and humility of Mary;
- That the Song of Mary may transform our lives and the needs of the world;
- For all those who have received exam results this week, for those who can rejoice and move forward, and for those who are disappointed, whose future is affected by uncertainty and anxiety and for all who seek to support them;
- 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 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