



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 30 August 2020
Twelfth after Trinity

Dear Friends

I am pleased to announce that we will be re-introducing a service of Holy Communion every second Sunday of the month. This will begin on Sunday 13 September and details will follow.

In today's gospel passage Jesus calls his disciples – then and now – to 'Take up the cross and follow him', (Matthew 21.24) and 'in order to save and find their lives for his sake they must lose them' (Matthew 21.25).

The saints who have gone before us lived a radical discipleship which permeated their whole being, body, mind and spirit and which showed that it is possible to change themselves and the world for good.

In a generation when there are many other attractions and distractions, what does following Jesus look like for us? At the centre of this question is a disciple who constantly speaks out of turn, gets things wrong, and fails: none other than Peter. One minute he is on the sand, and then he is the rock. Peter's experience of following Jesus surely gives us hope. Sometimes we may find ourselves on shifting sand, but other times on solid rock. But it leaves us to ponder: – each with our own different circumstances and gifts – how can we be faithful followers of Jesus today?

With love and blessings,

Fr Paul

WORSHIP

The Readings & Collect for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Jeremiah 15.15-21

Psalm 26.1-8

Romans 12.9-21

Matthew 16.21-28

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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

On Service today is Holy Communion (BCP) at 8am led by The Revd David Bevington

On Sunday 6 September our Service will be Holy Communion (BCP) at 8am led by Bishop Henry Scriven

On Sunday 13 September our service will be Holy Communion at 11:15am led by The Revd Paul Smith

Congregation members need to register in advance to attend a service in one of our three churches by 12 noon on the preceding Friday.

For St Nicolas:

- ❖ 8.00 am - Holy Communion (1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays) – St Nicolas' Church
Register with Peter Penfold papenfold@aol.co.uk or 01235 553411
- ❖ 11:15 am – Service of the Word (2nd & 4th Sundays) – St Nicolas' Church
Register with Andrew Coker andrew.r.coker@gmail.com 01235 539929

Please see the [website](#) for details of how to book for all three Churches.

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](#) (<https://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.

PLEASE NOTE: St Michael's will NOT be open on 10th September due to a funeral.

Autumn:

Gusty winds begin to blow
Autumn leaves start to show
Seasons changing for us all
Have faith each day
Bringing renewed hope along the way
A time to pray

Judith Hicks

Faith Forum: The first Faith Forum of the new term will be on **Sunday 6th September**. We currently expect to be meeting in the parish centre, as per usual. Because of the need for social distancing, places are limited and booking is necessary. Please contact the parish office to book a place if you wish to attend. We hope to record the talk and make it available on the parish YouTube channel for those who aren't able to attend in person. We are not currently able to offer refreshments so there will be no gathering for breakfast before the talk, which will start at 9.30am. Our theme for this series is 'Other voices: Women, Theology and the Church'. Our speaker in September will be the Revd Dr Jane Baun, speaking about the life and work of Mother Maria of Paris. Please note that if for some reason it is not possible to hold the talk in the parish centre, those who have booked to attend will be notified and we will offer the talk via Zoom instead.

The **OHCT Sponsored Ride & Stride** will be on Saturday 12th September. Philippa Randles is hoping to participate and any funds raised will be shared equally between OHCT & St Nic's. If you'd like to sponsor her please place your contribution in a labelled envelope and give it to Philippa at a Service (8am or 11:15am). Or email Philippa for her postal address - philippa.g.randles1@gmail.com

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.*

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.

The **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING [APCM]** will take place on Thursday, 22nd October, at 7.00pm in St Michael & All Angels Church, Park Road. The St Nicolas' ADCM will be before this – date to be announced

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- All those – teachers, pupils and their families - returning to school in the coming weeks, for our church school at St Nicolas, and for Andy Spooner, Headteacher;
- 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;
- 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:

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:	https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/	
Facebook	https://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