



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 6 September 2020

**Thirteenth after Trinity
Bidden or Unbidden God is Present**

Dear Friends

Those words are engraved on a bronze coloured plaque just inside my Vicarage door. When I read them I often think of a verse in today's gospel when Jesus says: 'Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them' (Matthew 18.20). The presence of Jesus, by his Spirit, is not dependent on whether there are more or less of us in church this week than last. That's probably a helpful reminder when some still cannot be physically present during the pandemic.

The Lord is aware of our need of him, even when we may not be. On earth he never took 'a head count' before he showed up and came among those who needed him. He promises to be present where Christians come together, not only for worship in public, or at home privately, but wherever people love him and serve him in faithful obedience. He does not need 'to book in', or come through the correct door. Thanks be to God, he is here among us and all Christians gathering in every place at any time; not on the outside looking in, not hovering on the edge, but at the centre.

With love and blessings

Fr Paul

WORSHIP

The Readings & Collect for the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Exekiel 33.7-11

Ps 119.33-40

Romans 13.8-end

Matthew 18.15-20

Collect: Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

CHURCH NEWS

Our Service today is 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

On Sunday 20 September our service will be Holy Communion (BCP) at 8am led by Bishop Henry Scriven

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.

Morning Prayer at St Helen's Church begins on **Monday, 7 September at 9.10am** in the Lady Chapel. There will be assigned seats for the regular attenders; more spaces will be available nearby in the Lady Aisle. There is no plan yet to start Evening Prayer.

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

Edition 7 of '**A Candle in the Window**' with the theme of '**Journeys**', will be available on <https://stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/download.html> by Sunday.

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

Parish Office normal office hours resume in September: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10 am-1 pm. The office is closed on Thursdays. Please observe COVID protocols and sign in if you visit the office.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- The church when she gathers for worship or business;
- All those who lead the church, our bishops and clergy;
- 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) The online Diocesan service returns to its regular 10am slot from Sunday 6 September. Church at Home is designed to supplement local church worship. The order of service, together with links to view or listen to the service will be posted on the Diocesan [website](#) on Saturday.

[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

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	

You can contact the Parish Administrator on administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk leave a message on the office phone [01235 520144](tel:01235520144) or use the office mobile: [07395 943957](tel:07395943957)

***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***