



St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 27 September 2020

St Michael and All Angels

Dear Friends

Welcome to our Morning Worship today here at St Nic's and a special welcome to those who may be visiting us or attending for the first time.

It is a great pleasure to welcome Gwen Bevington, our Licensed Lay Minister in the parish, to lead this worship and to preach for us on this Feast of St Michael and All Angels.

Angels? Have you ever seen one? Have you ever been aware of one? Some people have testified to knowing the presence and protection of angels. A friend of mine would say that I have not just one guardian angel but a whole host of them. He believes I have a whole company surrounding me to protect myself and others when driving my car!

Michael, the Archangel, is reported in the book of Revelation to have defeated the dragon and his angels (which is depicted on today's order of service). But not all angels are the same. Each have different ministries and tasks. But they are all part of our worship. They 'aid' us in our worship, they join with us, and we with them. In these days when we cannot still sing, and join our voices with theirs, nevertheless they remind us that our worship is much bigger than we may think. We never worship alone, individually or corporately. We always join with angels and archangels, with Michael who trampled down the darkness, and with his comrades Gabriel and Raphael and more besides.

Thank you to Gwen for her ministry today. Have a good Sunday.

With love and blessings,

Fr Paul

WORSHIP

The Readings & Collect for St Michael

Revelation 12.7-12

Hebrews 1.5-14

Psalms 103.19-22

John 1.47-51

Collect: Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; 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. Amen.

CHURCH NEWS

Our Service today is Morning Worship at 11:15 led by Mrs Gwen Bevington

On Sunday 4 October our Service will be Holy Communion (BCP) at 8am led by the Revd David Bevington

On Sunday 11 October our Service will be Harvest 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 – Holy Communion (2nd) & Service of the Word (4th Sundays)
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 in the Parish.

We will make the 11:15am Service at St Nic's available, live, via Zoom and 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 (until October)
- St Michael's: Thursdays 11 am – 1 pm.

CHURCH NEWS

We will be celebrating Sunday 11 October as our **Harvest Festival**. We will not, this year, be asking for donations of flowers for the church, or goods to donate. However our loose plate collection on the day will be shared between the Abingdon Food Bank and Christian Aid for the relief of hunger overseas.

Peter Stead RIP: We are very sad to report that Peter Stead died on the 18 September. Peter was a popular head of music at John Mason School and organist and choir master at St Nic's in the 1980s. The choir flourished in his time with a strong contingent of youngsters. He went on to teach music in Malaysia and later in Thailand. He and Jenny returned to the UK a few years ago when he retired. May he rest in peace.

The **St Nicolas Annual Church Meeting (ADCM)** will take place on **Monday 12 October online via Zoom**. All papers will be issued in advance – through email and on the church website. If you, or anyone you know, would like a hard copy, please contact Eluned. We hope that as many as possible will be able to join us on the evening. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom do speak to one of the Wardens or Eluned who will help you get set up.

If having seen the papers you wish to ask any questions or raise any points, but do not wish to join online please contact one of the Wardens or Eluned and we will make sure your point is raised, and that you hear the response.

We are seeking **nominations** for Church Wardens and members of the Parochial & District Church Councils. If you have someone in mind, please contact them to get their consent, then copy their letter / email of consent to Eluned as a formal nomination. It would help if you can find a seconder but if not we can take it forward. Nominations must close on Saturday 10 October.

No one can be nominated without their consent, and all nominees will be posted on the website on Sunday 11th.

Eluned Hallas, Secretary to the DCC. eluned@hallas.org.uk / 01235 529462

We hope that it is still possible for the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)** to take place, in a socially distanced manner, on Thursday, 22 October, at 7.00pm in St Michael & All Angels Church, Park Road. To book your place, please contact, Eluned, PCC Secretary (as above). As usual papers will be available in advance.

FAITH FORUM. The next Faith Forum in the series on Other Voices: Women, Theology & the Church will be on Sunday 4 October at the slightly earlier time of **9.15am**. Our speaker will be Dr Deborah Rooke, who will be speaking on **Women heroes of the Old Testament**. Please remember that places are limited due to social distancing measures. If you wish to attend please contact the parish office to book a place. For those unable to attend, the lecture will be recorded and uploaded to the parish Youtube channel.

On the afternoon of Sunday 4 October, the Diocese will be live-streaming **Bishop Colin's Leaving Service** from Dorchester Abbey. Don't miss this opportunity to share the celebration of Bishop Colin's ministry and give thanks for all that he has given to the Diocese

Wednesday Holy Communion at St Helen's was a much appreciated service before the Lock-down. The current plan is to reinstate it as a monthly service beginning on October 14th at 10:30 in the Parish Centre. There will of course be no refreshments offered and masks will be mandatory. If you wish to attend (and numbers will be restricted) please contact Jenny in the Office; please also let others know, particularly those not able to attend on Sundays.

Learning for discipleship and ministry: Online autumn courses from the Diocese are out now. These courses are for those training as Licensed Lay Ministers or for ordination, and also for anyone with a passion to learn more about their faith, about God and our place in his world. [Equipping for life](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Oxford Abseil for Christian Aid, 17 Oct 2020: Are you up for the challenge of abseiling from the tower of St Mary Magdalen church in Oxford to end poverty?

Participants must be aged eleven years or above. The registration fee is £20 and all entrants aim to raise £100 or more through sponsorship.

Contact Phil on pevans@christian-aid.org or 07814 141 812.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Our sisters and brothers at St Michael's celebrating their Patronal Festival today;
- All Licensed Lay Ministers, especially Gwen, in our parish;

- All those being Ordained Deacon this weekend;
- Bishop Colin as he prepares to retire;
- Preparations for our annual meetings, our Wardens and all members of our Parish and District Church Councils (DCC);
- Those 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;
- Those affected by fear and anxiety as a result of the new restrictions imposed;
- 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 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)

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***