



St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 15 November 2020

Second before Advent

WORSHIP

Zephaniah 1.7,12-18

Psalm 90.1-8[9-11]12*

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Matthew 25.14-30

Collect: Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

On 16 November the Church commemorates St Edmund of Abingdon. There are many Saints associated with Abingdon, and in particular the Abbey, but only one that we know of who was born in the town: Born near St Edmunds Lane, St Edmund may have worshipped at St Nicolas as a boy. The interlocked rings symbolizing the Trinity, on the plaque on the outer west wall of St Nic's are attributed to a dream of St Edmund's. In his dream, he was about to give a lecture and had filled the blackboard with geometrical figures. Suddenly his mother appeared and asked, "Son, what are these things on the blackboard?" Shaking her head, his mother picked up the chalk and drew three circles on the board. She pointed to each one, saying, "Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Son, please study these figures from now on, and no others!" After much prayerful meditation, Edmund decided to study theology and become a priest.



A Collect for St Edmund:

Almighty God the light of the faithful and shepherd of souls who set thy servant Edmund to be a bishop in the Church, to feed thy sheep by the word of Christ and to guide them by good example: Give us grace to keep the faith of the Church and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ our Lord:

Amen

Read more at <https://stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/stedmund.html>

CHURCH NEWS

Following the recent Government decision Parish churches will be **CLOSED** for public worship for the next four weeks. The Clergy Team will record a Service which will be

made available to view through the Parish Resources page:

https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html

We believe churches will be **Open for private prayer**:

- St Nicolas': Mondays 10 am – 1 pm.
- St Michael's: Thursdays 11 am – 1 pm.
- St Helen's is not open in November

The Parish office is now closed to visitors. You can contact the Parish Administrator as usual on administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk, leave a message on the office phone 01235 520144 or use the office mobile: 07395 943957. Jenny will be working partly from home, but will be in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Fr Paul We assure Fr Paul of our prayers and best wishes for his on-going recovery. He has currently been signed-off until 16 November. His return to work will be a gradual process.

Pastoral Care Whilst Fr Paul is convalescing, Canon Charles Mashedder has stepped up to provide pastoral care. He is happy for people to contact him by telephone, 01235 520959.

Issue 10 of 'A Candle in the Window' will be the last before Christmas. The theme is 'Comfort and Joy'. Please contribute to make it a bumper issue! For example a reflection on Christmas, a poem, an image and why it is important to you, a picture of the cake you made using the recipe in Issue 9 (if you included some camel you probably looked at the wrong verse), something to cheer us up... Please send to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk by Friday 27th November.

December Faith Forum: Due to the uncertainty surrounding possible post-lockdown restrictions relating to COVID-19, the December Faith Forum talk on Sunday 6 December will be on Zoom only. There will be **no gathering** in the parish centre. Please also note that the start time for the December talk has been **changed to 9am**. We hope that this will not cause any inconvenience. A link to the Zoom session will be circulated nearer the time. We hope that many of you will be able to join us. For those unable to join the Zoom session, a recording will be made available on-line following the event.

A call to prayer for the nation: On Wednesday 4 November, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and Bishop of London called the Church of England to prayer for the nation throughout the month of November. Starting this week, we are asked to pray each day at 6pm. Simple resources are available on the [Church of England website](https://www.churchofengland.org) and social media channels. A letter from the Rector, a copy of the Bishops' letter and a Prayer Handbook is attached.

Advent Online Reading Group. An online Advent Reading Group will start meeting via Zoom at 4pm on Thursday November 19th, and for the following four Thursdays. The book to be read is ***The Meaning is in the Waiting*** by Paula Gooder published by Canterbury Press in 2008. The group will be facilitated by Rosalind Rutherford and materials will be circulated in advance, especially for those unable to obtain the book. To join the group contact Susan Scott, on 01235 522960 or susan.scott21@btinternet.com.

'Is there a future for Religion?' – Revd Canon Professor Keith Ward's subject for the annual Vincent Strudwick Lecture. 17 November, 5.30pm via Zoom. [Book your free ticket.](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Foodbank: the foodbank is now looking for donations for the Christmas boxes and the list of what's needed is attached. Last year over 200 parcels were distributed and there's an even greater need this year. They hope to be able to give families nicer food than the basic items and a little present as well such as special toiletries, socks or small toys. Donations may be taken to Christ Church on Tuesdays or Fridays between 9am & 1pm or given at Waitrose and the Co-Op in Abingdon. *Thank you.*

Guide & Scout Christmas Post: Due to the COVID-19 situation, the restrictions required and the safety of our young members and volunteers it has been decided that this year's operation of the Abingdon Scouts & Guides Christmas Post is cancelled. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but we look forward to serving you again in 2021.

Christian Focus: Given the enforced lack of newsworthy activity across the Church in Abingdon over the last few months, and the continuing uncertainty about the future, there will not be a winter edition of Christian Focus. We hope to be able to produce an issue in the Spring. If you have anything at all that you would like to share with other Christians in Abingdon, please send it to the editor: benjeapes@gmail.com.

The Church in Abingdon Church Twinning Group is selling packs of Christmas cards priced at £4.50 in order to raise funds. Packs of 10 cards, 5 each of two designs. If you would like to support this fund raising effort please contact Hildegard Nagel-Hyde hnagelhyde@gmail.com, phone 07557371015

Peachcroft Christian Centre Christmas hampers for those alone at Christmas: Due to COVID, it is not possible to organise our usual Christmas day meal and celebration at CC for people across Abingdon on their own. So, this year we are hoping to create and distribute Christmas hampers on Christmas Day so our guests receive the simple but important gift of human contact showing that someone in their community cares about them. This is not an evangelism event. We are called to love our neighbours and see this project as a form of service to our community. We are following appropriate safeguarding and health and safety guidelines. We are hoping to fund 80 hampers at £25/hamper. If we do not reach our target funds (£2,000), we will look to reduce the amount spent on each hamper or the number of people we can offer hampers to. If we get funds in excess of the cost of the project, we will pass funds on to The Abingdon Foodbank or The Abingdon Bridge.

If you would like to support us by making a donation, know anyone that would benefit from receiving a parcel, or have any questions please contact Stephanie by emailing stephanie.ouzman@peachcroftcc.org or events@peachcroftcc.org

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- All those in positions of authority or influence;
- Father Paul, and all suffering in body, mind or spirit;
- Health care professionals and support staff;

- 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;
- Our Parish clergy and wardens as they plan for the future.

WORSHIP & OTHER RESOURCES

The sub-dean of the Cathedral is writing a daily reflection on the Cathedral blog about the Rule of St Augustine, which he's broken down into 30 sections for our current lockdown period: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/blog/category/cathedral

The Christ Church Summer Lectures, five lectures looking at aspects of Theology Today are also available on line: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/oxford-cathedral/lectures:

The [Parish resources](#) page contains links to Sunday's Service at St Helen's, plus an archive of Parish resources.

The [St Nicolas' website](#) has recordings of our 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)

***Please send any information for next week's pew slip to
eluned@hallas.org.uk by Wednesday***