



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 22 November 2020

Christ the King / Next before Advent

WORSHIP

Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24

Psalm 95.1-7

Ephesians 1.15-23

Matthew 25.31-46

Collect: Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Message from Fr Paul

Dear Friends

It is good to be back after several weeks. I am glad to report that I returned to work last Monday 16 November and I have recovered well. I am however having to take things gently as I return to duties. I am working part-time (up to a five hour day, maximum) until Monday 30 November when this will be reviewed by my GP. During this time, if there are pastoral matters Canon Charles Mashedder can still be contacted on (01235 520959).

I am very grateful to our Wardens and my clergy colleagues for all they have done during my sick leave and to all of you for your love, prayers and messages, all of which have been very much appreciated. Thank you.

In these days of continuing uncertainty, and another Lockdown, it is so easy to be weighed down and disheartened. Yet, on this Feast of Christ the King we look to Him who reigns supreme over all things, through his self-emptying and self-giving for us all. He is the source of hope and light in a time when it is despair and darkness can overwhelm us.

As the Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church has recently said: 'In Christ, there is no longer 'social distance' between us and God. God chose to dwell with us in Christ in order that we might be one with another

and one with God. God accomplished this through the kenosis (self-emptying) of Christ'.

Thanks be to God that this was accomplished for the whole world.

Please continue to pray for me as I continue to pray for you all each day.

With love and blessings

Fr Paul

Below is some information about the origin of today's Feast:

Christ the King is a relatively recent feast that dates back to 1925 when it was approved by Pope Pius XI. It was originally celebrated on the last Sunday of October, though now it is celebrated on the last Sunday of the liturgical year. It acquired "commended" status in the Church of England in The Promise of His Glory (1990) and was incorporated into the Common Worship calendar in 1997, following the practice of other provinces in the Anglican Communion.

(With thanks to David Duce, St Michael's)

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.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW Reminder! You are invited to contribute to the December edition of 'A Candle in the Window'. In addition to previous ideas (around the theme of Comfort & Joy) you could send us photographs of Autumn colours or a memory of an unusual Christmas etc. Encourage others to contribute as well! Please send to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk by **Friday 27 November**.

Rob Rutherford, Eluned Hallas, Louise Heffernan

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.

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Annual CiA Bereavement Service. This year, due to Covid restrictions the annual Bereavement Service - hosted by All Saints & Trinity Churches – is available [online](#).

Write for Rights: Each year, Amnesty runs a campaign in Nov. and Dec. on behalf of individuals and groups in countries around the world who are victims of injustice. This year, the campaign is taking place on line. Case studies and suggestions for action can be found on their web-site - <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights>. At present, there are four case-studies, but others may be added later.

Bread and Starlight: In this one-woman show for Advent by Christian theatre group LAMPS, Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, recalls the months of her pregnancy and a very special visitor. Touching on the themes of mystery and miracle, what is temporary and what lasts, Bread and Starlight combines storytelling, song and space for reflection in the lead up to Christmas. For more information visit www.lampscollective.com / or buy the Audiobook: <https://lampscollective.com/product/bread-and-starlight-audiobook>

LAMPS

Foodbank: the foodbank is now looking for donations for the Christmas boxes. 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.*

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. 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

- The new PCC meeting for the first time on Monday;
- The people of Ethiopia;
- All those in positions of authority or influence;
- John Orridge, recently appointed Diocese of Oxford Director of Finance as he prepares to take up his post in January 2021;
- 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 [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***