



St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES



Christmas Day / Sunday 27 December 2020

Message from Fr Paul – Emmanuel: God with us

Dear Friends

Who would have thought this time last year that this Christmas would look so different? That the world would be almost unrecognizable, severely interrupted in such a way that our lives would be turned upside down. For many, Christmas is always a challenging time: those who are alone, homeless, financially struggling, living with difficult relationships. This year there are even more people whose Christmas leaves them separated from those they love; whose tables are empty; who as a result of Covid-19 are plunged into grief through the loss of loved ones. There is not one of us who is not affected.

Yet in the midst of the darkness, we still believe that the light penetrates the gloom; that we are witnesses to that light. Yet in a world where despair is far-reaching, we have a great hope because heaven has touched earth and earth has touched heaven. God has chosen to come among us in the form of a human baby: Emmanuel: God-with-us. God has taken on our vulnerability in all its frailty and ambiguity. And in his gracious invitation, God comes towards us with his very self that we might have our lives transformed by his life and have life in abundance.

St John tells us that the Word who was from the beginning is with us now: 'the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...'

May the Word made flesh who has come to make his home among each one of us, and within us, fill you with hope, light and joy this Christmas.

You have a special place in my prayers this Christmastide.

With love and blessings,

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECTS

Christmas Night

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7

Titus 2: 11 - 14

Luke 2: 1 - 14 (15 - 20)

Collect: Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; 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.

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52: 7 - 10

Hebrews 1: 1 - 12

John 1: 1 - 14

Collect: Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; 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.

December 27 – St John the Evangelist

Exodus 33: 7 - 11a

Psalm 117

1 John 1

John 21: 19b - 25

Collect: Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the Church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your incarnate 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

December 25: Christmas Day – 10am Holy Communion led by Bishop Henry Scriven

December 27: No Service at St Nicolas' but at St Helen's and St Michael's

January 3: 8am Holy Communion BCP

As before, worship takes place under Covid-19 regulations and members wishing to attend will have to book:

For St Nicolas:

❖ 8:00 am – Jan Lawrence jil129@live.co.uk or 01235 203144

❖ 11:15 am – Andrew Coker andrew.r.coker@gmail.com or 01235 539929

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

The **Parish Office** will be closed from Wednesday lunchtime, 23rd December, until Monday 4th January 2021.

The Radio 4 book of the week Readings for the week after Christmas (28/12 – 1/1) will be from **John Barton's A History of the Bible**.

THANKS

- To all the Readers, Stewards, Communion Assistants and others who contribute to our services week by week throughout the year;
- To our parish clergy and honorary assistants who lead our worship week by week;
- To Andrew and Paul who have worked to enable in-Church worship to continue throughout the year;
- To Eluned who has produced the pewleaflet and our orders of service during the year;
- For your prayers and financial contributions as we seek to continue to witness to Christ in this town.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- All those for whom this Christmas is not a season of joy, but a time of anxiety and sadness;
- Those suffering from sickness of mind, body or spirit;
- Those working on 'the front line' in our NHS; for all in the emergency services; for all medical scientists at this time;
- The homeless, especially those in our town and parish approaches and for all agencies supporting them;
- The refugee, the lonely, the alienated and the afraid;
- Our ministers, and all who support the ministry of teaching, healing and welcome in this place;
- The Church in Abingdon, its leaders, projects and members, that we may work together to show God's love to the town;
- Our troubled and divided world;
- Each other as we greet our Lord at Christmas;
- For the care homes in our parish, for all residents, families and staff at Bridge House and Old Station House, with whom we have special links;
- All those in positions of authority or influence, especially for our Prime Minister and Government;
- All suffering in body, mind or spirit and those suffering, throughout the world, from the health, economic and political effects of the coronavirus.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Blue Christmas - a service from Trinity / All Saints for all those who find this time of year difficult and challenging - is now available from: <https://youtu.be/UYLUK0r9dPg>

The **Church-In-Abingdon Christian Aid Walk 2021** will be 'self-service' this year and can be done anytime *during January*, singly or in household/wider groups that must follow the COVID guidelines in place at the time the walk is completed. Visit 9 CiA churches to find a single letter [on a poster] at each church to make an anagram of a word connected with Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal. Sponsors are invited to make a donation via a Just Giving page. If you'd like to know more – please contact Eluned (see end). If you'd like to make a general donation to Christian Aid via the Abingdon group please use: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/Abingdon-Churches-OR838>

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 11:15 am 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>

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	

Contact the Parish Administrator: leave a message on the office phone 01235 520144 or use the office mobile: 07395 943957 or

administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

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