



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 3 January 2021
Second Sunday of Christmas

Message from Fr Paul – The Life was the Light of all People (John 1.4b)

On this Second Sunday of Christmas, the first Sunday of 2021, the lectionary has as its gospel reading a repeat of St John's prologue, whether or not we choose to read the whole eighteen verses! We assume from what the prologue is saying that 'the Word' is 'Jesus Christ', although we note that the writer of John's gospel doesn't say so specifically. Nevertheless, that interpretation would make sense. The Word has been presented in unimaginably lofty terms, as Light, and as Life, and as God – and then the climax: 'the Word became flesh'.

We do not know how less dark 2021 will be, following the events of 2020. But with sure faith in the message of hope which the Word made flesh brings us, we believe He is the Life and Light of all people. We believe that this light is so powerful that it cannot be overcome by the darkness, and that life cannot be overcome by death.

As we enter a new year, we are no doubt concerned and anxious as to what may unfold. I suggest that the only way we can enter it with any sense of that all-too-common word 'normality', is to renew our trust in him who is the Life and Light of us all. He is the One who is the true light and holds us and all thing in life in his eternal care.

Happy New Year!

With love and prayers for God's blessing on us all in this coming year.

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECTS

Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31.7-14

Psalms 147.13-21

Ephesians 1.3-14

John 1.[1-9]10-18

Collect: Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

SERVICES

January 3: 8am Holy Communion BCP

January 10: 11:15am led by the Revd Paul Smith

January 17: 8am Holy Communion BPC

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.

CHURCH NEWS

The **Feast of the Epiphany, Wednesday 6 January**, will be celebrated by Holy Communion at **10.30 am in the Parish Centre Hall** and a **Mass at St Michael & All Angels at 6.00 pm**. Numbers at both will be restricted. Please contact the office to book a place at St Helen's or Peter Squire on ptsomtstms@gmail.com 01235 797051 for St Michael's.

The **Parish Christian book reading group** will meet via Zoom, fortnightly, on a Thursday afternoon from 4pm to 5pm beginning on January 21st. The book the group will be reading and discussing is Encounters - Jesus, connection and story: past, present and future by Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, published by Darton-Longman and Todd, ISBN: 978-0-232-53466-5 The group is open to anyone, but if you wish to participate please inform Susan Scott on 01235 522960, susan.scott21@btinternet.com so the Zoom details can be forwarded to you.

FAITH FORUM: Spring 2021 will see the continuation of our series on 'other voices', this time looking at healing, health & disability in the life of the Church. The first of the talks will be on 7th February and will be held via Zoom (it may be possible to gather in the parish centre to view the talk together - more details to come)

7 February: Revd Dr Helen Leathard, Professor Emerita of Healing Science & Pharmacology and Trustee of the Guild of Health & St Raphael - ***The role of the Church in promoting physical and mental wellbeing***

COMMUNITY NEWS

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>

Abingdon Progressive Christianity Network Group Meeting, 7.30pm Tuesday 5th January, via Zoom. At this meeting we shall be welcoming Ben Whitney, the author of 'The Apostate's Creed: Rethinking Christianity for the 21st Century'. (See www.ben-whitney.org.uk). For more information or / and to attend this online meeting please contact Cliff Marshall at cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk

Christmas Christian Aid Online Quiz, 16 January 2021: Following the success of our quiz in May for Christian Aid Week, another quiz is planned for the evening of Saturday 16th January 2021. If you would like to take part in this quiz, and raise funds for the work of Christian Aid, please save the date on your new calendars. When you are ready to register please get in touch with Cliff and Pauline at candpmarshall@btinternet.com.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Those suffering from sickness of mind, body or spirit;
- All those planning for a possible 'return to school' next week;
- 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;
- Our ministers, and all who support the ministry of teaching, healing and welcome in this place;
- Our troubled and divided world;
- 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.

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 Service sermons.

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***