



*St* NICOLAS' CHURCH  
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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**Sunday 14 March 2021**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**Message from Fr Paul: A Sunday with Different Alternatives!**

Dear Friends

The interesting thing about this Sunday is that it is one with 'Different Alternatives'! It is the Fourth Sunday of Lent in the calendar; it is Mothering Sunday; and in some traditions of the church it is called Refreshment Sunday when people have relaxed their fasting!

We are grateful to Bishop Henry who will officiate and preach from home over Zoom today and will be using the readings set for the Fourth Sunday of Lent. We remember also today the tradition of Mothering Sunday: how in generations past servants would return home from their work, to their churches and mothers bearing flowers and other gifts. It is a day when we give thanks for 'Mother Church', for our own mothers, and all who have shown us the love of God through their compassion and care. But we remember those for whom Mothering Sunday is a painful day and stirs up difficult memories. At this time it has a particular poignancy for all those who are separated from their mothers and families through distance in this pandemic; for those whose mother's have died as a result Covid-19, and, indeed, mothers who have suffered the loss of their son or daughter through this time of suffering. We offer to God our thanks, but also our prayers for those who are grieving.

In today's pewleaflet you will find details of our arrangements to re-open our building for in-person worship from Sunday 28 March. Please read the details carefully as we return with thanksgiving, but with safety and care for one another. If you have any questions not addressed in the notice, please speak to me or to Paul Rast-Lindsell and we will be happy to help.

*With love and blessings,*

*Fr Paul*

## READINGS & COLLECTS

Numbers 21.4-9

Psalm 107.1-3,17-22\*

Ephesians 2.1-10

John 3.14-21

**Collect:** Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## WORSHIP IN THE PARISH

Our churches are currently **not open for private prayer or Sunday worship**

Online Services are shown below,

for links contact [contact@stnicolasabingdon.org.uk](mailto:contact@stnicolasabingdon.org.uk)

**Sunday 14 St N** 11:15am Service of the Word via Zoom, led by Bishop Henry Scriven followed by time to chat

**8am BCP**, led by the Revd Canon Charles Masheder

**St M** 9:30am a celebration of Mass via Zoom;

the Revd Paul Smith / Mrs Gwen Bevington

**St H** 10:30am Eucharist from St Helen's; the Revd Dr Charles Miller

**Sunday 21 St N** 11:15am Service of the Word via Zoom, led by the Revd David Bevington followed by time to chat

**St M** 9:30am a celebration of Mass via Zoom;

led by Revd Canon Charles Masheder

**St H** 10:30am Eucharist from St Helen's; led by the Revd Dr Charles Miller

## CHURCH NEWS

We regret to announce the resignation of our Churchwarden, Andrew Coker. This was announced last Sunday to our congregation on behalf of the Team Rector and myself. I have this week written to Andrew to thank him for the significant contribution he has made in his time as Churchwarden and for all he accomplished.

Please remember both Andrew and Emma in your prayers at this time.

*Fr Paul Smith, Team Vicar*

**Return to In-Church Services:** Each of the three Churches will re-open for in-person worship from Palm Sunday – 28 March. Covid-19 guidelines need to be strictly adhered to including: seating will be arranged to ensure appropriate social distancing; hand sanitization and mask wearing; and the need to book in advance will be required. Singing is still suspended at this time. It will also be important to leave the church building as soon as possible following the end of every service.

The following service times have been scheduled on the days below:

**Palm Sunday:** 11.15am Service of the Word with Distribution of Palms; **Maundy**

**Thursday** (1 April) 7.30pm Holy Communion; **Good Friday** (2 April) 10.00am Liturgy for

Good Friday; **Easter Day:** (4 April) 11.15am Holy Communion and Blessing of the Paschal

## Candle

In order to make preparations, it would be helpful for you to register your intention regarding which of the above Services you wish to attend over this period as soon as possible. Please contact Paul Rast-Lindsell (e-mail: [paulr.l.stnics@gmail.com](mailto:paulr.l.stnics@gmail.com) tel: 07876 277363).

We are planning to continue to stream the In-Church Services as was done last Autumn.

The March issue of **A Candle in the Window** is now available.

Download from <https://stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/downloads/Candle202102.pdf>

The April issue will be with you on Easter Day. Contributions as always are welcome - articles, poems, photos etc. Over 70 people have contributed to the magazine so far! Could you be next?

Our **Annual District Church Meeting** will be held (in church / via Zoom) on Monday 12 April. As usual papers will be issued in advance. We will also be looking for nominations for members of the DCC, PCC and (as is usual) two Church Wardens. Please consider whether you, or anyone you know, might be called to serve in this way. Fr Paul would welcome conversations with those who are interested or have questions.

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held on Thursday 29 April – details to follow.

We shall be formally revising the **Parish Electoral Roll** between the 12<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April and it is hoped anyone not on our register who worships with us will help us by joining the roll; a lay person is entitled to have their name on the parish roll if they have been baptised and are aged sixteen or more (as you can imagine other conditions do apply!). A simple application form can be sent to you by email, on request from Eluned

St Helen's will be distributing, from the West Porch of St Helen's, **Easter bags** (containing a palm cross, two leaflets etc. suitable for Holy Week, something to colour and a small number of mini eggs). There will be an Easter garden, with three cross and a backdrop. If anyone from St N's would like to help in the distribution that would be wonderful, please contact Canon Charles either by phone (01235-520959) or by email ([chasmash@ic24.net](mailto:chasmash@ic24.net)).

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- For all mothers and families on this day, especially for whom it is a difficult time; Our nation and Government;
- Her Majesty the Queen, and Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, especially at this time;
- our parish clergy, wardens, and our congregations especially as we return to worship in our church buildings;
- those administering and receiving the Covid-19 vaccine and those anxiously waiting for their vaccination;
- all teachers and children, especially those connected with St Nicolas School;

- our PCC Meeting on 18 March;
- 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 suffering in body, mind or spirit and, throughout the world, from the health, economic and political effects of the coronavirus.

## **WORSHIP RESOURCES**

**Diocesan Church at Home** (Live-streamed Eucharist) online each Sunday at 10:00am (with recordings of previous services and other resources also available):

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>

[Oxford Cathedral on-line services](#) - Sunday Sung Eucharist and Evensong, and weekday Services (includes service booklets and sermons). Recorded archive available.

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.

### **RESOURCES ACCESSIBLE BY TELEPHONE**

**Diocesan Eucharist** Recordings of most of the Sunday services should be available from around 11am each Sunday. Simply call 01865 920930 and, once connected, dial 0 for the full service or 1 for a shortened form. Standard call rates apply.

**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 Warden	Mr Paul Rast-Lindsell	07876 277363
Parish Office	Mrs Jenny Balshaw	01235 520144
Website	<a href="https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/">https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/</a>	
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon">https://www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon</a>	

When the office is closed (Fridays until further notice) please contact the Revd Canon Charles Masheder on 01235 520959 for any **urgent pastoral issues**.

**Please note the Parish Administrator's amended hours:** Working in the office: Monday & Thursday 9am - 3pm. Working from home: Tuesday & Wednesday 9am - 3pm.

To contact Jenny leave a message on the office phone 01235 520144, use the office mobile: 07395 943957 or email [administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk)

*Please send any information for next week's pew slip to  
[eluned@hallas.org.uk](mailto:eluned@hallas.org.uk) by Wednesday*