



St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 21 March 2021

Passion Sunday / Fifth Sunday of Lent

Message from Fr Paul: *Lifting up upon the Cross*

Dear Friends

Normally to be lifted up, to be elevated above the rest, brings honour and glory. It gives us a special place. Come up higher, climb to the top of the mountain, get up on the platform and so forth. But for Jesus, being lifted up, being exalted above all creation as risen and ascended and glorified first meant a 'lifting up on the cross' where he suffered the greatest humiliation and pain for the world's salvation. The image of his pierced hands, feet and side, of his tortured body is what is now before us as we begin this season of Passiontide towards Holy Week. We cannot avoid it, overlook it – we have to work through it and follow Jesus on the way to the Cross before we can celebrate the joy of Easter. Indeed it is in keeping a faithful Passiontide that enables us to celebrate and enjoy Easter in all its fullness.

It is very good to welcome the Revd David Bevington on our Zoom platform to lead the Service of the Word this morning. We look forward to what David has to bring to us.

Next week is Palm Sunday when we are delighted to be able to re-open our buildings throughout the parish as we begin Holy Week. You will see from the notice elsewhere in the pewleaflet that strict measures need to be in place to ensure our continued safety: so social distancing, hand sanitization and leaving the building as soon as possible when the service is over is essential. There will be opportunities for worship on Maundy Thursday evening, Good Friday and Easter Day. Booking for all services is required and thank you to Paul Rast-Lindsell who is receiving your bookings.

Let us pray that as Jesus was lifted up on the Cross, our hearts will be lifted up with a full submission to the will of God who redeems all suffering and brings life out of death.

With love and blessings,

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECTS

Jeremiah 31.31-34

Hebrews 5.5-10

Psalms 51.1-13 or Psalm 119.9-16

John 12.20-33

Collect: Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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.

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

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

Sunday 28 Palm Sunday

St N 11:15 We return to worship In Church this week, for a service led by the Revd Rosalind Rutherford (see below).

As before this service will also be streamed via Zoom

8am BCP St Helen's

St M 9:30am a celebration of Mass in Church

St H 10:30am Eucharist in Church, also streamed, and recording available later

CHURCH NEWS

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 hand sanitization and mask wearing. Seating will be arranged to ensure appropriate social distancing; and you will need to book in advance. 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.

At St Nicolas, the following services are planned:

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 tel: 07876 277363).

Our **Annual District Church Meeting** will be held (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 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 12th March and 2nd 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).

We will still be 'at home' for **Silent Reflections on Tuesday 30 March** and Fr Paul Smith is providing material on the theme "Who do you say I am?". A copy will be emailed to those on our list, and made available from St Michael's website. The good news is that there is a strong possibility that we will be able to return to St Michael's for our April session.

The Passion stories by LAMPS Collective – Free Lent/Easter Resource 2021:

LAMPS

"I will speak using stories: I will tell secret things from long ago"
Psalm 78:2

Are you looking for a creative and engaging way to experience Easter this year? If so, The Passion Stories* may be your answer.

The six stories, performed direct to camera, are vivid, immediate, personal and compelling. In them, Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and a young centurion called Marcus, recall the events of Holy Week as they experienced them. Told in accessible contemporary language, the stories are an original and engaging way to experience the weeks of Lent and/or Easter this year.

Alongside them we offer themed devotionals for reflection (and discussion if you're using them within a group). To accompany each film, there is material on which to reflect, questions to ponder and a related prayer.

Ideal for small groups as well as individuals, The Passion Stories resource is free to churches and individuals, with the option of donating to our work if you choose to use the material. To access all the resources (including samples) please go to

www.lampscollective.com/the-passion-stories

*The stories are extracts from our full production of The Passion. They were filmed in isolation in the actors' own homes during the first national lockdown

"I would go so far as to call it life changing" (R. Dennett, Oxon. Audience member, The Passion)

W: www.lampscollective.com E: bookings@lampscollective.com T: 07452 982705

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- our nation and Government;
- the people of Myanmar;
- our observance of Passiontide that we may be drawn closer to Jesus;
- our parish clergy, wardens, and our congregations especially as we return to worship in our church buildings from Palm Sunday;

- 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;
- 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	https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/	
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon	

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

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