



*St* NICOLAS' CHURCH  
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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**Sunday 4 April 2021**

**Easter Day**

**ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN**

**Message from Fr Paul: Filled with hope and joy....**

Dear Friends

Welcome to St Nic's today as we celebrate the Feast of all feasts – the Resurrection of Jesus. A special welcome to The Revd Jen Brown, Associate Priest in our parish, as she presides and preaches this morning. We look forward to her ministry among us today and what she will share with us on this day of great joy.

On the first Easter morning Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and wept. The body of her Master had been removed from the tomb and her grief and loss was made far greater by his missing body. It was only when Jesus met her beside the tomb, and she recognised his familiar voice when he called out her name, that she realised the extraordinary event that had taken place: that he had risen from the dead! He told her two things: not to hold onto him, and to go and tell the disciples which she duly did.

Will we be drawn into the great surprise of Easter once more and rejoice and all this Feast of feasts offers us? Will we move forward filled with renewed hope and joy especially in this time of pandemic, rather than looking back? Will we like Mary Magdalene, go out and proclaim 'I have seen the Lord?'

As an Easter people we will also look forward when we meet for our Annual District Church Meeting which will take place on Zoom on Monday 12 April at 7.00pm. I draw your attention again to Eluned's comprehensive notice and ask you to consider prayerfully whether you feel called to fill a vacancy. Each of us have different skills and gifts by which we can work together to build up the body of Christ in this place to the greater glory of God. So if you have any questions about filling a vacancy, or are wishing to be nominated, please do let me know directly. I look forward to hearing from you.

It is my prayer for each one of you, and for our mission and witness together, that this Easter, we can declare with Mary Magdalene, in word and deed, 'I have seen the Lord'.

*With love and blessings,*

*Fr Paul*

## READINGS & COLLECTS

Acts 10.34.43;

John 20.1-18

**Collect:** Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

## CHURCH NEWS

**THANK YOU TO:** all who have assisted for our services for Holy Week and Easter. It is good to be able to worship again in person in church and to welcome those who are worshipping with us on-line via the Zoom link.

**Traidcraft:** Jan has recently sent £100 to Traidcraft Exchange, from the profits on Traidcraft sales over the past year. Jan is always happy to take orders for Traidcraft goods (see <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/>). So why not take a look and benefit from free delivery!

Our **Annual District Church Meeting** will be held (via Zoom) on Monday 12 April at 7.00pm. All papers will be issued in advance – through email and on the church website. If you, or anyone you know, would like a hard copy, please contact Eluned.

We hope that as many as possible will be able to join us on the evening. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom do speak to Fr Paul, Paul Rast-Lindsell or Eluned who will help you get set up.

If having seen the papers you wish to ask any questions or raise any points, but do not wish to join online please contact one of the above and we will make sure your point is raised, and that you hear the response.

We are seeking **nominations** for two Churchwardens and members of the Parochial & District Church Councils. If you have someone in mind, please contact them to get their consent, then copy their letter / email of consent to Eluned as a formal nomination. It would help if you can find a seconder but if not we can take it forward. Nominations must close on Saturday 10 April.

No one can be nominated without their consent, and all nominees will be posted on the website on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>.

*Eluned Hallas, Secretary to the DCC. [eluned@hallas.org.uk](mailto:eluned@hallas.org.uk) / 01235 529462*

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held on Thursday 29 April also via Zoom. papers to follow.

**A Candle in the Window:** The Easter edition (2021 Issue 3) of 'A Candle in the Window' is now available from <https://stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/downloads/Candle202103.pdf>

**St Helen's West Porch Easter Garden:** Drop in to see the garden and display and pick up an Easter activity pack, from Palm Sunday until 7 April, 2.00 – 4.00 pm; also 10 am-12 noon on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

**The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames has a vacancy for a senior administrative position.** The post will be part time, hours to be agreed with the Rector.

The post requires a variety of skills to enable support for the three churches in our parish, clergy team and lay church officers. Please contact the Parish office for more information and application details.

The second session of **Guided Meditations** - for the after Easter period begins on **Thursday 15th April**. This series is an experience of quiet reflection beginning with a period of relaxation and followed by a short time of quiet meditation based on a Bible reading. The chosen theme is After Easter and it will last for five or six weeks. If you would like to join please contact Rev Eileen Appleyard [eileenappleyard13@gmail.com](mailto:eileenappleyard13@gmail.com)

**Bishop Steven's** series of podcasts from the autumn on **Isaiah 40-55** have now been published as a short book under the title **Comfortable Words: a call to restoration**. The book is dedicated to the clergy and lay ministers, church wardens and volunteers of the Diocese of Oxford for "your outstanding and inspiring service over the past year". The book is also been profiled in 'The Big Church Read' when each week Bishop Steven will release a video that will explore two reflections. Read more:

<https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/comfortable-words/>

### COMMUNITY NEWS

**Foodbank:** Current needs are particularly for: sauces for rice eg curry, sweet & sour; small tins of beans or spaghetti hoops; shampoo; shower gel for men; dog food; sturdy carrier bags; empty egg boxes. Gifts may be taken to Christ Church on Tuesdays or Fridays between 9am and 1pm or placed in the box provided by some supermarkets for foodbank donations. Very many thanks for your continued support, it is much appreciated.

**VaccinAid:** With more than a third of the UK population already vaccinated, you may like to help communities in low- and middle-income countries with the same free access to COVID-19 vaccines through the "Give The World A Shot" campaign being coordinated by UNICEF. Find out more <https://www.vaccinaid.org/>

**Abingdon Library** will reopen on 12th April. This will be on limited opening hours temporarily. Safety measures will remain in place for the protection of customers, volunteers and staff.

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Give thanks for the joy of the Resurrection, that we may be strengthened in our mission and proclamation as an Easter people;
- all those who are unable to share in the joy of the Easter faith;
- Elizabeth, our Queen, her ministers and our nation;
- preparation for our ADCM on Monday 12 April;
- those administering and receiving the Covid-19 vaccine;
- 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 11 am 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 office is now open again Mondays to Thursdays, 10am-1pm until further notice. (Or other times by arrangement.) **Over Easter the office will be closed from 2-6 April.** 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*

# HE IS RISEN INDEED ALLELUIA!