



St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES



Sunday 11 April 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

Message from Fr Paul: The Risen Christ's Gift of Peace....

Dear Friends

Welcome to St Nic's today as we celebrate the the Second Sunday of Easter. We notice from the gospel passage today that the Risen Christ offers his gift of peace to frightened, anxious disciples. They are locked in the upper in fear because they haven't quite grasped the truth of the resurrection. Jesus speaks this word of peace over an extended period, almost as if it needs emphasising. Perhaps it needs emphasising to us in these Easter Days as we continue to live in uncertain times?

It is indeed a cause for joy and thanksgiving that there are signs of hope and change as the Covid-19 vaccination programme is moving apace. Yet, we still live in extraordinary times and we have still a long way to go before those familiar things for which we long are returned. And, we do not yet fully know how those familiar things we be received and what life will look like even in the short term.

Tomorrow evening we will meet for our Annual District Church Meeting on Zoom. If you are able to attend, and do not yet have the link, please do be in touch with Eluned Hallas who will provide it for you.

May the peace of the Risen Christ fill you with hope and faith in the newness of life which he offers to all who have not seen and yet have believed.

With love and blessings,

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT

Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20,21

Psalm 133

Acts 4.32-35

1 John 1.1 - 2.2

John 20.19-31

Collect: Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

CHURCH NEWS

Our **Annual District Church Meeting** will be held (via Zoom) **tomorrow**, Monday 12 April at 7.00pm. Please get in touch if you have not received the papers and / or Zoom link. *Eluned Hallas, Secretary to the DCC.* 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>

Access to Church: work on the Tower is due to start on 12 April, and last about 5 weeks. It is not anticipated that Sunday worship will be interrupted and that services will continue. However, due to the work there will be **NO access** to church during working hours.

Access via the 'back door' is permitted in the evenings, but please **DO NOT** enter the lobby and signing in under Covid-19 regulations is still required.

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.

On Wednesday there will be a Service of Holy Communion in the South aisle at St Helen's at 10.30 am. Please reserve your place via the Parish office.

Faith Forum: The Spring 2021 series on 'other voices', looks at healing, health & disability in the life of the Church. The next session will be at 9.15am on Sunday 2nd May: Thinking about the healing miracles of the gospels in the light of disability. The speaker will be The Revd Paul Smith, Team Vicar, Abingdon-on-Thames.

Mr & Mrs **Horace and Judith Hicks** wish to convey thir celebration of Horace reaching 90 years old in April, having survived major heart surgery 12 years ago. Motivation now is the greenhouse, propagating various seeds, and all aspects of our garden.

Thanks be to God! *Judith*

Coffee & Chat: as we can now worship in the Church we no longer have the opportunity to zoom chat after service. If anyone would be interested in zooming at another time to keep in touch as lockdown unfolds please let Paul, Paul or Eluned know.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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.

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

- that we may be among those who have believed and yet 'not seen';
- that we may know the peace of the Risen Christ both in our lives and our church;
- for our Annual District Church meeting tomorrow evening, Monday 12 April;
- Gavin, bishop-designate of Dorchester, as he prepares for his episcopal ordination;
- Elizabeth, our Queen, her ministers and our nation;
- those administering and receiving the Covid-19 vaccine;
- all teachers and children on holiday at this time, 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 especially those in our own church community;

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	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**.

The Parish office is now open again Mondays to Thursdays, 10am-1pm until further notice. (Or other times by arrangement.) 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