



St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 18 April 2021

Third Sunday of Easter

Message from Fr Paul: The Challenge to live the Risen Life

Dear Friends

Welcome to St Nic's today as we continue to rejoice in the resurrection life which has been given to us in Jesus Christ. It is a joy to welcome Gwen Bevington, our Licensed Lay Minister in the parish, to both lead our worship and preach today. We look forward to what Gwen has to say to us.

Today's Collect is one of my favourites during Eastertide. It speaks of the gladness of the disciples on seeing the Risen Lord – all in spite of their disbelief and need for proof and evidence. It speaks of our need for the knowledge of the presence of the Risen Lord with us so that we might be sustained and strengthened by his risen life in continual service in righteousness and truth.

Our 'service' is in response to what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. We are called to be like him and to be Christ-like not for our own sake, or the church, but for the sake of the world. And our service is to be humble after the manner of Jesus so that others may come to believe in him through our example.

We were not able to nominate Churchwardens at our Annual District Church Meeting last Monday. This is disappointing for us and a cause for concern. Churchwardens are officers of the bishop and should be people who will actively represent the laity and will co-operate with the Vicar in the mission and ministry of the church; encouraging the laity in the practice of their faith and promote peace and unity among them. They are also legally responsible for the fabric and ornaments of the church.

It is not a small task, but among a team of people here, tasks can be appropriately delegated to others. It is important not to get tied down by those things which are not necessarily the role of a Churchwarden. We must remember that each person brings their own gifts, skills, and contributions. They are not called to be someone else in the role; they are called by God to be themselves.

Although we have had our meeting there is still time for people to present themselves for nomination. I urge you to pray hard about whether you may be a candidate for Churchwarden even for a year. There is a prayer elsewhere in this pewleaflet for you to use each day. Please use it and do let me know directly if you would like to discuss further what it may mean to serve God in this church and parish in this way or if you know of anyone else who may want to explore this role.

With love and blessings,

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT

Acts 3.12-19

1 John 3.1-7

Psalm 4

Luke 24.36b-48

Collect: Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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.

Next Week at St Nicolas'

11:15am Holy Communion led by Bishop Henry Scriven

Don't forget, if you would like to attend the Service you need to register with Paul Rast-Lindsell (07876 277363 / paulr.lstnics@gmail.com)

We aim to zoom the service as usual.

CHURCH NEWS



We give thanks for the life of **Eric Blanks**, of the 8am Congregation, who died on Tuesday 13 April, and we remember Mary, his family and all who mourn.

At our **Annual District Church Meeting** on Monday 12 April at 7.00pm Abielle Hallas was re-elected to DCC. There are still vacancies for the DCC and PCC and people are asked to prayerfully consider whether they are able to fill these vacancies.

A Prayer for the appointment of new Churchwardens:

*Almighty God,
pour down upon us your Holy and life-giving Spirit,
and raise up Churchwardens for this congregation,
to work for the mission of your church,
and peace and unity among your people
through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord,
Amen*

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

Access to Church: work on the Tower has started. 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.

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.

Silent Reflections on Tuesday 27 April will be held in St Michael's in the following manner. If you wish to attend, please text Sue on 07786 736 226. Entry will be by the north door of the church (by Albert Park). Masks will need to be worn and hand sanitiser will be available. Chairs will be set out 2 metres apart round the labyrinth. Sue Sheppy will introduce material on the theme "What brings you to your knees?". A copy will still be emailed to all those on our list, and made available from St Michael's website. If you can print off your own copy to bring, but further copies will be available in church. Labyrinth walks will be possible one at a time.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Can you help? The new International Director of Church Mission Society is moving from Brazil to Abingdon and is looking for a **house to rent** for his family (they have two young girls). Andy founded Revive, a charity rescuing street children in Recife and was awarded the MBE in the New Years Honours. Further information from andyroberts48@hotmail.com or from Bishop Henry Scriven (henry.scriven@gmail.com or 07789 635260)

Christian Aid Week 10 – 16 May: the Abingdon Christian Aid Committee are working on Covid secure plans to mark Christian Aid Week in Abingdon. Plans include delivering House to House envelopes to a selection of roads in Abingdon using Delivery-only envelopes. These envelopes will include information about how people can make a donation if they wish to the work of Christian Aid. Details of the normal Christian Aid donation site will be given and also a link for our Abingdon e-envelope the total proceeds from which we shall be able to monitor. The final option will be for donors to bring their donation envelope to a publicity stall in the Market Place on the morning of Saturday 15th May. If you would be willing to help deliver these envelopes please contact Abielle.

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.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Gavin, Bishop of Dorchester, consecrated on Wednesday and for his episcopal ministry in this area of our diocese;
- for new lay leadership in Churchwardens in our church;
- that we may be sustained and strengthened to serve the Risen Lord in truth and righteousness;

- Her Majesty the Queen and all the Royal Family in this time of grief following the funeral yesterday of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh;
- for the safety and well-being of all people in this time of pandemic;
- all teachers and children returning to school, 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