



St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 25 April 2021

St Mark, the Evangelist / Fourth Sunday of Easter

Message from Fr Paul: Call to Apostleship

Dear Friends

Welcome to St Nic's today as we celebrate the Feast of Mark the Evangelist, also an apostle (meaning 'to be sent'). The liturgical calendar has got it right when it places Mark in the season of Eastertide. Following Jesus' resurrection disciples following his resurrection appearances were given that commission to go out and tell the good news that he had risen from the dead and that they were part of the new creation. Today is perhaps a good time, then, to reflect on how we respond to being 'sent out'. At the end of every Holy Communion that is the function of the words of the dismissal: 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'. So, how do we live out that command in our daily lives; what does it mean for us to be those who are 'sent out' and as evangelists, to tell the good news.

We welcome Bishop Henry as president and preacher today and look forward to what he has to say to us. Next week, Sunday 2 May, the Fifth Sunday of Easter, we will welcome our 8am congregation when the Revd Dr Jane Baun will preside and preach. I look forward very much to being with you at 11.15am for Said Morning Prayer and Gwen Bevington will be the preacher. I will also be speaking that morning (via the Zoom platform) at Faith Forum on *Reading the Healing Miracles in Light of Disability*. Please do join me if you can.

While we remain in Lockdown, and certainly until each of the clergy are fully vaccinated (my own second vaccine is not due until mid-June, and I hope not later, so still some time to wait), we are taking only one service in one building each Sunday. While writing about worship, I would like to give you advance notice of plans for Ascension Day on **Thursday 13 May**. There will be two celebrations of Holy Communion in the parish on this important day in the liturgical year: **St Michael's (Said Mass) at 12.30pm**; and here at **St Nic's (Holy Communion) at 7.00pm with music**. You will remember that the evening celebration would normally be for the whole parish. Due to Covid-19 restrictions this is not possible this year. However, I do very much hope that you will support this service. Please remember that you do need to book in the normal way by letting Paul Rast-Lindsell know that you are coming.

I am taking my post-Easter break this week and will be back on Thursday 29 April.

With love and blessings,

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT

Mark the Evangelist

Acts 15.35-41

Psalm 119.9-16

Ephesians 4.7-16

Mark 13.5-13

Collect: Almighty God, who enlightened your holy Church through the inspired witness of your evangelist Saint Mark: grant that we, being firmly grounded in the truth of the gospel, may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed; 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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4.5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3.16-24

John 10.11-18

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Next Week at St Nicolas'

11:15am Morning Prayer, led by Revd Paul Smith, preacher Mrs Gwen Bevington

Please remember, if you would like to attend the Service you need to register and book with Paul Rast-Lindsell (07876 277363 / paulr.stnics@gmail.com)

We aim to zoom the service as usual.

CHURCH NEWS

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will be held on Thursday 29 April at 7pm. This will be via the Zoom platform. Papers are available on the Church websites

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. Deadline 5 May.

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: **Reading the Healing Miracles 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.

St Helen's Church is open from 11am to 1pm for **private prayer** on Tuesdays during April, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays during May.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Y Pray: The World Day of Prayer's annual Y-Pray weekend conference provides a stimulating and supportive experience where women explore different ways to pray individually and together. This year, the conference has been moved online!

The Zoom will be held on Saturday 1 May 10am-1pm for a time of encouragement and refreshment which will include worship, fellowship, a talk, and entertainment. Worship will be led by Helen Pollard from Christian Music Ministries; the main speaker is Laura Hewitt, the Vicar of St James, New Barnet; and Anna Nicolson will introduce nominees for Woman of the Year in her award-winning character comedy show. Book on the website (£10) - <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/y-pray-2021/>

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.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- For Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops;
- That we may be among those who respond to the call to be sent out;
- Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Thursday;
- All called to serve as officers in the parish during the coming year;
- 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;
- Graham and Stephanie Morris married last week;
- 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