



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 2 May 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Message from Fr Paul

Dear Friends

Welcome to St Nic's today on this Fifth Sunday of Easter for Said Morning Prayer. We extend a special welcome to Gwen Bevington, our Licensed Lay Minister in the parish, as our preacher today. We look forward to what she has to say to us.

As I mentioned last week, I have this morning spoken (via the Zoom platform) at Faith Forum on *Reading the Healing Miracles in Light of Disability*. If you weren't able to join me for this and would still like to listen, the talk can be accessed via St Helen's website. I can also offer a script should people find that helpful.

May I also draw your attention again to worship in the parish on Ascension Day, **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**. I hope a good number of you will support the service here in the evening. Please make your booking in the usual way with Paul Rast-Lindsell as soon as possible to secure your place.

Finally, but very importantly, I am sure we have all been moved by the overwhelming impact of the pandemic which has been sweeping across India and the lack of medical provision to treat patients and save lives causing a devastating number of deaths. It brings into sharper focus how fortunate we are to have the vaccine programme, the sacrificial dedication of doctors and nurses and other health professionals in our own country, and the work of the NHS. Moreover, it brings us back to the sense of gratitude we must have even in what have been such challenging times for us all. So as we continue to live in the hope and peace of Christ's risen life, let us pray fervently for the people of India, and for the grace to be ever more thankful for all our privileges, that we may demonstrate a renewed sense of daily gratitude for all God's blessings.

With love and blessings,

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8.26-40
1 John 4.7-21

Psalm 22.25-31
John 15.1-8

Collect: Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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'

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP), led by the Revd David Bevington
11:15am Holy Communion, led by Bishop Henry Scriven

Please remember, if you would like to attend the Service you need to register and book

8am Peter Penfold / Jan Lawrence (papenfold@aol.co.uk / jil129@outlook.com)

11:15am Paul Rast-Lindsell (07876 277363 / paulr.stnics@gmail.com)

We aim to zoom the 11:15am service as usual.

CHURCH NEWS

Sunday 2 May Faith Forum: 9.15am: *Reading the Healing Miracles in the Light of Disability*. The speaker will be The Revd Paul Smith, Team Vicar, Abingdon-on-Thames. For Zoom link contact contact@stnicolasabingdon.org.uk

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. 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.

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

On Wednesday Holy Communion will be in the South aisle of St Helen's at 10.30 am. Book via the Parish Office.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Are you looking to support children and young people and learn new skills?



Here at Trinity Learning we are planning to restart regular volunteering projects in Abingdon schools. Our **Thinking Books** project involves mentoring young children through shared reading and discussion of carefully chosen books. This project helps children to develop empathy by reflecting on their own and other people's feelings. Our **Kingfisher**

Singing Group visit Kingfisher School one morning a week in term-time to sing simple songs and nursery rhymes.

We hope to be able to restart both projects from September 2021, with training in the summer term to prepare volunteers.

How can I get involved?

Please pray for TrinityLearning, that we might find the right people to support children through these projects. If you are interested in helping out with either of these rewarding projects you need to be over 18, willing to volunteer regularly - usually on a weekly basis in term time, preferably have some experience of working with children and be willing to undertake a DBS.

For more information or an informal chat, please contact Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com

Christian Aid Week this year is from 10-16 May. On-line donations can be made at <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/abingdon-christian-aid-group>.

The virtual quiz event, Quiztian, first run in 2020 will be run again this year, hosted by special guests Tobi and Prisca Bakare, Rhidian Brook, Kris Marshall, Kate Bottley and Rowan Williams. This will be at 7pm on Saturday 9 May. For registration (essential) and further details please see

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/virtual-events>

Visit the Christian Aid website <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/> for information about projects, inspirational stories and ways you can support their work.

Can you help? I am looking for people of faith over the age of 18 years to complete an online questionnaire, which will take approximately 10 mins as part of a study for my Psychology MSc At Oxford Brookes University. I am interested in the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on people's religious belief and practices. This study has been approved by the Psychology Department Research Ethics Committee at Oxford Brookes. If you think you could help with this research, then please go to https://brookeshls.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_et8nCRIqLQKZrL0 or email Katie Doney on 19043493@brookes.ac.uk

Thank you, Katie

House to Rent: 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)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops;
- The Revd Helen Kendrick, Area Dean of Abingdon, unwell at this time;
- The Church of England as it engages with the issue of racism across the church;
- The mission and ministry of our parish and for the witness of our congregation as part of our parish;
- The work of our Parochial Church Council (PCC) in the coming year

- The people of India hit hard by the pandemic, for those who have died, those who are bereaved, and for all health professionals and those seeking to bring medical support to those suffering;
- All suffering in body, mind or spirit especially those in our own church community;.
- 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;
- Our church school of St Nicolas, for Andy Spooner, Headteacher and all his staff, and Eluned Hallas, Chair of Governors;

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Diocesan Church at Home (Live-streamed Eucharist online each Sunday at 10:00am) services are coming to an end. From Diocesan e-News “We are so grateful to everyone who has volunteered their talents and time to Church at Home this year, and to all of you who have supported the service - it’s been a joy to worship alongside you. With onsite worship on the horizon and hundreds of churches offering their own online services, our final Church at Home will be on Sunday 17 May. We hope you will join us to worship together and pray for God’s peace in whatever the future may hold.”

<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**