



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 20 June 2021
Third Sunday after Trinity
11.15am Service of the Word
The Revd Paul Smith

Dear Friends

A warm welcome to St Nic's today and for this Service of the Word.

The Storms of Life

In today's gospel, the disciples accuse Jesus of not caring: 'Teacher do you not care that we are perishing?' (Mark 4v38). In response Jesus goes on to say two profound things: 'Peace! Be Still!' and 'Why are you afraid?'

When I was last on board a ship, a few years ago, a storm swept around the Bay of Biscay. This is not an unusual place for storms to rage. Standing and walking, I remember, was a greater challenge than usual and those of us who have travelled by sea will know the reality of experiencing the tossing of the waves and the wild winds. But, even if we haven't had that experience, we each know what it is to be caught up in the storms of life in one way or another. Sometimes we feel engulfed and the winds and the waves are against us. In our suffering we can sense that Jesus feels so far off, that he does not care, and we identify with those disciples in that boat. There are times when in quite unexpected ways Jesus does calm our storms with only the peace he can give. At other times, we have to ride the storms, and we are tested. Jesus asks the question: 'Why are you afraid?', not because he doesn't understand, or because he is far off and doesn't care. Neither is it about not having anything to fear. The things of which we are afraid may well happen to us, but they cannot surpass the peace of God which goes beyond our understanding. Whether that peace calms our storms immediately (which is rare); or whether it is something that eventually comes, it is nonetheless trustworthy because it is Christ's peace: 'the peace which the world cannot give'.

As Gwen Bevington reminded us in her excellent sermon on Ascension Day this year, Julian of Norwich said, 'All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well'. But what she didn't say was: 'All *is* well....' I found that such a helpful observation from Gwen. May we reach out to Jesus who speaks peace into our fears and who in the end does make all things well.

With love and prayers, *Fr Paul*

READINGS & COLLECT

Job 38.1-11

Psalm 107.1-3,23-32*

2 Corinthians 6.1-13

Mark 4.35-41

Collect: Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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'

Sunday 27 June

8:00am at St Helen's this month

11:15am Holy Communion – Bishop Henry Scriven

Please remember, if you would like to attend a 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 / paulrl.stnics@gmail.com)

CHURCH NEWS

From the Team Rector:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Jacqui Cunningham** as Parish Administrator. She will bring to the parish wide experience, including work in school and university administration, health care and city and county council administration; she is a long-time resident of Abingdon. Jacqui will join us on Monday, June 21st.

The Candle in the Window: The theme of the July 4th issue of the magazine is 'Recreation or re-creation'. Articles, pictures, poems welcome! Any unusual hobbies? Anyone want to write about 'Messing about on the river' or messing about in other ways? Or articles from left-field! Contact us at candle@abingdonparish.org.uk
Deadline June 28th.

Silent Reflections on Tuesday 29 June at 7.30 pm will be held in St Michael and All Angels 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 sanitisers will be available. Chairs will be set out 2 metres apart round the labyrinth. Father Paul will introduce material on the theme: ***Sinking Sand to Solid Rock: Reflections on the Feast of the Peter the Apostle***. 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 and Thursdays.

On Wednesday Holy Communion will be in the South aisle of St Helen's at 10.30 am. No need to book.

I have received news that the funeral of **Liz Dixon** will take place at South Oxfordshire Crematorium, Garford, on **Tuesday 22 June at 2pm**. For more information please contact Edward Carter Funeral Directors on 01235 528293. Thank you. *Fr Paul*

THANK YOU. A short message to say how much I enjoyed working in the Parish office for the past 5 years. It was so nice that many of you were able to drop in on my last day to say goodbye. I was overwhelmed by the generous gift I was given and will miss the many friends I have made there over the last few years. I am getting married in Hagbourne Church on 25 July before moving to Warminster in September and looking forward to a new beginning. Thank you for making me so welcome in the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames. *Jenny Balshaw*

The MOTHERS' UNION is due to meet on Thursday, 24th June in The Parish Centre Hall, from 4.00 – 5.30 pm.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May 2021 – Thank you very much for your support It is marvellous to be able to report that the total raised for Christian Aid during Christian Aid Week 2021 came to £6472.62 with a further likely Gift Aid contribution of £601.90.

This year a House-to-House Collection was carried out in selected roads using 'Delivery only' envelopes. These were either brought to our Market Place stall on 15th May or handed in to church or local collection points. These envelopes raised donations of £1130.85. In the Market Place event we also held a street collection which raised £86.07. Across the town, churches held services which focused on the work of Christian Aid and supporters were asked to make donations to our Christian Aid Week e-envelope. This was the first time we had provided this form of on-line giving and it proved very successful, raising £1655 with a further £317.50 added through Gift Aid. Further donations were also received during the Week amounting to a further £3600.70.

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way through their actions and or their giving. The total raised is impressive especially given the situation we were working in this year.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops, especially at this time in the life of our diocese;
- The mission and ministry of our congregation and parish especially as we look towards the coming months;
- Jacqui Cunningham as she starts her role as Parish Administrator;
- All those who work on, or travel by sea;
- For the Mission to Seafarers;
- For those who are facing the storms of life at this time;
- Our link dioceses facing the pandemic (the Dioceses of Nandyal (India), Kimberley and Kuruman (S Africa) & Kinshasa (one of our MU links in the DRC) – [read more](#) ;
- The PCC meeting on Wednesday 23 June;
- The Diocesan Synod meeting on Saturday 19 June, the last meeting of the current 3 year term and for the appointment of members for the next 3 year term;
- All those preparing for ordination at this time;
- 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

Although the live-streaming of a Sunday diocesan service has now ended, Church at Home is continuing to offer invitations to attend live-streamed services from churches around the diocese. The pattern seems to be to offer invitations from two churches each week, likely to be from different traditions within the Church of England. For details see <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/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
Church Warden Elect	Mrs Eluned Hallas	01235 529462
Parish Office		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 the office 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