



# St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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**Sunday 11 July 2021**  
**Sixth Sunday after Trinity**  
**11.15am Holy Communion**  
**Bishop Henry Scriven**

Dear Friends

A warm welcome to St Nic's today for this service of Holy Communion and to Bishop Henry who will preside and preach for us.

At the beginning of last week the Prime Minister announced that, subject to a review in a week's time, all Covid-19 restrictions shall be lifted from Monday 19 July. For some this will be a cause of celebration, while for others it will be a time of renewed anxiety and concern. To not legislate any longer, (especially concerning the matter of mask wearing), and to trust in people's common sense and personal responsibility on the one hand is both hopeful and laudable, and yet I fear on the other hand, is hasty and dangerous. I long to be proved wrong, with majority surprising me with the 'common sense' to which the Prime Minister refers.

We know that the Coronavirus is here to stay. Furthermore, infection rates are rising at an alarming rate (and in Oxford city – at the time of writing I understand we are among the highest in the country). Yet one of the arguments for lifting all restrictions is because the summer season is the best time to do it.

I have to confess that there is within me a sense of uneasiness about a complete relaxation in one go, while, for many reasons, I recognise that change is necessary. My greatest hope is that as a national church we can respond generously, hopefully, and charitably. The House of Bishops is yet to issue its guidance as to how we move forward with those things which we have not been doing for all these months. I hope this information will come to us soon, via the diocese, and I expect that in our own parish we will move forward together in a common approach in our three congregations. Whatever happens we know that God goes through all this with us. We are not abandoned nor alone. Isaiah's words are a fitting reminder: 'Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name you are mine. When you pass through waters, I will be with you...(Isaiah 43.1b,2a)

With love and prayers,

*Fr Paul*

## READINGS & COLLECT

Amos 7.7-15

Ephesians 1.3-14

Psalms 85.8-13

Mark 6.14-29

**Collect:** Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 18 July

8:00am Holy Communion (1662)

11:15am Service of the Word – The Revd Paul Smith

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](mailto:papenfold@aol.co.uk) / [jil129@outlook.com](mailto:jil129@outlook.com))

11:15am Paul Rast-Lindsell (07876 277363 / [paulrl.stnics@gmail.com](mailto:paulrl.stnics@gmail.com))

### CHURCH NEWS

#### Research Survey: Listening to Christian religious teaching:

I am inviting people to take part in an on-line survey as part of my PhD research. Specifically, I am looking for people aged 18+ in the UK who regularly attend church to take part in this study.

The aim of this study is to examine the thoughts and feelings that result from listening to Christian religious teaching using music and the spoken word. If you choose to take part in this survey, you will be asked to listen to a recording and answer questions about what you have heard, together with questions about your own feelings.

This study has received ethics approval from Coventry University, where I am a student. Participation in the survey is voluntary and all responses are anonymous. If you have any questions or would like more information before taking the survey, or would like the survey link emailed to you, please feel free to contact me using my university email: [brownj68@uni.coventry.ac.uk](mailto:brownj68@uni.coventry.ac.uk).

To take the survey, you can type or copy & paste this link into your web browser:

[https://coventry.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5mye8G2StpYssv3](https://coventry.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5mye8G2StpYssv3)

**The July edition of 'A Candle in the Window'** is now available to download.. The usual rich mixture: priests, poets, a drummer, bell ringers, at least one walker and several forms of recreation. Oh and some maths homework. What is not to like as they say? Download from: <https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/downloads/Candle202106.pdf>

**St Nicolas'** is now open for private prayer on Mondays 10-12noon. Thank you to all who have offered to help ☺ Other offers always welcome.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

**The Blue Sky Café** has reopened – first Tuesday of each month between noon and 2pm for a delicious lunch in a friendly atmosphere, at [Long Furlong Community Centre](https://www.longfurlongcommunitycentre.org.uk), Abingdon. Onsite parking. Exciting vegetarian and vegan recipes using unusual pulses, beans, grains and interesting spices. Main course and any combination of salads £7.50 and dessert £1.00 extra. Read more: <https://blueskyecocafe.org.uk/>  
*(Apologies – this arrived too late for July, but it's not long till August)*

**Albert Lodge, Ock Street, Summer Party:** Thursday 15 July 2-4pm. Come and visit. Places limited, booking needed on 01235 885330. A Churchill Retirement Living development.

**Calling all Cake Makers:** Now that the Cafe@35 is open, we will be needing more homemade cakes. If you would be prepared to join our loyal band of cake makers to make a cake every one or two months, on a day of your choice, Rosemary Brown would love to hear from you: 01235 529261 or [rosemary.annbrown70@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.annbrown70@gmail.com)

The **Abingdon Passion Play** committee is due to meet on 18 July 2021 to keep alive the possibility of a new production in the not too distant future. Anyone interested in joining us is invited to contact the chairman, John Clare, at [johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com](mailto:johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com).

**Step into Oxford:** Not been out for a while? Feeling a little nervous about stepping out again? We have just the thing for you: a gentle 45-minute stroll through the stunning and uplifting sights of Oxford, led by a professional guide and, accompanied, if you wish, by a volunteer helper.

Age UK Oxfordshire has teamed up with the Oxford Guild of Tour Guides and the Oxford Hub to get you back 'out there'. The FREE morning or afternoon walk is followed by an opportunity to sit and chat with others over a cup of tea or coffee.

What could be better? Walks are open to anybody over 50. Forthcoming dates:

Tuesday 6 July 10.30 am	Thursday 15 July 10.30 am
Tuesday 20 July 2.00 pm	Thursday 29 July 2.00 pm
Tuesday 3 August 10.30 am	Thursday 12 August 10.30 am
Tuesday 17 August 2.00 pm	Thursday 26 August 2.00 pm
Tuesday 31 August 10.30 am	

For further information/to book your place, contact Petra (Age UK) on 01235 849434.

**Can you help The Abingdon Bridge (TAB)?:** The Abingdon Bridge is a well-regarded Abingdon charity that supports young people aged 13-25. We are currently looking for more volunteers to act as a receptionist at our new premises at 3 Market Place, Abingdon. As we have a bank of volunteers, you may only do a slot once a week or fortnightly or monthly. Currently, our opening hours are Monday to Thursday 2-7 pm and Friday 2-6 pm, subject to change as we follow current government COVID guidelines. The work is not onerous and mainly involves buzzing clients in and showing them to the waiting room, but this is a vital role that supports the counsellors. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Sandy Kruger at [sandy@theabingdonbridge.org.uk](mailto:sandy@theabingdonbridge.org.uk). Volunteers will be DBS checked.

#### FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops, especially at this time in the life of our diocese;
- for preparations as restrictions for Covid-19 are lifted, for safety in the nation and the church;
- All suffering in body, mind or spirit especially those in our own church community;
- For the family of Amanda Fordyce, following her death, in their time of bereavement;

- 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

### In the parish:

**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.

**On Thursday** the Said Mass will be celebrated at St Michael's at 12.30pm (and will now take place weekly). No need to book.

Church at Home is continuing to offer invitations to attend live-streamed services from churches around the diocese. 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). 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	<a href="https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/">https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/</a>	
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon">https://www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon</a>	

When the office is closed (on Fridays) please contact the Revd Canon Charles Masheder on 01235 520959 for any **urgent pastoral issues**.

The Parish office is open again Mondays to Thursdays, 10am-1pm (or 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](mailto:administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk)

*Please send any information for next week's pew slip to  
[eluned@hallas.org.uk](mailto:eluned@hallas.org.uk) by Wednesday*