



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 8 August 2021
Tenth after Trinity
11.15am Holy Communion
The Revd Paul Smith / Mrs Beryl Clements

Dear Friends

Our Identity in Christ

Dear Friends

We welcome Beryl as our preacher today and we look forward very much to what she has to say to us.

We know that Jesus was born of earthly parents. We are told that he honoured both Mary and Joseph, and his identity was shaped by them, but not determined by them. It was his identity as the son of his heavenly Father that provided his security. Each of us can be identified by our association with others to whom we belong: our families and our friends. But ultimately, our true identity as followers of Jesus is in Him. We are offered a new identity in Christ as joint heirs of the kingdom and recipients of the promise of eternal life. This is what happens to us at baptism. Our identity in Christ is a gift from God, and frees us to become who God desires us to be.

Next Sunday, we will be joined by the parents of Zachary, as they bring him to give thanks for him and in preparation for his baptism in a couple of months time. As Zachary begins this journey it is good to recall that our baptism unites us with Christ in his death and resurrection, through the waters in which our sins are drowned and washed away. As the baptized people of God – lay or ordained – our primary calling is to live out our baptismal life and 'to shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father'. As we are reminded of the place where our true identity lay, may God give us grace to go on being faithful followers of Jesus.

With every blessing, *Fr Paul*

READINGS & COLLECT

1 Kings 19.4-8

Psalm 34.1-8

Ephesians 4.25 - 5.2

John 6.35,41-51

Collect: Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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.

Sunday 15 August

8:00am *At St Helen's this month*

11:15am Third Sunday Service, with Thanksgiving - the Revd Paul Smith

Following the relaxation of Covid regulations on 19 July, there is NO LONGER ANY requirement to register in advance for Services.

We will still be observing some covid mitigation measures during Services.

We hope to offer **coffee after Service** on 15 August, please bring your own cup if you would feel more comfortable doing so.

CHURCH NEWS

Flowers: as we return to 'more normal' worship, we would love to have fresh flowers to remind us of God's bountiful gifts to us. If you would be willing to help beautify the church in this way please see the diary at the back of church. (With care, flowers usually last for two weeks. Arrangements are not required – a simple vase or two would be lovely). Thank you

Eila and Geoff Currey: We send our warmest congratulations and every blessing to Eila and Geoff on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated on 5 August.

Cards / postcards featuring St Nicolas: we are pleased to announce that we have two styles of cards & postcards featuring St Nic's available for sale at the back of Church. Cards £2, postcards £1. Please put your donation in the wall safe or pay via the 'magic machine'. Thank you

St. Helens Church has a vacancy for a Caretaker/ Verger. The post is for 10 hours per week over 5 days. Extra hours for Verger duties as required. Please contact Linda Hobbs, Warden, if you require further information. lindahobbs1954@gmail.com or via the Parish Centre office.

Circle Dancing: Circle Dancing is being held in Albert Park or in St Michael and All Angels' Church, depending on the weather, from 11 am to 12 noon every Thursday.

Equipping For Life – Learning For Discipleship And Ministry the diocese offers a range of training and learning opportunities aimed at encouraging and equipping mission and ministry both in and through the local church. Details of the forthcoming courses for September to December 2021 are now available at

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/our-faith/lifelong-learning>

Courses include Introduction to Worship (focusing on Morning and Evening Prayer and the Service of the Word) and Topics in Christian Doctrine.

The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride + Stride event will take place this year on Saturday 11 September. Every aspect will be within current government guidelines every step of the way, but the restrictions mean the event will look and feel a little different this year. Further information can be found at <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride>. Anyone who would like to Ride & Stride (with 50% of their sponsorship coming to St Nic's) or to be a welcomer in church that day should contact Eluned.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Christian Aid: Afternoon Tea in St Ethelwold's House Garden, Sunday 22nd August
Everyone is invited to join us for Afternoon Tea in the beautiful garden of St Ethelwolds' House on Sunday 22nd August from 2.30 - 4:00pm. Christian Aid is seeking our support to raise funds for its work with the poorest people in the world as they struggle to cope with the major issues facing their world:

- the impact of the climate chaos being increasingly caused by global warming;
- the current crisis of global hunger where 41 million people currently suffer extreme hunger;
- the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and the disparity of vaccination rates between the UK, European and North American countries and those of, for example, the countries across Africa.

The Young Christian Climate Network Relay (YCCN), from the G7 in Cornwall to COP26 in Glasgow, is raising awareness of the need for climate justice and fair finance. The route from London to Birmingham (9 to 23 August) comprises 7 days of walking to Oxford and 8 to Birmingham, the local stages being Brill to Oxford and Oxford to Kidlington. There is an overnight stay in Oxford on 15 August. Parishes are strongly encouraged to support this courageous project, which is open to all ages but led by young Christians. The YCCN website <https://www.yccn.uk> lists many opportunities for support by churches and individuals.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops;
- that we may know more deeply our identity in Jesus;
- Christians in Sport during this time of the Tokyo Olympics;
- Reverence for the earth and environment in light of the ongoing climate change crisis;
- 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;
- All those for whom the summer holidays this year, in particular, is a time of stress and worry, rather than rest and relaxation.

WORSHIP

In the parish:

St Nicolas' is now open for private prayer on Mondays 10-12noon.

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.

Morning Prayer will not be said publicly in St Helen's until September. Precise details will be issued nearer the time.

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	https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/	
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon	

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

Please send any information for next week's pew slip to eluned@hallas.org.uk by Wednesday