



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 15 August 2021
Blessed Virgin Mary
11.15am
The Revd Paul Smith

Dear Friends

Today on this Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary we shall consider again the Song of Mary, which we know as the Magnificat, and which is the well-known canticle sung or said at the office of Evensong, which is the Evening Prayer the church has offered over the centuries. During our service today we will welcome Zachary and his parents as they bring him for Thanksgiving, and commence the journey towards his baptism which will take place here in October.

Some other matters which I would like to bring to your attention:

- A week or so ago, I had problems with my e-mail account. Please can I ask you to be alert to the possibility of receiving messages in my name which have not come from my address. These are now unlikely, since there will be an automatic reply coming through in the coming days while I am away from my desk. But, should you receive anything odd, please be sure to delete it as soon as you receive it.
- On 2 September our Churchwarden, Eluned Hallas, will be sworn into office at the Archdeacon's Visitation. Due to Covid restrictions and the effects of Lockdown, this is happening later than usual this year. Please pray for Eluned and give thanks for all she brings to this office both here in St Nic's and across the parish.

We are already in the middle of August which is traditionally the holiday month of the summer. For many this year, it has not been possible to take a holiday either with others or in safety. I do hope, however, that you may find other ways of being refreshed and restored at this time.

With every blessing, *Fr Paul*

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

READINGS & COLLECT

Isaiah 61:10-end or Rev 11.19 – 12.6,10

Psalm 45.10-17

Galatians 4.4-7

Luke 1.46-55

Collect: Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; 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 22 August

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

11:15am Holy Communion - the Revd Canon Charles Masheder

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.

CHURCH NEWS

We are hoping to bring out the next issue of '**A Candle in the Window**' in the first couple of weeks of September. Contributions welcome - poems, reflections, photographs etc welcome. Hopefully by the end of August to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk

Flowers: as we return to 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

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 Saturday 11 September following current COVID guidelines. 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. Further information from <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride>.

Mothers Union: We had a very successful & enjoyable afternoon in Albert Park. Nine members took part & several people came to cheer us on. Margaret Horton counted our laps & rattled the bucket! Once all the money is collected, we should have in the region of £500 to donate to the 'Summer of Hope' initiative. There is however, still time for those who wish, to sponsor me & a huge thank you to those who already have. *Philippa*

COMMUNITY NEWS

Short-term let for a Syrian family – URGENT: Over the last 4-5 years HostAbingdon has helped 7 Syrian families resettle into life in the Vale. Six families are now settled in secure permanent homes. But the 7th family has a big problem. They live in Sutton Courtenay and their landlady is selling, hoping for 25th August as exchange date. The family now has priority on the Vale housing register and expect to find a permanent social housing home within the next 12 weeks ... but not in time for 25th August. The Vale is searching for a temporary house to tide them over, but nothing is coming up.

Do any of you know of a two-bed house that is empty and whose owners might be willing to let it for 6-12 weeks from 25th August? Preferably in the Vale are around Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, Botley? The landlady will give them a glowing reference, as will the man's employer in Headington. There are three primary school children/ They had, of course, a traumatic time in Syria, and this period of uncertainty and insecurity is very stressful for them.

Please reply to margaretdhancox@gmail.com or essentiallyssue@hotmail.com if you can help.

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 Walk for Water: Saturday 4th September Start off at St Helen's Church Centre from 9.30am for a walk along the River Ock and back along Thames. All welcome. More details later.

For more information, contact Cliff Marshall at candpmarshall@btinternet.com

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;
- Zachary and his parents as he comes for Thanksgiving today in preparation for his baptism in October;
- That Mary's song may be an inspiration to us in our daily discipleship;
- 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.

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***