



St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 22 August 2021
Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
11.15am

The Revd Canon Charles Masheder

Dear Friends

'Take up the whole armour of God....stand firm' Ephesians 6.13

We welcome Canon Charles Masheder as president and preacher at this service of Holy Communion today and look forward to what he has to say to us.

The term 'spiritual warfare' may seem unfamiliar to us, but for the writer of this letter spiritual forces of darkness and evil were real. One had to wear the right gear against such forces. Some readers today see the language used as figurative and labelling the 'false gods' that can be chosen to value above the one, true God. Putting our faith and hope in what is less than God is harmful to us and leads us to believe that we can do everything through our own strength or efforts.

What this passage does is present us with potent metaphors of determination and protection: 'standing', 'putting on', and 'taking'; 'armour', 'belt', 'breastplate' and 'shoes'; 'shield', 'helmet', and 'sword'. If we are kitted out in the figurative protection of this divine body armour – which represents the toughness of truth, righteousness, peace, faith and God's word – it means that neither real nor symbolic evil forces will be able to shift us.

That is, as long as we stand our ground.

With love and blessings

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT

Joshua 24. 1-2a,14-18

Psalms 34. 15-22

Ephesians 6. 10-20

John 6. 56-69

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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 29 August

8:00am At St Helen's this month

11:15am Holy Communion - the Revd Dr Charles Miller

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 arrange a '**Harvest Lunch**' following our Harvest Festival on **19 September**. This will be at Pizza Express when we can share fellowship, pizzas etc. We hope the weather will be nice enough to allow us to sit outside. The likely cost will be about £15. To help gauge interest please let Hildegard or Eluned know if you would like to join us.

The next issue of '**A Candle in the Window**' is due in the first couple of weeks of September. The working theme is 'change and continuity' but all contributions - poems, reflections, photographs etc - welcome. If possible by the end of August to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk 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.

Silent Reflections on Tuesday 31 August at 7.30 pm will be held in St Michael's. Entry will be through the North door (opposite Albert Park). The wearing of masks is still recommended in areas of close contact. Final prayers will be at 8.30 pm and refreshments will be available. Sue Sheppy will introduce material on the theme: **Freedom is an inside job**. A copy will be emailed to all those on our list, and made available on St Michael's website. Paper copies will be available in church.

Moving into Stillness: circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes will recommence at St Michael and All Angels on Thursday 2 September 2020 from 9.45 – 10.45 am, before the **regular circle dancing session at 11 am**. Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed. Tea and coffee will be provided between the two sessions (you are welcome to bring your own if you prefer).

Autumn Reading groups: The **online group** will meet via zoom with Revd Rosalind Rutherford facilitating discussions, starting on Thursday 16th September at 4pm. We are going to read **Humble Church by Martyn Percy**.

Desiring Life will meet in the Centre Lounge starting on Tuesday 21st September at 2:30pm led by the Rector and reading **Richard Harries book Seeing God in Art**. Both groups open to anyone interested. You are welcome to join either or both groups. I hope to get more details out in good time regarding what to read in advance before each session. If you are joining the online group do let me know so we can send you the relevant link. *Susan Scott*

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

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

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops;
- The peoples of Afghanistan and Haiti;
- 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.

On Thursday the Said Mass will be celebrated at St Michael's at 12.30pm (

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
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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