



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 29 August 2021
Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
11.15am

The Revd Canon Charles Masheder

Dear Friends

We welcome The Revd 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.

It is sometimes said: 'You don't live in the real world...' It is usually a chastisement against those who somehow don't have their feet on the ground. In the Epistle of James we see that he is uncompromisingly clear in his claim that the real world comes from the Father of lights, whose purpose was to give us birth by the word of truth. Reality is made up of deep listening, wise speaking, great patience, compassionate action, and honest self-reflection. The real world involves caring for the forgotten and marginalised without being contaminated by 'the world'. The world in this case is the way things are arranged by Caesar, whose world view dehumanized and commodified thousands of human beings because of its commercialism and militarist world view.

We are to live as children of light in the 'Father's reality'. So, James says, 'Don't forget who you are': do not look at yourself as in a mirror, but look to the law of freedom in God, walking in humility and acting with justice. James wants to remind us, then, that these are the real wheels that turn the world in the end, nothing else.

With love and blessings

Fr Paul

The Rector sends his apologies that, due to a rota clash, he is unable to be with us today as planned. We look forward to his joining us in the future.

READINGS & COLLECT

Deuteronomy 4.1-2,6-9

Psalms 15

James 1.17-27

Mark 7.1-8,14,15,21-23

Collect: Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 5 September

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP) - the Revd Dr Charles Miller

11:15am Mattins - the Revd Canon David Tyler

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.

The funeral of **Margaret Brooks** will take place at St Helen's at 11.30am on Thursday 2 September. All are welcome to attend the service and stay for refreshments after in church. Family flowers only but donations to Alzheimer Research UK.

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 **Desiring Life Reading group** will start meeting in the lounge of the Parish Centre to read Richard Harries book **Seeing God through Art** at 2.30pm on Tuesday September 14th and fortnightly thereafter. The Rector will lead the discussions. Open to everyone. The **Online Reading Group** will start meeting on Zoom to read Martyn Percy's book **The Humble Church** at 4pm on Thursday September 23rd and fortnightly thereafter. Ros Rutherford will lead the discussions. To join please contact Susan Scott on 01235 522960, or susan.scott21@btinternet.com to receive the Zoom code. Open to everyone.

Church Stewarding: We are hoping to be able to open St Nic's to visitors on Saturdays 11 September (OHCT Ride & Stride) and 18 September (Heritage Open Days). Support with Stewarding would be most welcome – please contact Eluned. Covid precautions will be maintained.

The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride + Stride Saturday 11 September following current COVID guidelines. Philippa is planning (weather permitting) to visit Churches around Abingdon and would welcome sponsorship (of which 50% will come to St Nic's) – please see the form at the back of Church. Further information from <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride>.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Christian Aid *THANK YOU* to all who came to our Christian Aid tea last Sunday. We made £410.54 for Christian Aid, a very enjoyable way of helping the world's poorest. **Next Saturday, 4th September**, we are Walking for Water - though without a 5-gallon jerrycan on our heads. Come to the St Helen's Church Centre from 9.30 onwards to receive instructions (£1), then set off along the Ock, back via the Thames. There will no mass start but we will register walkers as a Covid-19 infection precaution. Bring your own refreshments, including water. The walk will be approx. 5 miles long.

Quiet Garden Day at Aston Tirrold Centre for Reflection on **Saturday 4 September** 10 am - 4 pm. Leaders: Josie Midwinter and Sue Sheppy. Theme: Encounters with Jesus. Refreshments are provided, but please bring a packed lunch. A donation of £10 would be welcome. Email: abi.perrow@googlemail.com, if you want to attend.

Abbey Chamber Concert: St Nicolas Church, Sunday 5 September 3pm
Pavlova Winds present Dvorak Serenade Gounod Petite Symphonie for Winds
Tickets: £10 on the door.

Abingdon Progressive Christianity Network: The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7 September at 7.30 pm via Zoom. At this meeting, we will be looking ahead to the coming year and exploring how we might engage with people seeking to learn more about progressive Christianity. We welcome new members to this group; you do not need to be a member of the Progressive Christianity Network but we hope you will be interested in exploring open and contemporary Christian understanding. For more information or/and to attend this online meeting, please contact Cliff Marshall at cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk.

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;
- All those preparing to return to school / university in the next few weeks, and staff preparing to welcome them;

- All those being admitted as Church Wardens at this time, especially the five wardens of the Parish;
- 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.

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
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 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***