



St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 31 October 2021
All Saints Sunday
Holy Communion
11.15am
The Revd Rosalind Rutherford

Dear Friends

Welcome to St Nic's today on All Saints' Sunday and a special welcome to Rosalind Rutherford who presides and preaches for us on this great Feast Day in the church's year.

All Saints' Day strictly falls on Monday (but we are transferring it to today) and it is followed on Tuesday by All Souls' Day (to commemorate the faithful departed). Today we are reminded that our worship does not belong to us alone but that we join our worship with 'all the company of heaven'. We celebrate the lives of the saints and remember that we are united with them: that they pray with us and for us.

Today's celebration of all the Saints is the beginning of the weeks ahead when a total of 23 Christian monarchs, priests, teachers of the faith, or mystics are remembered by name in the lectionary. Then the last Sunday of the liturgical year – the Sunday next before Advent, 21 November – celebrates Christ the King. In this festival, we recognise that God's work is completed. With that recognition we wait for the New Kingdom to be revealed in all its fullness.

As we approach the festival of Christ the King we will notice that we are entering a time of forgiveness, reconciliation and healing. The prayers of the church in the Collects and Post Communion Prayers speak of an 'eternal and glorious kingdom', where 'the whole created order [will] worship at his feet', of us being 'knit together in one fellowship', of us 'coming to share the joy of heaven' and 'the heavenly feast' prepared for us there.

So the climax of the church's year is the time when we look forward to the day when the Kingdom of God is fully realised on earth as in heaven. The readings are apocalyptic in tone, depicting the end of the world. Judgement themes predominate until they conclude with the triumphant Feast of Christ the King who will reign over all things in the peaceable Kingdom of God. Perhaps one of the things we could do over these coming weeks is to pray with greater fervor those words contained in the Lord's own prayer: 'Your Kingdom Come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven....'

With love and blessings, Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT

Wisdom 3.1-9 or Isaiah 25.6-9

Psalm 24.1-6

Revelation 21.1-6a

John 11.32-44

Collect: Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love 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.

Tuesday 2 November All Souls Day: Said Mass with hymns, St Michael's, at 7pm

Sunday 7 November

8:00am Holy Communion – the Revd Canon Charles Mashedder

11:15am Morning Prayer – 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 do however: require you to sanitise your hands on arrival and departure; encourage mask wearing, which is necessary during congregational singing; and ask you to observe social distancing as far as possible when coming to receive Holy Communion (on the Sundays it is celebrated) and when leaving the building.

Thank you for helping to keep each of us safe.

CHURCH NEWS

Congratulations to: The Revd John Paul Hoskins on becoming Canon Precentor of Worcester Cathedral. John Paul is the son of Margaret & Alan Hoskins, all former members of our congregation. And to the Revd Canon Dr Peter Doll (former Team Vicar) who is to be Acting Dean of Norwich Cathedral.

Flowers in Church: our grateful thanks to all those who have contributed and arranged the flowers which beautify the church week by week.

As you will have seen, although formal arrangements are fantastic, vases of fresh blooms also look great and remind us of the wonders of creation.

So please take the plunge and have a go! We do have a 'Flower Fund' to help with the costs. If you would like to contribute but really don't feel up to doing an arrangement why not make a donation? We can (usually) arrange for flowers to be put in church for a specific date, and can also (if you wish) acknowledge the event in the notices. (To gift aid your donation, speak to Jenny or Eluned).



Remembrance Sunday 14 November, poppies are available in at the back of Church.

Christmas Lunch: we have the possibility of holding a Christmas Lunch in Coseners House again this year. If you think you might be interested do let Eluned know so we can determine whether to go ahead. As yet we have no information on menus or pricing.

Books please: we are planning a fundraising bookstall on 13 November 10am-1pm (Covid permitting). Why not make some space for all those new Christmas books, by having a sort through and giving some to be sold? Then come along and buy some more 😊

Christmas cards in aid of Church in Abingdon Twinning Group



are now on sale at £4.50 for a pack of 10 cards. The 2 photographs of Abingdon in winter were taken by Alistair Fear. Cards can be bought from Hildegard.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

This Afternoon, St Helens, 5:30 pm Sacred Concert: Dr Peter Foster will be giving an organ recital of works from the Lutheran tradition to mark Reformation Sunday (October 31st). Music by J. S. Bach, Samuel Scheidt, Felix Mendelssohn and Franz Liszt.

Tuesday 2 November, Abingdon Mothers' Union meets on at 10.30 am in St Helen's Parish Centre. Sheila Furlong, MBE, from the Archway Foundation will give a talk entitled 'Reaching, listening, understanding and connecting'. Everyone welcome.

Thursday 4 November, Moving Into Stillness: circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes, 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.

Sweet Slices of History: The next Friends of St Helen (FOSH) event takes place at 7.30pm on **Thursday 4 November** in the Parish Centre. Marjory Szuko will be telling us the story of the creation of sweet dishes and cakes from historical recipes. There will be wine, and tasters of some of Marjory's creations. Attendance is free for members, £5 for non-members. Numbers are limited, so if you would like to come please contact the Administrator **by 1 November** (administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk)

On Saturday November 6th St Helen's will be open between 10 am until 3 pm open church, to welcome in anyone who wishes to remember those who have lost their lives through the Covid pandemic by lighting a candle and if they so wish, saying a prayer. A card of suitable thoughts and prayers will be available. A Priest will also be available for pastoral support if requested. *Canon Charles Mashedor*

Christian Aid Autumn Quiz & Seasonal Puddings! Saturday 6th November 7.00pm All Saints' The quiz will be in two halves with a range of seasonal puddings to choose from during the interval. Teams will be set up ad hoc on the night.

- Please wear a facemask at this event (except when eating!)
- Please do not attend if you, or anyone in your household, have symptoms of Covid-19.
- For more information contact candpmarshall@btinternet.com

Donations welcome for the work of Christian Aid.

The Church in Abingdon Annual Bereavement Service: will take place on Sunday 7 November, 3pm, at Trinity Church. All those who have lost loved ones are welcome. We will this year remember in particular those that have lost their lives during the Covid pandemic.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops and Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- For Her Majesty the Queen, especially at this time;
- For the COP 26 summit in Glasgow and for our own response to the Climate change crisis and our stewardship of God's creation;
- For the humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan;
- For a greater understanding that we are joined with the saints in the worship of heaven;
- All those churches and institutions dedicated to All Saints, especially the All Saints Sisters of the Poor in Oxford;
- All suffering in body, mind or spirit especially those in our own church community;
- The schools in our parish, our church school of St Nicolas', for Andy Spooner, Headteacher, and all teachers, staff and pupils, and the challenges they face at this time;
- 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

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

St Helen's Church is open from 10am to 3pm, Mon-Fri for private prayer and visitors.

On Wednesday Holy Communion will be in the parish centre at 10.30 am.

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

Morning Prayer will be said publicly in St Helen's each week day at **9.10am**. All are welcome.

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.

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	Mrs Eluned Hallas	01235 529462
Parish Office	Mrs Jackie Cunningham	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, or email administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

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