



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Sunday 7 November 2021

Morning Prayer

11.15am

The Revd Paul Smith

Dear Friends

Welcome to St Nic's today on the Third Sunday before Advent. We are racing towards the end of the liturgical year with just three weeks before the beginning of Advent. A sobering thought...and reality! Next week is Remembrance Sunday and our service of Holy Communion will be earlier at 9.30am, to enable those who wish, and can, to attend the act of remembrance at the War Memorial. This will be a day when we are once again called to pray for the 'families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to (God's) just and gentle rule' (Collect for the Day).

But on this Sunday, in the Kingdom Season, we are brought back to the beginning of Mark's gospel and to Jesus' radical call to repentance: to the complete 'turning around' of our lives in discipleship and our need to 'believe in the good news'. The two go hand-in-hand. They cannot be separated if we, like the two pairs of brothers – Simon and Andrew, James and John - in today's gospel, are to leave everything and follow Christ. And there is an urgency, an immediacy, about what Jesus is saying. Repentance and belief in the good news has to happen now for 'the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near'. (Mark 1.15a).

If Christ is truly at the centre of our lives, calling us to follow him for the sake of God's world, then we need to search our hearts to see where we need to repent, and how we need to believe more deeply in the good news. It is a difficult task, but there is no getting away from it if we are going to be faithful to God in our relationship with him and in our discipleship.

With love and blessings,

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT

Jonah 3.1-5,10

Psalms 62.5-12

Hebrews 9.24-28

Mark 1.14-20

Collect: Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 14 November

8:00am Holy Communion – Bishop Henry Scriven

9.30am Holy Communion – Revd David Bevington

Please note our earlier Service time next week, arranged so that congregation members who wish can go the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

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 one another safe.

CHURCH NEWS

The **November** issue of the **Parish Magazine** is now available. Download from <https://stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/downloads/Candle202109.pdf>

Thank you to all contributors.

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 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. The cost will be around £30 / head, and we are committed to a minimum number of places in order to secure the sole use of the dining room.

Book Sale: we are planning a fundraising bookstall on **13 November 10am-1pm**. 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.



Back to 35: Back to 35 is meeting at ABC on 1st and 3rd Thursdays, from 10 am starting at 10.30 promptly:

7 Oct: Quiz with David Lovegrove

21 Oct: Your CDs with David Lovegrove and Geoff Pratt

4 Nov: John Bacchus Dykes, composer of hymn tunes with Chris Caddy

18 Nov: Police update with PCSO Ali Blood

2 Dec: Singing for Pleasure with Sally Mears

16 Dec: Christmas social

For further info, please contact David Lovegrove on 01235 533373

DATES FOR THE DIARY

The Church in Abingdon Annual Bereavement Service: will take place today - **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.

Also on **Sunday 7, Abbey Chamber Concerts, St Nicolas Church, 3pm:**

Schubert Sonata in B flat, Skempton 'Reflections', Diana Hinds piano. Tickets £10, accompanied children free. Available from www.abbeychamberconcerts.org, on the door, from 07775 904626, and from the performers.

Saturday 13 November: Book Sale, St Nicolas (see above)

Sunday 14 November: 3 pm St Michael's: Pavlova Winds with Glynne Butt (piano) will play trios by Poulenc and Glinka. Some exhilarating and tuneful music!

Saturday 20 November: Christmas Fair at St Michael's 10.30 am – 2pm

Sunday 21 November: St Nicolas Church, 3pm, informal concert in aid of Church funds by Arco Strings.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops and Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- For our PCC meeting on Monday this week;
- For our own relationship with God and our response to the invitation to follow Jesus;
- For Her Majesty the Queen, especially at this time;
- For the COP 26 summit continuing in Glasgow and for our own response to the Climate change crisis;
- For the humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan;
- 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 10.30am.

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***