



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Sunday 14 November 2021

Remembrance Sunday

Holy Communion

9:30am

The Revd David Bevington

Dear Friends

We have come to Remembrance Sunday when we remember the fallen of two World Wars and every war and conflict since. And we long for reconciliation and peace, not least in the areas of today's world where nations are divided and are at war. Our longing is expressed in prayer as we ask for God's gentle rule to govern the hearts and minds of all people.

When we think of God's kingdom and what Jesus has accomplished on the cross we recognise that we live in an 'in-between' time, between the victory and the end. We are awaiting for the time when all that remains opposed to Jesus is won over or defeated.

What should be our attitude in this waiting time? The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews optimistically suggests that those who have been cleansed once and for all will cease to be conscious of sin and even that they should be in any need of forgiveness. His perspective comes from one who is living in the 'last days'. But this raises different issues for us. How are we to live in response to Jesus' final sacrifice?

I come across people who live in anxiety about whether or not they are acceptable to God. It is an all too common feeling how ever much one seeks to assure people that God has called them by name and they are unconditionally loved by him. This anxiety is not only spiritually unhealthy, but can lead us to try to appease God or bargain with him. God takes no pleasure in such strategies. Instead, our prayer should be as simple as: 'I have come to do you will, O God'. Offering ourselves afresh in God's service in whatever way we can in this broken world is the response to all Jesus has done for us.

With love and blessings,

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT

Daniel 12.1-3

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10.11-14[15-18]19-25

Mark 13.1-8

Collect: Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 21 November

8:00am Holy Communion

11:15am Third Sunday

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.

Christmas Lunch: our St Nicolas / Christmas Lunch in Coseners House will be on Sunday 5 December (St Nicolas' Day). A menu and booking sheet is attached. Please return booking sheets to Eluned (hard copy or via email) and payment to Jenny (or via BACS – ask for details).

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.



Scout & Guide Christmas Post is back and there is a post box for your cards for Abingdon, Shippon and Radley in the foyer. Each card is 30p – less than half the cost of a 2nd class stamp. The box will be emptied on Monday 13 December.

DIARY DATES

Saturday 13 November, 7:30pm, ADMS Concert in St Helen's Church, A concert of choral and orchestral music celebrating the society's 300th concert and its 75th anniversary. Bushell – "ADMS 300"; Dvořák – Symphony no 6 in D; Poulenc – Gloria; Dvořák – Te Deum. Tickets on the door.

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. Gift Stalls, Games, Tombola, Books, Cakes, Plants, Paintings, Prize Raffle, Refreshments

Saturday 20 November, Abingdon Baptist Church Christmas Fayre 10 am to 2pm: Cafe@35 will be offering soup and roll, and bacon butties.

Sunday 21 November: St Nicolas Church, 3pm, informal concert with retiring collection in aid of Church funds by **Arco Strings**. An informal concert in aid of Church funds. Featuring works by Haydn, Telemann, Handel, Vaughan-Williams, Gluck, Charpentier, Dvorak, Franck, Grieg, Radiohead, John Barry & Bach. All Welcome

Tuesday 23 November, 5.30pm, The Kellogg College Annual Vincent Strudwick Lecture on Religion in Public Life, ***Facing up to the spiritual challenge of the environmental crisis*** by the Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading,. The lecture will be online – [more information](#).

Friday 26th November, 12 noon, MU Activism service at St. Nicolas' Church. More details later.

Saturday 27 November, Quiet Garden Day at Aston Tirrold Centre for Reflection, 10 am - 4 pm. Leaders: Joan Impey and Sue Sheppy. Theme: Advent. 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.

Saturday 27 November, Abingdon Passion Play AGM 7 pm at Christ Church Barns. Please come along if you would like to find out about the plans for the next production. All welcome. There will be refreshments and light entertainment. For further info, please contact John Clare at johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com.

Saturday 27 November, 7pm, The Salvation Army Central Southern Area Fellowship Band Christmas Concert. 12 West St Helen Street, Abingdon, OX14 5BL. Limited tickets available, £5 per person, please book via phone 07435 075660 or email abingdon@salvationarmy.org.uk

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

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

**Commemorations this week include on Tuesday:
Edmund of Abingdon, archbishop, 1240**

Collect for Edmund of Abingdon

Almighty God, the light of the faithful and shepherd of souls, who set your servant Edmund to be a bishop in the Church, to feed your sheep by the word of Christ and to guide them by good example: give us grace to keep the faith of the Church and to follow in the footsteps 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.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops and Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- For the peace of the world especially where there is war and conflict at this time;
- For all those who have served in the armed forces, bear the scars of war today, and those currently serving our country in this way;
- That we may be peacemakers in our time;
- For a good outcome to COP26 and for the implementation of its decisions For the humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan;
- Fr Jamie McGrath and the congregation of The Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Edmund;
- 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***