



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 27 March 2022
Fourth Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday
11:15am Holy Communion & Thanksgiving
The Revd David Bevington

Welcome to St Nic's today for Holy Communion at which the Revd David Bevington will preside and preach.

It is also a great joy to welcome Briony and Rob as they bring Susanna for Thanksgiving in preparation for her baptism later in the spring. As we welcome them today, we assure them of our prayerful support on the pathway to Susanna's baptism also remembering their godparents.

Today as the church keeps Mothering Sunday we give thanks for mother Church, for the role of Mary, the mother of Jesus, in the story of our salvation. We recall that her 'Yes' to God at the Annunciation which we celebrated in the church calendar last week, is a reminder to us to say 'Yes' to God also. Mary's 'Yes' to God in becoming the God-bearer, was only one pivotal moment in her life and vocation. Her 'Yes' extended throughout her life to the cross of Jesus and beyond, as she prays with us and for us as the chiefest among the Communion of Saints. On this Mothering Sunday we pray for all mothers and families, especially where relationships are strained or broken and families are burdened in any way through their current circumstances. We pray for those for whom today is a day which arouses memories of regret or hurt and for those for whom it is a painful day.

Next week we shall conclude our series on '*Signs of Hope: The Holy Spirit, Source of Hope,*' from the context of the final chapter of Teresa White's book: 'Hope and the Nearness of God'.

With love and blessings, Father Paul

**Thanks to your generosity:
we have sent £162.50 to the DEC Ukraine Appeal**

READINGS & COLLECT

Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2.1-10 or 1 Samuel 1.20-28

Psalm 34.11-20 or Psalm 127.1-4

2 Corinthians 1.3-7 or Colossians 3.12-17

Luke 2.33-35 or John 19.25-27

Collect: God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Joshua 5.9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5.16-21

Luke 15.1-3,11b-32

Collect: Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 3 April – Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00am Holy Communion – The Revd Canon Charles Mashedder (at St H)

11:15am Morning Prayer – The Revd Jen Brown

We ask that you sanitise your hands on arrival and departure and wear a mask even for congregational singing. Thank you for helping to keep one another safe.

Walk the **Stations of the Cross** this Lent in St Michael's. The final opportunity is Tuesday 5 April 7.30 pm. This week, Tuesday 29 March, we take a break, for *Silent Reflections* to meet as usual. Please enter church through the South Door

CHURCH NEWS

Our **St Nicolas Annual District Church Meeting** will be on **Wednesday 30 March**, 7pm in Church. All welcome. Papers are now available in hard copy, and on the website.

At our ADCM we will be **electing our representatives for the next year**: Church Wardens, District Church Councillors, Parochial Church Councillors, Church in Abingdon representatives and Sidespersons. Please consider prayerfully if you might be called to one of these roles and speak with Fr Paul if you have any questions or decide to stand. Thank you.

Electoral Roll Revision The date of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting has been set as 28 April 2021. On this basis, the Electoral Roll is being revised in the period Friday 11th March to Friday 1st April. The Electoral Roll is our official membership list, and you need to be on the Electoral Roll in order to be able to vote at the Annual Church Meeting. If you are not already on the Electoral Roll and would like your name to be added, please complete the simple application form, available from Eluned. Your name can be added to

the Roll if you are baptised and aged 16 or over, and you satisfy some other simple conditions. Please speak to Eluned if you have any questions about this.

The **March issue (2022 Issue 2) of 'A Candle in the Window'** is now available from <https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/downloads/Candle202202.pdf>.

Can you help? We now have some plans for the refurbishment of the Toilet Block, and would like to start discussions with contractors. If you can recommend a local builder who might be interested in the project please contact Gwyneth Lewis.

Easter Flowers: Donations are invited for Easter lilies and other flowers – please speak to Jenny Smith.

Green Fingered Help Wanted: is any one able to help with, or recommend someone to help, with some light gardening work? If so please speak to Eluned. Hugh would also appreciate some help in the **Church garden** – please speak to him direct.

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames has a **part time vacancy for a Personal Assistant**. The post requires a variety of administrative skills to enable support for the Team Vicar and his ministry in 2 Abingdon churches, also working closely with other clergy and lay members of the team. The post will be 6 hours per week, tba. over at least 2 days. Salary £9.45 per hour. Please contact Miss Joyce Kelly for more information and application details: joycek1956@gmail.com Telephone: 07883 535768 Closing Date for applications Wednesday 13th April 2022. Interviews Thursday 5th May

DIARY DATES

Thursday 7 April, Moving into Stillness: circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes at St Michaels 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.

Saturday 9 April, the choir and orchestra of Abingdon and District Musical Society and the Wantage Choral Society choir will perform the **St Matthew Passion** by J S Bach. School of St Helen and St Katherine, Faringdon Road and will start at 7.30 p.m. Tickets at the door cost £14 / £12 in advance.

NOTE: Please ensure that you put your clocks forward by one hour **this Saturday** evening (26 March) as we look to lighter evenings and longer days. By so doing, we shall all be in church at the same time together this week!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ukraine Crisis Appeal Many charities have launched appeals to provide help in the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, including the British Red Cross - <https://www.redcross.org.uk>; UNHCR - <https://www.unrefugees.org.uk>; the Disasters Emergency Committee - <https://www.dec.org.uk>.

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

WORSHIP

Daily: Morning Prayer is said at St Helen's each week day at 9:10am

Wednesdays: Holy Communion in the Parish Centre Hall / St Helen's Church at 10:30am

Thursdays: Said Mass at St Michael's at 12:30pm

The [St Nicolas' website](#) has recordings of our 11:15 am Service sermons.

The [Parish resources](#) page contains links to Sunday's Service at St Helen's.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops and Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- Her Majesty the Queen, and all the Royal Family;
- All mothers and families today as the church marks Mothering Sunday, especially for families under strain or in broken relationships;
- For Briony and Rob as they bring Susanna for Thanksgiving today in preparation for her baptism;
- All those affected by the offensive in Ukraine, the injured and those who have been killed and the families and friends that grieve their loss;
- Any known to us suffering in body, mind and spirit, especially those among our congregations who are suffering with Covid 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;
- The schools in our parish, our church school at St Nicolas, for the Headteacher and all staff and pupils, especially as they prepare for the end of term;

Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

*Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd Justin Welby
Archbishop of York, The Most Revd Stephen Cottrell*

CONTACT US

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