



*St* NICOLAS' CHURCH  
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

---

**Sunday 24 April 2022**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**11:15am Holy Communion**  
**Bishop Henry Scriven**

Dear Friends

Welcome to you all on this Second Sunday of Easter as we continue to rejoice in the hope and peace of the risen Lord and to Bishop Henry who will preside and preach at this service of Holy Communion.

Today's gospel follows on from that of Easter Day when early in the morning the Risen Lord met the grieving Mary Magdalene in the garden. It is now evening on the same day and Jesus enters the through locked doors and greets his frightened disciples with the words: 'Peace be with you'. In the same passage, we move on a week later, and Jesus has his famous encounter with Thomas, the twin, who has been traditionally named: 'Thomas the doubter'. Thomas demands proof to overcome his disbelief and is invited by Jesus to touch him, to 'reach out his hand and put it in my side' (John 19.27). We assume that it is through touch that Thomas comes to believe. But when we read the text carefully we notice there is no mention of Thomas taking up the invitation to touch Jesus. It seems that the invitation itself was enough. Thomas is overcome with Jesus' presence and he turns from doubt to belief simply by answering Jesus: 'My Lord and my God!'

Perhaps we can dwell on two things: first the fear of those disciples and how Jesus not only broke through locked doors physically, but unlocked the fear of their lives by giving them the gift of his peace. Do we have the courage to ask the Risen Lord to unlock those parts of our lives gripped by fear and anxiety and feel his peace flood our very being? And secondly, like Thomas we too can doubt. There are seasons of doubt and questioning in our own lives which we must acknowledge. So, let us pray that we may be strengthened in faith to believe in the power of Christ's risen life to restore us and the church and world at this time. With Thomas we too can say to Jesus: 'My Lord and my God!'

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*with love and blessings*

*Fr Paul*

## READINGS & COLLECT

Acts 5.27-32

Psalm 118.14-29 or Psalm 150

Revelation 1.4-8

John 20.19-31

**Collect:** Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### Sunday 1 May

8:00am Holy Communion     The Revd Elizabeth Birch

11:15am Morning Prayer     The Revd Dr Charles Miller

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.

**Faith Forum** will begin again on 1 May at 9.15 am in the Parish Centre Hall when **Professor John Barton** will begin the next Forum on "**Wisdom**".

## CHURCH NEWS

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
will be on Thursday 28 April at 7pm at St Helen's,  
in the South Aisle.**

Refreshments from 6:45pm

Papers are now available on the Parish & St Nicolas websites  
or in hard copy in Church

**The Parish has a new website**, covering all three churches. Take a look at  
<http://abingdonparish.org.uk/>

**Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st May 2022**, This year Christian Aid Week in Abingdon is back to a new normal!

**Market Place Sale** on Saturday, 21st May (09:00-13:00) with Cake, Plant and Book Stalls. Donation for these stalls will be very gratefully received - please contact Eluned.

**House - to - House collection** - this will involve **delivery only** of envelopes to key areas. There will be collection points for donations via these envelopes at churches, other central locations and at the Sale. If you can help deliver envelopes please contact Eluned.

## DIARY DATES

**Tuesday 26 April at 7.30pm, Silent Reflections** at St Michael and All Angels. Entry will be through the North door (opposite Albert Park). Final prayers will be at 8.30 pm and refreshments will be available. Sue Scott will be providing materials on the theme: **Just as I am**. A copy will be emailed to all those on our list, and made available on the Prayer and Worship Resources page of St Michael's website. Paper copies will be available in church. All are welcome.

**Saturday 30 April, 8:30pm Strannick in Concert**, in aid of the Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal. An evening of jazz and folk music with Tatiana Solovlova, Olga Meadows, George Haslam & Glenda Huish. Royal British Legion, Spring Road. Free entry, donations in cash or electronically.

**Thursday 5 May, Moving into Stillness:** circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes at St Michael and All Angels 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 14 May Floral Extravaganza Fundraising Event**, at St Michael & All Angels: Come and watch Anna Steven, Chelsea gold medallist and NAFAS judge, create spectacular flower arrangements to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Followed by refreshments. 2pm at St Michael's Church. Tickets £10 available from the Bookstore, Abingdon from 18 April, or from Louise Heffernan or Nicola Ng at St Michael's

**The Tenth Festival of Prayer 2022:** Saturday 9 July 10.00-16.35, Ripon College, Cuddesdon. The festival of prayer is organised jointly by BRF and the Diocese of Oxford. The day-long conference aims to enhance participants' spiritual life by offering different approaches to Christian spirituality. It's an opportunity to invest in your relationship with God, in the company of inspiring, thoughtful and experienced speakers. Early booking is advised. For further details and booking information see

<https://www.brfonline.org.uk/products/the-festival-of-prayer-2022>

## 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>.

## 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; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- Her Majesty the Queen, and all the Royal Family;
- Our Government, Prime Minister, and all who hold office, for the exercising of leadership for the common good;
- That together with the whole church we may be faithful and courageous in sharing the Easter faith;
- Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Thursday, and all elected to Offices in the Parish;
- The people of the Ukraine and for peace in that land and throughout the world;
- All Ukrainians migrants seeking refuge in the UK, in our locality, and throughout Europe;
- 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.

### 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

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Charles Miller	01235 520144
Team Vicar	The Revd Paul Smith	01235 534654
Associate Priests	The Revd Canon Charles Masheder	01235 520959
	The Revd Jen Brown	01235 520144
Church Warden	Mrs Eluned Hallas	01235 529462
Parish Office	Mrs Jackie Cunningham	01235 520144
Website	<a href="https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/">https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/</a>	
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon">https://www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon</a>	

***Please send any items for next week's pew slip to  
[eluned@hallas.org.uk](mailto:eluned@hallas.org.uk) by Wednesday***