



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 1 May 2022
Third Sunday of Easter
11:15am Morning Prayer
The Revd Dr Charles Miller

Dear Friends

Welcome to you all on this Third Sunday of Easter and to this service of Morning Prayer. It is a great pleasure to welcome our Team Rector, Charles Miller, to lead this service and preach this morning.

I am uncertain as to whether even the Gospels can convey the wonder of the resurrection. The reality of Easter goes beyond words. But the stories of the resurrection show us some indications about hope for the future of the church.

Today's gospel account of the great catch of fish and the breakfast Jesus hosts on the beach tells us the huge number of fish hauled up in nets is a sign that the church will be as abundant as a fisherman's haul. It will be full of diversity and interesting specimens. In his account of the breakfast, John is also pointing to the generous hospitality of Jesus who still invites us to feast with him. The disciples may have deserted him after the last supper, but there are more suppers to come. Jesus invites us to feed on him and with him.

Then we see some swimming! In the bible, there is no prior of example of successful swimming before the resurrection. Water symbolises the forces of chaos and how overwhelming it can be. Following Easter, however, things are different. Peter can now take the plunge. Jesus' resurrection appearances invite the disciples to take risks. The church will advance because of those who learn to swim or even try to walk on water!

As we look to a new year for our parish following our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, I suggest that our resurrection faith invites us to 'take the plunge'. Not because we are rash, or make 'spur of the moment' choices and decisions which are not prayerfully considered, but only because the risen Christ beckons us to join him in a new life of adventure and hope. Let us join in that great adventure now!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

With love and blessings

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT

Acts 9.1-6 [7-20];

Psalm 30;

Revelation 5.11-14;

John 21.1-19

Collect: Almighty Father, who in thy great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve thee continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 8 May

8:00am Holy Communion The Revd David Bevington

11:15am Holy Communion The Revd Paul Smith

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 in a change to the previously advertised programme: the speaker at this will be the Revd Dr Charles Miller *the Rector*. The talk will be in person only.

CHURCH NEWS

At our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** last week, Eluned Hallas was elected as our Churchwarden for the ensuing year. Please pray for her in this office and join her with the other wardens of the parish when they will be sworn in at the Visitation which is on Monday 27 June at 7.30pm at St Helen's.

An Evening With Bishop Steven: The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft is visiting Abingdon Deanery on **Thursday 12 May**. You are warmly invited to join him from 19.30 -21.00 at Larkmead School, Faringdon Road, Abingdon. The evening will begin with a short time of worship followed by a Q& A. No need to sign up just come along.

The next issue of the **Parish Magazine** will come out by May 15th. Please contribute! We need a variety of topics and contributors. A theme is emerging of 'Anniversaries' but no need to stick to it. Deadline - the end of Friday May 6th. Thanks, Rob.

The Parish has a new website, covering all three churches. Take a look at

<http://abingdonparish.org.uk/>

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we announce the death of congregation member **Alan Joinson**, who died on Thursday 27 April. We remember him with much thanksgiving, and for his deep faith and passionate witness to Christ. We pray especially for Silvia and all the family at this time.

We also announce the death of **Betty Gordon**, who died peacefully last week, aged almost 102. Betty was a much loved congregation member for many years until advanced age prevented her from worshipping week by week. She had a keen interest in everyone and a wonderful sense of humour. We cherish her memory and give thanks for her wonderful long life.

May these faithful servants rest in peace and rise in glory. *Fr Paul*

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

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

Sunday 15 May, Abbey Chamber Concert: St Nicolas Church 3-4pm, Osman Tack (piano) plays Clementi Sonata quasi Concerto, Adès Mazurkas, Dodgson Bagatelles, Schumann "Abegg" Variations, Chopin "Oceanic" Etude. Tickets £10 from

<https://abbeychamberconcerts.org/event/osman-tack-piano-plays-beethoven-and-dodgson/>

Monday 16 – Saturday 21 May, Abbey Group Art Exhibition, St Nicolas Church. 10am - 5pm. Featuring work by Claire Cross, Margaret Horton, Marion Owen & Dougie Simpson, with guest glass artist Chris Eccles.

Saturday 28 May, Fundraising Concert for MIND, St Nicolas Church. Find out more and book tickets, £15, at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fundraising-concert-for-mind-in-memory-of-artemis-tickets-320831273977>

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

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;
- For all those elected to office at our APCM, last Thursday; for our Parish Wardens, especially for Eluned Hallas in our congregation;
- 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;
- For those who have died recently;
- 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.
- For St Nicolas School, Andy Spooner, Headteacher, the Governing Body and all the staff and pupils;

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