



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 8 May 2022
Fourth Sunday of Easter
8am Holy Communion
The Revd David Bevington
11:15am Holy Communion
The Revd Paul Smith

Dear Friends

'We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song' (St Augustine)

As I said on Easter Day (which may seem a while ago now), the celebration of resurrection only *began* then. Easter Day itself is the beginning of a season that heralds a fifty day proclamation that Christ is risen, that the church, together with our lives and witness resound with unceasing 'Alleluias'. As St Augustine put it, 'We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!' Eastertide is a season, which ends of the day of Pentecost (this year 5 June). It is a season which I don't think we always make enough of. We need to observe and celebrate it with joy in a church which is called to proclaim the good news of Jesus and in a world which is desperate for a message of hope, light and peace.

Eastertide lasts until Pentecost. Until then, one of the noticeable additions in church is the Paschal Candle which is lit every time we meet for worship. It has a prominent place in front of the pulpit – rather than by the font, at the place of baptism, where it remains at other times of the year, because baptism itself is the sign of new life. It is lit on Easter Day and carried into church as the priest proclaims: 'The light of Christ!' It remains a single focus for us with the cross at its centre, decorated with incense grains, or studs, each representing the wounds present in the crucified, yet risen, body of the Lord. The candle represents the great truth of our faith that Christ has triumphed over death. It is a symbol of hope and new life and of the light that has banished all darkness from our minds and hearts.

May this Easter season fill us all with renewed hope especially when we may have to cause to despair and may the risen Christ strengthen us to proclaim with boldness and courage the joyful news of his resurrection.

We are an Easter people Alleluia is our song!

With love and blessings, *Fr Paul*

READINGS & COLLECT

Acts 9.36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7.9-17

John 10.22-30

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 15 May

8:00am Holy Communion The Revd Elizabeth Birch

11:15am Holy Communion The Revd Dr Emma Percy

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.

St Helen's 15/5: 5.30 pm Choral Evensong/Easter Lessons and Carols

The **Mayor Making of the Town Council** is taking place at St Helen's on **Wednesday 11th May** at 7 pm.

CHURCH NEWS

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.

IN MEMORIAM:

The service of **Thanksgiving for the Life of Alan Joinson** will take place at the Baptist Church, Ock Street at 2.30pm on Thursday May 12th. Everyone welcome. Alan's body will be committed at the South Oxfordshire Crematorium privately.

We give thanks, also, for the life of **Graham Johnson**, former Church Warden at St Nicolas, who died recently

Carol Worthington's funeral will take place on Monday 9th May at 11 am at St Helen's. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Flowers: many thanks to all who contributed to our Easter flowers. There is a list at the back of church if you would like to offer to arrange the flowers for a Sunday (or two?). Traditional arrangements (although wonderful when we have them) are not needed – a few vases to bring creation into the building and brighten our worship would be great. Why not give it a go?

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.

DIARY DATES



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, or from Louise Heffernan or

Nicola Ng at St Michael's

Saturday 14 May Oxford Pro-Musica Singers are performing a floral themed concert at St Michael's at 7:30pm. Tickets £12.00 in advance, see <https://opms.org.uk/event/floral-choral-2>, or on the door.

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 "The Queen's Gambit": Jubilee Chess Championship All ages welcome! Restricted to the first 32 contestants to **apply by 14 May**. This fundraising event is co-hosted by The Abingdon Passion Play and One Planet Abingdon Climate Emergency Centre, with the support of Abingdon Town Council. Entry is £10 in aid of the Abingdon Passion Play. Tickets available online at www.abingdonpassionplay.co.uk

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>

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 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;
- Bishop Steven's visit to the deanery this coming Thursday;
- On this Vocations Sunday we pray for vocations to ordained ministry, the religious life, and licensed lay ministries;
- 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;
- 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, especially for Carol, Alan, Betty and Graham;
- The care homes in our parish, and for all residents, families and staff at Bridge House and Old Station House, with whom we have special links.
- 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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Website	https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/	
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon	

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