



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday Next Before Advent / Christ the King
Sunday 21 November 2021
11:15am
Third Sunday Service
Bishop Henry Scriven

Dear Friends

Welcome to St Nics today for our Third Sunday Service. This is the second in a series based on Bishop Steven's vision for the diocese of being a Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world: Contemplative; Compassionate; Courageous. Last month we began with what it might mean to be Contemplative and today we are moving onto Compassionate led by Bishop Henry.

Today is also the last Sunday in the church's year when we celebrate Christ the King. If you have time at home to read the gospel passage set for today (John 18.33-37) you find Jesus standing before Pilate and the awful drama of his arrest, suffering and death beginning to unfold.

At the heart of the meeting of Pilate and Jesus, from John's perspective, it seems there are two incarnations. These are power embodied ranged against truth made flesh. Both Pilate and Jesus claim to rule but their understanding of power and sovereignty are completely different as well as opposed. Pilate's question to Jesus: 'Are you the King of the Jews' shows his incredulity at Jesus' claim. This is because Jesus' kingship and sovereignty are based not on an abuse of power, but self-giving love and service, and the pursuit of truth. Truth through the eyes of Jesus speaks to power through his pattern of service as he shows a very different way of being sovereign. His service is shown in unconditional love and compassion for all, and sacrificial self-giving even unto death on a cross as he subverts both the lies of this world and of our own lives.

As we complete another church year, we see that before we begin again on Advent Sunday for another year we do not have it easy. We are faced with the challenge of central spiritual challenges: truth, service, power.

With love and blessings

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT for the Sunday Next Before Advent

Daniel 7.9-10,13,14

Psalm 93

Revelation 1.4b-8

John 18.33-37

Collect: Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 28 November – Advent Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion – Bishop Henry Scriven

11:15am Holy Communion – The Revd Rosalind Rutherford

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. Thank you for helping to keep one another safe.

CHURCH NEWS

Thank you to everyone who supported our Book Sale last week, through donating, sorting, selling or buying books. We raised over £200. Thank you again.

Our St Nicolas / Christmas Lunch in Coseners House will be on Sunday 5 December (St Nicolas' Day). A menu and booking sheet is available from the website or in hard copy in Church (or ask Eluned). Please return booking sheets and payment to Jenny / Eluned as soon as possible. Hard copy or via email, pay via cheque or BACS – ask for details.

Christmas cards in aid of Church in Abingdon Twinning Group: are now on sale from Hildegard at £4.50 for a pack of 10 cards.

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.

The theme of the December issue of '**A Candle in the Window**' will be 'Old and New'. Contributions - articles, short reflections, poems etc on this theme or not all welcome. Send to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk by November 28th. Thank You

The Church in Abingdon: has been given permission to sing **Carols in the Market Place** on December 18 11am – 12 noon – and to distribute a leaflet with information regarding Christmas worship in member churches. No money will be collected. If you can participate please let Debra (CiA Administrator, dhmcknight@aol.com) or Julia Bishop know as soon as possible – as names and numbers are needed for a Covid assessment

Can you help? Jenny Fishpool is working with a local refugee family, who need, inter alia an old mobile phone, a double buggy for a newborn baby and a toddler, and winter shoes / boots (m size 7 1/2 , f size 6). Do contact Jenny if you think you have anything that might help.

DIARY DATES

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**. Featuring works by Haydn, Telemann, Handel, Vaughan-Williams, Gluck, Charpentier, Dvorak, Franck, Grieg, Radiohead, John Barry & Bach. All Welcome

Friday 26 November, 12 noon Mothers' Union Activism Service: No More 1in3, St. Nicolas' Church. Speaker Gwen Bevington. We hope to have the MU diocesan display and the 1,500 chains knitted by members. These chains are intended to focus on gender-based violence and modern-day slavery, not only nationally but also locally. Everyone is welcome. Attendees are asked to wear something purple.

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, Christmas Market at St. Helen's 10.00 to 2.30pm. Come and enjoy some refreshments and a chance to do your Christmas shopping. Sales of books, jewellery, gifts, plants, toys, pictures, a raffle, handbells all on offer, along with bacon butties, savouries and cakes to eat in or to take away. "

Saturday 27 November, Abingdon Passion Play AGM 7pm 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

Tuesday 30 November, Silent Reflections at 7.30 pm in St Michael and All Angels. Entry will be through the North door (opposite Albert Park). The wearing of masks is still recommended in areas of close contact. Final prayers will be at 8.30 pm and refreshments will be available. Sue Sheppy will introduce material on the theme: **Light in our darkness**. A copy will be emailed to all those on our list, and made available on St Michael's website. Paper copies will be available in church.

Thursday 2 December, Moving into Stillness: circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes, St Michael and All Angels on 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 between the two sessions.

Advent Labyrinth Walks: St Michael and All Angels will be open on **Tuesday 7, 14 and 21 December** between 11 am and noon, and 7 pm and 8 pm. There will an opportunity to walk the labyrinth or simply to enjoy the sacred space. Material for reflection will be available on a different Advent theme each week. A short prayer will be said at the beginning and end of each session, but feel free to come and go as you please. Entry will be through the door on the north side of the church (opposite Albert Park). The wearing of masks is still recommended in areas of close contact.

Saturday 4 December, St Leonard's Church, Sunningwell 3.30pm and 7pm: LAMPS Collective presents **Bread and Starlight** - the story of Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist. In this one-woman show for Advent, the character of Elizabeth reflects on the months of her pregnancy and a very special Advent visitor. Motherhood, mystery and miracles are the themes of this grown-up pause for breath before Christmas.

Tickets £10.00

3.30pm performance: <https://buytickets.at/lampscollective1/604943>

7pm performance: <https://buytickets.at/lampscollective1/605062>

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops and Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- That we and all leaders of the church may imitate the serving nature of Christ's kingship and live in the way of truth and peace;
- Her Majesty the Queen, especially at this time;
- Our government and politicians that they may place truth and integrity at the heart of their calling
- All those suffering from gender based violence, and those working to alleviate it;
- 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.

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***