



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 25 July 2021
St James the Apostle
11.15am Holy Communion
The Revd Paul Smith

Dear Friends

At a meeting with Clergy and Wardens at the beginning of last week we discussed the implications for our parish following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. We wanted to move forward carefully, mindful that there would be those who rejoiced following the lifting of restrictions, and those who are made anxious by them. We were also aware that for some people their vulnerability had increased because of the changes and remembered that the commandment to 'love your neighbour' is part of keeping each other safe.

You may be aware that in our area the number of infections have been increasing at an alarming rate. With this in mind too, we made these initial decisions:

- Although mask wearing is not mandatory, we agreed that we would strongly encourage people to continue wearing masks when attending worship;
- Advance Booking will no longer be necessary, but the sidespersons will note your attendance on arrival and ask you to use hand sanitiser;
- Additionally, although social distancing is no longer a legal requirement, we felt that people should be given the option to observe social distancing if they were more comfortable doing so;
- As from this Sunday 25 July, we would introduce congregational singing in line with the Church of England's guidance issued on 19 July. However, this would require everyone wishing to participate in singing to wear masks while doing so. Additionally, congregational singing would be limited to hymns only initially;
- Refreshments would now be available after worship on some Sundays for those who wish to stay, but this would be drinks only and not involve serving of biscuits or any other food;
- We would review all of the above in a months time;

We continue to pray for one another during this time of transition.

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT

Jeremiah 45.1-5

Psalms 126

Acts 11.27 - 12.2

Matthew 20.20-28

Collect: Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay: 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.

Sunday 1 August

8:00am *At St Helen's this month*

11:15am Morning Prayer – the Revd David Bevington

Following the relaxation of Covid regulations on 19 July, there is NO LONGER ANY requirement to register in advance for Services.

We will still be observing some covid mitigation measures during Services.

Congregational singing in the Abingdon Parish:

We are very happy that congregational singing is once more allowed in churches.

Nevertheless, because of ongoing high levels of infection, we request that members of the congregation observe the following precautions while singing, to ensure the safety of everyone:

- You are invited to join in the hymns. Other items will be sung by the choir.
- If you are at least two metres from anyone who does not live in your house, you are welcome to remove your mask while singing. If not, please keep it on.
- Where possible, face in the same direction as the people around you. Do not sing towards anyone else.

We will keep as many doors open as possible to increase ventilation in the church, which is a very large space, so the risks of virus infection are low.

CHURCH NEWS

Research Survey: Listening to Christian religious teaching:

I am inviting people to take part in an on-line survey as part of my PhD research.

Specifically, I am looking for people aged 18+ in the UK who regularly attend church to take part in this study.

The aim of this study is to examine the thoughts and feelings that result from listening to Christian religious teaching using music and the spoken word. If you choose to take part in this survey, you will be asked to listen to a recording and answer questions about what you have heard, together with questions about your own feelings.

This study has received ethics approval from Coventry University, where I am a student. Participation in the survey is voluntary and all responses are anonymous. If you have any questions or would like more information before taking the survey, or would like the survey link emailed to you, please feel free to contact me using my university email: brownj68@uni.coventry.ac.uk.

To take the survey, you can type or copy & paste this link into your web browser:

https://coventry.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5mye8G2StpYssv3

Silent Reflections will be held at St Michael's this **Tuesday 27 July** at 7.30 pm. Mask wearing is strongly encouraged and tea and coffee will be available at the end. Please sign on arrival to register your attendance. Rosalind Rutherford will introduce material on the theme: The Lilies of the Field. A copy will still be emailed to all those on our list, and made available on our Prayer and Worship Resources page. Paper copies will be available in church.

Cards / postcards featuring St Nicolas: we are pleased to announce that we have two styles of cards & postcards featuring St Nic's available for sale at the back of Church. Cards £2, postcards £1. Please put your donation in the wall safe or pay via the 'magic machine'. Thank you

On 3rd August, Philippa Randles will be joining other MU members doing a 5km (6 circuits) sponsored walk / jog, or in her case, wheelchair trundle around Albert Park, for the MU's 'Summer of Hope' initiative. The money raised will help support MU projects in countries around the world. If you would like to sponsor her there will be a sponsorship form in Church. More details from:- Philippa.g.randles1@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Christ's Hospital of Abingdon are hosting an event on **Friday 30 July** from 1pm to 3pm at the **Long Alley Almshouses** to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Almshouse Association of which the charity is a member. The Long Alley Garden, Hall and one of the almshouses will be open and light refreshments will be served.

The Annual Prime Time Summer Event Is taking place at Christ Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon, 5-8 August. The event is designed for people who are retired. Although it is run at church, it is open to the entire community; people of all faiths or none. The programme is structured around our memory of distant school days. Read more: <https://cca.uk.net/events/2315/joy!/>

Christian Aid events for your diaries

- Tea party in the garden of St Ethelwold's House on Sunday, 22nd August from 2.30pm.
- Fundraising walk on Saturday 4th September along the Two Rivers Walk (Out along the Ock and back beside the Thames) We hope to start from St Helen's Centre at 10 am but this has to be confirmed.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops, especially at this time in the life of our diocese;
- Revd Rob Glenny and all at St James', Radley, in our neighbouring parish today;
- all those anxious about the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions;
- the people of Germany and all those affected by recent flooding;
- All suffering in body, mind or spirit especially those in our own church community;
- 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;
- Teachers and pupils who are starting their summer holidays;
- All those for whom the summer holidays is a time of stress and worry, rather than rest and relaxation.

WORSHIP

In the parish:

St Nicolas' is now open for private prayer on Mondays 10-12noon.

St Helen's Church is open from 11am to 1pm for **private prayer** on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

On Wednesday Holy Communion will be in the South aisle of St Helen's at 10.30 am. No need to book.

On Thursday the Said Mass will be celebrated at St Michael's at 12.30pm (and will now take place weekly). No need to book.

Church at Home is continuing to offer invitations to attend live-streamed services from churches around the diocese. See

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/>

[Oxford Cathedral on-line services](#) - Sunday Sung Eucharist and Evensong, and weekday Services (includes service booklets and sermons). Archive available.

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.

RESOURCES ACCESSIBLE BY TELEPHONE

Diocesan Eucharist Recordings of most of the Sunday services should be available from around 11 am each Sunday. Simply call 01865 920930 and, once connected, dial 0 for the full service or 1 for a shortened form. Standard call rates apply.

Daily Hope A Church of England resource offering hymns, prayers and reflections as well as full services via a freephone number 0800 804 8044.

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	Mr Paul Rast-Lindsell	07876 277363
Church Warden Elect	Mrs Eluned Hallas	01235 529462
Parish Office		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 again Mondays to Thursdays, 10am-1pm (or by arrangement). To contact the office leave a message on the office phone 01235 520144, use the office mobile: 07395 943957 or email administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

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