

Changes to office hours due to COVID-19: You can contact the Parish Administrator by email, leave a message on the office phone 01235 520144 as usual or on the office mobile: 07395 943957 during normal office hours: Monday-Friday, 10am – 1pm; office is closed on Thursdays.

For Your Thoughts and Prayers :

- Those who feel they have no voice in society and those who try to speak for them
- All those returning to school and university in the autumn
- All who continue to suffer from COVID-19 and health care workers, hospital support staff, first responders and other key workers
- Those who are struggling financially or who are out of work

For intercessory prayer requests contact clairebolton@googlemail.com.

Please pray for the residents of Gosling Court, Grebe Close, Harding Road and Healey Close.

For health and wellbeing: Connie Tait, Barbara Mazey, Janet and Ken Chapman, Anne Benad, Janet Perry, Margaret Brooks, Mary Barton, Sue Hartley, Chris Bayliss, Bill Burnett, Gina Bruce, Sue Phipps, Angela Smith, Eleanor Robinson (outside Parish), Mary Blanks, Laura Davies, Ann Moss, Alexandra Green.

Next Week's Readings: Exodus 3.1-15; Romans 12.9-end; Matthew 16.21-end [30th August – Trinity 12]

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Charles Miller
Team Vicar	The Revd Paul Smith
Associate Priests	The Revd Jennifer Brown The Revd Canon Charles Masheder
Licensed Lay Minister	Mrs Gwen Bevington
Wardens	Mrs Linda Hobbs and Dr Geoff Meen
Director of Music	Dr Peter Foster
Assistant Organist	Mr Andrew Shouler
Parish Administrator	Mrs Jenny Balshaw
Caretaker	Mr Philip Atkinson

Parish Office 01235 520144 / 07395 943957

E-mail: administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

[http://https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/](https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/).

A copy of this Newsletter is posted regularly on our website.



St HELEN'S CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

16th August 2020

The Blessed Virgin Mary [Trinity 10]

23rd August 2020

St Bartholomow [Trinity 11]

It's hard to believe that it's mid-August already! What an extraordinary spring and summer it has been. The pandemic and lockdown have made us more aware of people in our community and society who might, in normal times, go largely unnoticed and whose voices are often unheard – the elderly, those working in jobs previously thought of as 'unskilled' or 'unimportant', that turned out to be key (supermarket staff, delivery drivers, care home workers), and those, especially children, living in poverty and struggling to get enough to eat. This year also saw the Black Lives Matter movement come to prominence after the killing of George Floyd, prompting discussions in several countries about race relations and how we commemorate figures from history.

What these things have in common is that they have forced us, as individuals and society, to listen to voices that aren't the voices of privilege and the *status quo*. We are listening to other voices, and that can only be a good thing. Even if we disagree, even when we don't fully understand, it's important, especially for Christians, to listen and to hear. Jesus didn't only listen to the voices from within his own society and faith. In his encounters with the Syrophenician woman and with the Roman centurion, he listened to the voices of outsiders and allowed himself to be moved by them. Jesus responded to their need and their pleas for help (even if, in the case of the Syrophenician woman, he first had to be convinced).

Faith Forum will restart on the first Sunday of September and in this series and in the spring we will be focusing on this need to hear from other voices. From September to December, we will hear the voices of women in the Christian tradition, beginning with Jane Baun's talk on *'The Life and Work of Mother Maria of Paris'*. In the spring, we'll be thinking about the place of healing, wholeness and disability within the life of the Church.

Christ calls his followers to be a voice for the voiceless. But to do that, we must first hear what it is they want to say.

Revd Jen Brown, Associate Priest

WELCOME to St Helen's today. If you have access to the internet, please follow us on our website. A short service is uploaded on the St Helen's website each Sunday <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/>

16th August Blessed Virgin Mary [Trinity 10]

Readings: Revelation 11.19-12.6, 10
[Galatians 4.4-7]
Luke 1.46-55

Collect: Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; 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. Amen.

23rd August St Bartholomew [Trinity 11]

Readings: Acts 5.12-16
1 Corinthians 4.9-15
Luke 22.24-30

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach your word: grant that your Church may love that word which he believed and may faithfully preach and receive the same; 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. Amen.

CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER:

- **ST HELEN'S CHURCH** is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, 11am – 1 pm. (The Lady Aisle and Chapel will be accessible. Toilets will not be available to the public.)
- **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH** is open for private prayer on Thursdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm

- **ST NICOLAS' CHURCH** is open each Monday between 10 am and 1 pm

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

The schedule of Sunday services in the parish are as follows:

8.00 am - Holy Communion (1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays) – St Nicolas' Church

9.30 am – Mass – St Michael's (each week)

10.30 am – Holy Eucharist – St Helen's Church (each week); *this service will be up-loaded in full to the website each Sunday afternoon.*

11.15am – Service of the Word (2nd & 4th) St Nicolas' Church

The booking contact for services in each church is:

St Helen's - Parish Administrator
administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

St Michael's - Peter Squire
ptscwatstms@gmail.com 01235 797051

St Nicolas' - Andrew Coker
andrew.r.coker@gmail.com 01235 539929

8am service - Peter Penfold papenfold@aol.co.uk

You need to contact the designated person in each congregation to reserve a place and whether or not you wish to receive Holy Communion where a Eucharist is celebrated (wafer only). Hand sanitizing is required and all service participants will be expected to wear face coverings except for medical reasons. organ music may accompany a service, but singing is not yet allowed.

NOTICES

PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL (revision only). Due to recent Covid-19 lockdown the Parish Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was postponed until 22nd October so a further revision of the Roll is required. Lay people who worship with us can join the roll if you have been

baptised and are aged 16 or over. You need do nothing if you completed a form in 2019 and have no changes to contact details. Application forms are available from Gill Titcombe 01235 525522 email: gtitcombe@gmail.com or the Parish Office.

FAITH FORUM. The first Faith Forum of the new term will be on Sunday 6th September. We currently expect to be meeting in the parish centre, as per usual. Because of the need for social distancing, places are limited and booking is necessary. Please contact the parish office to book a place if you wish to attend Faith Forum. We hope to record the talk and make it available on the parish YouTube channel for those who aren't able to attend in person. We are not currently able to offer refreshments so there will be no gathering for breakfast before the talk, which will start at 9.30am. Our theme for this series is '*Other voices: Women, Theology and the Church*'. Our speaker in September will be the Revd Dr Jane Baun, speaking about the life and work of *Mother Maria of Paris*. **Please note** that if for some reason it is not possible to hold the talk in the parish centre, those who have booked to attend will be notified and we will offer the talk via Zoom instead.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW We are hoping to bring out Issue 7 in September. Thank you for your encouragement! The theme will be 'Journeys', possibly in time, possibly in space. Think laterally and send us your contributions on the theme or not to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk by the end of August.

OHCT Sponsored Ride & Stride will be on Saturday 12th September. We need stewards to welcome visitors to St Helen's. If you would like to take part, be a steward or find out more, contact Jeanette Thomas on 01235 202554 or jeanette.thomas@btinternet.com

SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE. It is hoped to be able to gradually increase the number of spaces available for people to attend Sunday worship in St Helen's Church, including some 'family pews'. Contact the office each week to reserve a seat.