

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS : Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10am-1pm.

The office is closed on Thursdays.

Contact the Parish Administrator by email or on the office phone 01235 520144.

For Your Thoughts and Prayers :

- All who work as health workers in our Hospitals, Care Homes, Hospices and in the Community;
- Those suffering from renewed and challenging restrictions;
- Those who make decisions which affect the lives of others;
- For the joy of art in all its forms;
- For all who have recently lost loved ones and those who minister to them including Funeral Directors.

For intercessory prayer requests contact clairebolton@googlemail.com.

Please pray for the residents of Letcombe Avenue, Lindsay Drive, Lombard Street, Longfellow Drive.

For health & wellbeing: Connie Tait, Barbara Mazey, Janet and Ken Chapman, Anne Benad, 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, Yong Mama (Sok Han's mother), Marian Phillips.

Next Week's Readings: (Nehemiah 8.1-12);
Colossians 3.12-17;
Matthew 24.30-35

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/>.

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



St HELEN'S CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

18th October 2020

St Luke's Day

Which is your favourite Gospel? It could be interesting taking a poll among our Congregation and finding the answer. We are indeed greatly blessed in having all four Gospels as they speak to us in different ways. For some, the favourite will be Luke's as it contains uniquely some very beautiful passages including the opening two chapters with their account of the birth of our Saviour. The Parables of the lost sheep, lost coin and the prodigal son, only appear in this Gospel as does the most famous, the Good Samaritan.

What I love is the fact that Luke provides a sequel to his Gospel in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles; it tells the story of how the Church in its earliest days and years, following the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, learnt to live without the physical presence of Jesus. It is one of the most readable books. For the first half the main character is Peter but then we hear about Paul's inspiring missionary journeys. It was a challenging time for the Church but it thrived wonderfully – perhaps the Church can always thrive in more challenging times...like now?

Luke is described by Paul in his Epistle to the Colossians as the 'beloved physician' and that may well have been his profession. Certainly, he is the Patron Saint of Doctors and there are countless hospitals and medical agencies described as 'St Luke's'. At this time when the further threat from Covid-19 is upon us, those who work within our NHS and other medical institutions are facing renewed challenges and they must be in the forefront of our prayers. Earlier in the year we were aware of their tireless response to the pandemic and some, if not all, of them must be downhearted by the new threat.

Luke is also the Patron Saint of Artists and this may have come about as his style of writing is beautifully crafted. For some reason he is also the Saint for Butchers!

We have much to be grateful for as we celebrate Luke's life.

The Revd Canon Charles Masheder, Associate Priest

WELCOME to St Helen's today. The *Sung Eucharist* is at 10.30 am. If you are new to St Helen's or a visitor, please make yourself known.

You can follow us on the church website:

<https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/>

Please observe COVID protocols. Hand sanitizing is required and service participants will be expected to wear face coverings except for medical reasons.

FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

Readings: (Acts 16.6-12a);
2 Timothy 4.5-17;
Luke 10.1-9

Collect: Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; 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.

PARISH SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

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

9.30 am – Mass at St Michaels Church;

10.30 am – Holy Eucharist at St Helen's Church [*this service will be up-loaded in full to the website each Sunday afternoon*];

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

Contact the designated person in each congregation to reserve a place and whether or not you wish to receive Holy Communion (wafer only). Hand sanitizing is required and all service participants will be expected to wear face coverings except for medical reasons.

Booking contact for services in each church:

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

St Michaels ptscwatstms@gmail.com /01235 797051

St Nicolas' andrew.r.coker@gmail.com /01235 539929

8am service papenfold@aol.co.uk

THIS COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

Morning Prayer will be said at 9.10 am weekdays.

NEXT SUNDAY *Holy Eucharist* will be at 10.30 am.

NOTICES

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING [APCM] will take place on Thursday 22 October at 7.00 pm in St Michael & All Angels Church, Park Road. To book your place, please contact Eluned, PCC Secretary, 01235 529462 or eluned@hallas.org.uk.

RIDE AND STRIDE 2020. *Thank you to all those who sponsored our family, and Norman and Elizabeth Dawson, for this year's Ride & Stride. Between us we raised just over £1,000. In due course St Helen's will receive half of this back again.* Jeanette Thomas

ABINGDON FOOD BANK. *Thank you to everyone who supported Abingdon food bank this Harvest festival. Food bank is still very busy supporting struggling families and individuals. Unfortunately, the current situation is not expected to improve, if you are in a position to donate either tinned food, or with a small donation, all assistance will be gratefully received. The Food Bank basket is now at the back of the church together with a list of the food required.* Linda Hobbs Church Warden

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX HOLDERS. *The boxes were collected later this year due to Covid lockdown. Thank you for your amazing support and generosity, £869.75 has been sent up to headquarters to aid the society continue their good work with vulnerable young people in the UK.* Trish Howkins & Pat Greenaway

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW. Issue 8 of 'A Candle in the Window' is available if you have not yet seen it. We hope to bring out Issue 9 on Sunday 1st November but it can only happen if we can persuade you to write

something! The theme is 'Saints' so you could write a paragraph about your favourite Saint or someone that has inspired you. Other subjects are, as always, welcome. Deadline Friday 23rd October. Thank you in anticipation!

WORK STARTING! *I'm sure everyone will be relieved and happy to learn, that the scheduled work to repair fallen plaster work in the Nave and the work to the North Aisle will begin week commencing 19th October. Currently work is scheduled to be completed in approximately 4 weeks, but may be longer, if further loose plaster work is found. We therefore hope to be in a position to move back into the body of the church late November.* Linda Hobbs, Church Warden

WINDOW ON CHRISTIANITY – the new primer on Christianity by parishioner Carol Worthington is available for purchase in the Parish Office (£11.95).

ABINGDON ARTISTS. Come to our Autumn Exhibition at Christ Church Barn, Tues 27 to Sat 31 Oct, 10am to 4.30pm (4.00 on Sat). A record number of pieces have been entered including sculpture, unframed items and cards, as well as lots of new and original paintings most of which are for sale. Covid-19 safety arrangements apply: face masks, sanitising, track and trace, limited number of people at any one time, card payments. Do come!

CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER.

St Helen's Church will not be open for private prayer during October.

St Michael & All Angels Church is open for private prayer on Thursdays, 11am to 1pm;

St Nicolas' Church is open Mondays, 10am to 1pm.

Anti-Slavery Day on Sunday 18th October 2020 provides an important opportunity to remember the many victims of modern slavery and join the fight against it. Information from *The Clewer Initiative* on www.theclewerinitiative.org/anti-slavery-day-2020