

During January you can contact the Parish Administrator by email or phone 01235 520144 or 07395 943957 from Monday – Thursday. Please phone to arrange access to the office on Mondays or Thursdays; observe COVID protocols by signing in if you visit. Jenny will be working from home on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

For Your Thoughts and Prayers :

From Pope Francis' comments on his encyclical *Laudato Si'*:

'*Laudato Si'* links the scientific consensus on the destruction of the environment with our self-forgetting, our rejection of who we are as creatures of a loving Creator, living inside His creation but at odds with it. It's the sadness of a humanity rich in know-how but lacking the inner security of knowing ourselves as creatures of God's love, a knowledge expressed in our simultaneous respect for God, for each other, and for creation.' (*Let Us Dream. The Path to a Better Future* [London, 2020], p. 33)

For intercessory prayer requests contact clairebolton@googlemail.com.

Please pray for the residents of Queen Anne Court, Queen Street, Radley Road, Rawlings Grove.

For health & wellbeing: Connie Tait, Barbara Mazey, Janet and Ken Chapman, Anne Benad, Margaret Brooks, Mary Barton, Sue Hartley, Chris Bayliss, Bill Burnett, Sue Phipps, Angela Smith, Eleanor Robinson (outside Parish), Mary Blanks, Ann Moss, Sok Han Yong, Yong Mama (Sok Han's mother), Linda Brewer, Thea Murphy.

Next Week's Readings: (1 Samuel 3: 1-10); Revelation 5: 1-10; John 1: 43-end

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Charles Miller
Team Vicar	The Revd Paul Smith
Associate Priests	The Revd Jennifer Brown The Revd Canon Charles Masheder The Revd Sok Han Yong
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 or 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

10th January 2021

The Baptism of Christ

On Wednesday, January 6th, marking the end of Christmastide, the Church celebrated the manifestation of Christ to the Gentile, or Epiphany, as we call it in our liturgical cycle. The Sunday immediately following celebrates the baptism of Christ in the Jordan River by St John the Baptist. Usually today we celebrate with the rite Blessing of Water by the river Thames. However, our latest 'lock-down' prohibits that, and our services for the mid-term will be recorded/live-streamed. Of course we're all disappointed by this unlooked-for turn events with the world-wide health situation, but we carry on with the marvels of technology until the marvels of medicine have the desired effects. I and the other clergy and lay ministers hope that you'll want to 'tune-in' week by week for the online worship we offer.

The service formats we'll use will be attached to your e-Newsletter each week in case you need the prompt of a text in front of you. On special days like today and at Candlemas, January 31st, that will be more important since particulars to the feast will be added.

During the month of January the Parish Administrator will be working from home on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and based in the office on Mondays and Thursdays (Friday will be her day off). But please note the precautions operating in the Parish Office – make an appointment to come if you can't do your business by phone or electronically, and be sure to wear a mask.

The Revd Dr Charles Miller, Team Rector

FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

The service will be recorded today and available on the website as usual. Today we are also streaming the service as an experiment. You will be able to access it on Zoom from 10.15am. Join Zoom meeting for the 10.30 am service on:

[Zoom link removed from online newsletter – please contact the Parish Administrator for access to the live stream. The recorded service will be uploaded to the website as soon as possible]

Readings: (Genesis 1.1-5)
Acts 19.1-7
Mark 1.4-11

Collect: Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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.**

THIS COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

There will be no Morning Prayer until further notice.

NEXT SUNDAY The *Holy Eucharist* will be at 10.30 am. The service will be recorded and available on <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/>

NOTICES

CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ on 16th January: Break the lockdown blues and join our Post-Christmas Quiz on Saturday, 16 January at 7.00 pm! This will be an informal, light-hearted quiz with questions to suit everyone. To register your interest email Cliff Marshall at candpmarshall@btinternet.com; you will be sent a Zoom link a few days before the event, and invited to make a donation to the *Christian Aid Abingdon Christmas Appeal*.

CHURCH-in-ABINGDON CHRISTIAN AID WALK 2021 will be 'self-service' this year and can be done anytime during January, singly or in household/wider groups and must follow COVID guidelines at the time the walk is completed. Visit 9 CiA churches to find a single letter [on poster] at each church to make an anagram of a word connected with Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal. Contact Rob King rking.home@ntlworld.com Ab 553715 or Mary Anderson 07956 813524 mary.fulani@gmail.com. Sponsors are invited to donate via the Just Giving www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Abingdon-ChristianAid-Walk2021OR838 by 31st January.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW. We are hoping to bring out the first edition of the new year on Sunday February 7th. The deadline for contributions is Friday 29th January. Pictures, poems, reflections, hopes, memories etc all welcome. Please send to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk.

FAITH FORUM. Spring 2021 will see the continuation of our series on 'other voices', this time looking at healing, health & disability in the life of the Church. The first of the talks will be on 7th

February and will be held via Zoom (it may be possible to gather in the parish centre to view the talk together - more details will be available).

- 7 February: Revd Dr Helen Leathard, Professor Emerita of Healing Science & Pharmacology and Trustee of the Guild of Health & St Raphael - *The role of the Church in promoting physical and mental wellbeing*;
- 7 March: Revd Katie Tupling, Oxford Diocesan Advisor on Disability - *Disability and the Church*;
- 2 May: Revd Paul Smith, Team Vicar, Abingdon-on-Thames - *Thinking about the healing miracles of the gospels in the light of disability*.

ONLINE READING GROUP will meet via Zoom, fortnightly, on a Thursday afternoon from 4pm to 5pm beginning on January 21st. The book the group will be reading and discussing is *Encounters - Jesus, connection and story: past, present and future* by Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, published by Darton-Longman and Todd, ISBN: 978-0-232-53466-5. The group is open to anyone, but if you wish to participate please contact Susan Scott by email susan.scott21@btinternet.com, so the Zoom details can be forwarded to you.

Gina Bruce. A service to celebrate the life of Georgina Bruce took place at South Oxfordshire Crematorium on Wednesday 6th January at 3pm. Our sympathy goes to Fiona Tonks and family.

Please continue to check the Parish website for updates:

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

~

NOTE: when the office is closed (Fridays until further notice) please contact the Revd Canon Charles Masheder on 01235 520959 for any urgent pastoral issues.