



# St NICOLAS' CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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## **Sunday 10 January 2021**

### **The Baptism of Christ**

#### **Message from Fr Paul**

Dear Friends

Following the announcement of a third Lockdown the clergy and wardens of the parish met to discuss worship during this period. We made the difficult decision to close our buildings for private prayer and public worship for the foreseeable future. With the increasing number of Covid infection rates, not least in our own parish, we felt that this was the most responsible thing to do for the sake of the safety of us all.

So today I will be leading a Service of the Word from the Vicarage via Zoom and a link will be sent to you by e-mail. Other officiants who lead our worship will be invited to do so from their homes also. At least for the time being, on the Sundays when we do not have a service, we will continue to meet for Zoom Coffee at 12noon

I am acutely aware that this will be a challenging time for us all and there may be some of you who cannot participate on-line. The alternative telephone service to access the Diocesan Eucharist and also the Daily Hope remain available and I hope these be helpful for those who cannot participate on-line.

On this day when we celebrate the Baptism of Christ we are reminded that we are incorporated into the death and resurrection of Jesus through our own baptism. We are washed and made clean through the waters of baptism and called out of darkness into his marvelous light. We are bound together by our baptism and, at this time, this is a comforting and sure truth to which we must hold.

I would like to stress trying to keep in contact with people via phone while we cannot meet in person.

May the light of Christ which is revealed to the whole world in this Epiphanytide dispel the darkness we may feel at this time and all that overshadows the world in this pandemic.

With love and blessings and the assurance of my prayers.

*Fr Paul*

## READINGS & COLLECTS

Genesis 1.1-5

Psalm 29

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.

## SERVICES

In the light of the new 'lockdown' it has been agreed that there will be **NO IN-CHURCH SERVICES for the foreseeable future.**

Our churches will also **not be open for private prayer.**

We hope to be able to zoom our **11:15 am services** on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month and will try to make an audio recording of the sermon available also. The **10:30 Service at from St Helen's** will also be available online – at 10:30 via zoom and afterwards as a recording. It is hoped that **St Michael's** will also soon be able to offer an alternative to public worship.

## CHURCH NEWS

**Please note the Parish Administrator's amended January hours:**

Working in the office: Monday & Thursday 9am - 3pm. Please observe COVID protocols and sign in if you visit the office.

Working from home: Tuesday & Wednesday 9am - 3pm.

To contact Jenny leave a message on the office phone 01235 520144, use the office mobile: 07395 943957 or email [administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk)

The **Parish Christian book 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 inform Susan Scott on 01235 522960, [susan.scott21@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.scott21@btinternet.com) so the Zoom details can be forwarded to you.

**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 held via Zoom on **7 February** when **Revd Dr Helen Leathard**, Professor Emerita of Healing Science & Pharmacology and Trustee of the Guild of Health & St Raphael will speak on ***The role of the Church in promoting physical and mental wellbeing***

**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. Send to [candle@abingdonparish.org.uk](mailto:candle@abingdonparish.org.uk)

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** 18th-25th January. You may like to take advantage of resources available from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

**David Hare, the County Ecumenical Development Officer for Oxfordshire and Berkshire**

has recorded a short reflection on the theme, which is available from

[UNITY.mp4 - Google Drive](#)

### **OTHER WORSHIP RESOURCES**

**Diocesan Church at Home** (Live-streamed Eucharist) online each Sunday at 10:00am (with recordings of previous services and other resources also available):

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

[Oxford Cathedral on-line services](#) (includes service booklets and sermons)

An archive of cathedral services and sermons is available on Soundcloud

<https://soundcloud.com/user-867515242>

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 11am each Sunday. Simply call 01865 920930 and, once connected, dial 0 for the full service or 1 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.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

The **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 that must follow the COVID guidelines in place at the time the walk is completed. Visit 9 CiA churches to find a single letter [on a poster] at each church to make an anagram of a word connected with Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal. Sponsors are invited to make a donation via a Just Giving page. If you'd like to know more – please contact Eluned (see end). If you'd like to make a general donation to Christian Aid via the Abingdon group please use: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/Abingdon-Churches-OR838>

**Christmas Christian Aid Online Quiz, 16 January 2021:** Following the success of our quiz in May for Christian Aid Week, another quiz is planned for the evening of Saturday 16th January 2021. If you would like to take part in this quiz, and raise funds for the work of Christian Aid, please save the date on your new calendars. When you are ready to register please get in touch with Cliff and Pauline at [candpmarshall@btinternet.com](mailto:candpmarshall@btinternet.com).

**Abingdon Peace Group** Abingdon Peace Group are delighted that all weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) will soon be outlawed, and are planning a small event in Abingdon Market Place on Saturday 23rd January 2021 to celebrate the entry into force (the day before) of a new United Nations treaty. The Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons brings nuclear weapons into line with chemical and biological weapons, which are already illegal

under International Law. Although the treaty will only become binding on the UK if we sign it, it is clear that the majority world has rejected nuclear weapons, and we can expect rapid progress on ridding the world of them. Thirty bishops have already called for the UK government to sign the treaty, as has Pope Francis. For more info email [abingdonpeace@gmail.com](mailto:abingdonpeace@gmail.com)

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Those suffering from Covid-19 in our parish and their families;
- Those working on 'the front line' in our NHS; for all in the emergency services;
- Those administering and receiving the Covid-19 vaccine;
- For our schools, especially St Nicolas School and for all children and families engaged in on-line learning;
- Our parish clergy, wardens, and our congregations as we make the transition to on-line worship;
- Our troubled and divided world;
- For 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;
- All those in positions of authority or influence, especially for our Prime Minister and Government;
- All suffering in body, mind or spirit and those suffering, throughout the world, from the health, economic and political effects of the coronavirus.

### 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 Wardens	Mr Paul Rast-Lindsell	07876 277363
	Mr Andrew Coker	01235 539929
Parish Office	Mrs Jenny Balshaw	01235 520144
Website	<a href="https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/">https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/</a>	
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon">https://www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon</a>	

*Please send any information for next week's pew slip to [eluned@hallas.org.uk](mailto:eluned@hallas.org.uk) by Wednesday*