



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 13 September 2020

Holy Cross / Fourteenth after Trinity

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world

(Holy Cross, 13 September)

Today we will celebrate Holy Communion together for the first time at this service in six months. We gather therefore with special thanksgiving around the Lord's table. The service will in many ways be familiar, but in other ways different and I thank you for bearing with us as we become accustomed to it under the current guidelines. We receive in 'one kind' (the bread) only, and follow social distancing rules when we receive.

Today we mark the Feast of the Holy Cross, which falls tomorrow, a day which helps us to reflect on the saving work of Jesus upon the cross. The cross was the instrument of the most shameful and prolonged death imposed in the Roman world.

For Christians it is the symbol that stands at the centre of the universe declaring no greater love, the sign of supreme, sacrificial love which leads from sorrow to joy, from death to life. There is no day on which the cross of Jesus does not throw its shadow of suffering and its strength of hope. Its arms of wood reach out to embrace the world, pointing from earth to heaven.

Not only does this Feast originally commemorate the discovery of the true cross in Jerusalem by St Helena in the fourth century, but it is good to make a special memorial day, in thanksgiving that Christ's saving work on the cross has set us free.

With love and blessings

Fr Paul

WORSHIP

The Readings & Collect for Holy Cross Sunday

Numbers 21.4-9

Psalm 22.23-28

Philippians 2.6-11

John 3.13-17

Collect: Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Readings & Collect for the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 50.15-21

Psalm 103.[1-7]8-13*

Romans 14.1-12

Matthew 18.21-35

Collect: Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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.

CHURCH NEWS

Our Service today is Holy Communion at 11:15am led by The Revd Paul Smith

On Sunday 20 September our service will be Holy Communion (BCP) at 8am led by Bishop Henry Scriven

On Sunday 27 September our service will be Morning Worship at 11:15 led by Gewn Bevington

Congregation members need to register in advance to attend a service in one of our three churches by 12 noon on the preceding Friday.

For St Nicolas:

- ❖ 8.00 am - Holy Communion (1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays) – St Nicolas' Church
Register with Peter Penfold papenfold@aol.co.uk or 01235 553411
- ❖ 11:15 am – Holy Communion / Service of the Word (2nd & 4th Sundays)
– St Nicolas' Church
Register with Andrew Coker andrew.r.coker@gmail.com 01235 539929

Please see the [website](#) for details of how to book for all three Churches.

We will make the 11:15am Service at St Nic's available, live, via Zoom.

Extracts from the Service will also be loaded onto the [St Nic's website](#)

(<https://stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/download.html>) as soon as possible during the day.

Parish Opening for private prayer:

- St Nicolas': Mondays 10 am – 1 pm.
- St Helen's: Wednesdays and Saturdays 11 am – 1 pm.
- St Michael's: Thursdays 11 am – 1 pm.

Morning Prayer at St Helen's Church begins on **Monday, 7 September at 9.10am** in the Lady Chapel. There will be assigned seats for the regular attenders; more spaces will be available nearby in the Lady Aisle. There is no plan yet to start Evening Prayer.

There is still time to sponsor Philippa for participating in the **OHCT Sponsored Ride & Stride** on Saturday 12th September. Funds raised will be shared equally between OHCT & St Nic's. Please place your contribution in a labelled envelope and give it to Philippa at a Service (8am or 11:15am). Or email Philippa for her postal address - philippa.g.randles1@gmail.com

Edition 7 of '**A Candle in the Window**' with the theme of '**Journeys**', is now available at https://stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/downloads/CandleInTheWindow202009_7.pdf

Parish Electoral Roll 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 Eluned Hallas – Ab 529462 or eluned@hallas.org.uk.

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting [APCM]** will take place on Thursday, 22nd October, at 7.00pm in St Michael & All Angels Church, Park Road. The St Nicolas' ADCM will be before this – date to be announced

Parish Office normal office hours resume in September: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10 am-1 pm. The office is closed on Thursdays. Please observe COVID protocols and sign in if you visit the office.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Our brothers and sisters at St Helen's, celebrating their Patronal Festival today;
- All returning to universities over the next weeks, students and staff alike;
- All those who lead the church, our bishops and clergy;
- Those who are unable to join us physically for worship at this time;
- All those suffering, throughout the world, from the health, economic and political effects of the coronavirus;
- Residents, relatives and all the staff of the care homes in our parish, especially Old Station House and Bridge House with whom we are especially linked.

WORSHIP RESOURCES

The [Parish resources](#) page contains links to Sunday's Service at St Helen's, plus an archive of Parish resources. The [St Nicolas' website](#) will have recordings of 11:15am Services.

ONLINE:

[Diocesan Church at Home](#) (Live-streamed) The online Diocesan service returns to its regular 10am slot from Sunday 6 September. Church at Home is designed to supplement local church worship. The order of service, together with links to view or listen to the service will be posted on the Diocesan [website](#) on Saturday.

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

<https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/oxfords-cathedral/online-worship>.

An archive of cathedral services and sermons is available on Soundcloud

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

BY TELEPHONE:

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

You can contact the Parish Administrator on administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk leave a message on the office phone [01235 520144](tel:01235520144) or use the office mobile: [07395 943957](tel:07395943957)

***We now have a new [online donations page](#) accessible from the website
Please send any information for next week's pew slip to
eluned@hallas.org.uk by Wednesday***