

You can contact the Parish Administrator by email or phone 01235 520144 or 07395 943957 from Monday – Thursday, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm (closed on Fridays); please observe COVID protocols and sign in when you visit.



# St HELEN'S CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

## For Your Thoughts and Prayers :

- For Orthodox Christians celebrating Easter today.
- For the joy of the simple pleasures in life, particularly in the beauty of Spring.
- For the work of Christian Aid and similar organisations.
- For the people of India, Brazil and elsewhere where so many are suffering
- For all involved in the continuing vaccination process here.
- For all those elected at last Thursday's APCM and especially any new to office.

For intercessory prayer requests contact [clairebolton@googlemail.com](mailto:clairebolton@googlemail.com).

*Please pray for the residents of West St Helen's Street, Westfield, Wharf Close, Willow Brook.*

**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, Eleanor Robinson (outside Parish), Mary Blanks, Ann Moss, Linda Brewer, Thea Murphy, Frank Peirson, Janet Perry, Nancy McLellan.

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Next Week's Readings: Acts 10:44-end; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15: 9-17.

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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 or 07395 943957

E-mail: [administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk)

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

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

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

How do you feel compared with this time last year? Still fairly new in the original lockdown, we were then trying to get used to a very different way of life; various optimistic proposals of when it would all be over were beginning to look far less likely than first suggested.

Now, the celebration of Eastertide this year is far more ebullient and for some of us returning to church, even with the restrictions, has been a positive encouragement to living the Christian life. We can look forward too to being allowed further restrictions being lifted.

One of the things that people noted last year was that we were more in tune with the natural order than we had been and we enjoyed, possibly for the first time, the wonderful signs of Spring. The song of the birds, the buds on the trees and the sight and smell of the flowers all warmed our hearts. These things are still with us, as they have been every year, and I am sure we all hope that our enjoyment of them will be as fulsome as it was then, particularly when we also add in our new-found freedoms. With all these aspects of life, we need to continue to respect each other. My various phone conversations though the months and more recently to a number of you have revealed an interesting variety of reactions and however we feel, we must be ultimately loving to - and caring for - each other.

As we approach another Christian Aid week (May 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>) our hearts must also be deeply and lovingly moved by those in various poorer countries where health systems are over-powered, particularly the very concerning situation in India. The pandemic has, in our times of suffering, had a chance to help us feel more part of a worldwide family; may that be evident as we go forward.

*The Revd Canon Charles Masheder, Associate Priest.*

**WELCOME** to St Helen's today, the Fifth Sunday of Easter. *Holy Communion (BCP)* is at 8.00 am at St Nicolas' Church.

*Faith Forum* will be on Zoom at 9.15am. The talk will be given by The Revd Paul Smith: *Thinking about the healing miracles of the gospels in the light of disability.*

The *Eucharist* is at 10.30 am and can also be accessed on Zoom from 10.15 am.

[Zoom links removed from online newsletter – please contact the Parish Administrator for access to the live streams. The recordings will be uploaded to the website as soon as possible]

There will be no evening service.

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#### FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

**Readings:** Acts 8:26-end  
1 John 4:7-end  
John 15: 1-8

**Collect:** Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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#### THIS COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

*There will be no Morning Prayer.*

**ON WEDNESDAY** *Holy Communion* will be in the South aisle at 10.30 am.

**NEXT SUNDAY** *Holy Communion* will be at 8.00 am in St Nicolas' Church. The *Eucharist* will be in church at 10.30am.

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#### NOTICES

**CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER.** St Helen's Church is open from 11am to 1pm for private prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays during May and June.

#### ADVANCE BOOKING FOR SERVICES.

**Wednesday Eucharist at 10.30am** in the South aisle. No need to book in advance.

**8 o'clock Holy Communion (BCP).** To reserve a place for this service please contact Peter Penfold [papenfold@aol.co.uk](mailto:papenfold@aol.co.uk) or Jan Lawrence [jil129@outlook.com](mailto:jil129@outlook.com).

Advance booking is still required for all other services via the Parish office; services will also be available on the website

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

**CANDLE IN THE WINDOW.** The May edition will be available on or just before Sunday May 9th which is the start of Christian Aid Week.

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK** runs officially from 10th-16th May. Please remember the work of this vital organisation in your prayers. Next Sunday, members of our Christian Aid group will speak in the sermon 'slot' about the work of Christian Aid. We're not organising a local Quiz this year, though there is an [online one](#). We will have a Christian Aid stall in the marketplace from 10-12 on Saturday 15th May; please do come and join us. There will be information stands and an opportunity to donate. We have also created our own e-envelope, which makes online donations very, very easy! Just click [here](#). Thank you. Visit the Christian Aid website

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/> for information about projects, inspirational stories and ways you can support their work. Rob King and Mary Anderson.

**FRIENDS OF ST HELEN [FOSH]** stall is now open again, at the back of church. If you are looking for cards there is a good selection for special occasions. Have a look.

**VERGERS FOR CHURCH EVENTS.** We are looking for some new volunteers to support the team who get the church ready and welcome visitors to special church events, such as baptisms, weddings, funerals and school services. Please speak to the Rector, or contact the Parish Office if you would be willing to help from time to time with this ministry. Thank you.

**GAZEBO NEEDED** for a small wedding reception at St Helen's on 15<sup>th</sup> May. Please contact Linda Hobbs tel: 01235 529725 or the Parish office if you can help.

#### PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames has a vacancy for a senior administrative position. The post will be part time, hours to be agreed with the Rector.

The post requires a variety of skills to enable support for the three parish churches, clergy team and lay church officers. Please contact the Parish office [administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk) for more information and application details.

**Deadline for applications: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**PARISH OFFICE.** The Parish office is now open again Mondays to Thursdays, 10am-1pm and other times by arrangement. When the office is closed (Fridays until further notice) contact the Revd Canon Charles Masheder on 01235 520959 for any urgent pastoral issues.