



# St HELEN'S CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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.

## ***For your thoughts and prayers:***

- Her Majesty the Queen and for her family
- Her Government and other leaders throughout the world
- The preservation of our planet as part of God's creation
- A renewed sense of our role as Christians
- For all children and young people

*Please pray for the residents of: Medlicot Drive, Metcalf Close, Midget Close and Mill Paddock.*

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

**For health & wellbeing:** Connie Tait, Barbara Mazey, Ken Chapman, Anne Benad, Mary Barton, Sue Hartley, Chris Bayliss, Bill Burnett, Sue Phipps, Ann Moss, Linda Brewer, Thea Murphy, Janet Perry, Nancy McLellan, Edward Lord, Janet and Jeff Dale.

Next week's Readings: Jeremiah 33.14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13; Luke 21.25-36.

---

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Charles Miller
Team Vicar	The Revd Paul Smith
Associate Priests	The Revd Jennifer Brown The Revd Canon Charles Mashed
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 Jackie Cunningham
Caretaker	Mr Robin Day

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.**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2021

Christ the King, Sunday before Advent

Next week will be Advent Sunday and our thoughts begin to turn towards Christmas and eventually on to Epiphany, when we celebrate the visit of the wise men, bringing their various gifts. The first, of gold, probably has the best resonances with secular thinking, rather than myrrh and frankincense, has also been held as the recognition of the new born baby as a King. Today as we say farewell to the liturgical year, we celebrate him today as 'Christ the King'.

In the UK, monarchy is so built into our way of life that kingship (or queenship as we have known it though the lives of most of us) is for many the most natural form of government. Through the centuries, monarchy has developed and many of us treasure what we have today, with a non-political Head of State presiding over her government; a steadying influence over the 'changes and chances' of political life.

For us Christ the King provides stability in our faith through all the challenges we face, both spiritually and physically. He comes as the servant, as most forms of good government need in its leadership; ready to wash his disciples' feet, though they regarded him as Master and Lord. Surely we need to let his rule govern who we are and what we do. The simple adage of 'what would Jesus say and do in a particular situation?' should be our daily guide; so easy to say but challenging to do, as we all have a natural independence.

This Last Sunday of the Christian Year used to be called 'Stir up Sunday', inspired by the ancient collect and associated with the stirring up of the Christmas puddings. However it is 'our wills' that we pray should be stirred up 'so that we may bring forth the fruit of good works'. As we commit ourselves to learn from, and follow, Christ the King, let us pray for the readiness to truly serve one another in love and gentleness and may this coming Advent renew us in our sense of being disciples of the 'contemplative, courageous and compassionate' Jesus. (Oxford Diocese motto).

*The Revd Canon Charles Mashed, Associate Priest.*

**WELCOME** to St Helen's today. The *Sung Eucharist* takes place at 10.30 am and can also be accessed on Zoom from 10.15 am.

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

*Holy Communion* will take place at St Nicolas' at 8 am.  
*Sung Mass* will take place at St Michaels' at 9.30am.

---

## FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

**Readings:** Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14; Revelation 1.4b-8; John 18.33-37

Service setting: Archer, Lincoln Setting

Processional: 208ii Christ is made the sure foundation  
Gradual: 497 Let all the world in every corner sing  
Offertory: 172 The head that once was crowned with thorns  
Anthem: Mendelssohn, Above all praise and all majesty  
Post Communion: 166 Crown him with many crowns  
Postlude: Preston, Alleluyas

## Psalm: 93

**Response:** *The Lord is King and has put on robes of glory.*

The Lord is King and has put on robes of glory:  
the Lord has put on his glory;  
He has girded himself with strength:  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved.

## Response

Your throne is established from old:  
you are from everlasting.  
Your decrees are very sure:  
and holiness O Lord adorns your house for ever.  
**Response**

## Collect:

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## THIS COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

**WEEKDAYS** *Morning Prayer* is said at 9.10 am in the Lady Chapel

**ON WEDNESDAY** *Holy Communion* will be in the Centre Hall at 10.30 am.

## NOTICES

**Jesse Tree** - Some help is requested to assemble the Jesse Tree/Christmas Tree from 10 am on Tuesday 23rd November in the south aisle. Please let Norman Dawson or Susan Scott know if you can help.

**MOTHERS' UNION ACTIVISM SERVICE: NO MORE1IN3** This year's service will take place in St. Nicolas' Church on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> November at 12 noon. We hope to have the MU diocesan display and the 1,500 chains knitted by members. These are intended to focus on gender-based violence and modern-day slavery, not only nationally but locally. Gwen Bevington will give the homily. All are welcome. Attendees are asked to wear something purple.

**St. Helen's Christmas Market, Sat 27th Nov, 10.00 am to 2.30 pm.** We will hold a market again this year to raise funds for the church and to offer a welcome to all. Book the date now! We need helpers to man stalls, buyers and quality goods to sell. Look out for more details over the coming weeks, but if you can help in any way, please let Margaret Horton know: [margaret\\_r\\_horton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margaret_r_horton@yahoo.co.uk) 01235 528813

**Quiet Garden Day** at Aston Tirrold Centre for Reflection on Saturday 27 November 10 am - 4 pm. Leaders: Joan Impey

and Sue Sheppy. Theme: Advent. Refreshments are provided, but please bring a packed lunch. A donation of £10 would be welcome. Email: [abi.perrow@googlemail.com](mailto:abi.perrow@googlemail.com), if you want to attend.

The theme of the December issue of 'A Candle in the Window' will be 'Old and New'. Contributions - articles, short reflections, poems etc on this theme or not all welcome. Send to [candle@abingdonparish.org.uk](mailto:candle@abingdonparish.org.uk) by November 28th.

**Silent Reflections** on Tuesday 30 November at 7.30 pm will be held in St Michael and All Angels. Entry will be through the North door. The wearing of masks is still recommended. Final prayers will be at 8.30 pm and refreshments will be available (There will be no *Silent Reflections* in December).

**Moving into Stillness:** circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes will be held St Michael and All Angels on Thursday 2 December from 9.45 – 10.45 am, before the regular circle dancing session at 11 am. No prior experience/partner needed. Tea and coffee will be provided between the two sessions.

**Advent Labyrinth Walks:** St Michael and All Angels will be open on Tuesday 7, 14 and 21 December 2021 between 11 am and noon, and 7 pm and 8 pm. There will an opportunity to walk the labyrinth or simply to enjoy the sacred space. Entry will be through the door on the north side of the church.

**St Nicolas' is hoping to hold its annual Christmas meal this year at Cosners House on the 5<sup>th</sup> December.** The cost of the traditional meal will be approx £30. If anybody is interested please contact the Parish Centre office or Linda Hobbs asap as numbers must be confirmed with Cosners by the end of the month to allow for sole use of the room.

**Abingdon Passion Play AGM** will take place at 7 pm on 27 November 2021 at Christ Church Barns, Northcourt Road.