



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 18 July 2021
Seventh Sunday after Trinity
11.15am Service of the Word
The Revd Paul Smith

Dear Friends

Breaking down Barriers

A warm welcome to St Nic's today for this Service of the Word.

In writing to the Ephesians Paul finishes the passage we shall hear today with a number of construction metaphors. Christ is the master builder. He demolishes an old dividing wall – here between Jew and Gentile, circumcised and uncircumcised – and he puts in its place one temple. He himself is the cornerstone, the prophets and apostles form the foundation, and from the cornerstone the whole building is built.

We tend to like building walls. Somehow we believe they protect us and make us feel safe. Even within the Church, it seems barriers are constructed against those of different church traditions and with differing views. There should be no dividing walls for there are no walls within the body of Christ. Walls are not needed, for the sole reason that our security is found in him, who loves and values all of us equally.

With the lifting of restrictions from tomorrow by the Government, there will be a lot of work to be done in re-building. It will be only after the restrictions are lifted that, unfortunately, advice will be issued by the church and made available to us. Whatever is said, given that numbers of infections are exponentially high (and even a small number of deaths being reported in our area in the last week) I think we shall need to move forward gently and carefully. The Clergy and Wardens of the parish will meet tomorrow morning (Monday 19 July) to talk through how we begin to live safely with the lifting of restrictions. Please would you pray for that meeting: for wisdom in discerning what is best at this time, that we may move forward in one heart and mind, respectfully and lovingly in a time of continued uncertainty.

With love and prayers,

Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT

Jeremiah 23.1-6

Psalms 23

Ephesians 2.11-end

Mark 6.30-34,53-56

Collect: Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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.

Sunday 25 July

8:00am Holy Communion (1662)

11:15am Service of the Word – the Revd Paul Smith

Please remember, if you would like to attend a Service you need to register and book

8am Peter Penfold / Jan Lawrence (papenfold@aol.co.uk / jil129@outlook.com)

11:15am Paul Rast-Lindsell (07876 277363 / paulr.lstnics@gmail.com)

CHURCH NEWS

Research Survey: Listening to Christian religious teaching:

I am inviting people to take part in an on-line survey as part of my PhD research. Specifically, I am looking for people aged 18+ in the UK who regularly attend church to take part in this study.

The aim of this study is to examine the thoughts and feelings that result from listening to Christian religious teaching using music and the spoken word. If you choose to take part in this survey, you will be asked to listen to a recording and answer questions about what you have heard, together with questions about your own feelings.

This study has received ethics approval from Coventry University, where I am a student. Participation in the survey is voluntary and all responses are anonymous. If you have any questions or would like more information before taking the survey, or would like the survey link emailed to you, please feel free to contact me using my university email: brownj68@uni.coventry.ac.uk.

To take the survey, you can type or copy & paste this link into your web browser:

https://coventry.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5mye8G2StpYssv3

The next issue of '**A Candle in the Window**' will be in September. That means you have time to catch up and we have time for a breather. Past and present issues can be downloaded from here:

<https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/downloads/Candle202106.pdf>

Thanks are due to over 70 people who have contributed since lockdown began.

St Nicolas' is now open for private prayer on Mondays 10-12noon. Thank you to all who have offered to help ☺ Other offers always welcome.

Silent Reflections on Tuesday 27 July at 7.30 pm will be held in St Michael's; the precise manner will depend on the restrictions in place at the time. It is likely that the wearing of masks will be optional, and that refreshments will be available at the end. Rosalind Rutherford will introduce material on the theme: **The Lilies of the Field**. A copy will still be emailed to all those on our list, and made available on St Michael's website. Paper copies will be available in church

COMMUNITY NEWS

Christ's Hospital of Abingdon are hosting an event on **Friday 30 July** from 1pm to 3pm at the **Long Alley Almshouses** to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Almshouse Association of which the charity is a member. The Long Alley Garden, Hall and one of the almshouses will be open and light refreshments will be served.

The Annual Prime Time Summer Event Is taking place at Christ Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon, 5-8 August. The event is designed for people who are retired. Although it is run at church, it is open to the entire community; people of all faiths or none. The programme is structured around our memory of distant school days. Further information and the outline programme can be found at:

<https://cca.uk.net/events/2315/joy!/>

Calling all Cake Makers: Now that the Cafe@35 is open, we will be needing more homemade cakes. If you would be prepared to join our loyal band of cake makers to make a cake every one or two months, on a day of your choice, Rosemary Brown would love to hear from you: 01235 529261 or rosemary.annbrown70@gmail.com

The **Abingdon Passion Play** committee is due to meet on 18 July 2021 to keep alive the possibility of a new production in the not too distant future. Anyone interested in joining us is invited to contact the chairman, John Clare, at johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com.

Can you help The Abingdon Bridge (TAB)?: The Abingdon Bridge is a well-regarded Abingdon charity that supports young people aged 13-25. We are currently looking for more volunteers to act as a receptionist at our new premises at 3 Market Place, Abingdon. As we have a bank of volunteers, you may only do a slot once a week or fortnightly or monthly. Currently, our opening hours are Monday to Thursday 2-7 pm and Friday 2-6 pm, subject to change as we follow current government COVID guidelines. The work is not onerous and mainly involves buzzing clients in and showing them to the waiting room, but this is a vital role that supports the counsellors. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Sandy Kruger at sandy@theabingdonbridge.org.uk. Volunteers will be DBS checked.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops, especially at this time in the life of our diocese;
- all working in the NHS at this time of uncertainty;
- all those anxious about the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions;
- the breaking down of barriers that divide peoples and nations;
- For the family of Keith Faulkner whose funeral will take place here on Wednesday;
- All suffering in body, mind or spirit especially those in our own church community;

- 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;
- Our church school of St Nicolas, for Andy Spooner, Headteacher and all his staff, and Eluned Hallas, Chair of Governors, especially at the end of this academic year;

WORSHIP

In the parish:

St Helen's Church is open from 11am to 1pm for **private prayer** on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

On Wednesday Holy Communion will be in the South aisle of St Helen's at 10.30 am. No need to book.

On Thursday the Said Mass will be celebrated at St Michael's at 12.30pm (and will now take place weekly). No need to book.

Church at Home is continuing to offer invitations to attend live-streamed services from churches around the diocese. See

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/>

[Oxford Cathedral on-line services](#) - Sunday Sung Eucharist and Evensong, and weekday Services (includes service booklets and sermons). Archive available.

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

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 Warden	Mr Paul Rast-Lindsell	07876 277363
Church Warden Elect	Mrs Eluned Hallas	01235 529462
Parish Office		01235 520144
Website	https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/	
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/stnicolasabingdon	

When the office is closed (on Fridays) please contact the Revd Canon Charles Masheder on 01235 520959 for any **urgent pastoral issues**.

The Parish office is open again Mondays to Thursdays, 10am-1pm (or by arrangement). To contact the office leave a message on the office phone 01235 520144, use the office mobile: 07395 943957 or email administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

*Please send any information for next week's pew slip to
eluned@hallas.org.uk by Wednesday*