



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 17 October 2021
Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
Third Sunday Service
11.15am
The Revd Paul Smith

Dear Friends

Welcome to our Third Sunday Service today.

Today we begin a new series with the theme of *Being a Christ-like Church for the sake of God's World: Contemplative, Compassionate, Courageous*. This is the diocesan vision which our diocesan bishop, Bishop Steven, presented to the diocese sometime ago.

Many of you may be aware of it already. However, it is not something that we have looked at and I thought it would fit neatly into the last three months of the year for a series for Third Sunday. We shall look at each of 'the three C's' in turn up to and including December.

So today we begin with what it might mean to be *Contemplative*. The church of course does not exist for itself. It was brought into being in order that the life of the body of Christ might bear the good news 'for the sake of God's world'.

The world is a very different place since the diocesan vision was first released. We are faced with the increasing urgency of the Climate Change crisis and what that means for the church together with living in a continuing pandemic. The phrase 'new normal' has been banded about. I think it is more helpful to say that we are living in a 'different world' which has changed greatly in the last two years. Surely this different world is urging us on to be more Christ-like. And so on this Sunday we shall explore what it means to be Contemplative. Whether you can be here in person or on line, I pray that we may learn fruitfully together.

With love and blessings, Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT

Isaiah 53.4-12

Psalm 91.9-16

Hebrews 5.1-10

Mark 10.35-45

Collect: God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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 24 October

8:00am *Holy Communion – at St Helen's this month*

11:15am Holy Communion – The Revd Paul Smith / Mrs Beryl Clements

Following the relaxation of Covid regulations on 19 July, there is no longer any requirement to register in advance for Services.

We do however: require you to sanitise your hands on arrival and departure; encourage mask wearing, which is necessary during congregational singing; and ask you to observe social distancing as far as possible when coming to receive Holy Communion (on the Sundays it is celebrated) and when leaving the building.

Thank you for helping to keep each of us safe.

CHURCH NEWS

Morning Prayer has begun again and is said publicly every weekday in St Helen's at 9.10am. All Welcome.

Abingdon Foodbank: *The Box is Back!* If you would like to make donations to the Abingdon Foodbank, there is a box for your contributions at the back of church. Thanks to Jan who has offered to empty the box regularly and take our gifts to Christ Church.

Mr & Mrs Horace & Judith Hicks wish to convey their blessings to our neighbours Keiron and Violetta for their unconditional support and help while Mr Hicks spent time in hospital. Thanks be to God .

Silent Reflections on Tuesday 26 October at 7.30 pm will be held in St Michael's. Entry will be through the North door (opposite Albert Park). The wearing of masks is still recommended in areas of close contact. Final prayers will be at 8.30 pm and refreshments will be available. Rosalind Rutherford will introduce material on the theme: A child in the midst. A copy will be emailed to all those on our list, and made available on St Michael's website. Paper copies will be available in church.

Christian Aid Autumn Quiz & Seasonal Puddings! Saturday 6th November 7.00pm All Saints' The quiz will be in two halves with a range of seasonal puddings to choose from during the interval. Teams will be set up ad hoc on the night.

- Please wear a facemask at this event (except when eating!)
- Please do not attend if you, or anyone in your household, have symptoms of Covid-19.
- For more information contact candpmarshall@btinternet.com

Donations welcome for the work of Christian Aid.

The Candle in the Window: Download issue 8 of the Parish Magazine on Sunday 10th October from <https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/download.html>

What can we learn from the book of Ruth? Whose burial in Westminster Abbey caused surprise to some? Who won what? Read a reflection on an island holiday, about harvest celebrations and about words for 'church' across Europe and more...

Job Vacancy - Deanery Secretary: (Self-employed / Freelance) The Abingdon Deanery is seeking an adaptable person to provide secretarial and administrative support to ensure the smooth running of the Deanery. They will work closely with the Area Dean, the Lay Chair and Deanery Treasurer in leading the work of the Synod, especially by providing information and documents. The ideal candidate will be computer literate; extremely organised; with a working knowledge of the Church of England and sympathetic to the Christian faith; be flexible and patient with a good sense of humour. Hours: Flexible (average 18 per month but varies through the year) Rate of Pay: £12.50-£14.00 per hour depending on qualifications & experience. For a full Job Description please see the [Abingdon Deanery Website](#)

Applications to: the Lay Chair, Sue Scott, on email: suescott719@gmail.com or telephone: 07779 855615 Closing date: 8th November 2021

COMMUNITY NEWS

Music For A Sunday Afternoon: Autumn Concerts at St Michael's:

Sunday 17th October: 4.00pm (Note later starting time) The Creation, Haydn.

Sunday 14th November: 3.00pm Pavlova Winds with Glynne Butt (piano) will play trios by Poulenc and Glinka.

Wednesday 20 October, Abingdon Carbon Cutters: 6.00pm-7.30pm Larkmead School **Q & A on COP 26**, Local MP Layla Moran & Neil Fawcett, County Councillor for Abingdon South will be answering YOUR questions on COP26 UN Climate Conference. Questions in advance please to carbon.cutters@gmail.com

Saturday 23 October Coffee Morning Charity Event: Oxfordshire Inter Varsity Club (IVC) is organising a Coffee and cake morning at The Northcourt Centre, Abingdon between 10am and 2pm. There will be cakes and cookies, Tombola and children's games. The event will be raising money for two organisations, Macmillan Cancer Support and Rape Crisis. 'In memory of all those who have lost the fight to cancer'. We hope to see you there. For further details contact Diane Livesley (01235 521261).

Tuesday 26 – Saturday 30 October: Abingdon Artists' Exhibition. Christchurch Barn, Northcourt Road. Open daily 10am-4:30pm (Saturday 4pm). Free entrance. Covid secure.

Save the date **Saturday 27 November 7pm Abingdon Passion Play AGM** with entertainment at Christ Church Barns. Further details to follow.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- Steven, Gavin, and Henry our bishops and Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- Zachary, to be Baptised at St Nicolas next Sunday, his parents, godparents, family and friends;
- That we might become a more Christ-like church, Contemplative, Compassionate, and Courageous;
- For our response the Climate change crisis and our stewardship of God's creation;
- All suffering in body, mind or spirit especially those in our own church community;
- The schools in our parish, our church school of St Nicolas', for Andy Spooner, Headteacher, and all teachers, staff and pupils, and the challenges they face at this time;
- 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.

WORSHIP

St Nicolas' is now open for private prayer on Mondays 10-12noon.

St Helen's Church is open from 10am to 3pm, Mon-Fri for private prayer and visitors.

On Wednesday Holy Communion will be in the parish centre at 10.30 am.

On Thursday a Said Mass will be celebrated at St Michael's at 12.30pm

Morning Prayer will be said publicly in St Helen's each week day at **9.10am**. All are welcome.

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.

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	Mrs Eluned Hallas	01235 529462
Parish Office	Mrs Jackie Cunningham	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 Mondays to Thursdays, 10am-1pm (or by arrangement). To contact the office leave a message on the office phone 01235 520144, or email administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

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