



St NICOLAS' CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 24 October 2021
Last Sunday after Trinity
Holy Communion
11.15am
The Revd Paul Smith / Mrs Beryl Clements

Dear Friends

Welcome to St Nic's today on this Last Sunday after Trinity. We welcome Mrs Beryl Clements as our preacher today and look forward to what she has to say to us.

The story of the healing of Bartimaeus is one of the stories that forms the basis of the ancient 'Jesus Prayer', a rhythmic prayer taught and practiced in the Eastern Orthodox Tradition, sometimes using a prayer rope, the words of which are 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner'. In Bartimaeus, it is not a plea for mercy which is grovelling and negative. But, from this blind man's lips, it is a bold and unashamedly loud cry for the mercy of God which contains a longing for healing and transformation.

Bartimaeus gives us a model which we might not necessarily expect. He is responding with a faith that takes Jesus on. Jesus teaches us to ask, knock, and seek which is what Bartimaeus does with all his might. His faith is shouted aloud by the public roadside, crying out for what he cannot see but hears is near as he endures those hostile voices around him which ask him to be quiet. This he refuses to do until he receives the attention of the Lord. Jesus responds in his typically merciful and compassionate way as he does with all people and stops and pays the man attention. In so doing, the man's prayer is answered.

I wonder what we might boldly want to say to Jesus at this time? Are we willing to step out in faith and ask for what it is that we really want? Do we believe enough in the mercy and compassion of God as we see it demonstrated in Jesus? Perhaps reflecting on the model of Bartimaeus this coming week, and seeking the Lord's mercy, may lead us to healing and transformation in ways which until now we have not believed possible

With love and blessings, Fr Paul

READINGS & COLLECT

Jeremiah 31.7-9

Psalms 126

Hebrews 7.23-28

Mark 10.46-52

Collect: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 31 October

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

11:15am Holy Communion – The Revd Rosalind Rutherford

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

Parish Magazine: the October edition is ready for downloading if you haven't yet! The November issue is being planned. We would welcome contributions including pictures of Autumn colour. Also do contact us if you would like to write a puzzle for future issues.

Candle@abingdonparish.org.uk

Saturday 30 October: Autumn Fayre in aid of Kennington Memory Club.

10am – 12 noon, St Nicolas Church. Nearly New Clothes, Books, Preserves, Handicrafts, Tombola, Christmas Decorations and Gifts. Coffee/ Tea/ Biscuits

Sweet Slices of History: The next Friends of St Helen (FOSH) event takes place at 7.30pm on **Thursday 4 November** in the Parish Centre. Marjory Szuko will be telling us the story of the creation of sweet dishes and cakes from historical recipes. There will be wine, and tasters of some of Marjory's creations. We are also hoping that she will sign copies of her book of the same name, which was shortlisted for the Fortnum & Mason Food and Drink Awards in 2019. Attendance is free for members, £5 for non-members. Numbers are limited, so if you would like to come please contact the Administrator **by 1 November** (administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk)

On Saturday November 6th St Helen's will be open between 10 am until 3 pm open church, to welcome in anyone who wishes to remember those who have lost their lives through the Covid pandemic by lighting a candle and if they so wish, saying a prayer. A card of suitable thoughts and prayers will be available. A Priest will also be available for pastoral support if requested. *Canon Charles Mashedor*

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.

Books please: we are hoping to run a fundraising bookstall on 13 November (the rates of Covid infections permitting). Why not make some space for all those new Christmas books, by having a sort through and giving some to be sold? More details later.

Christmas Lunch: we have the possibility of holding a Christmas Lunch in Coseners House again this year. If you think you might be interested do let Eluned know so we can determine whether to go ahead. As yet we have no information on menus or pricing.

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

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

COP26 starts on Sunday 31st October. It is not too late to express your concern for the climate and the need for urgent action. Keep it short and include your name and address. Here are some email addresses: layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk
alok.sharma.mp@parliament.uk boris.johnson.mp@parliament.uk

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

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

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

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;
- For the work of our deanery: for Revd Helen Kendrick our Area Dean; Sue Scott, Lay Chair of Deanery Synod and all representatives on Deanery Synod;
- Zachary, to be Baptised at St Nicolas this afternoon, his parents, godparents, family and friends;
- For the COP 26 summit in Glasgow and for our own response to 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***