



## TEAMword

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3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024

All Saintstide 2024

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

This afternoon's service marks the end of eighteen years of celebration together Sunday by Sunday and through the seasons of feasts and fasts. At this All Saintstide, preceded by the remembrance of all the departed faithful on All Souls Day (November 1<sup>st</sup>), I am sharply conscious of how many of our brothers and sisters are no longer with us in church. Through the decades, though, they have been part of God's gracious handiwork fashioning each of us into who we are today. So as we gather we carry them on our hearts just as they, on another shore and in a greater light, carry us too. Such is the assurance and reassurance of the Church's communion of saints! I hope you will feel that today and through this season.

Speaking personally, after the All Saints' Sunday service I cease pastoral work and administration and turn to the practical matters related to packing and moving. My incumbency ends formally on November 29<sup>th</sup> by which date I will be well and truly ready to shift into what friends and colleagues like to call 'the next chapter'. The wheels of diocesan administration will then pick up speed so that the vacancy work can begin in earnest in the New Year. Parish Wardens will be very much at the forefront from then on until a new appointment is made. Team Vicar Paul Smith will direct the Team work and will communicate through this occasional *Teamword*.

Recently I came across a hymn written with a cleric's final service in mind. We're not singing it at my final service but it's worth bearing in mind as an expression of thanksgiving for what constitutes a parish priest's life and work in which in varying ways, a whole parish shares.

Thank God for the hours and the years that we've spent at Christmas and Easter, in Advent and Lent; the highs and the lows, the liturgical round that praise of our Saviour may richly abound.

Thank God for the talks and the sermons we've preached  
to the faithful, the seeking we trust we have reached.  
Words cast on the waters, some light, some profound,  
like seeds in the story cast wide on the ground.

Thank God for the people whose lives we could share  
in the joy and excitement, in grief and despair,  
in baptising babies, commending the dead,  
uniting the lovers we've been honoured to wed.

Thank God for communities, village or town,  
those thought to be ord'nry, and those of renown,  
the faithful, the faithless, the lapsed and devout  
all precious to God, in whose love we've no doubt.

And now we thank God for what is to come.  
It's hopeful for many, but anxious for some,  
still listening in faith for the call of our Lord  
for the new kinds of service we're moving toward.

*Words: Andrew Body*

Faithfully and sincerely,

The Revd Dr Charles Miller,  
Vicar of St Helen's and Team Rector, Abingdon-on-Thames

The 3 pm Corporate Service can be accessed on Zoom from 2.45 pm on:  
Meeting ID: 865 5159 6523; Passcode: 626891.

### **Services for Remembrance Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

**St Helen's** – 10 am Remembrance Service; 5.30 pm Sung Eucharist.

**St Michaels'** - 9.30 am Sung Mass, incorporating an Act of Remembrance.

**St Nicolas'** - 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP); 9:30 am Holy Communion.

### **Notices**

**Faith Forum.** Our next Faith Forum will be on Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup>, when we will be having our final Faith Forum of the current series on Ways of Engaging with the Bible. Our speaker will be Karen Laister from BRF Ministries (formerly Bible Reading Fellowship), who are based here in Abingdon. Karen will be speaking about using Bible Study notes, either as individuals or in a small group, as a way of engaging with scripture. Faith Forum meets in the Parish Centre, with a light buffet lunch served from 12.30 pm and the talk beginning at 12.45 pm.

**Moving Into Stillness** circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes on **Thursday November 7<sup>th</sup>** in the church room from **9.45 – 10.45 am** before the regular circle dancing session at 11 am (now on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month only). Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed. Tea and coffee will be provided.

**St Michael & All Angels' Church Christmas Fair.** Please join us for our annual Christmas Fair on **Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 am until 2 pm**. There will be an exciting range of craft and gift stalls plus a raffle with generous prizes. Cakes, bottles, books, plants and bric-a-brac will be on sale plus refreshments and there will be live music and activities for children. Proceeds to church funds and local charity *Flexicare* (Oxford & Abingdon). Event generously sponsored by *Breckon & Breckon*.

**ABINGDON SCHOOL CONCERTS** The School will be holding two concerts in church in November.

**Remembrance Concert Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm Fauré's Requiem** will be performed by pupils, staff, and OAs. The first half will feature a number of choral items and chamber music. The concert is **free** but please **book tickets** through the Abingdon School website and go to What's on/Events and Online Booking. The direct link is:

<https://www.abingdon.org.uk/sports-and-leisure/performance/remembrance-concert-faure-requiem/>

The School will also be holding a concert on the **November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm**. *The Joint Chamber Choir* will give a recital of both sacred and secular choral music. Tickets should be booked as above but are free. The direct booking link is:

<https://www.abingdon.org.uk/sports-and-leisure/performance/joint-chamber-choir-concert/>. Refreshments will be served in aid of St Michaels, if anyone can help on either night, please contact **Joyce**, joyceekelly@btinternet.com.

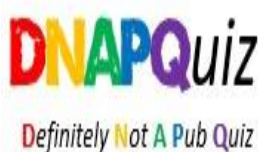
**A Child Is Born** An informal Christmas concert for all ages by *Abingdon Chorale* in aid of The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) in St Michael's Church on **December 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 at 4 pm**. Tickets £10 (£2.50 under 16s) from <https://bit.ly/AbChorale>

**Quiet Garden Day at Aston Tirrold Centre for Reflection**, Spring Lane, Oxon OX12 9EJ on Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024 10 am - 4 pm. Leader: Abi Perrow.

Theme: *Exploring the Nature of Completeness*. Refreshments are provided, but please bring a packed lunch. A donation of £10 would be welcome. To attend it would be helpful to email: [atquietgardendays@gmail.com](mailto:atquietgardendays@gmail.com) in advance. All are welcome.

The next meeting of the **Agnostics Anonymous** open discussion group will take place at 6-7.30 pm on **Tuesday November 19<sup>th</sup>** in the Abingdon Parish Centre, opposite the entrance to St Helen's Church, West St Helen Street. John Kerr will give the introductory talk on "**Evil and the God of Love**" John Barton and Keith Ward will answer questions and join the discussion. FREE and EVERYONE WELCOME. Contact Jill Gant (01235 528929).

**Have you ever heard of "Cursillo"?** It's a Spanish word that means 'short course', the name also of a movement which runs short courses on Christianity. In Oxford we are running one at the end of May. [Application Form - Oxford Anglican Cursillo](#). Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Do speak to me about it. Dr Hazel Glennie, hazelglennie@aol.com.



**Abingdon Church Twinning.** Join us for a fun evening with quizmaster-extraordinaire Richard at the Conduit Centre, Abingdon, who will test your general knowledge with 7 rounds of 10 questions. All questions are on the big screen with the answer booklet to help. Tickets: £15 per person, including one welcome drink and a ploughman's dinner in the interval. When: Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6.30pm for a prompt 7 pm start. Max. 6 people per table, prizes for the winning table, raffle, further refreshments with donation For tickets, please contact: Elizabeth Simpson, simpsonem123@gmail.com.

**St Nicolas Day:** this year St Nicolas' will celebrate our Patronal Festival on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December with Choral Evensong at 5:30 pm to which all are invited – the Preacher will be the Revd Joshua Brocklesby, the Bowles Lecturer at Trinity College, Oxford. Before that why not join us for our traditional St Nicolas' Day Lunch at Coseners' House? The *menu and booking forms* for the Lunch - £32 for a three course meal, with welcome drinks and tea / coffee – are out now. [Online](#) and in hard copy. Vegan and gluten free options available. Numbers and choices needed by **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**.

**On Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup>, Arco Strings** and guests offer '*An afternoon of Similarities and Differences*' – a concert featuring works by Mozart, Handel, Debussy and many others – and featuring two of our regular musicians at St Nic's. Proceeds to church funds.

**Cards for Good Causes** is back in St Nicolas selling cards on behalf of a wide range of charities. Why not pop in? Monday – Saturday 10 am - 4 pm.

## **OUR PARISH LEADERSHIP 2024 - 25**

### **Our new Wardens are:**

St Helen's: Margaret Horton, David Pope

St Michael and All Angels: Louise Heffernan, Joyce Kelly

St Nicolas: Eluned Hallas, Paul Rast-Lindsell

**Treasurers:** Susan Read (St Helen's) and Jenny Metcalfe (St Nicolas')

### **Deanery Synod Representatives:**

Miss A Green

Dr H Glennie

Ms S Scott (also Deanery Lay Chair)

Miss A Scott (also a Diocesan Synod Representative)

Mrs E Hallas

The Revd R Rutherford, Clergy Representative

### **Elected PCC Representatives:**

Mrs K Burland (St Helen's)

Mrs M Anderson (St Helen's)

Mrs H Clare (St Michael's)

Mr J Clare (St Michael's)

Dr G Lewis (St Nicolas)

Mrs J Fishpool (St Nicolas)

Dr J Metcalfe (St Nicolas)

**Safeguarding Team:**

Mrs Pat Hudson (St Helen's) – Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mr David Pope (St Helen's) – Dashboard Manager

Mrs Catherine Kimber (St Helen's) – Verifier

Mr Emmanuel Chukwuma – Safeguarding Officer – St Helen's

Fr Paul Smith – Pro tem Safeguarding Officer – St Michael's

Mrs Jenny Fishpool – Safeguarding Officer – St Nicolas'