



Sunday 1st March 2026, 10am
All Together service
“Nicodemus encounters Jesus...”

St John’s Kidlington

www.kidhp.org.uk



KidlingtonAnglicanChurches

Welcome

Opening responses

We meet in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn



How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.



Confession

We are fearfully and wonderfully made,
called to be more like Jesus every day.

But sometimes we get this wrong
in the things we think and say and do.

We need to admit this, and ask for God's forgiveness.

When we are slow to follow the example of Christ,
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

When we fail to be known as Christ's disciples,
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

When we fail to walk the way of the cross,
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Jesus. **Amen.**



Collect

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Reading – from John's gospel, chapter 3 verses 1-17



There was a man of the Pharisee sect, Nicodemus, a prominent leader among the Jews. Late one night he visited Jesus and said, "Rabbi, we all know you're a teacher straight from God. No one could do all the God-pointing, God-revealing acts you do if God weren't in on it."

Jesus said, "You're absolutely right. Take it from me: Unless a person is born from above, it's not possible to see what I'm pointing to—to God's kingdom."

"How can anyone," said Nicodemus, "be born who has already been born and grown up? You can't re-enter your mother's womb and be born again. What are you saying with this 'born-from-above' talk?" Jesus said, "You're not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the 'wind-hovering-over-the-water' creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. When you look at a baby, it's just that: a body you can look at and touch. But the person who takes shape within is formed by something you can't see and touch—the Spirit—and becomes a living spirit.

“So don’t be so surprised when I tell you that you have to be ‘born from above’—out of this world, so to speak. You know well enough how the wind blows this way and that. You hear it rustling through the trees, but you have no idea where it comes from or where it’s headed next. That’s the way it is with everyone ‘born from above’ by the wind of God, the Spirit of God.”

Nicodemus asked, “What do you mean by this? How does this happen?”

Jesus said, “You’re a respected teacher of Israel and you don’t know these basics? Listen carefully. I’m speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing second-hand here, no hearsay. Yet instead of facing the evidence and accepting it, you procrastinate with questions. If I tell you things that are plain as the hand before your face and you don’t believe me, what use is there in telling you of things you can’t see, the things of God?

“No one has ever gone up into the presence of God except the One who came down from that Presence, the Son of Man. In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life.

“This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Nicodemus reflects on this conversation



Song



Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days, oh, so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

So here I am to worship...

Reading – from John’s gospel, chapter 7 verses 37-51



On the final and biggest day of the Feast, Jesus cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Rivers of living water will brim and spill out of the depths of anyone who believes in me this way, just as the Scripture says.” (He said this in regard to the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were about to receive. The Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified.)

Those in the crowd who heard these words said, “This has to be the Prophet.” Others said, “He is the Messiah!” Others were saying, “The Messiah doesn’t come from Galilee, does he? Don’t the Scriptures tell us that the Messiah comes from David’s line and from Bethlehem, David’s village?” So there was a split in the crowd over him. Some went so far as wanting to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him.

That’s when the Temple police reported back to the high priests and Pharisees, who demanded, “Why didn’t you bring him with you?” The police answered, “Have you heard the way he talks? We’ve never heard anyone speak like this man.”

The Pharisees said, “Are you carried away like the rest of the rabble? You don’t see any of the leaders believing in him, do you? Or any from the Pharisees? It’s only this crowd, ignorant of God’s Law, that is taken in by him—and damned.”

Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus earlier and was both a ruler and a Pharisee, spoke up. “Does our Law decide about a man’s guilt without first listening to him and finding out what he is doing?”

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Nicodemus reflects on this moment



Activity/Craft time

Reading – from John’s gospel, chapter 19 verses 38-40



After Jesus was crucified and had died, Joseph of Arimathea (who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, because he was intimidated by the religious leaders) petitioned Pilate to take the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission. So Joseph came and took the body.

Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus at night, came now in broad daylight carrying a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. They took Jesus’ body and, following the Jewish burial custom, wrapped it in linen with the spices. There was a garden near the place he was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been placed. So, because it was Sabbath preparation for the Jews and the tomb was convenient, they placed Jesus in it.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Nicodemus reflects on this moment



Youth Choir and friends to sing



God so loved the world,
that He gave His only-begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in Him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son into the world
to condemn the world;
but that the world through Him might be saved.

music by John Stainer

Intercessions

[this response may be used]

Lord, in your mercy, **Receive our prayer**

[at the end we may say]

Merciful Father, **Accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**



Lord's Prayer

As Jesus taught us, we pray together:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**



Notices, Birthdays and Celebrations:



Hymn [tune *Ellacombe*]



A man named Nicodemus, to Jesus came one night.
He said, We know You've come from God;
Your wonders show His might.
In answer, Jesus did declare, Give heed, these words are true:
You cannot see God's kingdom come unless you're born anew.

Then Nicodemus questioned, Reborn, how can this be?
For surely none can to the womb return and new life see.
Jesus replied, Flesh brings forth flesh, but like the blowing wind,
The Spirit does give birth to spirit; thus man is born again.

As Moses in the desert, did lift the snake up high,
The Son of Man must be raised up that all might live, not die.
For God so loved this world he made, he gave his Son for us,
That we might have eternal life, if we in Him do trust.

God did not send His Son to condemn the world of sin.
Christ came instead to save all those who place their trust in Him.
All who believe escape God's wrath; they come into the light.
But all who practice evil deeds are guilty in God's sight.

Without the Son, all perish; the verdict is decreed.
All those who fail to trust Christ's name condemned will ever be.
Lord, give me boldness to proclaim Your message to the lost,
That they might gain eternal life by looking to the cross.

Final words of Blessing

Refreshments

*Do stay for tea/coffee/squash
and a chat*



All Together at St John's in 2026

5th April – Easter Sunday
service of Holy Communion

3rd May

7th June

5th July

2nd August

6th September

4th Oct – and Harvest

1st Nov

6th Dec – and Christingle

Team Rector: Felicity Scroggie, felicity@kidhp.org.uk

Team Vicar: Oliver Harrison, oliver@kidhp.org.uk

Team Curate: Paul Charles, curate@kidhp.org.uk

Safeguarding

If you, or someone you know,
has been impacted by abuse or has concerns,
please speak to the Safeguarding Officer for our parish,
Yo Davies 07865 664451; safeguarding@kidhp.org.uk
or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team
01865 208295; safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org

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John 3:1-17

R H W C S B A H I I B M O W T K O K O V R P V Y
U E T E R N A L L I F E R R W H X C Y O K L M B
Q A K H D Y M O D G N I K R Q W Y Z A S V B S V
Y E G U B H M S J H V B W E O Z Z T Y H P B D T
R E H C A E T V A D P N C E U Q Y N J F U C C W
Y R C M M Z L H N X E X O J E E R B W O G B A E
K U F P M X Z M Z U P U R E L E A R S I D V F B
D L R O W B K S U M E D O C I N P M L R I T J R
Q R O N W U R A M U G W Q O G M P E R I S H K U
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P Z O U C X N K N O O E K I X B L S A V B F O D
N P S U T M X Z D V F S D S T Q B V V P X R Z H
V L O E M L B X W T C U H U I P E I B I N O S S
R V S M U B O I L E W S S Z R G L N U Y W J Q E
L Z H J B K C Z B P V U A Z I O I L U V H U P L
V M N R E Q E R S M Q Z V N P D E S X V N O A F
S R D G Q N C S Y H X D E O S S V B I R G D Y L
D D N I W H O E V E R G D S S O E X R E E O G M
P N A E U I F U K F G X F L N L S W I T B I W G
J I P X C H F U E N P F C I P O M J F A J T F A
J W L I O B G I K H R I C H O V V D S W E Z W X
K J M Y F Z X J J A F T G S Z E S S E E T H X A
H Z P H A R I S E E S V E H N D G P W T U F A Q

ETERNALLIFE
BELIEVES
HEAVEN
SAVED
JESUS

GODSOLOVED
WHOEVER
PERISH
WORLD
WIND

NICODEMUS
TEACHER
ISRAEL
FLESH
WOMB

PHARISEES
KINGDOM
SPIRIT
WATER
SON