



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

14th April 2024
3rd Sunday of Easter

Regular Service Times

Sundays: Sung Mass, 9.30 am
Tuesdays: Silent Reflections, last Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm (except December)
Thursdays: Said Mass, 12.30 pm (*Regular day/time from 4 April*)
Moving into Stillness, Taizé circle dancing with silent interludes, usually first Thursday of the month, 9.45 am to 10.45 am.

Contacts

Team Rector: The Revd Dr Charles Miller (520144)
Team Vicar: The Revd Paul Smith (534654)
e-mail: paul315smith@btinternet.com

Churchwardens: Miss Joyce Kelly (533555)
(07833 535768)
e-mail: joyceekelly@btinternet.com
Mrs Louise Heffernan (01235 525412)
(07779 650968)
e-mail: lheff@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk

Bookings*: Miss Joyce Kelly (as above)

Parish Office: The Parish Centre Office is normally open from Monday to Thursday, **10 am to 1 pm.**

Administrator: During normal working hours phone or leave a message on:
Telephone (520144) *or*
Mobile (07395 943957)
e-mail: administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

Web site: <http://www.stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk>

If you would like to receive this pew leaflet electronically, please email pewleaflet@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk with the subject line SUBSCRIBE

Items for inclusion in the next pew leaflet should be sent to David Duce by midday on Tuesday.
Telephone 522591
pewleaflet@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk

[*for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals please contact the Parish Office]

Dear Friends –

We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song! (St Augustine)

In this season of Eastertide one of the ways we celebrate the resurrection is in our music and with unbounded 'Alleluias'. I want therefore to draw your attention to two things that are coming up and a third which is mentioned elsewhere in this pewleaflet.

The first is this evening when we see the revival of **Taize Prayer** in the parish. For some years before the pandemic there was a monthly service using Taize chants in the context of evening worship at St Helen's. This is being re-launched this evening in St Helen's, at the same time as previously, 5.30pm. I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all. It will be a short service of prayer using scripture, song and silence, followed by refreshments. It will be followed by a short time of discussion to learn more about this contemplative form of prayer using the simple chants for which the Taize Community, in France is well-known. If you know the Taize community, you will be aware that it is set in the beautiful Burgundy countryside of France. To learn more about it there is an article in this month's Candle in the Window which has just been published – please do take a look at that. It can be found on the parish website.

The second is a particular treat for us here at St Michael's when, on next Sunday (21 April), **Cothill House Boys' Choir** will be joining us to sing the Mass to a setting composed by our organist Graham Howell. Each movement is in a different style but all are influenced by elements of jazz. There are instrumental parts too which will be played by some of the boys. The musical movements are: Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus & Benedictus and Agnus Dei. During communion the choir will sing the motet "Panis Angelicus" by Cesar Franck. The boys from Cothill House will have worked especially hard for this occasion. So please make a special effort to support them with your presence and to welcome their parents and families who will be with us in the congregation.

With love and prayers for a joyful Eastertide.

Father Paul

THE REVD PETER SILVA/ ST KENELM'S CHURCH, ENSTONE The celebration of Fr Peter Silva's 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on Saturday 6 April at St Kenelm's Church was a wonderful, joy-filled occasion. Fr Peter chose John's account of the Wedding at Cana in Galilee as the gospel passage (John 2.1-10) and preached a memorable sermon on transformation, drawing on moving experiences of churches he served both in South Africa and this country. One of these was when as a young priest (long before Apartheid ended) he was asked to celebrate the Maundy Thursday Liturgy at a black township church. He did the foot-washing in the traditional way, ending by kissing the feet of each person. The participants found this deeply moving and afterwards one of them said to him, 'this is the first time a white person has kissed our feet, it is a vision of what South Africa can become'. Transformation. '*Laudete Dominum*' for Fr Peter's ministry.

The earliest church on the site of St Kenelm's Church dates from around 850AD. Much of the current building dates back to the 13th, 14th, 15th centuries and recent developments (completed in 2020) include a new mosaic reredos and a very well-thought-out server. The reredos had a familiar look to it and it turned out that this was designed and constructed by Nicholas Mynheer, a name that will be familiar to a number of our readers. The reredos consists of five panels: The Dream of Kenelm, The Betrayal of Kenelm, The Betrayal of Christ, The Resurrection of Christ and the Resurrection of Kenelm. Images of the completed reredos can be found on Nicolas Mynheer's web site: <https://mynheer-art.co.uk/gallery/mosaic.html>

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT ST HELEN'S CHURCH

St Helen's will live-stream their 10.30 am Eucharist through Zoom. The Zoom link is available from the Parish Administrator. A recording of the sermon (audio and video) will be made available after the service on the St Helen's web site (https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StH/StH_publications.html).

ABINGDON PASSION PLAY 2024 – MUSIC PREVIEW on **Sunday 21 April 2024, 5.30 pm at St. Helen's Church**. For those of you following the Abingdon Passion Play 2024, there is an opportunity to hear some of the music for the play. The Choir of St. Helen's will be performing *Music and Readings for Easter*, followed by the Abingdon Passion Play Singers, directed by Sally Mears. Come along and enjoy!

MORNING PRAYER is normally held at 9.10 am on weekdays at St Helen's Church.

FAITH FORUM The final Faith Forum in the current series will be on **Sunday 5 May** in the parish centre. A buffet lunch will be served from 12.30pm, with the talk beginning at 12.45pm. Our speaker will be Revd Ruth Fitter, NHS chaplain. Ruth will be speaking to us about the sacraments and healing. Those unable to attend in person will be able to join us via Zoom (link to be provided nearer the day).

We'd also like to receive feedback on the new timing of Faith Forum - if you would like to share your thoughts on this - has it made it easier for you to attend, or is the time less convenient? How have you found the refreshments/hospitality? Do you think it does/doesn't work well in its new lunchtime slot? - please contact The

Revd Dr Jen Brown, either by email, leaving a note in the parish office, or having a quick word after a service. [Or speak to one of our Church Wardens at St Michael's.]

FORTHCOMING FESTIVALS

Thursday 9 May	Ascension Day	Said Mass at St Michaels at 12.30 pm; Corporate Communion at St Nicolas' Church at 7 pm.
Sunday 19 May	Pentecost	Sung Mass at 9.30 am
Sunday 26 May	Trinity Sunday	Parish Communion at St Michael's at 10 am (note later time)
Thursday 30 May	Corpus Christ	Sung Mass at 7 pm. Mass will NOT be said at 12.30 pm today.

ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING The Annual District Church Meeting for St Michael's will be on **Sunday 14 April** (Easter 3) following the 9.30 am Sung Mass.

This is an important meeting when we review the year through our Annual Report, receive the presentation of Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023. At this meeting we nominate Churchwardens for election at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, elect people to the **District Church Council (DCC)** and **Parochial Church Council (PCC)**. The Agenda, Annual Report 2023, Finance Report for 2023 and the minutes of the Annual District Church Meeting held on 16 April 2023 are available to download from

https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StM/StM_publications.html. Some printed copies will be available at the meeting.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING will take place on **Thursday 18 April in the South Aisle of St Helen's Church at 7 pm**. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners elects Church Wardens, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting conducts other duly authorized business. Papers for the meeting will be published on the web site on the Parish Communications page

https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html and before the meeting can also be downloaded from our own Publications page https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StM/StM_publications.html. Some paper copies will be available in church.

AGNOSTICS ANONYMOUS The next meeting of the Agnostics Anonymous open discussion group will be held on **Tuesday 23 April from 6 pm to 7.30 pm at St Helen's Parish Centre**. John Kerr will give the introductory talk on *Miracles: 6 impossible things before breakfast?* Keith Ward and John Barton will also be there to field questions and join the discussion. Everyone welcome. Free. For more information, please contact Jill Gant on 01235 528929.

ABINGDON FOOD BANK needs your support more than ever now, with the increasing cost of living adversely affecting those already struggling to make ends meet. A typical food parcel might contain: cereal, soup, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes/pasta sauce, lentils, beans and pulses, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tea/coffee, tinned fruit, biscuits, UHT milk, fruit juice. Also toiletries, nappies and household cleaning items. Food can be placed in the collection box in church or taken to either Preston Road Food Bank or Christ Church Food Bank. Some supermarkets also have collection baskets. Financial donations are also welcome.

Harmony InSpires On **Saturday 20 April at 5pm**, award-winning Harmony InSpires ladies a capella choir will be returning to St Michael's Church to delight us with 'Harmony in Springtime', a concert of 4-part harmony in a wide variety of styles from musicals, pop classics and beautiful ballads. There will be a guest appearance from Caritas Children's Choir, a charitable venture of the Wantage and Grove Christian Aid Group to raise money for Christian Aid projects.

Tickets: adults £12/accompanied children under 16 free, available online at <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DCXA> or by card/cash on the door. Kindly sponsored by Taylor-Made Mobility. Proceeds to St Michael's Church funds. Proceeds from refreshments and raffle on the day to Harmony InSpires. Free parking. A concert not to be missed!

CREAM TEA On **Saturday 27 April 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm**, St Michael's Church will be hosting the first Cream Tea of the summer season. Join us for an afternoon of live music. Tea/coffee with scone/cake £5. Proceeds to church funds. All welcome.

Please help. We should be grateful for donations of jars of jam, home baked cakes and scones for this event. If you are able to assist, please contact Joyce, Louise, or Nicola. Thank you.

CiA NEWS A printed copy of the April issue is on display on the notice board by the Welcome desk. It should also be available to download from <https://www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk/#ReportsandNewsletters>

SILENT REFLECTIONS will be held on **Tuesday 30 April at 7.30 pm** beginning in the church room. Sue Scott will provide material for our reflections and there will be the opportunity to walk the labyrinth. Final prayers will be at 8.30 pm and refreshments will be available. Parking permits are available in the church room for use in Park Road.

MOVING INTO STILLNESS: circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes at St Michael and All Angels on **Thursday 2 May** in the church from 9.45 – 10.45 am before the regular circle dancing session at 11 am (now on the

1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month only). Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed. Tea and coffee will be provided.

WORLD LABYRINTH DAY IS SATURDAY 4 MAY The church will be open from **12.30 pm – 2.30 pm** for people to walk and pray the Labyrinth. In particular we hope to have a good number of participants at 1 pm to join in the worldwide 'Walk as One at 1'. This will be followed by prayers and a simple bread and cheese lunch. All are welcome.

CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS IN A FRACTURED WORLD This is the title of the Friends of St Helen's (FoSH) meeting on **Wednesday 15 May at 7.30pm in St Nicolas' Church**. It will be led by Dr Richard McCallum, Director of the Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies in Oxford. All are welcome, and we look forward to a stimulating evening addressing this very topical issue.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The Easter edition of the Parish Magazine is now available to download from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php. Earlier issues can also be found through this link.

Rob Rutherford

HEATING During the week 23 March to 30 March (Holy Week), the maximum temperature recorded on the data logger by the pillar by the crossing (North side) was 19.8°C (on Good Friday afternoon) and the minimum 15.2°C (Saturday morning, start of the recording period). During the following week 30 March to 6 April (Easter week), the maximum temperature recorded on the data logger by the pillar by the crossing (North side) was 19.9°C (on Holy Saturday afternoon) and the minimum 14.5°C (during the morning of Thursday 4 April). The heating has now been turned off.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The next *Quiet Day at the Community of St Clare*, Freeland is on **Thursday 23 May** led by The Revd Philip Nixon. For more details and further dates see the Drop-in Quiet Days link at <http://www.oscfreeland.co.uk/>

Worship

This Week The celebrants and preachers on Sundays over coming weeks are: 14 and 21 April Fr Paul; 28 April The Revd Dr Charles Miller.

There are two commemorations in the calendar this week: Tuesday: Isabella Gilmore, Deaconess, 1923 and Friday, Alphege, archbishop, martyr, 1012.

Isabella Gilmore was the third sister of the designer William Morris. Born in 1842, she left the comfort of a middle-class lifestyle to work with the poor in South London, as a nurse at Guy's Hospital and then as a Deaconess. She played a key role in the revival of the Deaconess Order in the Church of England. She was ordained in 1887 and then ran a training house in Clapham until 1906 during which time she trained head deaconesses for at least seven other dioceses. At her memorial service, Dr Randall Davidson predicted that "some day, those who know best will be able to trace much of the origin and root of the revival of the Deaconess Order to the life, work, example and words of Isabella Gilmore". She died on 16 April in 1923. For more information about Isabella, there is an interesting article of the Rochester Cathedral web site, <https://www.rochestercathedral.org/research/gilmore>. (Under Bishop Thorold, Isabella took on work in Rochester Diocese.)

Prayers for Israel and Gaza From the Easter Message from the Patriarchs and Heads of the churches in Jerusalem:

In issuing this Easter proclamation, we fully recognize the intense suffering that surrounds us here in the Holy Land, as well as in many other parts of the world. Speaking more directly to our own circumstances, we repeat our denunciation of all violent actions in the present devastating war, especially those directed against innocent civilians and we reiterate our call for an immediate and sustained ceasefire. ...

While extending this Easter message to Christians and others around the world, we offer our special greetings to those of the faithful in Gaza who have been bearing especially heavy crosses over the past several months.

These include those taking refuge inside St, Porphyrios and Holy Family Churches, as well as the courageous staff and volunteers of the Anglican-run Ahli Hospital, along with the patients they serve.

(Source <https://www.jmeca.org.uk/latest/news/easter-message-church-jerusalem> The Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association.)

King Charles III Following the announcement of the King's cancer diagnosis, the Church of England issued the following prayer for the King:

Father of mercies, grant to Charles our King, comfort and sure confidence in you, and keep him in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please pray for:

- Steven and Gavin our bishops, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- King Charles, Her Majesty Queen Camilla, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the royal family at this time;

- the peace of the world, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan;
- those who live locally with family members living in Gaza, and for the family of Layla Moran our member of parliament;
- grace to live Christ's risen life and share the good news of the resurrection with others in these days of Easter;
- our ADCM here today and for the APCM on Thursday and for those nominated for office, especially those standing as Churchwardens in our parish;
- Cothill House Boy's Choir as they prepare to sing Mass for us next Sunday;
- our parish and people;
- families in our parish preparing for the baptism of children and the recently baptised;
- the suffering, especially those who are known to us and who are on our prayer list;
- all who have recently departed, and all whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in Chaunterell Way, Checker Walk, Clifton Drive and Coleridge Drive.

Eucharistic Lectionary

3rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 3.12-19	Ps 4	1 John 3.1-7	Luke 24.36b-48
Mon	Acts 6.8-15	Ps 119.17-24		John 6.22-29
Tues	Acts 7.51-8.1a	Ps 31.1-5, 16		John 6.30-35
Wed	Acts 8.1b-8	Ps 66.1-6		John 6.35-40
Thur	Acts 8.26-end	Ps 66.1-6		John 6.44-51
Fri	Acts 9.1-20	Ps 117		John 6.52-59
Sat	Acts 9.31-42	Ps 116.10-15		John 6.60-69

Collect (3rd Sunday of Easter)

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord ...

Prayer after Communion (3rd Sunday of Easter)

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread; open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Some On-line Resources for Worship

A Church Near You Live Streamed events

https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live_stream&diocese=27

Parish Communications and Links

http://www.abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html

St Michael's Prayer and Worship resources page

https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StM/StM_worship_resources.html

Oxford Cathedral: Livestream events will appear on the cathedral's YouTube channel, see

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqz9I9-LbZJAPGtje0gQbbg>.

The University Church of St Mary the Virgin (Oxford) live stream services on YouTube, see

<https://www.youtube.com/c/UniversityChurch/featured>

Community of the Resurrection: live streaming and recordings of the community's daily round of prayer and praise <https://www.facebook.com/Join-with-us-103095121647089>. Details of services can be found at the facebook page and also at the Community web site, <https://mirfield.org.uk/live-streaming/>. On Sundays Mass starts around 8.10 am, after Matins at 7.30 am.

Walsingham In addition to the daily live-streaming of Shrine Prayers at 6 pm (5pm on Saturdays). the Sunday Mass is live-streamed (usually at 7.30 am, but check the web site).

<https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/whatson-2/livestream/>