



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

21st April 2024

4th 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
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]

We welcome Cothill House Boys' Choir to sing Mass this morning and look forward very much to hearing them and what they will add to our worship. We extend a warm welcome to their families and friends and all who may be visiting us and here to support the choir.

From the Team Rector:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Those who attended our Annual Parochial Church Meeting last Thursday evening will have heard me announce my retirement from my ministry in November of this year. I will preside for the last time as Vicar of St Helen's and as Team Rector of the Parish on All Saints' Sunday. It has been a healing time for me and I can say whole-heartedly that the past eighteen years have been the most gratifying years of priestly service for me. I thank you all for whatever part you have played in making that so.

As I now begin to close my portfolio of tasks and duties and think through the many plans and decisions that precede retirement, your new Parochial and District Councils, with support and guidance from operatives in the diocese, will begin to plan congregational and parish life through an interregnum. They will need your support for that and I hope that those who are able will also be ready to give that. The time will come for proper 'goodbyes'. In the meantime let's all remember that we earthly priests and shepherds are but passing shadows of the great High Priest and Good Shepherd, the crucified, risen and ascended Lord Jesus. He holds all of us in his strong hands.

The Good Shepherd

So it's timely that today we mark what's often called 'Good Shepherd Sunday' and hear St John's beautiful, moving description of Jesus as 'the good shepherd' who knows his sheep by name. I take inspiration from that reading in various ways, and its one reason why I say your name when I give you Holy Communion.

Easter Music and Readings at St Helen's

This afternoon we mark the mid-way point through the 'Great Fifty Days' between Easter and Pentecost with a Service of Music & Readings for Eastertide. [**St Helen's Church, 5.30 pm**] Our Associate Priest AKMA and our Director of Music Peter Foster have devised a fine service to mark the day with celebratory readings, insightful prayers and inspiring hymns and anthems. Come along and bring a friend!

The Revd Dr Charles Miller, Team Rector

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS (Team Rector)

O GOD of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favourably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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 Amplifying the Team Rector's remarks above, 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 took place on Sunday 14 April. Louise Heffernan and Joyce Kelly were nominated for election as Church Wardens and were duly elected by the Annual Meeting of Parishioners on Thursday, John Clare (for three years) and Hilary Clare (for two years) were elected to fill vacancies on the PCC. A vacancy for a one-year term of office remains. Glynne Butt, Beryl Clements and Nicola Ng were elected to the DCC, each for a three-year term of office. John Clare was elected to represent St Michael's to the Church in Abingdon. In response to the call to nominate charities to be supported by the church and subsequent vote, the two charities receiving the highest number of votes were Tariro and Oxfordshire Homeless. These two charities are our designated charities for 2024 and 2025. Unapproved minutes of the meeting are available on a notice board in church, on the website Publications page and a few printed 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.

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.

THE ABINGDON BRIDGE (TAB) CHARITY NIGHT at *Loose Cannon Brewery* (Unit 6, Suffolk Way, Abingdon, OX14 5JX) on **Saturday 4 May, 7 pm – 11 pm**. Free entry. Music by *The Bob Cutting Big Band*, food from *The Fat Tabby Catering Co. Ltd*.

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.

PATHWAYS There are printed copies of the Spring 2024 issue of the Diocesan magazine available at the back of church and it also available on-line <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/pathways/>

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

TEMPERATURES IN CHURCH During the week 6 to 13 April, the maximum temperature recorded on the data logger by the pillar by the crossing (North side) was 16.1°C (on Sunday afternoon) and the minimum 13.7°C (in the early hours of Wednesday morning).

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: 21 April Fr Paul, 28 April The Revd Dr Charles Miller, 5 May Fr Paul/ Mrs Beryl Clements, 12 May Fr Paul, 19 May Fr Paul/ Canon Richard Pyke.

Tuesday is the festival of George, martyr, patron of England, c.304 and Thursday is the festival of Mark the Evangelist. There are also commemorations on Wednesday: Mellitus, bishop, 624 and the Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood, 2003 and on Saturday, Christina Rossetti, poet, 1894.

Mellitus was a Roman abbot, sent to England by Pope Gregory the Great to support the work of Augustine. He was consecrated Bishop of the East Saxons with his see in London and his first church was dedicated to St Paul. He was made Archbishop of Canterbury in 619 and died on 24 April in 624. He was buried close to Augustine in the church of Ss Peter and Paul in Canterbury. Readers may be aware that Fr Joe Kennedy, former curate and bishop designate of Burnley, was during part of his time as Vicar of Oxtou St Saviour, a lecturer and tutor at St Mellitus Theological College – a non-residential theological college that “has pioneered context-based training within the Church of England, integrating academic theological study with ministry placements throughout the course of study”.

Mark the Evangelist From Rowan Williams’ book *Meeting God in Mark*:

For many hundreds of years [Mark’s Gospel] was used in public worship far less than any other of the Gospels. It never attracted the great ... commentaries of scholars and saints across the centuries ...

And yet, Mark’s Gospel still has, for all sorts of readers, an exceptional impact. ... A story is told by the late Metropolitan Anthony Bloom [bishop of the Diocese of Sourozh, the Russian Orthodox Church in Great Britain and Ireland]. As a sceptical young man he had been persuaded to attend a camp for young Russians, and attended an address by a celebrated and very saintly Orthodox theologian. The address infuriated and disgusted him, and he went home determined to confirm for himself the emptiness and stupidity of Christianity by reading the Gospels; he chose to start with Mark simply because it was the shortest.

“The feeling I had occurs sometimes when you are walking along in the street, and suddenly you turn round because you feel someone is looking at you. While I was reading, before I reached the beginning of the third chapter, I suddenly became aware that on the other side of my desk there was a Presence ...

“I realised immediately: if Christ is standing here alive, that means he is the Risen Christ.”

He committed himself there and then to the Christian faith and lived it out in a variety of costly ways for the next seventy years, bringing many other people to the acknowledgement of that same Presence he had encountered.

From the SCM Studyguide to *The Books of the New Testament* by Ian Boxall:

Read the following examples of Mark’s ‘sandwich’ technique (sandwiching one story in between two halves of another, so that the two interpret one another): Mark 3.20-35; 5.21-43; 6.7-30; 11.12-26. What light [do] you think the sandwiching sheds on the meaning of the two stories?

Prayers for Israel and Gaza One of several prayers on the website of the Methodist Church:

Merciful God

We cry out to you, in anguish and horror, at the situation in Israel - Palestine

The images we are seeing, the stories we are hearing, of homes, hospitals, places of sanctuary, healing and care, destroyed. We know that there are so many more stories which have not yet been told, and perhaps never will be,

Of precious lives lost, of grief and trauma beyond that which most of us can imagine.

Compassionate God, you came and dwelt among us; you know and understand the suffering of this world.

There is no place beyond your reach; you are everywhere, even in places where we fear there is no hope left. Where we are tempted to despair, your spirit brings mercy, and justice, and healing.

You call us, again and again, in times of conflict and destruction, to be attentive to those who are most vulnerable.

Give us the compassion to weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn.

The discernment to recognize the limits of our own wisdom, and to avoid those actions and words which may cause further harm.

Inspire in us a renewed commitment to walk humbly with you, seeking the peace and flourishing which you desire for all of your beloved children, Amen.

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;
- those elected to office at our ADCM last Sunday, and for Joyce and Louise, elected as Churchwardens at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners;
- Cothill House Boy’s Choir singing Mass for us this 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 Colwell Drive, Conduit Road, Coopers Lane and Coromandel.

Eucharistic Lectionary

4th Sunday of Easter	Acts 4.5-12	Ps 23	1 John 3.16-end	John 10.11-18
Mon	Acts 11.1-18	Ps 42.1-2; 43.1-4		John 10.1-10
Tues George, martyr	1 Maccabees 2.59-64	Ps 126	2 Timothy 2.3-13	John 15.18-21
Wed	Acts 12.24-13.5	Ps 67		John 12.44-end
Thur Mark	Proverbs 15.28-end	Ps 119.9-16	Ephesians 4.7-16	Mark 13.5-13
Fri	Acts 13.26-33	Ps 2		John 14.1-6
Sat	Acts 13.44-end	Ps 98.1-5		John 14.7-14

Collect (4th Sunday of Easter)

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

Prayer after Communion (4th Sunday of Easter)

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect (George, patron of England)

God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and by his death: give us the same faith and power of love that we who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

Collect (Mark the Evangelist)

Almighty God, who enlightened your holy Church through the inspired witness of your evangelist Saint Mark: grant that we, being firmly grounded in the truth of the gospel, may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

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/>