



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

30th June 2024

Peter and Paul, Apostles / 5th Sunday after Trinity

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)
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Churchwardens: Miss Joyce Kelly (533555)
(07833 535768)
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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 to 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 the Revd Professor John Barton as preacher today.

Dear Friends

The Two Great Apostles: Peter and Paul

Today we celebrate the Apostles St Peter and Paul. The Feast of St Peter falls on 29 June, and the Conversion of St Paul on 25 January, but they are often celebrated together on 29 June.

A key event happens on or around 29 June when women and men across the church are ordained deacon and priest. We hold in our prayers all those being ordained at this time, especially in our own diocese, and those celebrating anniversaries, especially the Revd Pauline Seaman, who keeps an anniversary today and is presiding and preaching at St Nicolas' this morning.

We remember the clear difference between Peter and Paul. They are both apostles, but it is only Peter, who met Jesus in the flesh and knew him intimately. Paul, however, received a dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus. Each apostle, as great as they were and as revered as they are today, shared in our own vulnerabilities, the same human struggles we experience.

Peter was one of the three closest to Jesus, often named in the Gospels, but he was always the first to speak without thinking, rebuked for it, the loudest voice of those promising to follow Jesus to death, the one who denied the Lord three times. And yet, Jesus entrusted to him the church, naming him the Rock.

Paul had his failures too in that he was acutely aware that despite his best efforts, he often could not often do what was right. He came to the realization that it was only in his weakness that he found God's strength.

The wonderful thing we learn from both these great apostles is how God chooses people. He doesn't choose those who have proved their abilities or leadership. God chooses only those who place their trust in him and have understood that he does not see with our limited vision, but knows the sometimes hidden gifts that can be drawn into his service and bear fruit.

May we draw strength from this truth and continue faithfully as we follow in the way of Jesus.

With love and blessings

Father Paul

ADVANCE NOTICE We will be marking Charles' retirement with a Parish lunch at the Hilton Hotel on **Sunday 22 September**. Further information, including booking details, will be given in early July.

PRAY YOUR PART: ELECTION 2024 Following the recent Diocesan Synod meeting Sue Scott spoke in the notices recently about the invitation from the Church of England's bishops to encourage prayer and community participation in the run-up to the General Election. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York wrote: "We are inviting everyone who is willing to dedicate the next few weeks as a time not just to think about the big questions, but also to pray for our nation and our world." *Pray Your Part* is a 21-day journey of prayer and reflection (from Friday, 14 June until Election Day on 4 July). Each day explores a different theme, with a short Bible reading, reflection and prayer for a different aspect of our common life. For example, Day 1, *Your Kingdom Come*, opens with a reading from 1 Timothy 2.1-4 and concludes with the prayer:

Guide the leaders of the nations
that they may work for the common good,
and strengthen our hearts
with a vision of your kingdom.

Hear us, good Lord.

A preview of the material is available on-line,

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/topics/pray-your-part-general-election-2024>

and there is a form at that location that one can complete to receive each day's material by email. A litany, which is also part of Pray Your Part is available to download from

<https://d3hgrrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/61f2fd86f0ee5/content/pages/documents/pray-your-part-litany.pdf>

Printed copies are available from *Church House Publishing* and a small number of these are available in church.

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).

On **Sunday 30 June at 5.30 pm** there will be a *Sacred Concert*.

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

PARISH TREASURER A further role remains vacant in the parish in that there will soon be a need for a Parish Treasurer as Susan Read steps down from this over the summer. Please can we commend to your prayers this important need in the parish. *Fr Paul and the Churchwardens*

THE CIRCLE OF LOVE is the name of the Marriage Preparation course offered to all couples who are married in the parish. It covers three evenings in succession where couples come together to learn about the nature of Christian marriage as they enter this significant commitment and way of life. The Team Rector is wanting to bring together some lay leaders to support the clergy who currently lead this programme. This is especially pertinent as we approach the forthcoming interregnum. The Team Rector is keen to meet with anyone who is interested from across our three churches during July – dates to be confirmed. Please consider this call for help prayerfully and if you discern that this may be for you – even if you wish to find out just a little more at this stage – please contact the Parish Office direct with your response. Thank you. *Fr Paul*

LIFT WANTED Tina is in need of a lift from Mayott House to church each Sunday. If anyone could offer a lift, please speak to Simon.

THE ABINGDON GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME is trying to recruit more volunteers. Churches in Abingdon are being approached as members might be interested in becoming volunteers. There are cards available in church that give details of how to become a volunteer.

MOVING INTO STILLNESS: circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes on **Thursday 4 July in the church 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.

WANTAGE ACADEMY BRASS AND WANTAGE YOUTH BRASS, Saturday 6 July, 7pm. These popular bands are returning to give another fund-raising concert for The Abingdon Bridge, TARIRO – Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe and St Michael’s Church. Tickets can be purchased in advance from <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DKYX>, adults £12, concessions £10 (plus 15p booking free per ticket), age 16 & under free. Tickets will also be available in church and on the door. Credit card payments will be accepted on the door.



MOTHERS’ UNION meet on **9 July at 10.30 am** in **St Helen’s Parish Centre**. The speaker will be Rachel Buckley from *Baby Basics Milton Keynes*. Baby Basics MK is a non-profit charity dedicated to supporting families living in Milton Keynes and the immediate surrounding area who are in financial hardship. Please bring with you any first size baby jackets, baby cream, cotton wool to give to Rachel. *All welcome.*

ABINGDON CHORALE are presenting their first ever Summer Concert “Hey Nony Nony” in aid of The Abingdon Bridge on **Sunday 14 July at 8 pm** in **St Michael’s Church**. Join them for an hour of gorgeous music, followed by refreshments. They will sing a selection of songs on a Shakespearean theme, with a few jazzy numbers thrown in for good measure! Tickets price £10 (£2.50 for under 16s) are available from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-abingdon-bridge/t-xmovmye> or at the door.

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. See <https://abingdon.foodbank.org.uk/>

CiA NEWS A printed copy of the **June issue** is now 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>

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

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The July issue of the Parish Magazine will be published on Sunday 14 July. Do contribute! One idea is to describe holidays with a purpose, eg has anyone walked the Camino to Santiago de Compostela? **Deadline Sunday 7 July**. There will be no magazine in August.

The June and earlier editions of the Parish Magazine can be download from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php.

Rob Rutherford

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 9 November: Our annual **Christmas Fair** will take place on Saturday 9 November. This event is an important part of our fundraising so please keep the date free if at all possible as we will be looking for lots of help. It's also usually a day to enjoy.

Worship

This Week The celebrants and preachers on Sundays over coming weeks are: 30 June (SS Peter and Paul transferred) Fr Paul/ The Revd Professor John Barton; 7 July Fr Paul/ The Revd Dr A K M Adam; 14 July Fr Paul; 21 July Fr Paul/ Canon Richard Pyke; 28 July The Revd Dr Charles Miller.

Wednesday is the feast of Thomas the Apostle. Commemorations this week include: Monday: Henry, John and Henry Venn, priests, evangelical divines, 1797, 1813, 1873; Saturday: Thomas More, scholar, and John Fisher, bishop, martyrs, 1535.

Pray Your Part 2024 Each of the petitions in the Litany for the General Election is used in sequence as the concluding prayer for the daily meditations. The petition for Sunday 30 June is:

Heal the sick in body and mind
and provide for the homeless,
the hungry and the destitute.

Hear us, good Lord.

Pray for the *Abingdon Foodbank* and for *Homeless Oxfordshire*, one of the charities we are supporting, and their work in Abingdon.

Henry, John and Henry Venn Henry Venn (senior) was an evangelical minister and one of the founders of an influential evangelical group. His son John was one of the founders of the Church Missionary Society, now called the Church Mission Society (CMS), and John's son Henry was secretary for 32 years. Henry (senior) died in 1797, John died on 1 July 1813 and Henry in 1873. From the CMS web site <https://churchmissionsociety.org/about/our-story/>

The Society was founded in Aldersgate Street in the City of London on 12 April 1799. The group included people like William Wilberforce, John Venn and John Newton. Together, they worked to abolish the slave trade, they fought for the rights of oppressed people at home and they launched out onto dangerous seas to share Jesus with the world.

From Henry Venn: *Missionary and Statesman* by Wilbert Shenk (1983):

Although missions were no longer a novelty by the time Henry Venn became the secretary of the Church Missionary Society in 1841, no one had yet conceived a formal theoretical framework of mission. Venn became a central figure in the forging of mission theory. He used the term 'principle' to mean both axiom and goal. He established no ranking of principles, and indeed expected that 'working principles' would be modified by time and place. Communicating Christ as Saviour was an infinitely varied and complex process.

His working principles were in many ways interrelated. The first was preaching. He saw preaching as the engine of mission, but not to be misused. The preacher could cheapen the gospel by proclaiming it in the wrong manner or place. The cross of Christ was the centre of Christian preaching. His second working principle was that the missionary must master the vernacular languages. He insisted that preaching through an interpreter was not missionary work. And thirdly, in relation to this, he stressed the importance of giving people the Scriptures in their own language as early as possible. The bible possessed a 'living energy'.

Venn felt that education was basic to missionary work. From the very beginning the Church Missionary Society set as a goal the training of an indigenous leadership.

Prayers for Israel and Gaza A prayer from The Methodist Church.

In a world that God made good let us pray
for people seeing things no human being should see
for people seized by terror no human being should experience
for people whose depths of suffering no human being should know.
God of unquenchable hope
Confirm our belief that this is not how things should be;
Affirm our belief that things can and will be different;
Strengthen our belief in Jesus who opens the way from death to resurrection, and
Help us, as his disciples to be your agents for change in our broken world. **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, the Princess Royal and all the royal family;
- our nation as it prepares for a General Election, for all those standing for election, for integrity and grace;
- 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;

- those recently ordained to the diaconate (29 June) and priesthood (22 June) in our diocese and for the ministry of the Revd Pauline Seaman celebrating the anniversary of her ordination at St Nicolas' Church on Sunday;
- the need for a new Parish Treasurer to succeed Susan Read;
- 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 Gosling Court, Grebe Close, Harding Road and Healey Close.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Peter and Paul, Apostles (5 th Sunday after Trinity)	Acts 12.1-11	Ps 125	2 Timothy 4.6-8, 17-18	Matthew 16.13-19
Mon	Amos 2.6-10, 13-end	Ps 50.16-23		Matthew 8.18-22
Tues	Amos 3.1-8, 4.11-12	Ps 5.8-end		Matthew 8.23-27
Wed Thomas the Apostle	Habakkuk 2.1-4	Ps 31.1-6	Ephesians 2.19-end	John 20.24-29
Thur	Amos 7.10-end	Ps 19.7-10		Matthew 9.1-8
Fri	Amos 8.4-6, 9-12	Ps 119.1-8		Matthew 9.9-13
Sat	Amos 9.11-end	Ps 85.8-end		Matthew 9.14-17

Collect (Peter and Paul, Apostles)

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life: grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion (Peter and Paul, Apostles)

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect (5th Sunday after Trinity)

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

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/>