



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

7th July 2024

6th 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)
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 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 Dr A K M Adam as deacon at our Mass today.

Dear Friends

The need to hope....

I am writing on Polling Day trying to figure out what difference and changes we shall see after the results of this General Election. I know what I hope for, but will my hopes be fulfilled?

The lead up to this day has been charged with high emotion in debate and commentary. For me at least, a lot of what has been said has been unhelpful, and sometimes in disappointing ways from those who hold office on behalf of our nation.

We need to pray for the one whom the King will invite to form a new Government and we need to recall that we are among those who can hope! If we are not that, who is?

In his encyclical *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis is realistic that we live in times of huge uncertainty. Nevertheless he exhorts his readers: 'may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the Good News'. Like the first disciples of Jesus, we are bearers of Good News. Sometimes we fail to recognise this. Ultimately by his life and death Jesus has given us a new and living hope. We affirm this in our hope beyond this life, but also here and now. As the Letter to the Hebrews says, 'faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen'. (Hebrews 11.1).

We cannot see what lies ahead, what shall be fulfilled in a new Government, and yet we can be a people of hope, armed with the Good News, for without hope we are lost. By our deeds and through faithful prayer we shall not lose hope, but persevere in the hope we have in Jesus, who can be our only source of real hope. He gives us confidence in everything, even in that which is unknown.

With love and blessings

Father Paul

NORTH DOOR On two occasions recently the North Door has been found to have been left unlocked. If locking up after a service or event please could you ensure that the door is locked, preferably by checking it from outside.

Thank you. *Louise*

ADVANCE NOTICE There will be a **Parish Lunch** to mark the retirement of the **Team Rector**. A lunch is booked to mark the occasion, and make any leaving presentations, at the **Hilton Hotel, Abingdon for 1pm on Sunday 22 September**. There is an opportunity to sign up on the attendance sheet on the **Welcome Table**, giving your menu choices too please. Cost £25 pp or £12.95 for under 12's. Details of how to pay on the sign-up sheet. Closing date 4 August.

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).

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

THE REVD IAN GRIFFITHS presbyter of Trinity Church and All Saints Methodist Church is leaving Abingdon, on Sunday 21 July. Readers will remember the exchange services with Trinity Church prior to first lockdown and indeed the service on the last Sunday before lockdown was a joint service with Trinity Church. We also much appreciated Ian's participation in the Easter Vigil Liturgy earlier this year. We wish Ian and his wife, Tabitha, well as they move to new pastures.

PARISH TREASURER We are delighted to announce that Dr Jenny Metcalfe, who is also treasurer at St Nic's, has kindly agreed to be treasurer here at St Michael's too, in succession to Susan Read. Please remember Jenny in your prayers as she takes on this role for us. *Fr Paul and the Churchwardens*

THE ALBERT PARK SINGER'S CONCERT ON FRIDAY 28 JUNE raised £764 in joint support of Sobell House Hospice and St Michael's. We are most grateful to the Albert Park Singers for their generosity in sharing 50% of the proceeds of the concert with us and for the occasion itself.

CREAM TEA The sum of £471.01 was raised for church funds at the Cream Tea on 29 June. It was lovely to see so many of you there, together with your friends and family. Huge thanks to our brilliant team of helpers and special thanks to Sally Mears who delighted us with song and music on our beautiful piano. Another truly wonderful afternoon!

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.

THE LAY COMMUNITY OF ST BENEDICT (LCSB) is hosting St Benedict Week for the second year, after launching it in 2023. It will be from 6-14 July, with the feast on 11 July.

St Benedict Week this year will feature Archbishop Rowan Williams, Fr Chad from Ampleforth and Discipleship Co-ordinator, Jerome Beards, as well as blogs and podcasts from a variety of Benedictine lovers. The LCSB web site <https://www.lcsb.uk/st-benedict-week> has more information about the programme. Talks will be on-line and delivered through Zoom. The web site has more information about how to register for these. [*I think they are free. Ed.*]

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 **July 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: On **Saturday 27 July from 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm**, St Michael's Church will be hosting our next Cream Tea of the summer season. Join us for an afternoon of live music. Tea/coffee with scone/cake £5. Proceeds to church funds. Please bring your family and friends to this popular event. All welcome.

Worship

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

There is one commemoration this week, on Thursday, Benedict, abbot, c. 550.

Benedict was born in central Italy, in Nursia, around 480. He went to study in Rome, but appalled by the corruption he found there, he withdrew to live as a hermit in Subiaco. He attracted disciples and started to establish monasteries around there. He later moved to Monte Cassino with a group of monks and it was there that he wrote his "Rule for Monks", based on his experience of fallible people striving to live out the gospel. Many religious communities today follow in the path set out by the Rule of St Benedict. The Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield follows this rule with supplements of actual rules to run a modern-day community. Fr George CR recently published a book entitled: *All Christians are Monks – The Monastery, the Parish and the Renewal of the Church* (Sacristy Press, 2024). The opening paragraph is:

The book's title should have been "all Christians are nuns and monks" of course, but titles need to be snappy, and one gender can't monopolize a word that traditionally applies to all people in that way of life. What I want to show is that the women and men who live and work in religious communities have something to share with contemporary Christians: furthermore, we may get a whiff in them of a clarion call to return to things we have lost or grown weak in. They are not saying in this, "We are better than you", but rather something like: "We've been given this amazing fruitcake – try a piece, and then if you want some more, go to the One who made it."

In a section headed *Discussion with respect*, Fr George writes:

There was a strong tendency in leaders to assume their opinions were right and others wrong, something not unfamiliar today, but more widespread and autocratic in the sixth century. In this time, authority meant power, which could often be as arbitrary as it wanted. Benedict moved against that, introducing something that went completely contrary to such a culture. In Chapter 3 of his Rule, he says that on important matters the abbot has to consult the brethren. This was nothing new – what is new is the way Benedict treats this. The Abbot still makes the final decision, but he has to listen to everyone carefully. Everyone has to be called to the meeting, even the youngest and newest recruits. Benedict surprisingly says the Lord often reveals what is better to the younger; this was in a culture where age counted for wisdom – the older you are, the more clout you have in decision-making. Reading between the lines we can see Benedict targeting older people who simply assumed they were right, and whose motto might be "this is the way we have always done it". He sought to break through all of that. ... the brothers, for their part, are to express their opinions with all humility, and not presume to defend their own views obstinately. The monks are to listen to one another with complete openness. ... When therefore it comes to discussion in a meeting of the community, the spirit of the meeting is one of listening – of putting listening before speaking, and being realistic about the relative value of our own opinions.

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, and all the royal family;
- Those who will form our new Government, this time of transition, and all those who serve in public office;
- the peace of the world, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan;
- the Revd Ian Griffiths, presbyter of Trinity and All Saints' Churches, and his wife Tabitha, as they leave Abingdon;
- Dr Jenny Metcalfe as she succeeds Susan Read as treasurer;
- 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 Herman Close, Hermitage Road, Heron Court and High Street.

Eucharistic Lectionary

6th Sunday after Trinity	Ezekiel 2.1-5	Ps 123	2 Corinthians 12.2-10	Mark 6.1-13
Mon	Hosea 2.14-16, 19-20	Ps 145.2-9		Matthew 9.18-26
Tues	Hosea 8.4-7, 11-13	Ps 103.8-12		Matthew 9.32-end
Wed	Hosea 10.1-3 7-8, 12	Ps 115.3-10		Matthew 10.1-7
Thur	Hosea 11.1, 3-4, 8-9	Ps 105.1-7		Matthew 10.7-15
Fri	Hosea 14.2-end	Ps 80.1-7		Matthew 10.16-23

Sat	Isaiah 6.1-8	Ps 51.1-7	Matthew 10.24-33
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Collect (6th Sunday after Trinity)

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord ...

Post Communion (6th Sunday after Trinity)

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ 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/>