



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

21th July 2024

Mary Magdalene / 8th 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)
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Mrs Louise Heffernan (01235 525412)
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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 Canon Richard Pyke as our President and Preacher this morning

Dear Friends

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord' (John 20.18)

When I served in my title parish, one of the two village churches in the benefice was dedicated to Mary Magdalene. This Sunday I have the privilege of preaching for their Patronal Festival at St Mary Magdalene, Great Hampden, in the Buckinghamshire Archdeaconry. I have not had the opportunity to return in nineteen years so it will be a special and nostalgic occasion.

Whenever I think about Mary Magdalene my thoughts are typically drawn to the gospel we hear today. It is the wonderful passage we hear on Easter morning, when Mary's deep sorrow and grief in the garden is turned to joy as she hears her name and meets her teacher and Lord. The other thing is that she is one of the most misunderstood and misrepresented people of the Bible. Without proper evidence she has been equated with other women in the Gospels and eventually has been seen as a reformed prostitute. All we can be sure about is that Jesus had cast out seven devils from her, which suggests some mental disturbance, addiction or sin. But there is no evidence of this being sexual! Grateful for her deliverance, she loved much, mourned deeply and was rewarded by being the first witness to the resurrection of the Risen Christ. She who had followed faithfully even to the cross and the tomb was given a new relationship and a deeper reverence.

As a result of Mary's love she received the task and privilege of being the first to tell the Good News, to comfort those men who had left the scene in despair, and to tell them 'I have seen the Lord'. She was none other than the first of the apostles – among those 'to be sent', the meaning of apostle.

We have much to be thankful for in the person of Mary Magdalene. I suggest first that we may honour her example and thank God for the knowledge she gives us of Jesus, and the assurance that he is always with us. We should remember too that she urges us to be faithful apostles as at the end of every Eucharist we are sent out to serve God in the world in love and peace.

With love and blessings

Father Paul

FR JOE KENNEDY For readers who see this pew leaflet before Sunday 21 July, Fr Joe's Ordination & Consecration as the Bishop of Burnley will take place in York Minster on Friday 19 July at 11.00 am. The service will be live-streamed on the Minster's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@YorkMinsterOfficial/streams> and should be available to view afterwards.

ABINGDON CHORALE CONCERT The Trustees of TAB, *The Abingdon Bridge*, and the *Abingdon Chorale* led by Dr Tim Robson would like to thank Fr Paul and the Churchwardens for their support and help at last Sunday afternoon's recital of Summer Music based mainly on Shakespeare's Sonnets. The occasion raised just over one thousand pounds for TAB and its work with the young people of Abingdon.

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*

PARISH LUNCH 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**, and to give your menu choices on the booking forms provided. Cost £25 pp or £12.95 for under 12's. The booking form includes details of how to pay by bank transfer. Cash and cheques along with completed forms should be given to the church wardens, Joyce or Louise. 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.

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*

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.

CREAM TEA 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.

SILENT REFLECTIONS will be held on **Tuesday 30 July at 7.30 pm** in the church room. Fr Paul 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 Please note there will be no circle dancing of any kind during August.

ABINGDON MOTHERS UNION Come and join *Abingdon Mothers' Union* for a Cream Tea, £5, at St Nicolas' Church, **Tuesday 6 August, 3.00 – 4.30 p.m.** Bring and Buy, and Raffle. (Proceeds to "Away From It All" Holiday Fund.)

The MU and the parish, have been asked, once again to provide the cakes for the "Children Heard and Seen" (CHAS) residential at Hill End Camp from 15 to 18 August. There is an article about this in the forthcoming *A Candle in the Window*. Elizabeth Dawson will be taking the cakes up to Hill End on the morning of the 15 August.

IMAGES OF MARY Exploring the names of Mary through the writings of St Bernard of Clairvaux, a pivotal figure in the development of the Cistercian Order, a retreat organised by the Community of St Mary the Virgin, Wantage **Friday 16 – Sunday 18 August 2024**, led by the Revd Sue Blagden. For more information and booking see <https://csmv.co.uk/images-of-mary-16-18-august-2024/>

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 is available to download from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php. Paper copies (*in addition to those pre-ordered from the Editor*) are available from the Parish Office or from St Nicolas' Church if need be. Do read it!

Rob Rutherford

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Saturday 5 July 2025, **Wantage Academy Brass** are booked to give another concert in aid of The Abingdon Bridge, TARIRO and St Michael's Church.

Worship

This Week The celebrants and preachers on Sundays over coming weeks are: 21 July Canon Richard Pyke; 28 July The Revd Dr Charles Miller. The current clergy rota ends on 28 July.

We are keeping the festival of Mary Magdalene on Sunday (transferred from Monday). Thursday is the festival of James the Apostle. Commemorations include Friday: Anne and Joachim, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saturday: Brooke Foss Westcott, bishop, teacher of faith, 1901.

Brooke Foss Westcott was born in 1825, ordained and then became a master at Harrow School. He was elected as Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge in 1870 and together with Fenton Hort and J.B. Lightfoot led a revival in biblical studies and theology and had a significant role in the founding of the Clergy Training School in Cambridge, later renamed Westcott House in his memory. In 1890 he was consecrated Bishop of Durham where he died in 1901.

From the Westcott House web site <https://www.westcott.cam.ac.uk/about-us/history/>

Formation at Westcott House still revolves around opening the Scriptures and sharing in the sacraments to discern the presence of Christ who calls and unites us to join in with the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in ministry and mission. As a priest, scholar, educator and prophet, Bishop Westcott's legacy to the Church of England challenged division in the Church and called for faithful lives dedicated to worship and service. This is the spirit which Westcott House still seeks to honour today, drawing students from all backgrounds to an historic centre of Christian learning in order to prepare them for passionate ministry and mission, to contribute to lifelong learning, and to deepen committed and active discipleship.

From Westcott's book *Christus Consummator*, first published in 1896.

If the outward were the measure of the Church of Christ, we might well despair. ... [but] we have come to the kingdom of God, peopled with armies of angels and men working for us and with us because they are working for him. And although we cannot grasp the fullness of the truth, and free ourselves from the fetters of sense, yet we can, in the light of the Incarnation, feel the fact of this unseen fellowship; ...

Such convictions are sufficient to bring calm to the believer in the sad conflicts of a restless age, widely different from the blind complacency which is able to forget the larger sorrows of the world in the confidence of selfish security, and from the superficial indifference which regards diversities as trivial which for good or evil modify the temporal workings of faith. They enable us to preserve a true balance between the elements of our life. ... They inspire us with the ennobling hope that in the wisdom of God we shall become one, not by narrowing and defining the faith which is committed to us, but by rising through the help of the Spirit, to a worthier sense of its immeasurable grandeur.

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;
- Our government and the opposition following the opening of Parliament and all 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, for their leaving service today;
- 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 Hyde Place, Inkerman Close, Jackman Close and John Jones Close.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Mary Magdalene	Song of Solomon 3.1-4	Ps 42.1-10	2 Corinthians 5.14-17	John 20.1-2, 11-18
Mon	Micah 6.1-4, 6-8	Ps 50.3-7, 14		Matthew 12.38-42
Tues	Micah 7.14-15, 18-20	Ps 85.1-7		Matthew 12.46-end
Wed	Jeremiah 1.1, 4-10	Ps 70		Matthew 13.1-9
Thur James the Apostle	Jeremiah 45.1-5	Ps 126	Acts 11.27-12.2	Matthew 20.20-28
Fri	Jeremiah 3.14-17	Ps 23		Matthew 13.18-23
Sat	Jeremiah 7.1-11	Ps 84.1-6		Matthew 13.24-30

Collect (Mary Magdalene)

Almighty God, whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be a witness to his resurrection: forgive our sins and heal us by your grace, that we may serve you in the power of his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion (Mary Magdalene)

God of life and love, whose risen Son called Mary Magdalene by name and sent her to tell of his resurrection to his apostles: in your mercy, help us, who have been united with him in this eucharist, to proclaim the good news that he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Collect (8th Sunday after Trinity)

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, ...

Collect (James the Apostle)

Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay: 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/>