



# St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**  
**17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pewleaflet@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk)**

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

Dear Friends

**Jesus rebukes his disciples and surprises them with an unexpected saying (Mark 9.35)**

As the end of Jesus' earthly ministry draws to an end, as he moves towards his Passion and death, the disciples appear to be seen in an increasingly bad light. They have just been told of the suffering and death that lie before him and they are quarrelling about status and precedence. Jesus calls them to order, not with a simple command to just pack it in and behave themselves, but with a saying which surprises them even more than a strong rebuke. This saying surprises because it reverses all human expectations. It is a paradox that can be resolved with spiritual insight and understanding alone. In this important moment with the disciples, this is what takes place:

*"He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them: "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all".*

It is like some of the parables of the Kingdom whose meanings can be a puzzle as well as seemingly unjust at a human level: such as the same wages being given for one hour's work as for a whole day, or everything being sold to get possession of one precious pearl. Despite all they had been taught and their knowledge of the scriptures, the disciples did not yet grasp that Jesus the Messiah was to be a suffering servant, a victim and not an earthly conqueror, or some kind of modern-day superman. Later they come to such a fuller understanding that they begin to preach and teach that message with passion and conviction.

Those of us who follow him today can do so only by being prepared to return again and again to understanding the heart of the Lord's message, and knowing that living that message is about humble and sacrificial service. It is the way in which we live and grow as he intends for us.

Finally, you will see Nicola's news about the success of the Cream Teas and the exact amount that was raised. I would like to underline just how grateful I am on behalf of us all for this magnificent endeavour which is now becoming what, I believe is a unique selling point for us! Last Saturday was the final afternoon in this year's Cream Tea Season and in addition to serving teas and all else that was involved, Nicola, together with Louise, also took part in the Ride and Stride, and which as you will see, raised over £300.

***With my thanks, love and prayers, Father Paul***

**CREAM TEAS 2024** The 6th, and final Cream Tea has rounded off a very successful season; the sum of **£556.73** was raised for church funds. We were pleased to welcome and chat to many visitors all of whom enjoyed the fabulous cakes and scones and revelled in the delightful music. Thank you to our many neighbours, and friends, for your patronage and loyal support. You have helped the church raise a total of **£2,720.47**. The offering of these successful events would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of a fantastic team of helpers; bakers who have given their skill, time and cakes so freely; pianists Glynne, Catherine, Guy-Bernard Davis, and Sally Mears who entertained with wonderful music; Abingdon School who sponsored the cost of printed publicity; Helen Owen who sourced the many raffle prizes, and everyone who helped with serving, setting up and clearing away. Thank you

*Nicola*

**RIDE AND STRIDE 2024** Thank you to everyone who sponsored us this year. Twelve churches were visited in Abingdon, including Sunningwell and Radley, and the sum of **£361.00** was raised which will be split equally between St Michael's Church and OHCT. Huge thanks to the volunteers who gave up time to welcome riders and striders to our church. I'm sure they would have been grateful for the hospitality they received. *Nicola and Louise*

**AUTUMN PROGRAMME** Due to complications with a couple of dates, I now hope to publish a programme for the period from the Patronal Festival (29 September) to the feast of Christ the King (24 November) with the next issue, 29 September issue. There will be several concerts in church in this period and details of events in October are included in this pew leaflet.

**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](https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StH/StH_publications.html)).

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

**SILENT REFLECTIONS** will be held on **Tuesday 24 September at 7.30 pm**. Sue Sheppy will provide material for our reflections on the theme: *Partnership* 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 for use in Park Road. NB We will meet in the church right from the start this month; please come in through the South Porch.

**SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER** – Patronal Festival – St Michael and All Angels. There will be a Sung Mass as usual at 9.30 am when the preacher will be the Revd Elizabeth Birch. "Enhanced" refreshments will follow!

**NEWS FROM OUR PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER** Do you hold a role within church e.g. steward, welcomer, helper/leader of any sort of group including children/young people/vulnerable adults, verger, pastoral visitor, bell ringer, choir, PCC, DCC, warden or are you just interested in keeping our churches really safe places where everyone is included and can flourish? You are very welcome to attend one of the four Basic Awareness training sessions: **2 pm**

**Tuesday 24 September or 7 pm Monday 23 September or 7 pm on Thursday 3 October, or 2 pm on Tuesday 8 October** in St Helens church centre if you would prefer that to doing it online in your own time. Refreshments. A chance to ask questions and chat. Please book – Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) Pat Hudson 07787120045 or [safeguarding@abingdonparish.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@abingdonparish.org.uk). Sign-up sheets are now available in church. Pat will also be attending Mass on 29 September which will give us the important opportunity to put a name to a face and for her to meet us all.

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING** This year Harvest Thanksgiving will be celebrated on **Sunday 6 October**. We will again be supporting The Porch Centre in Oxford which provides a stepping-stone for those who are homeless or vulnerably housed. They run a range of projects including hot meals and washing facilities at the Centre, six allotments which provide work for some members and a range of produce for the centre, and vocational skills training. Donations of money are invited again this year.

A particular challenge at the moment is to secure funding for *The Moving Forwards Programme* which tackles homelessness by trying to break repeated cycles of vulnerability with secure accommodation and employment. “The Programme has run successfully since 2018, making one-to-one support (skills development, housing and employment advice) available to any of our 474 homeless and vulnerably housed clients (our members).” More information about this will be circulated with the email distribution of the pew leaflet and a paper copy will be available near the welcome table.

There will be basket at the back of the church for you to place your donation. Some readers might prefer to donate online (which offers gift aid benefits where appropriate). In which case, if you feel comfortable doing so, please put an anonymous note of your donation (in an envelope) in the basket so these can be included in the total raised. <https://theporch.org.uk/>

**ABINGDON MOTHERS’ UNION Tuesday 1 October, 2024 at 10.30 am** in **St Helen’s Parish Centre**. This month’s topic is Church Embroidery and the speaker is Suellen Pedley, Embroiderer of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford who runs the cathedral’s needlework group and in fact founded it in the 1980s. This promises to be a very interesting talk and will appeal to anyone who enjoys needlework, tapestry, embroidery etc.

**MUSIC AT ST MICHAEL’S** You are warmly invited to an exciting series of two concerts this autumn at St Michael’s Church.

**Huw Rhys James**, Viennese pianist will be returning to us on **Sunday 6 October at 3 pm** with a delightful programme of Haydn, Chopin and Brahms.

**Pavlova Winds**, renowned local group will be performing music by Holst and Hindemith on **Sunday 20 October at 3 pm**.

Tickets at £12/£10 Accompanied children under 16 free. Available at the door or from <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DTWR> (piano recital) or from <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DTWT> (Pavlova Winds concert). Generously sponsored by *Creative Drives Oxford Ltd* and proceeds to church funds.

**Help is needed** to deliver flyers to homes in our parish to spread the word. Please see **Nicola, Joyce or Louise** if you are able to volunteer.

**A CELEBRATION OF PILGRIMAGE AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL Saturday 19 October**, St Frideswide's Day with guided walks to the Cathedral from local parishes, activities, and tours, ending with a family service led by Bishop Steven. There is also the opportunity to purchase tickets to enjoy afternoon tea in our historic Great Hall. One of the walks starts from St Nicolas’ Church, Abingdon. This year, the theme of our reflections is Creation and stewardship of our environment with guest speaker Emeritus Professor of Science and Religion, the Revd Professor Alister McGrath. It is said in diocesan e-news that “with a copy of our leaflet for the day, you can enter the Cathedral for free on the day via Tom Gate on St Aldates. The leaflets will be available in your parish church, as well as on the Cathedral welcome desk to be collected after a service or a visit.” For more details see <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/events/chch-celebration-pilgrimage>

**ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS’ CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR** Please join us for our annual Christmas Fair on **Saturday 9 November from 10 am until 2 pm**. There will be an exciting range of craft and gift stalls plus a raffle with generous prizes. Cakes, bottles, books, plants and bric-a-brac will be on sale and there will be live music and activities for children. Free parking and refreshments available including our favourite bacon butties. All welcome. Proceeds to church funds and local charity *Flexicare* (Oxford & Abingdon) Event generously sponsored by *Breckon & Breckon*.

**Help needed.** We are looking for volunteers to help with the running of stalls including cakes, plants, bric-a-brac, raffle, bottles, books, and our usual refreshments. Please let us know if you are willing to bake cakes for sale. Please save any unwanted bric-a-brac, books, puzzles and games for sale on the day. Your help will be greatly appreciated and will ensure the success of our biggest fundraising event of the year. Please contact **Louise or Nicola** if you're able to assist.

**CiA NEWS** A printed copy of the **September 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** Printed copies of the Autumn 2024 issue of the Diocesan magazine are available at the back of church. It is also available on-line <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/pathways/>

**A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW** The October parish magazine seeks content! Deadline end of 29 September. If you would like a theme (not compulsory) - "Abundance". Please send contributions to [candle@abingdonparish.org.uk](mailto:candle@abingdonparish.org.uk). Thank you.

The September edition of the Parish magazine 'A Candle in the Window' is available to download from [https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P\\_window.php](https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php) along with previous issues.

Rob Rutherford

### **MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

*Sunday 10 November:* Abingdon School are holding a **Remembrance Day Concert** at 7.00 pm at St Michael's Church.  
*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**

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**This Week and Next** The celebrant and preachers during September and October are: 22 September Fr Paul; 29 September Fr Paul/The Revd Elizabeth Birch; 6 October Fr Paul; 13 October The Revd Dr Charles Miller; 20 October Fr Paul/ Mrs Beryl Clements; 27 October Fr Paul.

Commemorations during the week include, Wednesday: Lancelot Andrews, bishop, spiritual writer, 1626, and Sergei of Radonezh, monastic reformer, teacher of the faith, 1392; Thursday: Wilson Carlile, founder of the Church Army, 1942; Friday: Vincent de Paul, founder of the Lazarists, 1660. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday are Ember Days.

**Ember Days and Ordinations** Days of prayer for those to be ordained deacon or priest, have traditionally been observed on the Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at various points in the year. *The Collect:*

Almighty God, you have entrusted to your Church a share in the ministry of your Son our great high priest: inspire by your Holy Spirit the hearts of many to offer themselves for the ministry of your Church, that strengthened by his power, they may work for the increase of your kingdom and forward the eternal praise of your name; through Jesus Christ ... Amen.

**Creation Season** One of the liturgical resources contained in *A Time for Creation* is a *lament for a time of global environmental and climate crisis*. It conveniently divides into three sections; this is the second of the three.

**Refrain: The land cries out to you, O Lord.**

The water springs are silent, and the streams run dry: the green places are a dry land where there is no water. (*Psalms 63.2b*) **R.**

The fertile ground is exhausted: the land has become a parched and windswept wasteland. **R.**

The holy cities have become a wilderness: Zion has become a desolation. (*Isaiah 64.10*) **R.**

So turn us again, O Lord: and come to our help. (*Psalms 80.4a, 3b*) **R.**

*Chips with (in) everything*

The range of products that contain electronics in the form of microchips has increased dramatically over recent years from cars to fridges as well as the obvious desktops, laptops, tablets and smartphones. But how are microchips made, what is the impact on the environment and where are they made? From sand and impurities is the answer to the first question. Through mining activities and energy use is the answer to the second. Taiwan (in the main) is the answer to the third.

The starting material for chip production is a silicon wafer, a very thin disc of silicon. Sand is silicon dioxide, so all you have to do is to get rid of the oxygen and you are left with silicon. Not quite. As one article in the technical press put it, "you can't just go down to the beach with a JCB and collect sand". Beach sand contains far too many impurities, so the starting point is a material that is quarried, a much purer form called silica sand. The oxygen is then removed by heating the sand to 2,000°C with carbon. That requires a lot of energy. The resulting silicon is then treated with oxygen to remove impurities, resulting in silicon that can be up to 99% pure. But that is nowhere near pure enough for chip making. The next stage is more complicated involving treatment with hydrogen chloride at 300°C, followed by distillation at 1,000°C. The purified silicon is collected on the end of a rod of ultra-pure silicon, resulting in silicon that is 99.999999% pure – electronics grade silicon.

Unfortunately, this is nowhere near the end of the story which gets a lot more complicated. The form of silicon produced so far has an irregular crystal structure and for chip making a highly ordered structure is required. So the silicon has to be recrystallised and that is another energy intensive process heating the silicon to above 1,414°C in a quartz crucible rotating in one direction and drawing out a tiny crystal of ultra-pure silicon on the end of a rod which rotates in the opposite direction. Quartz can withstand these high temperatures. The result is a rod of silicon around

30 cm diameter. This is then sliced into wafers around 0.775mm thick which are then polished and given an oxide layer coating which creates the pattern for the required circuit. It is a little bit like screen printing, with the oxide layer acting as a stencil, but on a much finer scale. Circuit elements such as transistors are then created by depositing other materials at specific locations on the wafer. This is a highly complicated, ultra-precise process. Whether chips work at all depends on the precision of this process and in simple terms how fast the circuits operate depends in part on how small the deposition areas are. Each wafer will contain many chips and not all of them will work, so there is wastage.

Mention of quartz crucibles in this piece prompts me to say a little bit about the human impact this all has. A recently published article in the *Annals of the History of Computing* looks at how the mineral quartz was mined in Brazil under appalling conditions in an unregulated market. Quartz, which is a particular crystalline form of silica, was found to have applications in electronics during the Second World War and became a material of strategic importance. Quartz mining has now moved to other countries, but the human as well as the environmental impact of the demand for more raw materials remains. This in connection with the transition to new energy sources is an avenue explored in a paper from the Laudato Si' research institute at Champion Hall in Oxford entitled *Just Energy Transitions and Mining*. (There are links to this and other related resources on our *Prayer and Worship* resources page.)

Mining silica sand is the start of the life cycle of a microchip. What happens at end-of-life though? Many people will have experienced the problem of a perfectly good device, such as a smart phone, that is no longer usable because it won't run the version of the operating system required by the latest version of vital apps. All too often devices stay in drawers or end up in landfill. Readers might have seen a recent article in the news about the Royal Mint e-waste recycling centre which recovers gold, silver, palladium, copper, iron, aluminium, tantalum, steel from electronics waste. The process is to crush the electronic waste, dissolve what will dissolve in something (which is likely to be hazardous), and extract what you can from that, then dispose of the (hazardous) waste. Whilst this is a great start, as one might imagine a lot of research is going into improving this kind of process, not least finding ways to use less hazardous materials along the way and extract more elements.

There is also a lot of research and regulatory activity aimed at making devices that more repairable, reusable, and recyclable. Just to give one example, Professor Gordon Blair (University of Lancaster) and colleagues have a research project looking at sustainable and responsible innovation in Digital Technology.

It is worth then thinking about the things we use, how they are made, where the component materials come from, how they are treated when broken or no longer needed along with the environmental, energy and human costs involved.

### *Reflection*

At the seminar held in Assisi earlier this year, *A liturgical opportunity; an ecumenical kairos*, Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain as president of the Council of European Churches gave an address which included this story from the monastic tradition.

A young monk went to his elder one day and said "Give me a rule by which I should live." The elder looked around and found a dry branch, then took it and planted it in the ground. He then said, "Water this faithfully every day." Now, the river was a few hours away, but the young monk was obedient and made the journey there each day, returning with water for the branch. After two years, the once-dry branch blossomed and brought forth fruit. The elder went and picked the fruit and then gathered all of the brethren of his monastery in the church and said, "Come and eat from the fruits of obedience."

The Archbishop continues:

Our world is like that dry branch. God, through the voice of the Churches, calls us to take heed and to be obedient to His command. We are called to water the earth and the parched soil, diligently, so that life may return and the brown leaves be replaced by blossoms and fruit. But, let our efforts not be in isolation and separation. Rather, let us come together and join our strength to till the earth and carry the water, and to commit ourselves to true reconciliation — first, with our fellow human beings and in our communities, and then between us and nature. May we, with one mind and one heart, pray for forgiveness for the sins of the past and ask for the wisdom to walk forward into a better future, so that we may leave a healthy world for the generations that will come after us. My dear friends, theology and faith are not theoretical matters, secluded and forgotten in the past, but dynamic realities that encompass every aspect of our lives. Let us, then, live and practice as God desires, so that this world may shine as an image of the true beauty of His kingdom.

*David Duce*

### **Prayer for the Peace of the World (Church of England)**

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:  
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace



and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom  
 those who take counsel for the nations of the earth  
 that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,  
 till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

**Please pray for:**

- Steven and Gavin our bishops, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- Bishop Olivia of Reading, as she prepares for her retirement at Michaelmas, giving thanks for her ministry formerly as Archdeacon of Berkshire, and for her episcopal service in the Reading Area;
- King Charles, Her Majesty Queen Camilla, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the royal family;
- our government, the opposition and all who serve in public office;
- the peace of the world, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan;
- Charles, our Team Rector, as he prepares for retirement, and for his final weeks of ministry in the parish;
- all Churchwardens of the parish, Fr Paul, Fr AKMA, the Revd Dr Jen Brown, and all our Honorary Assistant Clergy, and LLM's as we prepare to enter the forthcoming interregnum;
- the care of our climate and environment and a deeper honouring of creation;
- for grace to live in faithful and humble service;
- ordinands in training, all exploring vocations to ministry (lay or ordained) in the church, all engaged in theological education (remembering Linda Hobbs in our parish now in her second year of LLM training);
- 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 Medicott Drive, Metcalfe Close, Midget Close and Mill Paddock.

**Eucharistic Lectionary**

<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>Jeremiah 11.18-20</b>	<b>Ps 54</b>	<b>James 3.13-4.3, 7-8a</b>	<b>Mark 9.30-37</b>
<b>Mon</b>	Proverbs 3.27-34	Ps 15		Luke 8.16-18
<b>Tues</b>	Proverbs 21.1-6, 10-13	Psalm 119.1-8		Luke 8.19-21
<b>Wed</b>	Proverbs 30.5-9	Ps 119.105-112		Luke 9.1-6
<b>Thur</b>	Ecclesiastes 1.2-11	Ps 90.1-6		Luke 9.7-9
<b>Fri</b>	Ecclesiastes 3.1-11	Ps 144.1-4		Luke 9.18-22
<b>Sat</b>	Ecclesiastes 11.9-12.8	Ps 90.1-2, 12-end		Luke 9.43b.45

**Collect (17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)**

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

**Post Communion (17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)**

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through 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](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live_stream&diocese=27)

*Parish Communications and Links*

[http://www.abingdonparish.org.uk/P\\_communications.html](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](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.