



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

6th October 2024

Harvest Thanksgiving / 19th 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]

'Therefore I tell you, do not worry...'

Dear Friends

Worrying can be a real, every day part of our lives. Tom Wright in commenting on this phrase from the gospel reading set for our Harvest Festival today says: 'Living totally without worry sounds, to many people, as impossible as living without breathing.' And I am happy to share with you that as a worrier myself Tom Wright's astute observation resonates strongly with me. I have had tendencies over the years to be one of those people, who if I am not worrying about something, then I am worrying that I have forgotten what I should be worrying about!

I don't think that Jesus is saying here that he doesn't sympathise with our concerns, worries, anxieties. He knew what it was like for those who had nothing to eat and needed to be fed and how their lives would be wracked with worry because they didn't know where the next mouthful of food was coming from. He ministered to those who were ill in body, mind and spirit, all who would have had much to worry about.

What Jesus is saying here, at the heart of the Sermon on the Mount, using food, drink, clothing as examples of things not to worry about, is essentially about *priorities*. The message of Jesus is essentially that if we put the world first we are met only by the transient and temporary; but if we put God first, we receive what is lasting, loving and trustworthy.

Putting God first also means there must be some tangible demonstration of faith in action and service to those in need. Today as part of our celebration of the Harvest, in giving thanks for all that God generously gives us materially, we have an opportunity to remember with a gift those who do not have the abundance we enjoy by supporting the Porch Stepping Stone Centre. May I thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting this charity – as we have done at Harvest for several years now – and ask you to pray for their work and all those who benefit as a result.

With love and prayers, Father Paul

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).

FAITH FORUM will take place today, **Sunday 6 October, in the parish centre**. A buffet lunch will be served from **12.30pm** with the talk beginning at **12.45pm**. We will be continuing our series on Engaging with the Bible, and our speaker will be Fr Patrick Goujon from Campion Hall, Oxford. Fr Patrick will be speaking about Ignatian reading of scripture. Those unable to attend in person are invited to join us on Zoom.

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

MICHAELMAS FAIR Sunday 6 October, Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 October. The arrangements for the annual Michaelmas Fair are slightly different this year. **The Fair Service** will take place **Sunday 6 October at 3 pm on the Market Place** in front of the carousel. It will be led by Deacon Selina Nisbett. The fair will open to the public from **4 pm to 9 pm on Sunday 6 October** and resume at **noon Monday 7 October**. Road closures will be in place from Sunday, **Sunday 6 October**. The formal closure notice can be found at

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/roads-and-transport-major-projects/Order-AbingdonMichaelmasFair.pdf>

The gates into Park Road from Conduit Road and Victoria Road will be closed and access to St Michael's will be from the entrance in Faringdon Road. The Fair itself occupies the Market Place, High Street and Ock Street, and there will be other closures and diversions affecting this area of the town.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING DONATIONS This year we are again 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 a 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/>

STEWARDSHIP OFFICER One important role that is often overlooked is that of Stewardship Officer, the person responsible for recording our stewardship contributions, correspondence with donors and initiating tax relief claims on Gift Aid donations. The latter is particularly important, a) because the amount we reclaim in tax relief is significant

and our claims can be audited by HMRC which implies that records have to be kept in line with their requirements. Over the years Julie Woodley, Mike Collins, David Duce and most recently Susan Read and her assistant have taken on this role.

Following the appointment of Dr Jenny Metcalfe to the post of Treasurer, Nick Hallas has been appointed Stewardship Officer (from 1 July). Nick, like Jenny, is a member of the congregation of St Nicolas' Church, where he also has the role of Stewardship Officer. We may all be assured of Nick's integrity and professionalism in handling the confidential financial information that is a necessary aspect of this role.

We are grateful to Nick for taking on this important role. Nick can be contacted at the dedicated email address: stewardship@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk.

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 this afternoon, **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.

AGNOSTICS ANONYMOUS The next meeting of this open discussion group will take place on **Tuesday 15 October from 6 - 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre**. Keith Ward will give the introductory talk on "Do Christians believe in 3 gods?" John Barton and John Kerr will answer questions and join the discussion. FREE and EVERYONE WELCOME. For more information contact Jill Gant (01235 528929).

CANCELLED: 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. The following message has been received from the organisers:

It is with great sadness that we have decided that the Celebration of Pilgrimage at Christ Church on 19 October is to be cancelled. The River Thames is flooded in many areas and the weather forecast is not very good. Even if the flooding were to subside, the water levels would still be very high and the current fast, posing a real risk. Paths, although possibly not flooded, would be very muddy and slippery underfoot and a careful consideration of the risks involved has led us to make the difficult decision to cancel the event.

VINCENT STRUDWICK LECTURE Some readers might be interested in this year's Vincent Strudwick Lecture, "Imagine the world to be different": the Church as an agent of change? This year's lecturer is the Revd Lucy Winkett, Rector of St James's Piccadilly in London, and a regular broadcaster on the BBC including Radio 4's Thought for the Day. The lecture will be given in Kellogg College University of Oxford on **Monday 28 October from 5.30 pm to 6.15 pm**. To book for the event (no charge) and for further details, please see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/imagine-the-world-to-be-different-the-church-as-an-agent-of-change-tickets-1012823842377?aff=oddtcreator>

Canon Vincent Strudwick is an Emeritus Fellow of Kellogg College. He was Principal St Albans & Oxford Ordination Course 1988 – 1997 and Director of Education and Training Diocese of Oxford 1981 – 1988.

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.

RETREAT *Discovering the Sacred in Daily Life: The Monastic Way to Happiness and Holiness* Weekend Silent Retreat, organised by the School of Contemplative Life, at St. Mary's Convent, OX12 9AU, **Friday 8 November to Sunday 10 November**. "In this experiential retreat, we'll explore how living within a monastic wisdom framework - St. Benedict's 'little Rule for beginners' - can help us become aware of our immersion in God, discover grace in the seemingly mundane and live our ordinary life in a way that makes room for the extraordinary." For more information please see:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/theschoolofcontemplativelife/1397397>

(from diocesan e-News, 27 September).

CiA NEWS A printed copy of the **October issue** is now on display on the notice board by the Welcome desk. This includes an announcement that the *Inter-church Quiz* during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2025 will be held on **Friday 24 January 2025** at Abingdon Baptist Church.

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 will be available to download from this Sunday, 6 October. https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php. Do read it! Previous issues are also available via this link.

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

October The celebrant and preachers during October are: 6 October Fr Paul; 13 October The Revd Dr Charles Miller; 20 October Fr Paul/ Mrs Beryl Clements; 27 October Fr Paul.

Sunday is Harvest Thanksgiving. Commemorations during the week include, Wednesday: Denys, bishop and companions, martyrs, c. 250, Robert Grosseteste, bishop, philosopher, scientist, 1253; Thursday: Paulinus, bishop, missionary, 644; Thomas Traherne, poet, spiritual writer, 1674; Friday: Ethelburga, abbess, 675 James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus, 7th century; Saturday: Wilfrid, bishop, missionary, 709, Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer, 1845, Edith Cavell, nurse, 1915.

Seasons and Festivals of the Agricultural Year This is the title of one of the sections of the Common Worship Times and Seasons services book. In addition to liturgical material for Creation it includes resources for *Plough Sunday, Rogationtide, Lammastide, Harvest Thanksgiving* and *Prayer in Times of Agricultural Crisis*. The first four are a reminder of the cycle of the agricultural year, the last a reminder of the precarious nature of farming and the challenges faced by the farming community.

Plough Sunday is celebrated on the first Sunday of Epiphany though there is an older tradition of observing the first working day after the twelve days of Christmas. The liturgical material includes prayers for the blessing of the plough and the blessing of seed:

... By your blessing, let this seed be for us a sign of your creative power, that in sowing and watering, tending and watching, we may see the miracle of growth, and in due course reap a rich harvest. ...

Rogationtide (from the Latin verb 'to ask'), the three Rogation Days, are the three weekdays before Ascension Day. The material includes a litany for a Rogationtide procession. The Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield use this litany as a basis for their procession around the grounds of the community with stations at places such as the orchard, the woodshed, and the vegetable garden.

Lammastide (in origin held on 1 August) is a feast of thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the wheat harvest and a loaf prepared from the harvest was presented at Mass.

Harvest Thanksgiving as a celebration of the harvest was first officially recognised in the Church of England in 1862, though not necessarily celebrated on a Sunday.

As noted earlier in this pew leaflet, we are invited to make donations for the work of The Porch Centre in Oxford again this year. These will be blessed after the Offertory:

Blessed are you, Lord God, of all creation, in your bounty you have brought forth the harvest and met our needs in abundance.

+ Bless the work of those who care for the vulnerable and homeless, especially those at the Porch Stepping Stone Centre;

May the gifts we make assist their current endeavours to increase the hospitality and love they can share: we make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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;
- 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 gift of peace for the world, especially in the escalation of conflict in the Middle East;
- 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;
- all those involved in the farming industry especially those working under strain;
- all those affected by recent flooding, especially in our own town and parish;
- all those who work at the Porch Stepping Stone Centre and those who from benefit from their endeavours;
- 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 Napier Court, Nash Drive, Neave Close and New Street.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun Harvest Thanksgiving	Joel 2.21-27	Ps 126	1 Timothy 6.6-10	Matthew 6.25-33
Mon	Galatians 1.6-12	Ps 111.1-6		Luke 10.25-37
Tues	Galatians 1.13-end	Ps 139.1-9		Luke 10.38-end
Wed	Galatians 2.1-2, 7-14	Ps 117		Luke 11.1-4
Thur	Galatians 3.1-5	Canticle <i>Benedictus</i>		Luke 11.5-13
Fri	Galatians 3.7-14	Ps 111.4-end		Luke 11.15-26
Sat	Galatians 3.22-end	Ps 105.1-7		Luke 11.27-28

Collect (Harvest Thanksgiving)

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

Post Communion (Harvest Thanksgiving)

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect (19th Sunday after Trinity)

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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.