



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

13th October 2024
20th 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)
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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 Dr Charles Miller to preside and preach at Mass today for the final time here at St Michael's before his retirement.

Some additional refreshments will be served after Mass as we mark this occasion as a congregation.

Dear Friends

'Jesus, looking at him, loved him...' (Mark 10.21a)

When hearing the story of the rich, young man it seems entirely reasonable to feel sorry for him. What is reassuring is that it seems Jesus did too. What we notice in the Gospel passage from Mark set for today is the message we keep hearing repeated again: which is what it takes, and what it means, to faithfully follow Jesus. The Christian faith is 'no crutch', or protection from suffering, as some who have not 'signed up' to it or show no interest in it have been known suggest. Far from it. Following Jesus is a daily, sacrificial, lifestyle which is chosen in response to an invitation which leads us into a way of being which is much more fulfilling in the context of costly, faithful discipleship.

Earlier Jesus has been teaching about eternal life, the age to come, when God will bring in his kingdom. The big question was: "Who enters that kingdom"? That's what those who lived around Jesus had to consider as they came to realise that Jesus held the key. So, Jesus says it is not enough to fulfil the commandments – the rich young man had done so since the beginning, for as long as he could remember. Entry into the kingdom means a full and total radical response so that nothing is more important. Therein both lay the challenge and the treasure.

I wonder if there are things in our own lives which we need to re-evaluate to meet this challenge and know again where our treasure is (which is, of course, ultimately in heaven). Like the rich young man we may have well kept the commandments and practised our faith since we were young. Nevertheless, we often need to go back to the heart of the matter and make some 'spiritual tweaks' to renew our faithful following of Jesus.

With love and prayers, Father Paul

ALL SOULS' DAY Saturday 2 November, 12 pm. As we remember our loved ones, and those who have died in the past year, there will be a Mass to pray for all the faithful departed. Keith Bowman is collating the list of people to be remembered. There will be a list in church from **Sunday, 20 October**, do please add names to this as soon as possible. For logistical reasons we ask that names be provided by **Sunday 27 October** at the latest. If you are not able to come to church, please give names to Keith either by email keithdm.bowman@btinternet.com or phone 01235 528962.

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).

There will be a service of *Taizé Prayer*, led by Fr Paul, at St Helen's Church at 5.30 pm on Sunday 13 October.

THE REVD DR CHARLES MILLER will preside and preach at his final service prior to retirement on All Saints' Sunday, **3 November in St Helen's Church at 3 pm**. Simple refreshments will follow the service. There will be no other services in the parish that day. All are invited to attend.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING Donations totalling £300 were received for The Porch Centre in Oxford, which includes donations made directly to The Porch and tax that The Porch can reclaim on direct Gift Aided donations.

PIANO RECITAL Thanks to Huw Rhys James. The Piano Recital was a huge success and enjoyed by all who came to the concert. The sum of £689.57 was raised for St Michael's church funds. Special thanks to Helen Owen who secured sponsorship from Creative Drives (Oxford) Ltd. Huge thanks to all the volunteers who delivered flyers to homes in our parish and placed posters all over Abingdon, on railings and in their gardens. Thank you to all who supported this wonderful event; everyone in the audience was wowed by Huw's brilliant playing!

RIDE AND STRIDE 2024 Thank you again to everyone who sponsored us. The total money raised was £361, half of which will come to St Michael's. We have noticed on the sponsor form that the box headed 'Gift Aid? (v)' has not been ticked by many people. If you are a UK taxpayer and you would like *Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust* to reclaim tax on your donation (i.e. 25p of tax on every £1 that has been given) please can you let *Nicola or Louise* know by email as soon as possible providing your address and postcode. Thank you. Nicola: nicolafng@aol.com
Louise: lheff@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk

FAITH FORUM The second talk in this series on *Engaging with the Bible*, was given by Fr Patrick Goujon from Campion Hall, Oxford. Fr Patrick spoke about Ignatian reading of scripture. A recording of the talk is available on the Faith Forum web page, https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_faith_forum.html.

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

ABINGDON MARATHON will take place on Sunday 20 October. Some road closures are planned for the start of the marathon and in other places stop/go boards will be used to ensure the runners can run in safety. This might affect journeys to church from some locations. Details can be found at:

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/roads-and-transport-major-projects/Notice-AbingdonMarathon_0.pdf
<https://www.abingdonmarathon.org.uk/race-information>

ABINGDON RUNAWAY FAIR The Michaelmas Runaway Fair takes place this year on **Monday 14 October** in the Market Place.

MUSIC AT ST MICHAEL'S You are warmly invited to the second concert of our Autumn season: on **Sunday 20 October at 3 pm. Pavlova Winds**, a much-loved local ensemble, will be performing music by Holst and Hindemith. Tickets at £12/£10, accompanied children under 16 free. Available at the door or from <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DTWT>. Free parking and refreshments available. Proceeds to church funds. Generously sponsored by *Creative Drives (Oxford) Ltd*.

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 Christ Church Cathedral has taken the sad decision to cancel their Celebration of Pilgrimage for St Frideswide's day on **19 October** at the Cathedral due to flooding along several of the planned routes. This includes the walks in the morning, and the activities, tours and service in the afternoon. The organisers apologise to anyone who was planning to attend. They will still be celebrating Oxford's patron saint on that day with a **Patronal Eucharist at 6.05pm**, to which all are warmly invited.

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 in the 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 10am 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.

Volunteers needed to deliver flyers to homes in our parish to spread the word. Please let us know if you are able to help. 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. Any unwanted bric-a-brac, books, puzzles and games can be placed at the back of the church. Bottles of all varieties will be most welcome for our Tombola stall. Donations of cakes will be welcome for sale on our cakes stall. The church will be open from **2pm on Friday 8 November** for setting up stalls. We would be grateful if anyone can lend us picnic tables for the refreshments area.

Please contact **Joyce, Louise or Nicola** if you wish to help at our biggest fundraising event of the year. Thank you. **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).

PRE-ADVENT QUIET DAY Ripon College, Cuddesdon, **10.00 am to 3.30 pm on Saturday 30 November** "Wilderness, Watching and Waiting" offers a serene, reflective day inspired by the spirit of Advent. This tranquil experience invites you to step into a peaceful space where poetry, music, and personal reflections guide your heart and mind. As you watch and wait in the stillness, you'll have opportunities to engage in creative activities, allowing for self-expression and contemplation. Whether through writing, drawing, or simply being, this day is a gentle pause to reconnect with yourself, your surroundings and the deeper meaning of the season. Let the quietness nurture your soul.

The day will be led by Revd Prebendary Jane Haslam, Associate Archdeacon of Dorchester who has a specific interest in Christian Spirituality, with a post graduate diploma in the subject from Sarum College. She is also trained Spiritual Director and has led several quiet days. The event is Free. For more details and booking, please see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wilderness-watching-and-waiting-tickets-1043550396327>

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: 13 October The Revd Dr Charles Miller; 20 October Fr Paul/ Mrs Beryl Clements; 27 October Fr Paul.

Friday is the festival of Luke the Evangelist though we will celebrate this festival in the parish next Sunday, 20 October. Commemorations include Tuesday: Teresa of Avila, teacher of the faith, 1582; Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, bishops, martyrs, 1555; Thursday: Ignatius, bishop, martyr, c. 107 and Saturday: Henry Martyn, translator, missionary, 1812.

Prayers at the Preparation of the Table At our normal Sunday Mass when the celebrant (or deacon) has poured wine and water into the chalice and the vessels have been arranged on the altar, the celebrant offers the bread and wine to God saying these prayers in a low voice:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life. *Blessed be God for ever.*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink. *Blessed be God for ever.*

After the offertory hymn and censuring have finished, the celebrant then prays aloud a further prayer which varies from season to season and festival to festival.

I came across an interesting alternative form for the offertory prayers in a Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist celebrated in an English Cathedral last weekend. I think the original source is the Iona Community.

President What do you bring to Christ's table?

All *We bring bread, made by many people's work, from an unjust world where some have plenty and most go hungry.*

President At this table all are fed, and no-one is turned away.

All *Thanks be to God.*

President What do you bring to Christ's table?

All *We bring wine, made by many people's work, from an unjust world where some have leisure and most struggle to survive.*

President At this table all share the cup of pain and celebration, and no-one is denied.

All *Thanks be to God.*

President These gifts shall be for us the body and blood of Christ.

All *Our witness against hunger, our cry against injustice, and our hope for a world where God is fully known and every child is fed.*
Thanks be to God.

Teresa of Avila was a Spanish Carmelite nun of the 16th century. Her name is often coupled with that of St John of the Cross, a priest in the Carmelite order, one of two friars in the first male house established by Teresa. There was much conflict within religious orders, between religious orders and the wider church and between her orders and the local authorities which continued throughout her life. Teresa was a very skilled negotiator.

Both Teresa and John of the Cross have left behind extensive writings on the spiritual life. In the case of Teresa these include *The Interior Castle* and *The Book of Her Life*. The Revd Dr E.W. Trueman Dicken wrote in *The Crucible of Love – A Study of the Mysticism of St Teresa of Jesus and St John of the Cross* (published in 1963):

The true value of the spiritual masters resides less in what they have to say concerning these extraordinary phenomena [visions, revelations, mystical experiences ...] which readily excite the reader's curiosity, than in what they have to teach about the business of day to day Christian living. They have an essentially *practical* purpose,

that of showing ordinary men and women how God's will may and must be done at the kitchen sink, at the office desk, in the home and in the street, as well as before the altar and within the cloister. The prerequisite is simplicity, true singleness of purpose grounded in humility.

Rowan Williams has written a number of books and articles on the two Spanish Saints. In an interview given in 2021 he talks about Teresa and gave recommendations for five books on Teresa and the wider context of her life.

<https://fivebooks.com/best-books/st-teresa-of-avila-rowan-williams/>. The five books are:

The Book of Her Life, Teresa of Avila (2008 edition)

Imperial Spain 1469-1716, J.H. Elliott (2002)

The Avila of Saint Teresa: Religious Reform in a Sixteenth-Century City, Jodi Bilinkoff (2000)

Ruth Burrows: Essential Writings, Ruth Burrows (2019)

Teresa of Avila: Doctor of the Soul, Peter Tyler (2014).

All five are currently in print.

In addition to the standard set of readings for Teachers of the Faith, the Common Worship lectionary offers an alternative reading for Teresa of Avila, Romans 8.22-27.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

A Collect for Black History Month (October) From Liturgical Resources for Black History Month:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/liturgical-resources-black-history-month>

Compassionate God, who sent Jesus Christ

to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,

create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,

to see the image of God in every person irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.

May we be generous in our love of others

as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and injustice; creating communities of human flourishing, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

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;
- the people of Florida, and especially Tampa Bay, following the impact of Hurricane Milton;
- all those working to reduce the impact of Climate Change and to promote the care of the environment and for our own response in this parish;
- 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 affected by recent flooding, especially in our own town and parish;
- 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 North Quay, Nuffield Way, Nuneham Square and Ock Bridge Place.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun	Amos 5.6-7, 10-15	Ps 90.12-end	Hebrews 4.12-end	Mark 10.17-31
Mon	Galatians 4.21-24, 26-27, 31, 5.1	Ps 113		Luke 11.29-32
Tues	Galatians 5.1-6	Ps 119.41-48		Luke 11.37-41
Wed	Galatians 5.18-end	Ps 1		Luke 11.42-46
Thur	Ephesians 1.1-10	Ps 98.1-4		Luke 11.47-end
Fri	Ephesians 1.11-14	Ps 33.1-6, 12		Luke 12.1-7
Sat	Ephesians 1.15-end	Ps 8		Luke 12.8-12

Collect (20th Sunday after Trinity)

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

Post Communion (20th Sunday after Trinity)

God our Father, whose Son, the light unfailing, has come from heaven to deliver the world from the darkness of ignorance: let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our understanding that we may know the way of life, and walk in it without stumbling; 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

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.