



# St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

## **Regular Service Times**

**Sundays:** Sung Mass, 9.30 am  
**Tuesdays:** Said Mass, 12.30 pm  
Silent Reflections, last Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm (except December)  
**Thursdays:** Moving into Stillness, Taizé circle dancing with silent interludes, usually first Thursday of the month, 9.45 am to 10.45 am.

## **Contacts**

**Team Vicar:** The Revd Paul Smith (534654)  
e-mail: [paul315smith@btinternet.com](mailto:paul315smith@btinternet.com)

**Churchwardens:** Miss Joyce Kelly (533555)  
(07833 535768)  
e-mail: [joyceekelly@btinternet.com](mailto:joyceekelly@btinternet.com)  
Mrs Louise Heffernan (01235 525412)  
(07779 650968)  
e-mail: [lheff@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk](mailto: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](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 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]***

## We welcome The Revd Rosalind Rutherford to preside and preach at Mass today

### Two Welsh Bishops

Saturday 1 March is the commemoration of David, bishop, patron of Wales. I will write a little bit about this Welshman in a later section. It is another Welshman, Timothy Rees, that I want to write about here. Those present at Mass last Sunday might have noticed that the recessional hymn, *God is Love: let heav'n adore him* was by Timothy Rees. A well-known hymn, but perhaps not such a well-known hymn writer. That was the first context in which I encountered Timothy Rees last week, but there was also a second. Timothy Rees was a member of the Community of the Resurrection and I had occasion to look through some very early issues of the *CR Chronicle*, a quarterly newsletter, which featured a lot of articles written by Fr Timothy.

Timothy Rees was born in Cardiganshire on 15 August 1874, studied at what was University of Wales, Lampeter and was ordained priest in 1897. The Community of the Resurrection has its origins in the Society of the Resurrection (1887). Fr Timothy was listed as an Associate in 1901 and he later joined the Community. When war came in 1914 he along with many other members of the community served as chaplains to the forces and he was among five brethren to be awarded the MC. Fr Timothy was much in demand as a preacher and mission leader and he undertook many overseas trips including to New Zealand, Canada, Ceylon and India.

The Community established the College of the Resurrection theological college at Mirfield in 1902 and following some troubles and the resignation of the Principal, Fr Timothy was appointed to the role in 1922, a role he held until 1928. It is probably true to say there was a bit of a mess to sort out, which Fr Timothy did admirably and led a programme of expansion and building works. Each of the issues of *CR Chronicle* in this period contained reports from Fr Timothy and detailed financial accounts of various appeals.

In 1931 Fr Timothy was offered the see of Llandaff. Two previous members of the Community had accepted Bishoprics, Charles Gore and Walter Frere. Gore's appointment was in the early days of the Community but Frere's was later and caused a lot of head-scratching as to whether a monk should accept a bishopric. Frere was adamant he would not leave CR and in the end a compromise was reached, the bishop's house in Truro became a CR house and two brethren accompanied him. In the case of Fr Timothy there was no such discussion and in effect he was released from his monastic vows and became a Prelate Brother of the Community and CR provided some financial support. Another member of CR wrote at the time 'he is one whom one would least readily part with. His kindness, good temper, affectionate humour, shrewdness are rare and precious. ... Wales was dear to him beyond compare. Its history, language, its music, its countryside were as fire in his blood.' As bishop he worked extremely hard. He made friends with the leaders of industry, formed the Llandaff Industrial Committee and in 1935 led a deputation to the Minister of Labour in Whitehall to plead the needs of depressed areas. He formed a group of free-lance priests who with their base in his palace worked full-time caring for the physical and spiritual needs of the unemployed. It was probably overwork that was at least a contributory factor to his death in 1939.

Eleven hymns are attributed to Fr Timothy at the [hymnary.org](http://hymnary.org) web site. A correspondent wrote to *CR Review* (Michaelmas, 2014) pointing out a Passiontide Hymn 'O Crucified redeemer' (not in the New English Hymnal). The second and last verses are:

We hear your cry of anguish,  
We see your life outpoured,  
Where battle fields run red with blood,  
Our neighbours' blood, O Lord;  
And in that other battle,  
The fight for daily bread,  
Where might is right and self is king,  
We see your thorn-crowned head.

The groaning of creation,  
Wrung out by pain and care,  
The anguish of a million hearts  
That break in dumb despair;  
O crucified Redeemer,  
These are your cries of pain;  
O may they break our selfish hearts,  
And love come in to reign.

Perhaps in this hymn one sees something of Fr Timothy's experience of war and deprivation.  
Thank you, Hilary, for choosing hymn 364.

*David Duce*

**JANE POTTER RIP** the daughter of the late Bill and Angela Potter took place at St Michael's on Wednesday 19 February. Fr AKMA took the service. Jane died earlier this year, peacefully at home, on 3 January. We send our condolences to her brother Giles and his family. May she find peace in death.

**PREBENDARY JOHN WESSON** As announced last week, John Wesson, former honorary assistant priest at St Helen's Church died on Tuesday 11 February. Details of his funeral will be announced in due course.

**PASTORAL CARE** For Pastoral Care matters at St Michael's Church, please contact our Churchwardens, Joyce or Louise. Whilst Fr Paul is taking some time off sick, *please* do not try to contact him either by telephone or email.

### **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.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** this year falls on 5 March. There will be a service of *Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes* at **St Helen's Church at 10.30 am** and a corporate *Liturgy for Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes* for the whole parish at **St Michael's Church at 7 pm**.

**FAITH FORUM SPRING SERIES** The second talk in series will be on **Sunday 2 March**, *Incarnation* by the Revd Dr AKM Adam. Future talks will be on 6 April and 4 May. The flyers on the literature table have a list of topics and speakers. See also the Faith Forum page on the parish web site [https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P\\_faith\\_forum.html](https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_faith_forum.html) which also includes links to recordings of the first talk and talks from previous series.

**LENT APPEAL 2025** Voting for the two charities to support in our Lent Appeals in 2025 and 2026 is now open and will close on **23 February**. There are six charities on the voting list: *The Abingdon Bridge (TAB)*, *The Abingdon Emergency Foodbank*, *Child Contact Centre, Abingdon*, *Host Abingdon*, *Tariro: Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe* and *Thames Valley Air Ambulance*. Voting forms are available in church. **Please vote for no more than two charities**. If preferred you may email Louise: [lheff@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:lheff@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk). More information about the charities has been circulated to the email list and is also available in printed form in church.

*Louise Heffernan on behalf of St Michael's DCC*

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY** As has been widely reported in the press, there is now a public consultation on the appointment of the next Archbishop of Canterbury which runs in parallel with other consultations of key stakeholders. The consultation questions include 'What are your hopes for the ministry of the next Archbishop of Canterbury' (answers must not include any personal information), 'What gifts, qualities, skills and experience do you believe the next Archbishop of Canterbury should have?' and 'Do you have any names that you wish the Crown Nominations Commission, nominating the next Archbishop of Canterbury, to consider?' Responses can be given through an online form available at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/archbishops/canterbury-crown-nominations-commission/consultation-nomination-106th-archbishop-canterbury> or by post to Canon Stephen Knott, The Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments, Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission (CNC), Lambeth Palace, London, SE1 7JU. The consultation closes on 28 March.

A prayer from the web page for the Crown Nominations Commission process:

Heavenly Father, shepherd of your Church,  
send us a faithful pastor to lead with wisdom, courage, and love,  
proclaiming your Gospel, celebrating the sacraments,  
and guiding your people in unity and truth.

Strengthen your Church, we pray, and direct us in your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE NEWS LETTER** Some readers might be interested in *AI Brief*, a newsletter compiled by Simon Cross and published on behalf of the Bishop of Oxford for the Lords Spiritual and anyone with an interest in Artificial Intelligence and regulation. <https://mailchi.mp/oxford.anglican.org/ai-brief-february-2025>

**CONSECRATIONS** The bishops designate of Buckingham and Reading, the Revd Canon Dave Bull and the Revd Canon Mary Gregory will be consecrated by the Archbishop of York at **11 am on 27 February** at Canterbury Cathedral. A link to the livestream has now been published at <https://oxford.anglican.org/livestream>.

**AGNOSTICS ANONYMOUS** The Next Meeting of the Agnostics Anonymous open discussion group will take place from **6 - 7.30 pm on Tuesday 25 February in the Parish Centre**. Jen Brown will give the introductory talk on 'Does being religious make you a better person?' John Barton and John Kerr will also answer questions and contribute to the discussion. **Free and everyone welcome**. For more information please contact Jill Gant (01235 52892)

**SILENT REFLECTIONS** will be held in St Michael's on **Tuesday 25 February at 7.30 pm**. Sue Sheppy will provide material for our reflections on the theme: *the movement of a curtain* and there will be the opportunity to walk the labyrinth. Final prayers will be at 8.30 pm and refreshments will be available. We meet initially in the church room. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

**CHURCH IN ABINGDON AGM** Advance notice that the CiA AGM will be held on **27 February at 7.30 pm** at *Abingdon Baptist Church*. All are welcome to come along and hear about the work of the CiA.

**QUIET GARDEN DAY** at **Aston Tirrold Centre for Reflection**, Spring Lane, Oxon OX12 9EJ on **Saturday 1 March** 10 am - 4 pm. Leader: Philip Mader-Grayson. Theme: Crocuses in the desert. Refreshments are provided, but please bring a packed lunch. A donation of £10 would be welcome. To attend it would be helpful to email: [atquietgardendays@gmail.com](mailto:atquietgardendays@gmail.com) in advance. All are welcome.

**ABINGDON MOTHERS' UNION** **Tuesday 4 March, at 10.30 am in the Parish Centre.** *Loving One Another.* The Revd Canon Helen Kendrick, Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish will speak on *Ministry and Motherhood*. All Welcome.

**THE FRIENDS OF ST HELEN** **Pancake Tuesday!** plus - *Kings of the Saxons and the Bishopric of Dorchester*, a talk by archaeologist Anne Dodd. This Friends of St Helen event will take place in the **Parish Centre on Tuesday, 4 March**, with pancakes served at **6.30 pm**, followed by Anne's talk at **7.30 pm**. All are welcome to the talk. If you would like pancakes, please RSVP to Mary Anderson at [Friends@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:Friends@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk) by **Friday 28 February**. Suggested donation £5.

**MOVING INTO STILLNESS** circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes at St Michael's on **Thursday 6 March** in the church room from **9.45 – 10.45 am** before the regular circle dancing session at 11 am (now on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month only). Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed. Tea and coffee will be provided.

**CiA - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** St Helen's is pleased to be hosting the annual service for the World Day of Prayer on **Friday 7 March at 2.30pm**. The service will be led by the Revd Ruth Pyke assisted by the Revd Richard Pyke. This year's service has been prepared by the women of the Cook Islands and will be followed by refreshments traditional to the Cook Islands. All welcome. See also the article by Alexandra Green in the February issue of *A Candle in the Window*.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** (lay led) will be held at St Michael's on Tuesday evenings during Lent at **7 pm** (for about 40 minutes) on **11 and 18 March and 1 and 8 April**. If you park in Park Road or Crescent, come in to get a parking permit. On **Wednesday 26 March at 2.15 pm** we have the opportunity to walk Mother Maribel's Stations at the *Community of St Mary the Virgin*, which will be led by Fr Paul. If you wish to come to Wantage, give your name to Sue Sheppy and indicate if you would need a lift, or can offer one.

**OXFORD CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH** Places are now available for OCSG's forthcoming study day led by Professor Matthew Campbell entitled 'From Yeats to Heaney – Faith & Heresies in Irish Poetry', on **Saturday 15 of March 2025, from 10 am - 3:30 pm**. The event will be held at St Michael at the North Gate Church, in Oxford. Mathew Campbell has been Professor of Modern Literature at University of York since 2011. Current projects include a History of Irish Poetry from Charlotte Brooke to Seamus Heaney. There will be three talks of about 40 minutes, with a break for lunch after the second. The talks will above all be focused on actual poems, which will be available in handout and on-line. The poems will be about questions as much as actual beliefs, and some of their questioning might contain difficult, heterodox material. But this will all be in the spirit of what it is to work in the tradition of a poetry of belief, as the Catholic modernist Brian Coffey put it: 'when one is a religious poet, one is in the position of someone who is answering questions about themselves as well as they can.' See <https://www.ocsg.uk.net/event/from-yeats-to-heaney-faith-heresies-in-irish-poetry/>

for further details and booking information. Tickets for on-line participation are available as well as for in person.

**TARIRO** The 2 February issue of the pew leaflet mentioned that Fr John CR at the age of 81 hopes to run in the British Masters Athletic Association indoors fixtures in Lee Valley on 22/23 February and will be raising funds for TARIRO through sponsorship. ITV Calendar News recorded a short interview with Fr John – *UK's only Sprinting Monk*. At the time of writing (Thursday 6 February) this was available on the ITV X.

<https://www.itv.com/watch/news/uks-only-sprinting-monk-on-charity-challenge/5tjbs01>.

**LABYRINTH DAY RETREAT** on **Saturday 10 May** at St Michael's, from **10.15 – 4 pm**. The day will be led by Jim Bailey, a member of the Northumbria Community. He is a spiritual director, therapeutic art facilitator and retired church minister. Donations of £15 would be appreciated towards running costs and can be paid on the day. Further details and booking forms from Carol Bowman ([carol@manxcat.me.uk](mailto:carol@manxcat.me.uk)) and Sue Sheppy ([susan.sheppy@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.sheppy@btinternet.com)).

**CiA NEWS** A printed copy of the **January** issue is now on display on the notice board by the Welcome desk.

**PATHWAYS** Copies of the **Winter 2024** issue of the Diocesan magazine are now available on-line and printed copies should still be in church. <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/pathways/>

**A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW** Do read the February issue of the Parish Magazine 'A Candle in the Window'. There are lots of good contributions in it! Download from here: [https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P\\_window.php](https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php) or if you don't have access to the internet, ask at the Parish Office. (Earlier issues are also available via this link.)

## Worship

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**February/March** The celebrant and preacher for 23 February will be The Revd Rosalind Rutherford. Fr Paul is on the rota for 2 March and Fr Paul/ The Revd Elizabeth Birch for 9 March.

Commemorations this week include Thursday: George Herbert, priest, poet, 1633 and Saturday: David, bishop, patron of Wales, c. 601.

**Dewi Sant (David)** was a monk and bishop, highly regarded for his kindness and compassion to others, especially the poor and the sick. David is said to have founded twelve monasteries. The present St David's cathedral stands on the site of the monastery he founded in the inhospitable area known as 'Glyn Rhosyn.' David and his followers lived a simple life; they refrained from eating meat or drinking beer. Some readers, with internet access, might be interested in *Virtual Pilgrimage to St David's*, a YouTube video narrated by Janet Ingram, the cathedral's Education and Pilgrimage Officer. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aAXE8utZJY>

Prayers for pilgrims are said at the Shrine of St David in the cathedral every Friday and recordings are available on the cathedral's YouTube channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCncOKz\\_Y5XSh4CO9aR6qEnQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCncOKz_Y5XSh4CO9aR6qEnQ)

From *The Life of St David* by Rhigyfarch the Wise:

During his life, throughout our land, the brethren built monasteries: everywhere are heard evidences of churches; everywhere voices are raised to heaven in prayer; everywhere the virtues are constantly brought back to the bosom of the Church; everywhere charitable offerings are with open hands distributed to the needy. To all the holy Bishop Dewi was the supreme overseer, the supreme protector, the supreme preacher, from whom all received their standard pattern of living virtuously.

### **Prayer during the Season of Vacancy**

Almighty God,  
You have called us to follow in the way of Jesus.  
By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,  
we are equipped to build up his body  
in this place.  
In this season of vacancy,  
strengthen us to be faithful to our calling,  
raise up a faithful shepherd and pastor  
to serve among us in this parish,  
and grant that,  
together with the one you choose and call,  
we may together proclaim the good news  
with courage and joy.

In the name of Christ, we pray, **Amen.**

**Prayer for the Peace of the World** The Diocese of Jerusalem issued a statement on the announcement of the cease fire between Israel and Hamas, which 'asks for prayers that the energy displayed in pursuing war aims should now be repurposed towards achieving a just and lasting peace'. The full statement can be read on the web site of the Jerusalem and Middle East Churches Association,

<https://www.jmeca.org.uk/latest/news/now-put-your-energy-peacemaking-diocesan-response-ceasefire>

This is a short extract from the statement.

Having repeatedly called for such a negotiated outcome, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem welcomes this ceasefire. Moreover, we appeal to follow Christians and all those of goodwill to continue to advocate and pray not only for the adoption of the full agreement, but also for the region's leaders and people to invest as much of their political and financial capital towards peacebuilding as they tragically have in waging warfare over these past many months – and in the decade preceding. Only through such a transformative change of hearts, we believe, can there emerge a just and lasting peace between the peoples of the Holy Land, as well as among all those living throughout the Middle East.

From the Church of England, prayers for peace and hope:

O God, we pray for all the children of Abraham in Israel and Palestine and in every country of the world.  
We pray for Muslims, Jews and Christians that we will draw on the best of our traditions to guide us away from words and acts of division and discrimination so that everyone may be free to live in safety.  
Protect the vulnerable, strengthen the fearful and comfort the grieving.  
In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Please pray for:**

- Steven and Gavin our bishops in this diocese; the Revd Canon Dave Bull and the Revd Canon Mary Gregory preparing for consecration as bishops of Buckingham and Reading respectively, on Thursday 27 February;
- Stephen, Archbishop of York and for the appointment of a new 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 war-torn regions of the world, including Ukraine, Israel, Gaza and the wider Middle East; for the release of hostages and for the miracle of sustainable peace; for Sudan (see the article by Tony Richmond in the February issue of *A Candle in the Window*);
- all Churchwardens of the parish, Fr Paul, Fr AKMA, the Revd Dr Jen Brown, and all our Honorary Assistant Clergy, and LLM's during the vacancy;
- mental health services in the NHS and charities;
- 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 Turnagain Lane, Turner Road, Victoria Road and Vineyard.

### **Eucharistic Lectionary**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-end</b>	<b>Ps 65</b>	<b>Revelation 4</b>	<b>Luke 8.22-25</b>
<b>Mon</b>	Ecclesiasticus 1.1-10	Ps 93		Mark 9.14-29
<b>Tues</b>	Ecclesiasticus 2.1-11	Ps 37.3-6, 27-28		Mark 9.30-37
<b>Wed</b>	Ecclesiasticus 4.11-19	Ps 119.161-168		Mark 9.38-40
<b>Thur</b>	Ecclesiasticus 5.1-8	Ps 1		Mark 9.41-end
<b>Fri</b>	Ecclesiasticus 6.5-17	Ps 119.19-24		Mark 10.1-12
<b>Sat</b>	Ecclesiasticus 17.1-15	Ps 103.13-18		Mark 10.13-16

### **Collect (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent)**

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

### **Post Communion (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent)**

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; 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, 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 Matins is at 7.30 am and Mass follows.

*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/>