



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

19th October 2025
18th 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 Jennifer Brown (*From 21 October*)
Email: jennifer.brown@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

Team Vicar: Vacancy

Churchwardens: Miss Joyce Kelly (01235 533555 / 07833 535768)
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Mrs Louise Heffernan (01235 525412 / 07779 650968)
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Associate Priest The Revd Dr A. K. M. Adam (AKMA)
e-mail: akma@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

Associate Priest The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown (*Until 21 October*)
Email: jennifer.brown@sthelens-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 (01235 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 Fr AKMA to celebrate Mass today and Mrs Beryl Clements to preach

Today (October 19th) Christians throughout the world remember St Paul of the Cross: A Life of Passion and Purpose

St Paul of the Cross, born Paolo Francesco Danei in 1694 in northern Italy, was a man whose life radiated with fervour and devotion. Growing up in a devout Christian family, Paul felt a deep spiritual calling from a young age. However, it wasn't until his early thirties that he truly embraced his mission, founding the Passionist order in 1720.

What makes St Paul of the Cross so inspiring isn't just his religious dedication but the heartfelt way he connected with others. He believed deeply in the transformative power of Christ's Passion—the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus—and dedicated his life to spreading this message. Paul wasn't content with quiet contemplation alone; he was a dynamic preacher, travelling extensively to reach people from all walks of life.

Known for his compassionate heart, St Paul of the Cross offered guidance and spiritual support to countless individuals. His letters, many of which survive today, reveal a man full of empathy and wisdom, addressing both the spiritual and practical struggles of his time.

Despite facing personal hardships, including illness and opposition, Paul remained steadfast. His legacy lives on through the Passionist community, which continues his mission of reflecting on Christ's Passion as a source of hope and love.

St Paul of the Cross passed away 250 years ago in 1775, but his message remains timeless: in embracing both our joys and sufferings with faith, we find profound connection and purpose.

David Pope

Church Warden

THE REVD DR JENNIFER BROWN The institution, induction and installation of Jen as Team Rector of the Benefice of Abingdon-on-Thames will take place on **Tuesday 21 October at 7pm** in **St Helen's Church**. All are warmly invited to this significant event in Jen's ministry and in the life of our Parish.

EILEEN'S POEM The full text of Eileen Duckett's poem, *A Sad Farewell*, which she read at Fr Paul's celebration of 25 years of ordained ministry / retirement, appears in the October issue of *A Candle in the Window*.

ABINGDON MARATHON takes place this year on **Sunday 19 October**. There will a few road closures and stop/go boards in some parts of the town that might affect routes to St Michael's for some people. See

<https://www.abingdonmarathon.org.uk/residents> for details.

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 won't be a *Taizé Prayer service* in November (this would fall on Remembrance Sunday) so the following *Taizé Prayer service* will be on **Sunday 14 December** in **St Helen's Church at 5.30 pm**.

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

FAITH FORUM The October Faith Forum will be on **26 October** in the **Parish Centre**. Our speaker will be Sr Lizzie Ruth from the Community of St Mary the Virgin, Wantage. Sr Lizzie Ruth will be speaking on *Lectio Divina and Meditation on the Scriptures*. A buffet lunch will be served from 12.20 pm, and the talk will begin at 12.45 pm. We would be grateful if a few people could come a bit early to help with setting up. The Zoom link for the meeting is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85645633324?pwd=LYbJpGrcqpTWk1ZfNJ9VRq4ILHZMda.1>

Meeting ID: 856 4563 3324

Passcode: 656494

A recording of the first talk in the autumn series, *Prayer* by Margaret Adam, is now available on the parish web site https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_faith_forum.html

INTERCESSION LISTS The names on the intercession list are revised from time to time. Accordingly the current list will be revised from 2 November. If you have submitted names to the list, please let **Eileen Duckett** know by **Sunday 26 October** if you would like those names to be retained. If you would like to submit new names to the list, please also let Eileen know by this date. Contact: eileenduckett27@gmail.com / 07522 378 376.

INTERCESSORS AND READERS' ROTAS There are now only four people who regularly lead the intercessions at Sunday Mass. This is an important lay ministry in the church and hence this appeal for more people to join the rota. If you are interested in doing so, please speak to Sue Scott. Also if you are interested in joining the readers' rota, please contact to Sue, email: suescott719@gmail.com.

FROM THE BISHOPS is the title of a monthly online column from our four bishops. The fourth post is by Scales fall from our eyes by Bishop Dave for Black History Month. He reflects on how our call to racial justice finds its origin in the cross of Jesus Christ. <https://oxford.anglican.org/who-we-are/bishops-and-senior-staff/from-the-bishops/>

FESTIVALS DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Sunday 2 November	<i>All Saints Sunday</i> , followed by presentation of the budget for 2026
Monday 3 November	<i>All Souls' Sung Requiem Mass</i> , 7pm
Sunday 9 November	<i>Remembrance Sunday</i> The 9.30 am Sung Mass will include an Act of Remembrance
Sunday 23 November	<i>Christ the King</i> Renewal of stewardship offerings at the 9.30 am Sung Mass

The date for the budget presentation has now been confirmed. The treasurer will be presenting the budget for 2026 to the congregation after Sunday Mass on Sunday 2 November.

ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS' DAYS All Saints' will be kept in the parish on Sunday 2 November.

There will be two different opportunities to remember the Faithful Departed in the parish. On **Sunday 2 November at 5.30 pm** there will be a non-Eucharistic parish service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed at **St Helen's**. This service is a special opportunity to remember in prayer, and by having names read and a candle lit, departed loved ones. There will be a list in each church on the **19, and 26 of October** for those to be remembered. If you would like a loved one remembered in the **St Helen's service**, please add their name to the list. All are welcome to attend this service, but you do not need to attend the service to have a loved one's name read out in memory.

There will be a Sung Requiem Mass at **St Michael's Church** on **Monday 3 November at 7 pm** where we will remember our loved ones, and those who have died in the past year, and pray for all the faithful departed. Keith Bowman is collating the list of people to be remembered. There is a **separate** list in church for this, do please add names to this as soon as possible. As is our custom this will be a fresh list. No names will be automatically carried over from last year. For logistical reasons we ask that names be provided by **Sunday 26 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.

HAYDN'S 'CREATION' will be performed in **St Helen's Church** on **Saturday 25 October at 7.15pm**, to mark the installation of Jen as new Rector. Sally Mears is conducting a full orchestra, chorus and soloists so it should be an excellent performance and not to be missed. Half the proceeds will go to St Helen's church. Tickets £15 adults (under 16 free) available from Ticketsource, The Bookstore, and at the door. Interval refreshments.

SILENT REFLECTIONS will be held on **Tuesday 28 October at 7.30 pm**. Sue Sheppy will provide material for our reflections on the theme: *A Fine Balance*. We meet initially in the church room. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

AGNOSTICS ANONYMOUS The Next Meeting of the Agnostics Anonymous open discussion group will take place from **6 pm on Tuesday 28 October in the Parish Centre**. The Revd Professor John Barton will lead the discussion on the theme 'Why do Christians bother with the Old Testament?'. There will be time for questions and discussion after his talk, and the event will finish about **7.15pm**. Everyone welcome.

LINDA HOBBS Linda will be licensed as a Licensed Lay Minister at Christ Church Cathedral on **Saturday 1 November** at the Annual LLM Service. The service will be live-streamed on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgaNKB4fBdo>.

THE OXFORD WAITS are giving a performance of 17th century music (dance tunes, songs) and readings on **Saturday 1 November at 7.30 in St Helen's Church**. This will be a fun, light hearted evening for all ages, with refreshments available. Come yourselves and bring your friends. Tickets £15 adults (under 16 free) available from Ticketsource, The Bookstore, and at the door.

MOVING INTO STILLNESS: circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes on **Thursday 6 November** in the **church room from 9.45 – 10.45 am** before the regular circle dancing session at 11 am. Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed. Tea and coffee will be provided between the two sessions. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

ST MICHAELS' CHRISTMAS FAIR 2025 Please join us for our annual Christmas Fair on **Saturday 8 November from 10 am until 2.30 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 homeless charity *Emmas*. Event generously sponsored by *All Seasons Landscaping Services, Abingdon*.

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.

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

Your help will be greatly appreciated and will ensure the success of our biggest fundraising event of the year.

Thank you, *the Fundraising Committee*.

OXFORD CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH (OCSG) Places are now available for OCSG's forthcoming event entitled 'Piers Plowman and Medieval Spirituality – The life and works of William Langland', on **Saturday 8 November, from 10.30 am – 3.00 pm**. The event will be held at **St Michael at the North Gate Church**, in Oxford. A Study Day led by Professor Lawrence Warner – Medieval English Literature, King's College London. There will be three talks with a lunchbreak inbetween. For more details, please refer to the event's page on the following link: <https://www.ocsg.uk.net/event/william-langland-and-piers-plowman/>. Tickets are available now also this link (advertised prices: in person £25, on-line £10).

MUSIC AT ST MICHAEL'S. On Sunday **9 November at 3 pm**, *The Pavlova Wind Quintet*, together with Glynne Butt (piano), will be returning to St Michael's to perform an exciting programme of music including the famous Mozart Quintet for Piano and Winds. Tickets £12, Accompanied children under 16 free. Available by card/cash at the door or from <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FFRE> Please bring your family and friends to this wonderful event – a concert not to be missed!

STUDY DAYS AT ST THEOSEVIA CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY, OXFORD Some readers might be interested in two forthcoming study days:

Saturday 15 November, 10.30 am - 4.00 pm: Study Day: Perspectives on the Book of Genesis, with Professor John Day (OT scholar), Professor David Taylor (St Ephrem on Genesis) and Revd Canon Dr Will Lamb (on Marilynne Robinson's recent book Reading Genesis)

Saturday 29 November, 10.30 am - 4.00 pm: Study Day celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed (AD 325) with Rt Revd Dr NT Wright (NT scholar), Revd Professor John Behr (Orthodox theologian) and Revd Dr Andrew Teal (on visiting Nicaea today).

St Theosevia's is an ecumenical centre based in St Theosevia's House, 2 Canterbury Road, Oxford.

<https://sttheosevia.org/>

CHRISTMAS CHEER An informal concert for all ages by Abingdon Chorale, director: Tim Robson, at **St Michael's on Saturday 29 November at 4 pm**. in aid of *The Abingdon Bridge*. Tickets £10 (£2.50 under 16s) from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-abingdon-bridge>



CiA NEWS A printed copy of the **October issue** is on display on the notice board by the Welcome desk shortly. It is also available to download from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html.

PATHWAYS The summer issue of the Diocese of Oxford magazine is available online at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/pathways/> Printed copies are available in church.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The October edition of the Parish Magazine will be available to download this Sunday, **12 October** from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php. Information, education, entertainment etc. Earlier issues are also available to download via this link.

Worship

October The celebrants and preachers for October are: 19 October, Fr AKMA and Mrs Beryl Clements; 26 October, The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown.

There is one commemoration in the calendar this week, Saturday: Crispin and Crispinian, martyrs, c. 287.

Institution, Induction and Installation are the three key components of the service at St Helen's Church on Tuesday evening, to celebrate the start of Jen's new ministry as Team Rector in our parish. *Institution* derives from a Latin word meaning *establish*. In Tuesday's service this will include the declaration of oaths: the Oath of Allegiance to His Majesty King Charles and the Oath of Canonical Obedience to the Bishop of Oxford and the Area Bishop of Dorchester. The Bishop then reads the Deed of Institution, the familiar words:

Receive this cure of souls, which is both yours and mine: in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Induction derives from the Latin *inducere*, to bring in, introduce, or lead. In this part of the service authorities and responsibilities are conferred. The new minister is led to the church door and the bishop says:

By virtue of the authority given to me, I induct you into the real, actual and corporeal possession of the parish churches of with all the rights and responsibilities belonging thereto.

The minister may then be given the keys to the churches and may ring the church bell.

Installation derives from *installare*, which means to put into place or into a stall. (*Installation* is called *collation* where the bishop is also the patron.) The archdeacon leads the minister to her stall in the church and says:

... I install you as the Team Rector of this benefice. Pray for your people, lead them in worship and service, and encourage them in their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the following section symbols of ministry such as water for baptism, the oil of the healing, a bible and prayer book, bread and wine are presented. The new minister is then welcomed by the congregation and then individually by members of the community.

Some dioceses make templates for this form of service available on-line which follow this basic pattern but may have local variations. The template published by the Diocese of Ely, for example, includes a section headed People fully alive in Christ, which includes themes of the “Ely2025 Diocesan Strategy; to deepen our commitment to God through word, worship and prayer; to grow God’s church by finding disciples and nurturing leaders; and to engage fully and courageously with the needs of our communities, locally and globally”, concluding with this prayer.

We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for all your gifts to us in the past.

We look to you as fellow traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead.

Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety;

Give us grace to let go of all that holds us back;

And grant us courage to meet the new life you have promised us, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Some dioceses provide guidelines for the service. In the Diocese of Ely, for example, the guidelines include:

Furniture

i. General seating: Responses to invitations will give some idea of the number of people attending. If extra chairs are likely to be needed, they should already be in place. Much better to have empty chairs than a noisy and embarrassing panic just before the service begins!

ii. The Bishop needs a large portable chair facing west at the chancel step or equivalent point, with a kneeler in front of it. ...

Parking Reserv[ed] parking for the Bishop and Archdeacon, clearly signed.

Tolling The Bell If there is an Induction by the archdeacon, do the new priest and the archdeacon know where the church bell is to be tolled, and has the priest familiarised him/herself with the bell?

Who knows, like most guidelines for event organisation these may well be based on “things that have gone wrong in the past.” I know of one instance where the tolling of the bell guideline was not followed. Arriving at that point in the service, the new minister had to gently point out to the archdeacon that there wasn’t a bell in that particular church!

My favourite though comes in the final section, *After the Service*:

The new priest will inevitably be delayed by the need to greet the congregation individually, but an eye should be kept on the clock since most people will be at the reception a good deal sooner.

Humour, aside, this is a serious moment in the life of our parish and should be a joy-filled occasion as we welcome Jen to start her ministry as our Team Rector.

Black History Month A collect for 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, ...

Prayers during the Season of Vacancies

A prayer for our Team Rector designate prior to her licensing on 21 October.

Almighty God,

By the outpouring of your Holy Spirit,

You call each of us to walk in the way of Christ and to serve him, with diverse gifts, in the church and the world.

We praise you for calling Revd Jen, to be our Team Rector,

and ask you to bless her, and Chris, in all their preparations over the coming few days.

Grant her the needful gifts of grace to minister and serve among us,

and that as the whole people of God in this parish, we may work together for the coming of your kingdom, to the glory of your Holy Name,

Amen.

The prayer below is the prayer used for the appointment of a new Archbishop of Canterbury. But it is not entirely inappropriate as Fr Paul’s official retirement date at the end of the month approaches and the next stage of ministry in the parish of Abingdon is discerned.

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.

Crispin and Crispinian were shoemakers who lived in the 3rd century. They were perhaps brothers with noble Roman backgrounds, who settled in Soissons in Gaul. Missionaries, they supported themselves through their trade as shoemakers. Their faith brought them into conflict with Maximianus Herculus, the co-emperor appointed by Diocletian and were put to death in Rome around the year 287.

Prayers for the Peace of the World

The prayer for Israel and Gaza was adapted from a prayer written by Tearfund. The prayer for Ukraine was written by the Bishop of Oxford.

Heavenly Father, who sent your son Jesus to be our Prince of Peace,
We thank you for the agreement between Israel and Hamas. We pray that this would bring lasting peace to the whole region, and that you would restore hope to the hopeless.
We pray that Israel would allow a flood of aid to freely enter Gaza.
We pray for a lasting ceasefire, and that the peace plan is implemented fully by all parties, so that Israelis and Palestinians can live in peace and with dignity.
Our hearts break for the millions of people who've endured relentless violence and conflict, and we ask that you restore them to life in all its fullness.
For all those who are suffering, starving and mourning, we ask that help would reach them quickly – and that you would be their comfort, their healer and their safe refuge. In Jesus' name, Amen

God of compassion,
Have mercy this day on the people of Ukraine.
Restore to them the gift of peace.
Grant wisdom to the governments of the world.
Bring good in the midst of evil and suffering,
For the sake of Jesus Christ your Son,
Who gave his life to bring peace to your world
Amen.

Please pray for:

- Steven and Gavin our bishops in this diocese;
- Stephen, Archbishop of York, and Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury designate;
- Charles, our King, Her Majesty the Queen, 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, Sudan, and the wider Middle East;
- the successful implementation of the peace plan in Israel/Gaza and for sustainable peace;
- Revd Jen, our Team Rector-designate and Chris, her husband, in their final preparations for her licensing and her ministry in this parish;
- Linda Hobbs, preparing for her licensing as a Licensed Lay Minister on 1 November;
- 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: Loyd Close, Lyford Way, Magnette Close and Mandeville Close.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun 18th Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 32.22-31	Ps 121	2 Timothy 4.14-4.5	Luke 18.1-8
Mon	Romans 4.20-end	<i>Benedictus 1-6</i>		Luke 12.13-21
Tues	Romans 5.12, 15, 17-end	Ps 40.7-12		Luke 12.35-38
Wed	Romans 6.12-18	Ps 124		Luke 12.39-48
Thur	Romans 6.19-end	Ps 1		Luke 12.49-53
Fri	Romans 7.18-end	Ps 119.33-40		Luke 12.54-end
Sat	Romans 8.1-11	Ps 24.1-6		Luke 13.1-9

Collect (18th Sunday after Trinity)

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

Prayer after Communion (18th Sunday after Trinity)

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever.

Monday: Cantic Benedictus 1-6

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

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

St Michael's Publications page https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StM/StM_publications.html

Oxford Cathedral: Livestream events will appear on the cathedral's YouTube channel, see

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqz9I9-LbZlAPGtje0gQbbg>.

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 Mass starts around 8.10 am, after Matins at 7.30 am.

Walsingham In addition to the daily live-streaming of Shrine Prayers at 6 pm (5pm on Saturdays). the Sunday Mass is live-streamed (usually at 7.30 am, but check the web site).

<https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/whatson-2/livestream/>