



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

15 February 2026 –Sunday next before Lent 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
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Team Vicar: Vacancy

Churchwardens: Miss Joyce Kelly (01235 533555 / 07833 535768)
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Associate Priest The Revd Dr A. K. M. Adam (AKMA)
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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 (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 The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown, Team Rector, to celebrate and preach at Mass today

Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday, **18 February**. There is no Mass at St Michael's that day, but there will be a celebration of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at St Helen's Church at 10.30 am and a Parish Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes also at St Helen's Church at 7.30 pm.

It is possible that Lent may have followed Epiphany, reflecting the relationship between Jesus's baptism and his stay in the wilderness, though it became attached instead to Easter which became as the principal occasion for baptism. Lent was then a period of preparation for baptism in which the candidates were instructed in the Christian faith and the whole community joined with them in a period of study and repentance.

Common Worship, Times & Seasons, provides at good deal of material both Ash Wednesday, marking the start of Lent and for Lent itself. The basic structure of the Liturgy for Ash Wednesday is The Gathering, The Liturgy of the Word, The Liturgy of Penitence (including self-examination and confession, imposition of ashes, and absolution), The Liturgy of the Sacrament, and The Dismissal. I don't have a copy of the liturgy as it will be used in the parish on Wednesday evening, so the elements below are taken from the liturgy used in the parish at St Michael's last year.

At the start of the service, the celebrant explained the meaning of Lent in these words:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first this season of Lent was observed by those who were preparing for Baptism at Easter and by those who were to be restored to the Church's fellowship from which they had been separated through sin. In course of time the Church came to recognise that, by a careful keeping of these days, all Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel, and so to grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

The Liturgy of the Word was followed by The Liturgy of Penitence, using a form of self-examination and confession in the form of a litany. A few of the petitions from this are included below

...

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; from all evil intent, **good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money; from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws, **good Lord, deliver us.**

...

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood, and obedience; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation, **good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; and by your preaching of the kingdom, **good Lord, deliver us.**

...

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy word.

Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

After a period of silence, all prayed a form of confession. This was then followed by the Imposition of Ashes introduced with this prayer by the celebrant:

Dear friends in Christ,

I invite you to receive these ashes as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth: grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality; for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

The Imposition of Ashes is accompanied by the following words:

Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return. Repent and believe the Gospel.

After which the celebrant pronounced a form of absolution. Mass then continued as usual. The extended preface to the Eucharistic Prayer is included in the Worship section below.

David Duce

LENT APPEAL 2026 Last year The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) and TARIRO – Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe – were chosen as our charities for our Lent Appeals in 2025 and 2026. We hope you will feel able to support this year's appeal. There are four ways to donate:

- By bank transfer. The preferred way to donate is by bank transfer to: NatWest Bank, Account no: 61580376 Sort code: 600101, account name Abingdon Parochial Church Council St Michael's Church; please use the reference LENT 2026.
- By credit card. Please speak to Joyce or Louise.
- By cheque Please make cheques payable to 'Abingdon Parochial Church Council St Michael's Church' and put on the collection plate in an envelope clearly marked LENT 2026, hand to a Church Warden or send to The Treasurer, St Michael's Church LENT 2026, Parish Office, St Helen's Court, Abingdon OX14 5BS.
- In cash placed on the collection plate in an envelope clearly marked LENT 2026 though if you could donate by other means this would be appreciated.

Unfortunately, donations made through the church are not eligible for Gift Aid. Only donations made directly to the charities would be eligible for Gift Aid. Anyone wishing to make such a donation should consult the relevant web sites: <https://www.theabingdonbridge.org.uk/support-us> and <https://tarirouk.com/donate/>. If you pay directly to the charities and feel comfortable doing so, it would be helpful if you would put an anonymous note of the amount given in an envelope marked LENT 2026 and place on the collection plate. Please indicate if the donation was made through Gift Aid. This will enable us to give a more complete picture of the total amount raised.

Please speak to Joyce or Louise if you have any queries about any of the above. It would be very helpful if donations could be made on or before Palm Sunday.

Joyce and Louise on behalf of St Michael's DCC

Parish Lent/Newcomers Lunch There will be a **Bring & Share Parish lunch on Sunday 1 March in the Parish Centre at 12.15 pm**. It would be especially good to welcome new/recent comers to our congregations. Sign-up sheets will be available in all three churches, please add your name and the type of food you will be bringing, both to give us an idea of numbers and to ensure that we have a balanced spread of food. Drinks will be provided. If you have any questions or can help with set-up, serving, or clear-up, please contact Sue Pemberton at St Helen's Church.

Weddings' Coordinator Is there anyone who is interested in volunteering as Weddings' coordinator for St Michael's. This involves being the contact person for the wedding couple. Maggie Davis our previous coordinator has all the paperwork and would be able to hand this over. If you are interested or would like more information, please speak to Joyce Kelly.

Help needed The Parish office is looking for volunteers who could help in the office when the administrator is on holiday. If you can help, could you please let a Church Warden know.

Also, Norman Gee is looking for help with the IT system, could you please let a Church Warden know if you are able to help.

Appointment of a new Bishop of Oxford – An Update. The invitation for written submissions has now closed. 2,743 responses were received. As part of the consultation process, the Diocese is arranging an online open meeting at which they can hear views from any member of the diocese who would like to attend. This will be on 19 March at 6pm on Zoom. Registration is essential. This meeting is open to anyone who lives or works in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Berkshire. The [registration link](#) is now open.

A prayer resource pack is now available on the diocesan web <https://oxford.anglican.org/who-we-are/how-we-are-governed/diocesan-synod/vacancy-in-see/prayer> It includes a collection of prayer points and a full set of intercessions for a eucharistic context. The "headline prayer" is included later in this pew leaflet.

Sunday Worship at St Helen's Church St Helen's will live-stream their 10.30 am Eucharist through Zoom. The Zoom link can be found in the St Helen's Church newsletter (on-line) and on the Publications page at their web site. 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/StHpublications.html>). There will be a service of Choral Evensong at **5.30 pm** on **Sunday 15 February**.

The March *Taizé Prayer service* will be on **Sunday 8 March 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.

Stations of the Cross and Silent Reflections during Lent The plan is for Stations of the Cross to be held on Tuesdays **3, 10 and 17 March**. Silent Reflections will take place on **24 February** and **24 March**, the latter date is earlier than usual to avoid Holy Week. More information will follow in due course when the details have been finalised.

Faith Forum Our February Faith Forum will be on **Sunday 22 February** in the parish centre. Continuing our series on liturgy, the Revd Dr Phil Cooke will be speaking on How Music Works in Worship.

Our Team Rector, Jennifer Brown, gave the first talk, 'What we say and how we say it: the words we use in liturgy.' There are links to a recording of this talk and talks in earlier series on the parish web site: https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_faith_forum.html

Retreats at the Community of St Mary the Virgin, Wantage Details of retreats for 2026 are now available on the Community's web site <https://csmv.co.uk/calendar-of-retreats/>.

St Michael's Fundraising Cream Teas 2026 The fundraising committee is currently planning events for this year's calendar. We already have the dates planned for the popular Cream Teas events enjoyed by many of our local community.

We are beginning to seek helpers who would like to be involved in making these afternoons a real success.

If you feel that you would like to help at one of the Cream Tea fundraisers this year, either by baking cakes, serving refreshments, general help or selling raffle tickets, we would be extremely grateful.

If you are able to kindly offer your help in any way, please contact Louise, Joyce or Helen mob 07724 160435.

Thank you. St Michael's Church Fundraising Committee.

Dates for Cream Teas 2026

25 April, 30 May, 27 June, 25 July, 29 August (Bank Holiday Weekend), 26 September

Fundraising Events 2026

If you feel that you would like to put forward a fundraising event this year, please contact Louise, Joyce or Helen mobile 07724 160435. Thank you.

Abingdon Foodbank At present the foodbank is currently asking for noodles, UHT milk, fruit juice, tinned fruit, squash, corned beef, meatballs, sweetcorn and cooking oil. Deodorants for men and women also needed as are carrier bags. In December 2025, Abingdon Foodbank distributed 272 standard emergency food parcels to people facing hardship in Abingdon and the surrounding villages. These parcels fed 731 people, of which 272 were children. The 2025 Christmas hamper campaign saw special Christmas parcels distributed to 388 local families. We worked with schools and local agencies to help us identify people in need, and thanks to your wonderful donations we helped feed 1,233 people, of which, 644 were children.

There is a collection point in church and other points are situated in local supermarkets and some other local businesses. The "Give Help" page has details of ways to donate and a link to the "BanktheFood app" which has frequently updated lists of most urgently needed items. <https://abingdon.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/>

Silent Reflections will be held on **Tuesday 24 February at 7.30-8.30 pm**. Peter Sumner will provide material for our reflections on the theme: *Lamb of God*. We meet initially in the church room. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

Abingdon Church Twinning Barn Dance in Trinity Church Conduit Centre Saturday 28 February Alan Fisher from Abingdon Baptist Church will be the caller, and all proceeds will support Church Twinning. The ticket price of £15 to include a welcome drink on arrival and a Ploughman's supper during the interval. Limited spaces! Tickets are available from **John Clare** on 01235 525898 or at johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com.

Mothers' Union, Tuesday 3 March: Domestic Abuse "Reducing the Risk" – Cllr Gwyneth Lewis Reducing the Risk is a locally based charity, working locally, regionally and nationally, to support adults and children at risk of domestic abuse and empower the professionals and volunteers who support them. <https://reducingtherisk.org.uk/> Cllr Gwyneth Lewis is a Town Councillor, former Mayor and member of St Nicolas'. All welcome. Meetings are held in the Parish Centre 10:15 for 10:30am.

Moving into Stillness: circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes on **Thursday 5 March 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.

World Day of Prayer This year the World Day of Prayer takes place on **Friday 6 March 2026 at St Edmund's Church, 2.30 pm**. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria and the theme is 'I will give you rest, come' from Matthew 11:28 – 30. The service shares the stories of four Nigerian women who inspire us to work towards a world without injustice, insecurity, marginalisation, religious persecution, poverty and despair. We will join a great wave of prayer that encircles the globe, all praying with and for the country and people of Nigeria. All welcome, Refreshments will follow the service.

Quiet Garden Day at Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe Village Hall, Thorpe Street, Aston Upthorpe, Didcot OX11 2EQ on **Saturday 7 March 2026 10 am - 4 pm**. Leader: Josie Midwinter on a Lenten theme. 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 in advance. (The Village Hall is being used whilst the Centre for Reflection is being renovated.) All are welcome.

Cranmer Commemoration play The Prayer Book Society is staging the play *The Trial of Thomas Cranmer* at the **University Church in Oxford on 21 March, 11 am to 4 pm**, as part of this year's Cranmer Commemoration. More details of the day, the play and how to book are available at this link <https://www.pbs.org.uk/event/cranmer26> The day starts with Choral Mattins at 11 am.

Agnostics Anonymous The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 24 March at 6 pm in The Parish Centre**, aiming to finish about 7.15 pm. “Are you saved. Ideas of salvation in the bible and today”, led by The Revd Professor John Barton and the Revd Dr Jennifer Brown. Everyone welcome.

Wantage Academy Brass Concert As previously announced, our annual fund-raising concert for *The Abingdon Bridge, TARIRO – Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe* will be on **Saturday 9 May at 6 pm**. Last year Wantage Academy Brass were joined by Wantage-based CARITAS Children’s choir. The Children’s choir will be singing again this year and Wantage Youth Band will also be performing. Please note the date now if you have not already done so. More details in due course.

CiA News The **February** issue of CiA News is available to download and there is a copy on the Notice Board by the welcome table. See https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html.

A Candle in the Window The February edition of the Parish Magazine (the first of 2026) is now available to download from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html. Previous issues are also available via the same link.

Worship

February Celebrants and preachers are: 15 and 22 February, The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown.

Ash Wednesday falls on 18 February this year. There is one commemoration this week: Tuesday: Janani Luwum, archbishop, martyr, 1977.

Ash Wednesday and Lent During Lent Eucharistic Prayer E is used, the Kyries is used in place of the Gloria. “Alleluia” is not said during Lent so *Christ to you O Christ, King of Eternal Glory* is used at the start and end of the acclamation before the gospel reading. The *extended Preface for the Eucharistic Prayer* used from Ash Wednesday until the Saturday after the Fourth Sunday of Lent (the eve of Passion Sunday):

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying: Holy, ...

Canon Keith Dunnett Congratulations to the Revd Keith Dunnett (Christ Church, Parish of North Abingdon) who has been made an Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral. For more details see

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/news/11-awarded-for-distinguished-service-to-the-church.php>

Archbishop of Westminster On 19 December last year, the announcement of Cardinal Vincent Nichols’ retirement was made, and at the same time Pope Leo announced the appointment of Bishop Richard Moth as the next Archbishop of Westminster. He is to be installed in Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 14 February.

During another Season of Vacancies

The prayer below is the prayer used for the appointment of a new Archbishop of Canterbury. But it is not entirely inappropriate in the current situation as 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.

The Church of St Mary Magdalen, Oxford, is in an interregnum at this time, hoping that the appointment of a new Vicar will be confirmed in early May. This prayer, slightly adapted to our situation, appeared in their Parish Newsletter last month.

O God, who alone guides and guards the Church
by your Spirit. Strengthen and encourage us
in this time of uncertainty and opportunity, and inspire
those who maintain our worship, and those engaged
in the discernment and selection of a new Team Vicar.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

A prayer for the appointment of a new Bishop of Oxford to succeed Bishop Stephen when he retires later this year.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift:

Look graciously on your Church and illuminate our path as we seek a new Bishop.

Help us to work together for the good of your kingdom and all who live, work and study in the Diocese of Oxford.

Give wisdom and listening hearts to those who have influence.

Send out your Holy Spirit to call one who will faithfully teach, pastor, care for and equip us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers for the Peace of the World

A prayer from the 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:

- Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury and Stephen, Archbishop of York;
- Steven (preparing for retirement) and Gavin our bishops in this diocese; for the Vacancy In See Committee;
- His Majesty King Charles, Her Majesty Queen Camilla, and all the royal family;
- all victims of war, injustice, and oppression; Gaza, Iran, Sudan, Ukraine;
- all whose homes and livelihoods have been impacted by flooding;
- 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: St. Amand Drive, St. Edmund's Lane, St. Helen's Court and St. Helen's Mews.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun Sunday next before Lent	Exodus 24.12-end	Ps 2	2 Peter 1.16-end	Matthew 17.1-9
Mon	James 1.1-11	Ps 119.65-72		Mark 8.11-13
Tues	James 1.12-18	Ps 94.12-18		Mark 8.14-21
Wed Ash Wednesday	Joel 2.1-2, 12-17 <i>or</i> Isaiah 58.1-12	Ps 51.1-18	2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10	Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21 <i>or</i> John 8.1-11
Thur	Deuteronomy 30.15-end	Ps 1		Luke 9.22-25
Fri	Isaiah 58.1-9a	Ps 51.1-5, 17-18		Matthew 9.14-15
Sat	Isaiah 58.9b-end	Ps 86.1-7		Luke 5.27-32

Collect (Sunday next before Lent)

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Prayer after Communion (Sunday next before Lent)

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect (Ash Wednesday)

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

Prayer after Communion (Ash Wednesday)

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive these his inestimable gifts, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; 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=Livestream&diocese=27>

Parish Communications and Links <http://www.abingdonparish.org.uk/Pcommunications.html>

St Michael's Prayer and Worship resources page <https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StM/StMworshipresources.html>

St Michael's Publications page <https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StM/StMpublications.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, see <https://mirfield.org.uk/live-streaming/> and *YouTube* page <https://www.youtube.com/@StreamingAtMirfield>. 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/>