



# St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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**29 March 2026 – Palm Sunday and Holy Week**

## 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  
Email: [rector@abingdonparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@abingdonparish.org.uk)

**Team Vicar:** Vacancy

**Churchwardens:** Miss Joyce Kelly (01235 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)

**Associate Priest** The Revd Dr A. K. M. Adam (AKMA)  
e-mail: [akma@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:akma@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. Office closes lunchtime Maundy Thursday and reopens Tuesday 7 April**

**Administrator:** During normal working hours phone or leave a message on:  
Telephone (01235 520144)  
e-mail: [administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk)

**Web site:** <http://www.stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk>

***Items for inclusion in the next pew leaflet (double issue 5 and 12 April) to be sent to David Duce by midday on Tuesday 31 March and for the 19 April issue by Tuesday 14 April.***

**Telephone 522591**

**[pewleaflet@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:pewleaflet@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk)**

***[\*for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals please contact the Parish Office]***

## We welcome Fr AKMA to preside at our Palm Sunday Liturgy

**British Summer Time** starts at 1 am on **Sunday 29 March**. Clocks go forward one hour (strictly speaking at 1 am).  
[Sorry, I should have included this in the 22 March issue too. Ed.]

### **Palm Sunday**

On Palm Sunday we start the journey of Holy Week, travelling with Jesus and his disciples into Jerusalem and to the cross. This is about more than just remembering or commemorating, and it is more than re-enacting. When we wave our palm branches or palm crosses to acclaim the arrival of Jesus, when we hear different voices reading the passion gospel and picture the scenes unfolding before us, we step into the story and claim our place within it.

Taking our place in the story matters. It reminds us that our faith isn't something abstract and ephemeral. It is based on historical events that, although they happened some 2000 years ago, are still available to us. Taking our place in the story also helps us to realise that this story isn't just in the past. The life of Jesus continues in us.

It isn't just on Palm Sunday that we enter into the story of Jesus. We do this at every Eucharist – every time we recall and re-enact and re-live the Last Supper, we take our place at the table. In every Eucharist, we join the ongoing feast of heaven. Our joining into the story breaks down the barriers between past, present, and future, and between heaven and earth.

On this Palm Sunday, and in the days of Holy Week, we walk with Jesus and his disciples as they make their way to the upper room, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the cross. We aren't just observers. We, Jesus' disciples in our age, are participants in the story of Jesus and his ministry as it continues to unfold in the world today.

*Revd Dr Jen Brown, Rector*

### **Holy Week Addresses**

*On Monday to Wednesday in Holy Week, The Revd Elizabeth Birch will give three addresses at the 7 pm Said Mass. She writes:*

In the addresses for the first part of Holy Week we're going to be reflecting on some of the actions of Passiontide. Some obvious, some less so. Passiontide and Easter seem to me not so much a narrative as a drama and, as with every drama, what people do is as important as what they say. Sometimes more important than what they say. As Christians we are invited in Passiontide to participate in that drama, to take our part within it in a more immersive way than at any other time of the year. We're invited to relive it as well as to watch it, or to hear it. Thinking about some of the important actions that occur at different points, might, I hope, help us to do that.

*The Revd Elizabeth Birch*

**Parking Restrictions** have been lifted for our Holy Week Masses from Monday to Wednesday from 6.15 pm until 9.15 pm. Easter restrictions are lifted from 7 pm on Thursday 2 April until 8 am on Tuesday 7 April.

**Parish Office** The office will close at lunchtime on Maundy Thursday and will reopen on Tuesday 7 April.

**Pew Leaflet** The Easter Day issue (5 April) will be a double issue covering the period 5 April to 18 April, i.e. there will not be a pew leaflet on Sunday 12 April. Items for inclusion in this double issue should be sent to the editor at [pewleaflet@stmicahels-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:pewleaflet@stmicahels-abingdon.org.uk) by midday on **Tuesday 31 March** and for the following issue by midday on **Tuesday 14 April**.

**Parish Administrator Position** The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is seeking a new parish administrator. The administrator is the senior administrative position for the three churches in the parish. Working closely with the Rector, ministry team, and church wardens, the successful applicant will manage the parish office, handle bookings for the three churches and parish centre, be the first point of contact for people seeking baptisms, funerals, and weddings, as well as handling general enquiries made to the office, among other tasks. The post requires a variety of skills, notably organisational ability, computer literacy, and good interpersonal skills to interact with clergy, other staff, volunteers, and the congregations of the churches. The post is initially 27 hours each week, over 4.5 days, with the potential to grow; salary £13.45 per hour. For further information, please contact the Rector:

[rector@abingdonparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@abingdonparish.org.uk). To apply: Please send CV and covering letter explaining your reasons for interest in the position and qualifications to [rector@abingdonparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@abingdonparish.org.uk). **Closing date for Applications, Friday 3 April 2026.**

**Faith Forum** met last Sunday, 22 March. Our rector, Jen Brown, spoke on 'Posture and movement in the liturgy.'

Video and audio recordings of this talk, the 21 January talk and talks from earlier series are available at:

[https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P\\_faith\\_forum.html](https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_faith_forum.html)

**Holy Week and Easter across The Parish** Leaflets containing details of the services in the parish for Holy Week and Easter are available in church and on-line at the web site.

**Holy Week and Easter Service Times at St Michael's** The programme of services at St Michael's, slightly amplified from the parish leaflet, is now available through the Publications page at the web site and there are some printed copies in church. The Revd Elizabeth Birch will be giving the Holy Week Addresses at Mass on Monday to Wednesday evenings (celebrant: Fr AKMA).

Please note: there will be lunchtime Said Masses as usual on Maundy Thursday (2 April) and the Thursday after Easter Day (9 April).

29 March	Palm Sunday	Sung Mass with Palm Procession 9.30 am starting in The Park, weather permitting
30 March	Monday	Said Mass with Address 7 pm
31 March	Tuesday	Said Mass with Address 7 pm
1 April	Wednesday	Said Mass with Address 7 pm
2 April	Maundy Thursday	Said Mass 12.30 pm followed by bring-your-own lunch Maundy Thursday Liturgy 7.30 pm, followed by Watch of the Passion concluding with Compline at 10 pm
3 April	Good Friday	Children's Service with craft activities 10 am Good Friday Liturgy 2 pm
4 April	Easter Eve	Easter Vigil with First Mass of the Resurrection 8 pm
5 April	Easter Day	Sung Mass 9.30 am
9 April	Thursday after Easter Day	Said Mass 12.30 pm followed by bring-your-own lunch

**Maundy Thursday** The liturgy at St Michael's at 7.30 pm will be for the whole Parish and will include the traditional *Washing of Feet*. If you would like to participate in the Washing of Feet it would be helpful for planning purposes if you would sign the list on the welcome table, on or before **Palm Sunday 29 March**, though you may also decide to participate on the evening. If you do wish to participate, please wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

From the intercessions for Maundy Thursday:

Father,  
on this, the night he was betrayed,  
your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet.

We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.

**Good Friday Children's Service** A simple interactive act of worship for families starting at 10 am. Listen to the Easter story and then enjoy a range of craft activities as we share refreshments after the service. All welcome.

**Church In Abingdon Procession of Witness** will take place on **Friday 3 April**. The procession will leave from **Abingdon Library at 11.45 am** through the precinct to **Abingdon Market Place** for a service at **12 noon**. The procession will be accompanied by the Salvation Army band and the Revd Carol Hamilton-Foyn will lead the service. All welcome.

**Easter Flowers** Hilary has put up a notice in church, and would be grateful if anyone who wants to contribute could sign up or speak to Hilary **by Palm Sunday at the latest**. A donation of £5 is suggested.

**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. **It would be very helpful if donations could be made on Palm Sunday if not made earlier**. 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. *Joyce and Louise on behalf of St Michael's DCC*

**Electoral Roll Revision** The Electoral Roll is being revised in the period **Thursday 19 March to Thursday 2 April**. The Roll is our official membership list, and you need to be on the Roll in order to be able to participate in, and vote at, the Annual Church Meetings.

If you are not already on the Electoral Roll and would like your name to be added, please complete the simple application form, available from Keith Bowman. Your name can be added to the Roll if you are baptised and aged 16 or over, and you satisfy some other simple conditions.

Please speak to Keith (01235 528962) if you have any questions about this. Would you also let him know if you have changed your name or address (or email address if you had declared it) in the past year.

**Schongau Twinning Visit** Our friends in Schongau, Germany, have invited us, together with a group from St Niklaas, to a church twinning weekend from 4 to 8 June 2026. Accommodation will be with host families. If you are interested please contact John Clare on 01235 525898 or [johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com](mailto:johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com) for further information **by 1 April as places are very limited.**

**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.

**Annual Meetings** Note the dates. The St Michael's Annual District Church Meeting will take place on **Sunday 26 April** following the 9.30 am Sung Mass. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Annual Meeting of Parishioners will take place on the evening of **Thursday 30 April**. Further details will be announced in due course.

**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 *Sacred Concert for Passiontide* at **5.30 pm on Sunday 29 March**.

The April *Taizé Prayer service* will be on **Sunday 12 April 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.

**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/>.

**Bishop Steven's** final service before his retirement will be on **Sunday 31 May at 5 pm at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford**. Details of how to apply for a ticket will be available nearer the time.

**Diocesan Synod** A report of the March meeting is now available at <https://oxford.anglican.org/news/followers-of-jesus-not-simply-churchgoers--diocesan-synod-march-2026.php>

**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** currently needs oat milk, pesto, rice pudding, sardines & tuna, custard, UHT milk, cooking oil, coffee, hot chocolate, corned beef, squash and tinned fruit. It also needs carrier bags and shampoo. In February, Abingdon Foodbank distributed 213 emergency food parcels to people facing hardship in Abingdon and the surrounding villages. These parcels fed 489 people, of which 169 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/>

**Moving into Stillness:** circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes on **Thursday 9 April in the church from 9.45 – 10.45 am** before the regular circle dancing session at 11 am with the second regular circle dancing session of the month being held on **23 April**. 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. **Please note the changes of date and room for April.**

**The Passion** by The LAMPS Collective, as broadcast on Premier Christian radio, is on tour for the ninth year this year, with performances in Radley and Oxford. This hugely powerful and highly accessible show looks at the events leading up to the first Easter and is ideal to invite non church-going friends to in the lead up to Easter.

From the web site, the dates and times of the remaining performance are:

**Friday 27 March** Oxford Burton Taylor studio, 3pm and 7.30pm

For more information and booking links visit the LAMPS Collective website, <https://lampscollective.com/>.

**Mothers' Union Meet on Tuesday 7 April, 2026 at 10:30 am** in the Parish Centre. The topic for the meeting is *Abingdon Carousel Family Centre* and the speaker Sharron Jenkinson. All are welcome.

**World Labyrinth Day: Saturday 2 May** The church will be open from **12.00 pm – 2.30 pm** for people to walk and pray the Labyrinth. In particular we hope to have a good number of participants at **1 pm** to join in the worldwide 'Walk as One at 1', when people from around the world walk at 1 pm local time. If you would like to bring a packed lunch, you would be welcome to join us to eat your lunch in the church room where hot drinks will be available. If you prefer to walk when it is quieter, feel free to do that either side of the 1 pm focus. All are welcome. Parking permits are available for Park Road.

**Oxford Centre for Spiritual Growth Saturday 9 May, from 10.30 am - 1 pm** – *The life and thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer - religionless Christianity and unconscious Christianity*. A Study led by Dr Eleanor McLaughlin, Lecturer in Theology at Ripon College Cuddesdon. The event will be held at the Church of St Michael at the North Gate, Oxford. For more information see <https://www.ocsg.uk.net/event/the-life-and-thought-of-dietrich-bonhoeffer/> where tickets will be on sale in due course.

**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. Tickets are now available on-line, <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FYLI>, and will be available at the door. Adults price £12, concessions £10, 16 & under free.



**CiA News** The **March** 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](https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html).

**A Candle in the Window** The April edition of the Parish Magazine will be published on **Easter Day, 5 April**. Do send comments or contributions! We need to have these by the end of **Palm Sunday (29 March)**. Please send to [candle@abingdonparish.org.uk](mailto:candle@abingdonparish.org.uk). The March Issue and earlier issues are available to download from [https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P\\_window.php](https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php)

## Worship

**March and April** Celebrants and preachers for March and April are: 29 March Fr AKMA; 30 March to 1 April Fr AKMA/ The Revd Elizabeth Birch; 2 April: Maundy Thursday (evening) The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown/ Fr AKMA; 3 April Good Friday Canon Richard Pyke; 4 April Easter Vigil, Fr AKMA; 5 April Easter Day Canon Ruth Pyke; 12 April Canon Richard Pyke/ Mrs Beryl Clements; 19 April Fr AKMA; 26 April The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown.

### **Installation of the 106<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullalley**

The order of service for the installation is available to download from:

<https://englishcathedrals.co.uk/latest-news/installation-of-archbishop-sarah-mullally-as-the-106th-archbishop-of-canterbury/>

For those able to watch the service (it is available on BBC iPlayer) different parts of the service will probably have appealed to different viewers. For the editor, the Archbishop aside, the two highlights were the Swahili gospel acclamation *Hata Milele, Jesu ni bwana* (Even forever, Jesus is Lord) sung by the African Choir of Norfolk and the mysterious figure of the Churches Together in England Co-president for the Orthodox Churches, Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, "Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland of the Armenian Apostolic Church", <https://cte.org.uk/about/whos-who/presidents/>.

### **Holy Week Services**

Elizabeth Birch's addresses on Monday to Wednesday in Holy Week will reflect on some of the actions in Passiontide.

The liturgies of Holy Week also pick up on this theme. Our Palm Sunday Liturgy will start in the entrance to the Park (weather permitting), with the Blessing of Palms, the proclamation of the Palm Gospel (this year Matthew 21.1-11) and followed by procession into church. Some churches will have a donkey to lead the procession, mirroring Our Lord's entry into Jerusalem. Aside from the great commandment in the institution narrative in the Eucharistic Prayer (Do this in remembrance of me), The Maundy Thursday liturgy (see below) includes the Washing of Feet, and the Good Friday the Veneration of the Cross. The Children's Service includes carefully designed craft activities. The

Easter Day liturgy includes Blessing the Easter Garden. There are plenty of actions to engage with and reflect upon, not least the still, silent action of the Watch of the Passion on Maundy Thursday.

### **The Easter Triduum**

The three liturgies of the Triduum are all best thought of as liturgies with several parts.

**Maundy Thursday** This year the congregations of all three churches will again be gathering at St Michael's. The liturgy begins with the *presentation of the oils* that were blessed by our bishop at the Chrism Mass at Christ Church Cathedral earlier in the day. Bishops, clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers also come to the cathedral for the Chrism Mass to renew their ordination and licensing promises and affirm their belief and ministry. The oils are presented in turn: the oil of the sick, the oil of baptism (used prior to baptism) and the oil of chrism (olive oil scented with fragrant spices, which may be used after baptism, at confirmation and ordination).

The *Gloria* which has not been used during Lent is sung and bells are rung, but then remain silent until the First Mass of the Resurrection in the Easter Vigil Liturgy.

The *Washing of Feet* follows the Gospel reading and sermon.

At the end of the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is carried in procession to the altar of repose for the *Watch of the Passion*.

The clergy and servers then *strip the sanctuary bare* and remove some other ornaments as psalm 22 is sung.

The office of *Compline* will be said at the conclusion of the Watch of the Passion (10 pm).

**Good Friday** The following description of the liturgy is taken from the inside cover of the service booklet for Good Friday.

First, the ministers and servers enter in *silence* and we begin with the Collect of the Day. The *Liturgy of the Word* follows which has a distinct focus on the Passion. The Passion according to John is read.

Second, after the reading of the Passion there is an extended form of *Intercession* led by the celebrant and deacon.

Third, we have the *proclamation of the Cross* when a veiled Cross is processed from the West end of the Church and brought into the Nave, and stands in front of the uncovered Altar, and people are invited to kneel at the foot of the Cross in deep prayer to the Crucified Lord, and if they wish, kiss the Cross as a response to the love He has poured out for us.

Fourth, and lastly, a fair linen cloth is laid on the altar and the *Blessed Sacrament* (the remaining consecrated hosts from the night before) is brought to the altar and people are invited to receive Holy Communion in one kind only (i.e. no wine is distributed).

The Liturgy *concludes* after the distribution and the priest ends with a short prayer. There is no blessing or dismissal. We leave as we arrived, in silence, awaiting the great celebration the following evening as we welcome the Risen Christ in the Easter Liturgy.

**The Easter Vigil** We look forward to welcoming Trinity Church and members of the congregation, bringing their Paschal Candle to be lit alongside ours and to join in this great liturgy.

The following description of the liturgy is based on the text on the inside cover of the service booklet for the Easter Vigil. This again is a liturgy with several parts.

*The Easter Ceremonies* in which a new fire is kindled outside the church, the Paschal Candle, symbolising the light of Christ, is blessed and lit and processed into church, pausing three times to proclaim: The Light of Christ, Thanks be to God.

*The Exultet* – the great Paschal Proclamation – to be sung by Fr AKMA, recalling in brief the history of salvation and telling of the triumph of Christ's conquest over death.

With the church still in darkness, lit only by the Paschal Candle and the acolytes' candles, the *Vigil* follows. This is a series of readings, psalms or canticles, silence and collects, that tell from Old Testament scriptures the story of salvation. We hear familiar stories, but told by the light of the Paschal Candle, the symbol of the Risen Christ.

At the end of the Vigil the altar candles are lit, the bells ring out for the first time since the Gloria on Maundy Thursday, the organ thunders, and the Gloria is sung. The Liturgy of the Word follows.

A procession to the font follows for the *Liturgy of Initiation*, recalling the tradition in the early church of baptising and confirming but once a year in the Easter Liturgy, and we renew the promises we made, or were made for us, at our own baptism.

The *Liturgy of the Eucharist* continues as usual, concluding with the great Easter acclamation.

### **The Middle East**

This prayer for Iran appeared in diocesan e-News, and on the Church of England web site. It has also been reproduced in the March issue of A Candle in the Window. The prayer was written by the Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford. Bishop Guli was born in Iran. Her family left the country in the wake of the Iranian Revolution in 1980, when she was 13 years old, and to date she has been unable to return.

Ever-loving God,  
 who hears us in our anguish and distress,  
 and longs for us to be free.  
 We pray for the people of Iran and the wider Middle East,  
 at this time of fear and uncertainty.  
 Be near to those who are anxious;  
 bring comfort to all who are suffering.  
 Guide those with the power to make decisions,  
 and lead them in the ways of wisdom, compassion and moderation:  
 that people of goodwill would seek harmony and reconciliation.  
 Join us with our Christian brothers and sisters in all places,  
 in praying for peace with justice,  
 through him who is the prince of peace,  
 Jesus Christ our Lord.

**TAB and Tariro** There are now copies of the latest publicity brochures from both TARIRO and TAB on the literature table by the south porch in the literature holder nearest The Bookstall. It is not too late to take copies and use during Passiontide and indeed throughout the year. For more information about the two charities, see their web sites: <https://www.theabingdonbridge.org.uk/> and <https://tarirouk.com/>. Here are a few suggestions for prayer, lightly revised from suggestions made last year.

Give thanks and pray for the work of TAB:  
 for the charity's Trustees that they may govern with  
 wisdom and integrity; for the TAB team, CEO, heads of  
 departments, counsellors, coaches, therapists and  
 office staff, volunteers, their clients.  
 Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for the youth ambassadors representing the voices of  
 young people and their opinions.  
 Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for the well-being programme of 1 to 1 support for  
 young people; Bridge 18 to 25, support for 18 to 25  
 year olds.  
 Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for the healthy lifestyles programme and workshops,  
 for the SMART (Social Media Anxiety Resilience Team)  
 Project enabling young people to become more digitally  
 resilient, for the gym and sports programme.  
 Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for young people who need mental health support but  
 are unable to access it.  
 Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

Give thanks and pray for the work of Tariro:  
 for the charity's Trustees that they may govern with  
 wisdom and integrity; for the partner trust, Tariro  
 Youth Project in Zimbabwe; for the on-going financial  
 resources needed to support the children.  
 Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for the young children who have recently joined Tariro,  
 for their health and schooling. For the five young  
 people baptized earlier this year.  
 Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for the 100+ young people who have been supported  
 by Tariro over the last 16 years. For their future  
 employment and stability.  
 Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for the farming projects (pigs, chickens and vegetables),  
 for the members of the Tariro family now in leadership  
 roles.  
 Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for all young people in Zimbabwe, living in poverty,  
 orphaned or in abusive homes, without hope for the  
 future.  
 Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his mercy endures for ever. (Psalm 136)*

**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, ...

**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, provided this prayer when they were recently seeking a new Vicar.

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.

**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;
- the on-going work and financial health of TAB and TARIRO;
- Christians throughout the world beginning the journey of Holy Week;
- those preparing to enter the life and story of Christ through baptism and confirmation;
- those who speak the truth and work to end injustice and oppression;
- those who are walking the difficult road of rejection and ridicule;
- the suffering, especially those who are known to us and who are on our prayer list;
- those who are facing death and those who grieve and all whose year’s mind falls at this time;
- people living in: Thames View, The Charter, The Holt and The Hyde;
- the world for which Christ died.

**Eucharistic Lectionary**

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Isaiah 50.4-9a</b>	<b>Ps 31.9-16</b>	<b>Philippians 2.5-11</b>	<b>[Palm Gospel] Matthew 21.1-11 [Passion] Matthew 26.14 – end of 27</b>
<b>Mon</b>	Isaiah 42.1-9	Ps 36.5-11	Hebrews 9.11-15	John 12.1-11
<b>Tues</b>	Isaiah 49.1-7	Ps 71.1-14	1 Corinthians 1.18-31	John 12.20-36
<b>Wed</b>	Isaiah 50.4-9a	Ps 70	Hebrews 12.1-3	John 13.21-32
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Exodus 12.1-14	Ps 116.1, 10-end	1 Corinthians 11.23-26	John 13.1-17, 31b-35
<b>Good Friday</b>	Isaiah 52.13-end of 53	Ps 30	Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9	John 18.1-end of 19
<b>Saturday Easter Liturgy</b>	Genesis 1.1-2.4a Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-18; 9.8-13 Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20-21 Ezekiel 36.24-28	Ps 114	Romans 6.3-11	Matthew 28.1-10

### **Collect (Palm Sunday)**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

### **Prayer after Communion (Palm Sunday)**

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Collect (Maundy Thursday)**

God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may he nourish us by his presence and unite us in his love; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Collect (Good Friday)**

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Collect (Easter Eve)**

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through his merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Collect (Easter Vigil/ First Mass of the Resurrection/ Easter Day)**

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen.

### **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/>