



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

19 April 2026 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

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

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

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)
e-mail: administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

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

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 preside and preach at Mass today

Stations of the Resurrection The previous issue of the pew leaflet contained a piece about the Stations of the Resurrection Eastertide devotion. This Sunday's gospel reading, Luke 24.13-35 is Luke's account of The Road to Emmaus. The alongsider walking with two of them, who explains the scriptures to them; is persuaded to stay the night. He took bread, blessed it and gave it to them. Then they realised who he was, and he vanished from their sight. The Sixth of the Stations of the Resurrection uses Luke's account though starting at verse 28.

The theme for the reflection in the book, *Stations of the Resurrection – Encounters with the Risen Christ* (Guli Francis-Dehqani, and Malcolm Guit, Church House Publishing, 2024) is hospitality; especially to strangers and outsiders. In part this is a reflection about giving and receiving hospitality and the challenge of faith: to be host and guest as the situation requires. The prayer following the reflection is:

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for you are with us,
even when our eyes are closed to your companionship.
Walk this day alongside the disconsolate and the despairing,
open their eyes to your gentle illumination,
and let their hearts burn within them at your invisible presence.
To you, Lord Jesus,
walking by our side,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

David Duce

Cream Tea Our first cream tea takes place on **25 April between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm**. Many thanks to all those who have offered to help on the day. Please do also help by baking cakes or scones and let Louise or Joyce know if you can do so. We have distributed posters and fliers throughout Abingdon but would appreciate it very much if anyone feels able to deliver fliers to the few streets remaining. Those fliers are at the back of the church. Do please bring along your family and friends and promote wherever you can. It should be a lovely afternoon with some delicious cakes and live piano music.

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.

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. Do please support this event.



Key Liturgical Dates in May / June at St Michael's

14 May (Thursday)	Ascension Day
24 May	Pentecost
31 May	Trinity Sunday
4 June (Thursday)	Corpus Christi

Details of services for Ascension Day, Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi will be announced in due course.

Electoral Roll Revision The revised electoral roll will be displayed in church between **10 April and 24 April**. Any omissions or other errors should be notified to Keith Bowman by the end of that period.

Boiler Room We need to tidy the boiler room before our forthcoming diocesan inspection on 15 May. We need to ensure that boilers can be easily accessed. The room currently holds assorted paintings, pictures, bamboo canes, and music stands amongst other items. Please would you check that there is nothing there that you wish to keep. At the end of April, we shall recycle or dispose of all unclaimed or unused objects, so please let the wardens know if anything is of value.

Annual Meetings The St Michael's *Annual District Church Meeting* will take place on **Sunday 26 April** following the **9.30 am Sung Mass**. There are forms on the Notice Board by the North Door for nominations for election of Church Wardens and Parochial Church Council (PCC) and District Church Council (DCC) members. The Annual Report document, which includes the Finance Report, and unconfirmed minutes of the 2024 ADCM are available on the web

site and some paper copies will be available in church. See https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StM/StM_publications.html

This year the Annual District Church Meeting will be preceded by a *Special Meeting* to discuss and ratify the terms of election to St Michael and All Angels DCC.

The *Annual Parochial Church Meeting* and *Annual Meeting of Parishioners* will take place on the evening of **Thursday 30 April**. The evening will start with a short Parish Communion at 7 pm, followed by refreshments. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners (to elect Church Wardens) will be at 7.45pm. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will follow.

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 is no evening service at St Helen's on Easter Day.

There will be a service of *Choral Evensong* on **Sunday 19 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.

Silent Reflections will be held on **Tuesday 28 April at 7.30-8.30 pm**. Rosalind Rutherford will provide material for our reflections on the theme: *Heaven in Ordinary*. We meet initially in the church room. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

Moving into Stillness circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes on **Thursday 7 May in the church 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.

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.

Faith Forum In the 22 March talk our Team 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

Agnostics Anonymous The theme for last month's meeting was "Are you saved. Ideas of salvation in the bible and today", led by The Revd Professor John Barton and the Revd Dr Jennifer Brown. There is a report of the meeting in the April issue of *A Candle in the Window* and a copy of John Barton's talk is available to download from the parish web site, https://abingdonparish.org.uk/Are_you_saved.pdf.

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.

There are collection points 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/>

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.

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.

A Candle in the Window The April edition of the Parish magazine, 'A Candle in the Window' is available to download from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php Do read, discuss and even enjoy! Earlier issues are also available to download via this link.

Worship

April Celebrants and preachers for April are: 19 April Fr AKMA; 26 April The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown (limit of the current rota).

Thursday is the festival of George, martyr, patron of England, c. 304. Saturday is the festival of Mark the Evangelist, though this will be kept in the parish next Sunday, 26 April. Commemorations during the week include: Tuesday: Anselm, abbot, archbishop, teacher of the faith, 1109; Friday: Mellitus, bishop, 624 and Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood, 2003.

Anselm and Mellitus were both Archbishops of Canterbury. Mellitus died in 624 and Anselm in 1109.

The Venerable Bede in *A History of the English Church and People* gives an account of the life of Mellitus who was a Roman abbot sent to England by Pope Gregory the Great. He was consecrated by Augustine as Bishop of the East

Saxons with his see in London and first church dedicated to St Paul. Subsequently he became the third Archbishop of Canterbury (619-624), after Augustine and Laurence. No letters or books written by Mellitus seem to have survived though there is a letter to Mellitus from Pope Gregory when he was about to join Augustine on a mission to England.

“Tell Augustine that he should by no means destroy the temples of the gods but rather the idols within those temples. Let him, after he has purified them with holy water, place altars and relics of the saints in them. For, if those temples are well built, they should be converted from the worship of demons to the service of the true God. Thus, seeing that their places of worship are not destroyed, the people will banish error from their hearts and come to places familiar and dear to them in acknowledgement and worship of the true God.”

Whereas in the past it was the custom of the people to slaughter oxen in sacrifice, Gregory suggests that on the anniversary of the dedication of the church the people should celebrate the occasion with religious feasting.

“Thus, if they are not deprived of all exterior joys, they will more easily taste the interior ones. For surely it is impossible to efface all at once everything from their strong minds, just as, when one wishes to reach the top of a mountain, he must climb by stages and step by step, not by leaps and bounds....”

The name of Mellitus is associated with St Mellitus College, a theological college founded in 2007 which offers “context-based theological training rooted in prayer and worship, combining academic excellence, a focus on missional leadership, and the shaping of Christian character.” At one time our former curate, now Bishop Joe Kennedy, taught theology and missiology (the study of Christian mission) at St Mellitus.

Anselm was born in northern Italy in 1033. On a visit to the abbey of Bec he met Lanfranc who encouraged him to embrace monastic life where he wrote extensively on theology and philosophy as well as devotional works. Lanfranc became Archbishop of Canterbury following the Norman conquest. When Lanfranc died, Anselm was made Archbishop of Canterbury and was exiled twice for championing the rights of the Church against the authority of the king. Books by Anselm, who was an outstanding philosopher and theologian, have survived and modern translations are readily available. There is a book about Anselm in the Oxford University Press, *A Very Short Introduction ...* series.

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.

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 composed by the Vacancy in See Committee for the appointment of a new Bishop of Oxford to succeed Bishop Stephen when he retires later this year.

God our Shepherd,

We give you thanks for Bishop Steven's ministry as our bishop
and ask your blessing on him as he prepares to retire.

At this time, we ask your blessing also on our diocese and those who have been chosen to shape its future.

May they listen to one another, to the voices of your people, and to the voice of your Holy Spirit.

May your love be at the heart of all their decisions and your will be done in the appointment of a new bishop.

We ask this through your Son, who shared your love in his life among us and showed it in his death for us,
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 Crown Nominations Commission;
- His Majesty King Charles, Her Majesty Queen Camilla, and all the royal family;
- the peace of the world;
- the congregation of St Helen's Church holding their ADCM this Sunday and the congregation of St Nicolas' Church who held their ADCM on 16 April.
- 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 The Square, The Warren, Thesiger Road and Thornley Close.

Eucharistic Lectionary

3rd Sunday of Easter	Zephaniah 3.14-end	Ps 116.1-3, 10-end	Acts 2.14a, 36-41	Luke 24.13-35
Monday	Acts 6.8-15	Ps 119.17-24		John 6.22-29
Tuesday	Acts 7.51-8.1a	Ps 31.1-5, 16		John 6.30-35
Wednesday	Acts 8.1b-8	Ps 66.1-6		John 6.35-40
Thursday George, martyr, patron of England	1 Maccabees 2.59-64	Ps 126	2 Timothy 2.3-13	John 15.18-21
Friday	Acts 9.1-20	Ps 117		John 6.52-59
Saturday	Acts 9.31-42	Ps 116.10-15		John 6.60-69

Collect (3rd Sunday of Easter)

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord

Prayer after Communion (3rd Sunday of Easter)

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread; open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Collect (George, martyr, patron of England) Thursday 23 April

God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and by his death: give us the same faith and power of love that we who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son 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/>