



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

21 June 2026 3rd 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.
See below for revised date in July 2026. There is no circle dancing of any kind in August 2026.

Contacts

Team Rector: The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown
Email: rector@abingdonparish.org.uk

Team Vicar: Vacancy

Churchwardens: Miss Joyce Kelly (01235 533555 / 07833 535768)
e-mail: joyceekelly@btinternet.com
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 issue of 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 to preside, and Mrs Beryl Clements to preach at Mass today

3rd Sunday after Trinity

Today's gospel (Matthew 10.24-39) passage in which Jesus addressed the disciples, opens with the words "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master". It continues with an injunction not to fear and a number of contrasts: "nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered: nothing secret ... not become known". "What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; what ... whispered, proclaim from the housetops." The disciple is speaking for Christ, but later, vv. 34-39, suffering with Christ. "I have not come to bring peace but a sword." Verse 37, putting Christ before father or mother leads to the idea of putting Christ before self. The passage ends with the frequently repeated saying "those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

Wednesday is the festival of the Birth of John the Baptist. The death of John the Baptist (the beheading ...) may be kept as a lesser festival on 29 August. John was seen as 'special' before his birth and hence the importance of the birth. The late Metropolitan Anthony (Anthony Bloom) in his book *God and Man* echoes the idea of putting self aside.

"... to attain that state in which John could speak and not be noticed, in which all the people could perceive of him as a man who had been completely transformed into a message, into a vision, into a proclamation, meant that he was a man who consented to lay aside all that was selfish, grasping, all that was delighting selfishly in whatever he wanted to have. He had a pure heart, a clear mind, an unwavering will, a trained body, a complete mastery of self, so that when the message came, fear would not defeat him and make him silent; promises could not beguile him and make him silent, or simply the heaviness of the flesh, the heaviness of the mind, the heaviness of the heart, should not overcome the lightness and lightening power of the spirit. This is something of our task."

David Duce

Status of Team Vicar Recruitment Shortlisting for the post of Team Vicar took place on Monday 1 June. From the applications received, we were able to shortlist candidates for interview. Interviews will take place on **Monday 29 June**. Please continue to keep the process of finding our next Team Vicar in your prayers. *Jennifer Brown*

Diocesan Annual Review – A Year of celebration and transition The annual review along with a companion report 'On the money' (how the diocese is funded) have now been published and are available to download from <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/annual-review>

Save the Date: Saturday, 5 December 2026, at 1.30pm at St Helen's Church Fr AKMA will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood with a Mass for the Feast of Clement of Alexandria, teacher and Church Father, with a sermon from the Revd Damian Feeney. Reception to follow.

Confirmation and admission to Holy Communion It has been over a year since we last had a confirmation service here in the parish, and I am aware that there may be both young people and adults in our churches who wish to be confirmed. This notice is to ask that if you or your child would be interested in confirmation, please speak to Revd Jen or Fr AKMA so that we can begin to plan confirmation classes. We can also offer preparation for admission to Holy Communion if there are any children who would like to begin receiving Holy Communion prior to confirmation. *Jennifer Brown*

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** today, **Sunday 14 June**, 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.

Abingdon Foodbank Foodbank: most needed at present are biscuits, squash, cereal, tinned mac'n'cheese and UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed) as well as empty egg boxes, carrier bags and wet cat or dog food. There is a collection box in church and goods donated there will be taken to the South Abingdon Foodbank.

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/>

New Eco Podcast The Diocese has launched a new podcast, *Common Ground*, hosted by Bishop Mary. This short series, will explore the connection between faith, the environment and the world we share.

Episode one, Observing the Earth is out now. In this episode, Bishop Mary speaks with Professor Chris Merchant (University of Reading) about his work in ocean and climate observation, the vital role of scientific research in understanding climate change and how faith can shape our response to environmental challenges. Available at:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/6fgyiYyBQ6gRCngPi1Pve5>

Book Sale and Coffee Morning, Saturday 20 June, 10 am to 12 noon at St Nicolas' Church. Do please support this event.

Albert Park Singers Summer Concert Friday 26 June 7 pm Join us for an evening of choral favourites from West End Shows to traditional folk songs. Free entry and refreshments, donations to Sobell House and St Michael's Church.

Cream Tea The next Cream Tea will take place on **Saturday 27 June between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm**. 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. Thank you. *Louise*.

Faith Forum: The next Faith Forum will take place on **Sunday 28 June**, when Fr AKMA will speak on the use of symbol in the liturgy.

Silent Reflections will be held on **Tuesday 30 June at 7.30-8.30 pm**. Sue Sheppy will provide material for our reflections on the theme: *Bear one another's burdens*. We meet initially in the church room. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

Abingdon Mothers' Union Tuesday 7 July, 10.30 am Parish Centre. Speaker: Maureen Weston - Why I joined Mothers' Union. Plus: Discussion, Quizzes, Bring & Buy. All Welcome.

Moving into Stillness: circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes on **Thursday 9 July** 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. **NB Irregular date for July; there will be no circle dancing of any kind in August.**

CiA News The **June** 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 **June** edition of the Parish Magazine 'A candle in the window' is now available to download from the Parish website https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php. Earlier issues can also be found at this location. Do read and discuss!

Worship

June/July Celebrants and preachers for June /July are: 21 June The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown / Mrs Beryl Clements; 28 June, The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown; 5 July Fr AKMA, 12 July Fr AKMA, 19 July The Revd Rosalind Rutherford, 26 July Fr AKMA.

Wednesday is the festival of the Birth of John the Baptist. Commemorations during the week include: Monday, Alban, first Martyr of Britain, c. 250; Tuesday Etheldreda, abbess, c. 678; Saturday, Cyril, bishop, teacher of the faith, 444. Friday and Saturday are Ember Days.

Ember Days Days of prayer for those to be ordained deacon or priest, have traditionally been observed on the Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at various points in the year. This year the festival of the Birth of John the Baptist takes precedence over the Ember Day that would have been on Wednesday 24 June. *The Collect:*

Almighty God, you have entrusted to your Church a share in the ministry of your Son our great high priest: inspire by your Holy Spirit the hearts of many to offer themselves for the ministry of your Church, that strengthened by his power, they may work for the increase of your kingdom and forward the eternal praise of your name; through Jesus Christ ... Amen.

Ordinations to the Diaconate will take place at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday 4 July. At the time of writing a list of candidates had not been published. Ordinations to the Priesthood will presumably take place in other locations on the following days.

Alban was a soldier of the Roman city of Verulamium (now St Albans) who sheltered a Christian priest fleeing from persecution. Alban received instruction from the priest and was converted to Christianity. When the priest's hiding place was discovered, Alban dressed himself in the priest's cloak and was arrested in his place. He refused to renounce his faith and was tortured. When it became clear he was not going to be broken by torture the order was given to behead him and he became the first British martyr. His shrine is today a place of pilgrimage in the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban. This year there will be a city wide pilgrimage and festival in St Alban's on Saturday 20 June including a procession through the city, Eucharist and Evensong in the Cathedral and entertainment, telling the story of St Alban. <https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/Event/alban-day>

Etheldreda was a king's daughter who wished to live a life of prayer and chastity. After two arranged, unconsummated, marriages she founded a house in Ely, a mixed community, of which she was abbess. She died in 678 and was revered as a woman of austerity, prayer and prophecy. A shrine in Ely Cathedral was destroyed at the Reformation, but the site is marked in the cathedral by a stone and inscription "Here stood the shrine of Etheldreda, saint and queen who founded this house, AD 673.

Cyril of Alexandria was born in Alexandria and succeeded his uncle as Patriarch in the year 412. He engaged in a long struggle to defend orthodox doctrines of the Holy Trinity against Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople, whose teaching seems to have been that there were two separate persons co-existing in the Incarnate Christ, one human, the other divine. This teaching rejected a papal ruling that Nestorius and his followers comply with Cyril's position that the unity between divinity and humanity in Christ was real and total. The Council of Ephesus (431) was convened to give a ruling on the matter and eventually gave full support to Cyril. Some translations of documents of the Council are available at the web site <https://www.papalencyclicals.net/councils/ecum03.htm>

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 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.

This prayer taken from the Diocesan web site was published in January this year.

Lord God, thank you that you care so much about your people.
Please help the Church of England to listen to what you say as they work together to find the right person to be
Bishop of Oxford.
Please provide a bishop who will serve well, in all the ways you want, for the good of all.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Please pray for:

- Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury and Stephen, Archbishop of York;
- Bishop Gavin as he prepares to take up the role of Acting Bishop of Oxford and for the Crown Nominations Commission and the Archdeaconry of Dorchester team: David Tyler, Jane Haslam and Rob Glennly;
- His Majesty King Charles, Her Majesty Queen Camilla, and all the royal family;
- the continuing conflicts throughout the world and all those working for peace;
- those preparing for ordination to the diaconate and priesthood at Petertide; for those to be ordained deacon in our cathedral on Saturday 4 July;
- all engaged in examinations at this time;

- the suffering, especially those who are known to us and who are on our prayer list;
- those recently departed and those whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in Abbey Close, Abbott Road, Andersey Way and Anna Pavlova Close.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sunday 21 June 3rd Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 20.7-13	Ps 69.8-11	Romans 6.1b-11	Matthew 10.24-39
Monday	2 Kings 17.5-8, 13-15, 18	Ps 60.1-5, 11-end		Matthew 7.1-3
Tuesday	2 Kings 19.9b-11, 14-21, 31-36	Ps 48.1-2, 8-end		Matthew 7.6, 12-14
Wednesday Birth of John the Baptist	Isaiah 40.1-11	Ps 85.7-end	Acts 13.14b-26	Luke 1.57-66, 80
Thursday	2 Kings 24.8-17	Ps 79.1-9, 12		Matthew 7.21-end
Friday	2 Kings 25.1-12	Ps 137.1-6		Matthew 8.1-4
Saturday	Lamentations 2.2, 10-14, 18-19	Ps 74.1-3, 21-end		Matthew 8.5-17

Collect 3rd Sunday after Trinity)

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

Post Communion (3rd Sunday after Trinity)

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Collect (Birth of John the Baptist)

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour by the preaching of repentance: lead us to repent according to his preaching and, after his example, constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake; 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/>