



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

12 July 2026 6th 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. 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 Fr AKMA to preside and preach at Mass today

Mission

Last week, I wrote about St Thomas the Apostle. Although we don't know much about his life, tradition has it that he travelled to India as a missionary, spreading the Gospel and founding churches. Mission has always been part of the life of the Church, although today we can sometimes feel a bit uneasy about it.

In the 19th Century, mission became entangled with Empire, and while I don't doubt the good intentions and motivations of those (mainly) Victorian-era missionaries, looking back, we might not be comfortable with their methods, which were not always sympathetic to the cultures they encountered. Mission today, however, is a different sort of thing. Not least, when we think about mission, we aren't sending members of our congregations to faraway parts of the world. We're working right on our own doorstep, here in our own town.

Mission today tends to focus on showing God's love through service to others. This may be overtly Evangelical, as when we engage with people at Christmas and Easter, sharing with them the stories around those holidays, together with a mince pie or chocolate egg, depending on the season, or through an event like Agnostics Anonymous. At other times, mission can be about offering something to the community, making clear that it is the Church that's doing the offering, but without explicitly talking religion.

At its heart, mission is about making God's love known in the world. When people know they are loved, they often want to respond. It might take time, but we trust that the Holy Spirit is working, not just with and through us, but before us and after our encounters with others, so that the seeds we plant may find fertile soil in which to grow.

Revd Dr Jen Brown, Rector

Faith Forum Fr AKMA spoke at the 28 June meeting on *Symbolism in the Liturgy*. A recording of the talk and handout are available at https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_faith_forum.html.

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 moved away from Abingdon last year and since then Joyce has been filling this role, but we really need to have someone else in this position. If you are interested or would like more information, please speak to Joyce Kelly.

Baptisms We are also looking for someone (or more than one person) to help occasionally with baptisms. These normally take place on Sunday afternoons and the role is to do the small amount of set up required before for the service, welcome families and their guests, assist as needed during the service, and tidy up afterwards. We typically have 3 or so baptisms a year, so with several people able to help the frequency for individuals would be reduced. If you would like to be involved or would like more information, please speak to Joyce Kelly.

Cream Tea The next Cream Tea will take place on **Saturday 25 July 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. Help with circulation of posters and fliers would be greatly appreciated. If you feel able to give a hand there are some you might collect in the south aisle. Even one or two is a help. Thank you, *Louise*.

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>).

The next Taizé Service will be **this Sunday, 14 July, 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.

Save the date: The First Annual Community of the Resurrection Lecture on the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus

Christ Some readers might be interested to know that The Community of the Resurrection (Mirfield) has announced that this lecture in this new series will be given by Bishop Rowan Williams on **Saturday 10 October at 4.30 pm**. The lecture will be live-streamed.

Abingdon 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 web page

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/news/three-things-we-learned-from-climate-scientist-mike-morecroft-on-common-ground.php>

has links to both Spotify and Apple Podcasts both of which have lists of the episodes in the series and recordings. In the fourth episode, *Spirit in the Storm*, following the the devastating impact of Hurricane Melissa on Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, Bishop Mary speaks with the Revd Canon Janet Binns (Area Dean of Burnham and Slough) who recently visited the islands and witnessed both the destruction and the remarkable resilience of local communities. Drawing on her personal connections to Jamaica, Janet reflects on stories of faith, recovery and hope, as churches and neighbours come together to rebuild lives and livelihoods. Their conversation also explores the growing reality of climate change, the unequal burden it places on vulnerable communities, and what churches in the UK can do in response.

General Synod will be meeting from **10 – 14 July** at the University of York. The agenda and meeting papers are available at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod/groups-sessions/general-synod-july-2026> There is a link to live-streams and recordings of the sessions at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod>

PATHWAYS Printed copies of the Summer 2026 issue of the Diocese of Oxford magazine are available in church. This is the first issue since a consultation exercise on the form and content of the publication. The new issue is very different to previous issues. It includes reflections on Bishop Steven’s ministry and retirement, the process of appointing a new bishop, people and churches around the diocese, and reflection on the abolition of the Listed Places of Worship Scheme (which provided VAT relief on some forms of work). There is a piece about the meeting between the Revd Canon Dr Will Lamb, Vicar of the University Church in Oxford, and Pope Leo last autumn. John Henry Newman (now Saint JHN and Doctor of the Church) was vicar of the University Church from 1828 to 1843 and one of the key figures in the Oxford Movement until he converted to Roman Catholicism. Canon Lamb was a member of the Anglican delegation at the service last November when Newman was declared a Doctor of the Church. There is also an obituary of our former bishop, Richard Harries, who died last month.

The issue is well worth reading. At the time of writing (Wednesday), a digital copy was not available.

CiA News The **July** issue of CiA News is now available to download and there is a copy on the Notice Board by the welcome table. It should appear on the parish web site shortly.

https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html.

A Candle in the Window The **July** edition of the Parish Magazine will be available to download from **Sunday 12 July** from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php A green edition! No more until September so do catch up!

Worship

July Celebrants and preachers for June /July are: 12 July Fr AKMA, 19 July The Revd Rosalind Rutherford, 26 July Fr AKMA.

Commemorations this week include: Tuesday: John Keble, priest, poet, 1866; Wednesday: Swithun, bishop, c. 862 and Bonnaventure, friar, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1274; Thursday: Osmund, bishop, 1099; Saturday: Elizabeth Ferrard, deaconess, founder of the Community of St Andrew, 1883.

John Keble was born in Fairford in 1792 and became a Fellow of Oriel College Oxford at the age of nineteen, shortly before his ordination to the diaconate in 1815 and priesthood in 1816. He was elected Professor of Poetry in Oxford in 1831 and was one of the leaders of the Tractarian movement. In 1836 he became parish priest of Hursley (near Winchester), where he remained until his death in 1866. The local Church of England Primary School is named in his memory.

Keble’s best-known book of poetry is probably *The Christian Year*, published in 1827. Initially it was published anonymously but by the time Keble died there were 95 editions. The first hymn on Sunday should be NEH 238, *New every morning is the love ...*, which is an extract from a longer poem, *Morning*.

At Hursley, one of Keble’s scholarly activities was editing a three volume edition of the works of the Anglican Divine, Richard Hooker.

Keble’s Assize Sermon, *On National Apostasy*, preached in the University Church of St Mary the Virgin in Oxford on 14 July 1833 is regarded by some authors as the start of the Oxford Movement. The sermon was prompted by the British Parliament threatening to curtail the number of Anglican bishoprics in Ireland, as one commentator put it, “Let the State get its hands off the Church”. The essential message was that the Church of England represents the Universal Catholic Church, with episcopal ministry going back to the apostles with Christ as its founder, not Parliament.

Keble died in Bournemouth in 1866. According to one source: "on 12 May 1866 a meeting at Lambeth Palace resolved to build a college in Keble's memory at Oxford which would offer an education at moderate costs in strict fidelity to the teaching of the Church of England. Keble College was opened in 1870."

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 for the Diocese of Oxford during the Vacancy in See is taken from the Summer 2026 edition of the diocesan magazine, *Pathways*.

God of gentleness and love
Draw near to us as we draw near to you.
Dwell in every heart and conversation.
Fashion in us the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Help us to discern together all that you are calling us to be
and all that you are calling us to do.
Assist us, by your Spirit, to become a more contemplative,
more compassionate and more courageous church,
for the building of your kingdom and the glory of your Son.

Please pray for:

- Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury and Stephen, Archbishop of York;
- Bishop Gavin, Acting Bishop of Oxford, the Crown Nominations Commission, and the Archdeaconry of Dorchester team: David Tyler, Jane Haslam and Rob Glenny;
- 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;
- the right appointment of a new Team Vicar;
- General Synod meeting at this time;
- all those in our community who are in need or want;

- those engaged in mission locally, nationally, and internationally, and for organisations supporting mission and evangelism;
- those who come to Church seeking comfort, peace, companionship, and encounter with God;
- all in our churches who serve the wider community;
- 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 Bath Court, Bath Street, Bergen Avenue and Blacklands Way.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sunday 12 July 6th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 55.10-13	Ps 65	Romans 8.1-11	Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23
Monday	Isaiah 1.11-17	Ps 50.7-15		Matthew 10.34-11.1
Tuesday	Isaiah 7.1-9	Ps 48.1-7		Matthew 11.20-24
Wednesday	Isaiah 10.5-7, 13-16	Ps 94.5-11		Matthew 11.25-27
Thursday	Isaiah 26.7-9, 16-19	Ps 102.14-21		Matthew 11.28-end
Friday	Isaiah 38.1-6, 21-22, 7-8 [thus]	Ps 32.1-8		Matthew 12.1-8
Saturday	Micah 2.1-5	Ps 10.1-5a, 12		Matthew 12.14-21

Collect (6th Sunday after Trinity)

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, ...

Post Communion (6th Sunday after Trinity)

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of 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/>