



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

26 July 2026 – James the Apostle / 8th 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: (To join the parish after Christmas)

Churchwardens: Miss Joyce Kelly (01235 533555 / 07833 535768)
e-mail: joyceekelly@btinternet.com
Mrs Louise Heffernan (01235 525412 / 07779 650968)
e-mail: lheff@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk

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

James the Apostle

The festival of James the Apostle falls on 25 July, a Saturday this year, but it is being kept in the parish on Sunday 26 July.

The brothers James and John were present along with Peter at the Transfiguration of Jesus. Today's gospel passage, Matthew 20.20-28, tells how the mother of James and John came to Jesus and asked him a favour. "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left in your kingdom." Jesus asked in return if they were able to drink the cup of which he would drink, to which they replied, "yes". Jesus went on to say that sitting at his left and right hand was not in his gift, but would be given by his Father to those for whom it had been prepared. The other disciples were not pleased when they heard about this and were angry with the brothers. Jesus points out that "whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave, just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." John Chrysostom (d. 407) wrote in a homily:

"... James for his part was not to live long. From the beginning he was inspired by so great a zeal, that setting aside all earthly interests, he rose to such pre-eminence that it was inevitable that he would be killed straightaway."

James along with John were put to death on the orders of Herod Agrippa (Acts 12.2), who hoped that he would stop the flow of new believers by killing the leaders. He was wrong. It is thought that James was martyred around the year 44. It is said that his body was miraculously transported to north-west Spain where the shrine of St James in Santiago de Compostela is the destination of the famous pilgrimage route.

From prayers of intercession for the festival written by Eric Simmons, CR.

Father of all,
we thank you for the Apostles' teaching and fellowship,
and for their witness to the Resurrection
even to the surrender of their lives.
Today we thank you for St James,
the first of the Apostolic band to give his blood for the love of Christ.
We ask you to renew in your Church
the same spirit of constancy and steadfastness;
so we pray for Christians who face persecution
and trial for their faith,
and for Christians who witness to their faith
in the face of indifference and apathy.

...

And we ask you to strengthen us in our Baptismal vocation,
that like St James we may yield our lives for the love of Christ and in his service.

David Duce

Pew leaflets during August To work around other commitments and allow for a brief break, the publication schedule for this pew leaflet during August will be:

Sunday	
2 August	single issue published 30 July, content deadline Tuesday 28 July
9 and 16 August	double issue published 6 August, content deadline Tuesday 4 August
23 and 30 August	double issue published 20 August, content deadline Tuesday 18 August
6 September	single issues, published 3 September content deadline Tuesday 1 September

Glynne and Peter are getting married! They are having a Service of Blessing at St. Michael's at **2.30 pm on Friday 21 August** and would be delighted to welcome any church friends who would like to share the occasion with them.

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.

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 Healing & Wholeness* **this Sunday, 26 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.

8 am Sunday services of Holy Communion will take place at **St Nicolas Church** during the month of **August.**

Silent Reflections will be held on **Tuesday 28 July from 7.30-8.30 pm.** Peter Sumner will provide material for our reflections on the theme: *Am I not a Man and a Brother?* We meet initially in the church room. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

Garden Party to celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union. Abingdon Branch, **Tuesday 4 August 3.00 - 5.00 pm** at 11 Thurston Close, OX14 5RD. Entry £5 for tea, scone and cake.

Concert Dates for your diary

Piano Recital Huw Rhys James, **Sunday 6 September at 3.00 pm.** [*Apologies to Huw for misspelling his name in the last issue. Ed.*]

Pavlova Wind Quintet Piano and wind quintet with Glynne Butt play Beethoven, **Sunday 20 September 3.00 pm.**

The Abingdon Bridge Charity Golf Day We are delighted to invite you to our second charity golf day being held on **11 September 2026 at Hadden Hill Golf Club, Didcot.** The entry deadline is Friday 28 August. Further details can be found on the TAB web site <https://www.theabingdonbridge.org.uk/event-details/the-abingdon-bridge-charity-golf-day-2026> and further details and the entry form will be circulated with the digital version of this pew leaflet. If you would be interested in playing but are unable to submit an entry for 4 people, please let us know as we'll keep a list of names and hopefully team you up with others. If you're not a golfer or unable to attend on the day, you can still support us by donating a raffle prize or sponsoring a hole. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact TAB. Email: kirsty@theabingdonbridge.org.uk Telephone: 01235 522375 (Working days Monday - Thursday 9.30am - 4.45pm)

Kirsty Darter & Hilary Daffern (Trustee)

Ride & Stride The 2026 Ride + Stride in aid of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) takes place on **Saturday 12 September.** The event raises money for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, and above all is great fun! 50% of the money raised by us goes to St Michael's Church and the other 50% to OHCT. Further details can be obtained on the OHCT website <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/> and from our church coordinator, Louise Heffernan lheff@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk

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-rachel-orr-about-talking-about-climate-change.php> has links to both Spotify and Apple Podcasts both of which have lists of the episodes in the series and recordings. In the sixth and final episode, *Changing the Narrative*, Bishop Mary is joined by Rachel Orr, CEO of Climate Outreach. They explore how we can have conversations that inspire hope rather than division, drawing on research into how people across Britain think and feel about climate and nature.

PATHWAYS Printed copies of the Summer 2026 issue of the Diocese of Oxford magazine are available in church. 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. A digital copy is available to download from the parish web site: https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html.

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

Worship

July/August The new clergy rota has now been published. The celebrants and preachers for July and August are: 26 July, Fr AKMA; 2 August, The Revd Rosalind Rutherford; 9 August, The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown; 16 August, Fr AKMA; 23 August, The Revd Canon Ruth Pyke; 30 August, Fr AKMA.

The festival of James the Apostle (25 July) will be kept in the parish this Sunday, 26 July. Commemorations this week include: Brooke Foss Westcott, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1901; Wednesday: Mary, Martha and Lazarus, companions of Our Lord; Thursday: William Wilberforce social reformer, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson, anti-slavery campaigners, 1833, 1797 and 1846; Friday: Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556.

Brooke Foss Westcott was born in 1825, ordained and then became a master at Harrow School. He was elected as Regius Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge in 1870 and together with Fenton Hort and J.B. Lightfoot led a revival in biblical studies and theology and had a significant role in the founding of the Clergy Training School in Cambridge, later renamed Westcott House in his memory. In 1890 he was consecrated Bishop of Durham where he died in 1901.

William Wilberforce From a speech delivered to the House of Commons in May 1789 on the total abolition of slavery:

“Sir, the nature and all the circumstances of this trade are now laid upon us. We can no longer plead ignorance. We cannot evade it. We may spurn it. We may pick it out of the way. But we cannot turn aside so as to avoid seeing it. For it is brought now so directly before our eyes that this House must decide, and must justify to all the world and to its own conscience, the rectitude of all the grounds of its decision.”

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 has been derived from a prayer composed by Fr Paul when the Revd Dr Jennifer Brown was appointed Team Rector.

Almighty God,
By the outpouring of your Holy Spirit,
You call each of us to walk in the way of Christ and to serve him, with diverse gifts, in the church and the world.
We praise you for calling Revd Naomi to be Team Vicar in our parish,
and ask you to bless her, Matthew and their family, in all their preparations over the coming months.
Grant her the needful gifts of grace to minister and serve among us,
and that as the whole people of God in this parish, we may work together for the coming of your kingdom,
to the glory of your Holy Name, 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 Archdeacons of Dorchester team: David Tyler, Jane Haslam and Rob Glenny;
- His Majesty King Charles, Her Majesty Queen Camilla, and all the royal family;
- Christians throughout the world persecuted for their faith;
- children and parents, especially those who struggle during school holidays, and for churches running holiday clubs;
- 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 Buckles Close, Burgess Close, Burton Close and Bury Street.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sunday 26 July James the Apostle	Jeremiah 45.1-5	Ps 126	Acts 11.27-12.2	Matthew 20.20-28
Monday	Jeremiah 13.1-11	Ps 82		Matthew 13.31-35
Tuesday	Jeremiah 14.17-end	Ps 79.8-end		Matthew 13.36-43
Wednesday	Jeremiah 15.10, 16-end	Ps 59.1-4, 18-end		Matthew 13.44-46
Thursday	Jeremiah 18.1-6	Ps 146.1-5		Matthew 13.47-53
Friday	Jeremiah 26.1-9	Ps 69.4-10		Matthew 13.54-end
Saturday	Jeremiah 26.11-16, 24	Ps 69.14-20		Matthew 14.1-12

Collect (James the Apostle)

Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay: through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord ...

Post Communion (James the Apostle)

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect (8th Sunday after Trinity)

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ ...

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/>