



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

2 August 2026 – Ethelwold / 9th 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. N.B. 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 4 August (double issue for 9 and 16 August).

Telephone 522591

pewleaflet@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk

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

We welcome The Revd Rosalind Rutherford to preside and preach at Mass today

Power and Obedience

Who was St Ethelwold? He is known as Ethelwold of Winchester, both because he was born there and because he later was made Bishop of Winchester. We think of him as a local, Abingdon, saint, however, because after spending time as a monk at Glastonbury, he was sent to be Abbot of Abingdon. There was just one problem – the abbey in his time was no longer active (there were priests here, but no monks)! So, he had to build a new church and cloisters, and establish a new community of monks here. His venture in Abingdon was a great success, and Abingdon became a centre of learning and monastic life.

Like many Anglo-Saxon saints, he was born into a noble family. He had links to the royal court, and was close to some of the most important religious figures of his day. Those connections naturally meant that he had power and influence. He used these to advance monastic reform, education, and the building of new monasteries around the country. He was also active in politics and strengthened connections between Church and State. We might be wary of religious leaders from privileged backgrounds cosying up to political power, but this probably wasn't a problem for the Anglo-Saxons. For them, faith was intimately bound up with every aspect of life, including political.

In August, we tend to take a break from some of our regular routines, including here at church. But that doesn't mean we take a break from faith! We can follow the example of Ethelwold and other Anglo-Saxon saints and carry our faith into every aspect of life, bringing prayer and an openness to God into all that we do.

Jennifer Brown

Team Rector

Belated Congratulations to Fr Keith Kinnaird who celebrated the 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood last month.

The Revd Naomi Gardom We are delighted to announce that, subject to legalities, the Revd Naomi Gardom been appointed as the next Team Vicar in the Abingdon-on-Thames team. Naomi will join the team from the University Church in Oxford where she currently serving her curacy. Naomi's licensing will be on **Wednesday 6 January 2027 at 7.30 pm in St Helen's Church.**

Pew leaflets during August The publication schedule for this pew leaflet during August will be:

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 issue published 3 September content deadline Tuesday 1 September

St Helen's and St Nicolas' Churches are also reducing the frequency of their weekly newsletter/ pew slip during August. Both will publish double issues for 2 & 9 August and 16 & 23 August and a single issue for 30 August. So there will be something new to read each week if you are able to access the online copies of the St Helen's and St Nicolas' publications (through the Publications sections of their web sites).

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.

Evelyn Hancox and Tony Richmond, RIP Both Evelyn and Tony were long-standing members of St Nicolas' and will be known to many of our readers. It is with sadness that we received the news that Evelyn Hancox died on 22 July and Tony on 28 July. Evelyn's funeral will be on Wednesday 5 August at 1 pm at St Nicolas' Church. Details of Tony's will be announced when available. We send our condolences to Evelyn's family Andrew, Marion and their families and to Lyn Richmond, Tam and Emily and their families.

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 no services at St Helen's Church on Sunday evenings during August.

Morning Prayer is normally held at 9.10 am on weekdays at St Helen's Church. This continues during August.

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

Thursday 6 August is the festival of the **Transfiguration of Our Lord**. There will be a **Said Mass at St Michael's at 12.30 pm**.

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**.

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/>

PATHWAYS Printed copies of the Summer 2026 issue of the Diocese of Oxford magazine are available in church and a digital copy is now on-line <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/pathways>. Well worth reading.

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

August The celebrants and preachers for August are: 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 Ethelwold, abbot of Abingdon, monastic reformer and bishop of Winchester will be kept this Sunday. Thursday is the festival of the Transfiguration of Our Lord and Saturday is the festival of the Blessed Virgin Mary (also known as the Assumption or Dormition) though this will be kept in the parish on Sunday, 16 August. Commemorations include Monday: Jean-Baptiste Vianney, Cure d'Ars, spiritual guide, 1859; Tuesday: Oswald, king, martyr, 642; Friday: John Mason Neale, priest, hymn writer, 1866; Saturday: Dominic, priest, founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221.

Ethelwold There are references to sources consulted in the preparation of this piece on the Prayer and Worship resources page at our web site..

Ethelwold and Dunstan were ordained to the priesthood at the same time. Dunstan became Abbot of Glastonbury, then later Ethelwold followed Dunstan to Glastonbury and became a monk and his pupil. Ethelwold then became Abbot of Abingdon. Monasteries in general at that time were not in good shape, adherence to monastic rules such as the Rule of St Benedict was lax. Ethelwold was a key figure in monastic reform along with Dunstan who became Archbishop of Canterbury and Oswald, Bishop of Worcester who later became Archbishop of York (whilst remaining Bishop of Worcester).

Ethelwold moved to Winchester along with a number of monks from Abingdon and became Bishop of Winchester in 963. He didn't exactly endear himself to the community in Winchester on arrival. His first act of reform was to present the canons of Winchester with an ultimatum – become monks following the Rule of St Benedict or go elsewhere. There were in fact attempts made to poison Ethelwold. Ethelwold was clear that canons and monks could not co-exist, though other reformers took a different view.

There are liturgical calendars in which Dunstan, Ethelwold and Oswald are commemorated together on 19 May. Ethelwold does not appear in the Common Worship calendar but Dunstan does, on 19 May. Ethelwold was later referred to as the 'Father of Monks' (Benedict was known as the Father of Western Monasticism.)

Monastic reform had the backing of King Edgar. One of the major achievements in monastic reform was a document called the *Regularis Concordia*, or *The Monastic Agreement of the Monks and Nuns of the English Nation*. (A copy of the Latin text and English translation by Dom Symons, monk of Downside Abbey, first published in 1953 is still in print.) By around 970 reforms were underway in several places and there was a need to draw these together. Whilst the Rule of St Benedict was observed, there were divergences in the observance of the Rule. This led to a Council of Winchester and drawing up a code (by order of the King) to bind the various houses together and the Synodal Council agreed to carry out its provisions. This became the *Regularis Concordia* – drawn up along the lines of the Rule of St Benedict to settle differences. Sources say it is probable that Ethelwold was the author of this.

From a casual reading, some of the provisions hint at problems that needed to be addressed, for example 'no monk, nor indeed any man whatever his rank, should dare to enter and frequent the places set aside for nuns', and 'those who have authority over nuns should use their powers not as worldly tyrants but in the interests of good discipline.' The *Regularis Concordia* also makes reference to the manner of the election of abbots and abbesses. Monks and nuns when travelling are urged to say the Office, but to dismount from horses before doing so. There are many provisions relating to how the Office was to be said, for example paragraph 28, from November to the beginning of Lent, 'on short days shorter hymns shall be sung and on longer days longer ones', though other liturgical provisions are more technical.

Ethelwold died on 1 August 984. In the course of preparing this short piece I came across a thesis by Rebecca Browett, 'The Cult of St Ethelwold and its Context, c. 984 – c. 1400', Doctoral Thesis, University of London, 2016. She explores how Ethelwold was remembered by hagiographies, in the liturgy, and through shrines and places of pilgrimage. To a non-specialist it is a fascinating read. The first person to write a Life of Ethelwold was a monk called Wulfstan (Wulfstan of Winchester or Wulfstan the Cantor). Wulfstan was a monk and pupil of Ethelwold, rose to become precentor and wrote this work soon after Ethelwold's 'translation', the first record of his sanctity, on 10 September 996. Wulfstan provided liturgical material to commemorate Ethelwold, including a hymn.

O heav'nly representative
and good shepherd of holy Church,
O father Ethelwold, hear us,
grant good end to your servants' search.

May the Inborn and Holy Source
and Unbegotten Only Son
and Holy Spirit of them both,
the Three-in-One, grant this to us. Amen.

...

Rebecca Browett traces the occurrence of Ethelwold in monastic calendars and litanies, a way of judging his importance to different religious houses though this is complicated by the fact that collections of these are sparse with many gaps. She also looks at how his cult spread, not least after relics were distributed to various places, including Abingdon. Abbot Faritius instituted a new feast in Abingdon. The hierarchy of feasts at that time was complex, but two of the distinguishing factors were what the choir and monks wore and the number of lessons read. For this feast the choir wore copes, and there were twelve lessons praising the saint, making it a high-status feast.

There is a book entitled 'Abingdon Abbey – It's buildings and history', published by the Friends of Abingdon in 1993. This includes a photograph of a procession of Benedictine monks and nuns, both Roman Catholic and Anglican, passing through the archway by St Nicolas' Church on their way to the site of the Abbey church. This was part of the commemorations in 1984 of the millennium of St Ethelwold. The Abingdon Area Archaeology and History Society's Bibliography of Local History for Abingdon includes this entry 'Parish church of St. Helen, Abingdon: Millenium of St. Ethelwold, evening prayer, monastic vespers July 8th, 1984. Church of England services. special (1984). (Abingdon)'. Perhaps some of our readers remember this.

One final story from Rebecca Browett's thesis, nicely illustrates both the strictness and flexibility in the Rule of St Benedict. Ethelwold when he was Abbot of Abingdon imposed strict food rules on the community, including a strict provision for the amount of cheese to be provided. In the time of Abbot Faritius (from 1110-1117) the monks complained that the Abbot had diminished the portion of cheese allotted to each monk. The Abbot was robust in his defence that he had not changed the provision. Matters seem to have got a bit out of hand and the King sent the

Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop of Salisbury to resolve the matter. It turned out that the Abbot had not changed the weight of cheese, the problem was that there were now 52 more monks than before so each monk received less. The solution: the weight of cheese should be assigned every 5 days not 10.

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 Archdeaconry of Dorchester team: David Tyler, Jane Haslam and Rob Glenny;
- His Majesty King Charles, Her Majesty Queen Camilla, and all the royal family;
- all bishops, priests, and leaders of religious communities;

- Friends of Abingdon Abbey Buildings and all who care for our community's heritage assets;
- those who promote religious education;
- all in our community who are in physical or spiritual need;
- victims of the earthquake in Japan and the wild-fires in France and Spain, and those working to bring relief;
- 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 Byron Close, Caldecott Chase, Caldecott Close and Caldecott Court.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sunday 2 August Ethelwold [1 st reading and gospel for 9 th Sunday after Trinity]	Isaiah 55.1-5	Ps 145.8-9, 15- end	Romans 9.1-5	Matthew 14.13-21
Monday	Jeremiah 28	Ps 119.89-96		Matthew 14.13-21
Tuesday	Jeremiah 30.1-2, 12-15, 18-22	Ps 102.16-21		Matthew 14.22-end
Wednesday	Jeremiah 31.1-7	Ps 121		Matthew 15.21-28
Thursday Transfiguration of Our Lord	Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14	Ps 97	2 Peter 1.16-19	Luke 9.28-36
Friday	Nahum 2.1, 3; 3.1-3, 6-7	Ps 137.1-6		Matthew 16.24-end
Saturday	Habakkuk 1.12-2.4	Ps 9.7-11		Matthew 17.14-20

Collect (Ethelwold)

Almighty God, who raised up Ethelwold to be a true shepherd of the flock, a restorer of monastic life and a faithful counsellor to those in authority: give to all pastors the same gifts of your Holy Spirit that they may be true servants of Christ and of all his people; and encouraged by their example may we all joyfully hold fast to the things that lead to eternal life. Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord ...

Post Communion (Ethelwold)

God the source of holiness and giver of good things: may we who have shared at this table as strangers and pilgrims here on earth be welcomed with all your saints to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom.

Collect (9th Sunday after Trinity)

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord...

Collect (Transfiguration of Our Lord)

Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may see him as he is; who is alive and reigns with you, ...

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/>