



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

27 September 2026 –Patronal Festival: Michael and All Angels / 17th 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.

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)
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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 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

Michael and All Angels – Patronal Festival

Our church was consecrated on 25 January 1867, the festival of the Conversion of Paul, but the dedication is to St Michael and All Angels, hence our Dedication Festival is kept on 25 January and Patronal Festival on 29 September (this year translated to Sunday 27 September), the festival of Michael and All Angels. The so-called Deed of Sentences of Consecration includes:

“Now we Samuel, by Divine permission Lord Bishop of Oxford, being willing to comply with the reasonable and pious prayer of the said petitioners, Do by these presents by Our Ordinary and Episcopal authority, separate for the future the said newly erected Church from all common and profane uses and do consecrate and set apart the same for the Worship of Almighty God, the administration of the Sacraments, the saying of Prayers and preaching the Word of God purely and sincerely and for performing therein all other Religious Ceremonies in accordance with the liturgy of the United Church of England and Ireland.

And we do hereby dedicate the said church to Almighty God by the name of St. Michael and All Angels as and to be a Chapel of Ease to the Parish Church of St. Helen, Abingdon.”

St Michael and All Angels is now a church in the team ministry of Abingdon-on-Thames, but from that day forwards the sacraments have been celebrated, prayers said and the Word of God has been preached.

Whilst looking for something else on my bookshelves I spotted a book written by the late Basil Hume O.S.B. former Abbot of Ampleforth and Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, *Light in the Lord*. The book was published in 1991 and in one chapter he recalled a visit to Ethiopia at the height of the famine. He asked to visit a place where food was unlikely to come. On getting out of a military helicopter, a small boy took his hand and would not let go of him for the whole time he was there. The Cardinal gradually realised that the boy was totally lost, alone and starving. With one hand the boy pointed to his mouth to indicate he needed food and with the other, in a strange gesture, he took the Cardinal's hand and rubbed it on his cheek. As the Cardinal boarded the helicopter to leave the boy looked at him “reproachfully; an abandoned, starving 10-year old child”. This made the Cardinal appreciate in a new way two fundamental needs – for food and for love. The second gesture was indicating a need for love. The Cardinal then saw in a new way that the Eucharist is food and love. Two fundamental requisites for us all. “When he said he wanted us to have life and have it more abundantly, then he must give us his love, and the love he gives is pre-eminently through that sign of his love, the Eucharist.”

‘Do this in remembrance of me.’ (Luke 22.19-20, 1 Corinthians 11.23-25)

David Duce

Patronal Festival Do please stay for ‘enhanced’ refreshments after Mass today.

Abingdon Michaelmas Fair will take place this year from **Sunday 4 – Wednesday 7 October**. The Fair Blessing will be in the Market Place **Sunday 4 October at 4 pm**. The St Helen's events programme gives the date of the Abingdon Runaway Fair as **Sunday 11 October**. The formal road closure notice for the main Fair can be found at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/business/licences-and-permits/licences-and-permits/large-public-events/abingdon-michaelmas-fair> The Clerk to the Governors of Christ's Hospital has confirmed that the usual road closures will apply to the Park area, i.e. there will be no access from Conduit Road and Victoria Road. **The only road access will be via the normally-closed gate in Faringdon Road.**

Congratulations! Congratulations to Sue Scott (St Michael's), Jenny Smith (St Nic's), and Linda Hobbs (St Helen's) who all became members of the Fellowship of St Birinus at a service in Dorchester Abbey on 20 September.

From Veronica Margetts Thank you all so very much for the loving & generous send off on 13 September, I was very touched. I love the card, am spending the book token on a Bible illustrated by Hannah Dunnnett and the mug is greatly used! Both gifts I've wanted for a long time! Thank you. I shall remember & pray for you all as I read, study & drink! Fond memories, love, prayers, & God Himself Bless you all. Veronica.

Jill Gant It was with shock and deep sadness that we learned recently of Jill Gant's death. We continue to give thanks for Jill's life and to pray for her and for her family and friends and all who mourn her. Given the circumstances of Jill's death, it is not yet clear when a funeral will be possible. **St Helen's Church** is open daily, and people may wish to remember Jill by visiting the church to light a candle and by signing the Book of Condolence set up in the South Aisle. It will be given to Jill's daughter in due course.

Jennifer Brown, Team Rector

Harvest Thanksgiving This year Harvest Thanksgiving will be celebrated on **Sunday 4 October**. We will again be supporting *The Porch* in Oxford which provides a stepping-stone for those who are homeless or vulnerably housed. They provide hot meals and washing and laundry facilities at the Centre for homeless people. In addition, they run programmes in Mental Health and Well-being, Pathways to Stability and Independence, Community and Social Inclusion, and Addressing Root Causes. By providing targeted support and intervention, The Porch helps reduce the

burden on emergency services, healthcare providers and shelters. Early intervention prevents crises needing costly public interventions.

There will be basket at the back of the church for you to place your donations by cash or cheque. Please place cheque donations in an envelope labelled "Harvest Thanksgiving" and make cheques payable to "Abingdon Parochial Church Council St Michael's Church"). It is also possible to donate by credit card. The church is now able to claim Gift Aid on these donations to pass on to *The Porch*. Donations over £30 require a Gift Aid donation form to be completed which for donations by card can be done on the credit card machine.

Contributions can also be made by bank transfer to NatWest Bank, Account no: 61580376 Sort code: 60-01-01, account name Abingdon Parochial Church Council St Michael's Church; please use the reference HARVEST 2026.

Another option is to donate directly to *The Porch* online. In which case, if you feel comfortable doing so, please put an anonymous note of your donation (in an envelope) in the basket so these can be included in the total raised. There are DONATE NOW links on *The Porch* web site <https://theporch.org.uk/> and this also includes a gift aid option. Readers should be aware that the Crowdfunder platform suggests that users leave a "tip". The minimum setting on the slider is 10%, but a specific amount (which could be £0) can be added by clicking on "Enter custom amount".

Please speak to Louise if you are unsure about any of this.

For more information about *The Porch* see their web site. When I contacted *The Porch* to confirm banking details etc. I received this reply: "We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of the church, and it is wonderful to know that you will be collecting donations again at this year's Festival."

Save the Date The *Christmas Fair* will be on **Saturday 14 November**.

Faith Forum The autumn Faith Forum series begins this **Sunday, 27 September**, in the Parish Centre. A buffet lunch will be served from 12.15 pm, with the talk beginning at 12.45 pm. Our series focuses on eco-theology, and our speaker this Sunday is our own Margaret Adam, who will speak on *The Goodness of Creation*.

The second and third talks in the series are

October 25: Creation care as act of praise (Hannah Mann, Diocese of Oxford)

November 22: A new or a renewed earth? (Jen Brown)

Animal Blessing Service There will be an animal blessing service at **St Michael's on Sunday 4 October at 2 pm** to celebrate St Francis' Day/Animal Welfare Sunday. All well-behaved animals (on leads or in appropriate carriers) are welcome to attend. If you have an animal that would not be comfortable attending, we can still offer a blessing, just bring a photo of the animal. We will also have a garden of pet remembrance for those who wish to remember animal companions who have died.

Prayers & Bears: A new service suitable for young children (including babies/toddlers) will be starting at **St Michael's on Tuesday 6 October at 11 am**. We aim to meet on the first Tuesday of each month and includes a social time with refreshments.

Confirmation and admission to Holy Communion A parish-wide Confirmation Service is planned for **Sunday 31 January, 10.30 am at St Helen's**.

For those wishing to be confirmed there will be preparation evenings on 14, 21 & 28 October, 7.30-8.30 pm in the Parish Centre lounge. If you or your child would be interested in confirmation, and have not already done so, please speak to Revd Jen or Fr AKMA. We can also offer preparation for admission to 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** St Helen's Church, this Sunday, Sunday 27 September at 5.30 pm.

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

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/>

Cream Tea The next Cream Tea will take place on **Saturday 26 September 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 piano music.

Louise

Silent Reflections will be held on **Tuesday 29 September from 7.30-8.30 pm**. Sue Sheppy will provide material for our reflections on the theme: *Close Encounter*. 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 1 October** 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.

Time Out for Parents - The Early Years A course from Care for the Family Thursdays 9.15 - 11.30am, 1, 8, 15 October, 5, 12, 19 November at Peachcroft Christian Centre, Abingdon. This course of six sessions is designed to help you negotiate the early years with confidence and build strong family relationships for the future. Open to all parents of under fives. You are welcome to bring babies up to a year, but we are unable to offer a creche. For booking and more information about the course and content: <https://www.peachcroftcc.org/community/parenting-course>

Oxford Gospel Choir are singing at **St Helen's Church on Saturday 3 October at 7.30 pm** in aid of *Family of Hope*, a school in Uganda for children with special educational needs. Tickets £10 at the door.

United Prayer event The Church in Abingdon invites you to an evening of worship, prayer and vision, as well as the CiA Annual General Meeting, at **Abingdon Baptist Church on Thursday 8 October 2026, 7.30 pm**. Each church will be represented by two specially selected volunteers from their church as well as the CiA representatives and clergy. Each church will be asked to submit prayer requests that we can all join together to pray for – whether for specific outreach work, their church as a whole, the community, the town or the people who hold major roles in our town. We also hope to invite dignitaries from the local council, TVP and other organisations. All welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

Abingdon Mothers' Union will meet on **Tuesday 13 October at 10.30 am in the Parish Centre**. The speaker will be Bee Keeping – by local bee keeper, David Busby. All are welcome. Note the date – later in the month than usual due to Abingdon Fair.

Black History Month An event is taking place on **Saturday 17 October 2026, from 2.30 pm to 6 pm, at Trinity Church, Conduit Road**, will bring together civic leaders, community representatives and guests for:

- Inspiring speakers reflecting on Black History Month
- An in-conversation session with The Rt Hon, the Lord Boateng
- A short act of worship led by Dr Sonia Hicks, Chair of the Northampton Methodist District.

Music at St Michaels: A Musical Tour of Europe - and Bach again! The flautist, Christopher Britton, accompanied by Malcolm Pearce, pianist, will entertain us with a variety of European music on **Sunday 18 October at 3 pm**. Tickets £15, refreshments available. Please do join us and bring your friends and neighbours. Help with distribution of flyers and posters would be greatly appreciated so if you feel able please do collect a few from the table in the south aisle. Even one or two is helpful. Thank you.

The September 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 September Parish magazine, and earlier issues are available to download from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php.

Worship

September/October The celebrants and preachers for September are: 27 September (Patronal Festival), Fr AKMA. For October: 4 October The Revd Rob Glenny (Assistant Archdeacon and Rector of the RSK Benefice); 11 October The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown/ Mrs Beryl Clements; 18 October The Revd Rosalind Rutherford; 25 October Canon Richard Pyke.

We are keeping our Patronal Festival, the festival of Michael and All Angels (transferred from 29 September) on Sunday.

Commemorations this week include: Wednesday: Jerome, translator, teacher of the faith, 402; Thursday: Remigius, bishop, 533; Saturday: George Bell, bishop, ecumenist, peacemaker, 1958.

Creationtide The theme for this Sunday in the diocesan *Prayers for Creationtide 2026* is:

For our link Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands in their recovery from Hurricane Melissa and for all affected by the current drought, severely restricting access to water.

For Tuesday, the festival of Michael and All Angels, is:

As we enter a new age of Artificial Intelligence, pray for those entrusted with decisions about how we can use it well for people and for planet.

The two themes are not disconnected. Artificial Intelligence is a technology being deployed in weather and climate prediction and mitigation, but how it is used and what the consequential risks might be is a challenging topic. Both prayer points though are related to Cardinal Hume's writing quoted in the opening piece of this pew leaflet – the two fundamental needs of food and love.

Holy Angels This piece is an extract from a sermon by the late Austin Farrer at St Michael's in 1963. It is quoted in the original language. Austin Farrer was an Anglican priest, Warden of Keeble College Oxford an outstanding scholar and theologian of his generation. Earlier in his career Austin Farrer was a Fellow and Chaplain of Trinity College (1935 – 1960) Oxford and in that role was Bowles Lecturer at St Nicolas' Church where he took many services. This sermon was published in a sermon collection *The End of Man* (1973). He died in 1968.

"One Sunday it happened that St John could not be at church with his friends, for like Elisha, like Jesus, he was taken by the armed men, and held in prison. But God consoled him with a vision: he saw the Christian sacrament that morning not as men see it, but as it is seen in heaven. His spirit went up; he saw the throne of Glory, and the four cherubim full of eyes in every part, who sleep not, saying: Holy, Holy, Holy. And he saw the sacrifice, the Lamb of God ... a Lamb alone worthy to open for mankind the blessed promises of God. He saw the Lamb, and then the angels, I saw, he says, and heard the voice of many angels round about the Throne, ... saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive the power and riches and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing.

"That is the Christian Eucharist. Certainly when we gather here, those that are us are more than those who stand upon the opposite side. For all heaven is with us, when once we lift our hearts up to the Lord, and praise the everlasting Love, the One God in three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost; to whom be ascribed, as is most justly due, all might, dominion, majesty and power, henceforth and for ever."

General Synod A new Synod starts later this year and elections to this are now in progress. Voting opened on 21 September and closes on 13 October. The results will be declared by 19 October. Lay members of Deanery Synods vote for lay members of General Synod for their diocese and all clergy in each diocese can vote for clergy members of General Synod from their diocese. There are separate processes for voting for Religious Communities and Armed Forces, Deans and members of the Universities and Theological Education Institutions and some of the results for these sectors have been declared already.

See <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod/elections-synod#na> for more information.

The Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan

A prayer from the World Council of Churches:

For peace in your country
For the victims of violence everywhere
For those struggling for peace and justice
For churches in conflict situations
For a world without war and violence
Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace,
Let peace fill our beings, our world and our universe.
Amen.

A collect for peace:

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 for her licensing on 6 January.
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;
- our community on our Patronal Festival and all who lead us in worship and service;
- the elections to the new General Synod;
- the poor and starving, all who live without love;
- 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 Ely Close, Exbourne Road, Eyston Way, Fairacres.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sunday 27 September Michael and All Angels	Genesis 28.10-17	Ps 103.19-end	Revelation 12.7-12	John 1.47-end
Monday	Job 1.6-end	Ps 17.1-11		Luke 9.46-50
Tuesday	Job 3.1-3, 11-17, 20-23	Ps 88.14-19		Luke 9.51-56
Wednesday	Job 9.1-12, 14-16	Ps 88.1-6, 11		Luke 9.57-end
Thursday	Job 19.21-27a	Ps 27.13-16		Luke 10.1-12
Friday	Job 38.1, 12-21; 40.3-5	Ps 139.6-11		Luke 10.13-16
Saturday	Job 42.1-3, 6, 12-end	Ps 119.169-end		Luke 10.17-24

Collect (Michael and All Angels)

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Prayer after Communion (Michael and All Angels)

Lord of heaven, in this eucharist you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect: as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship, so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect (17th Sunday after Trinity)

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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/>