



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

11 October 2026 – 19th 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 the Revd Dr Jennifer Brown to preside and Mrs Beryl Clements to preach at Mass today

19th Sunday after Trinity

September was an unusual month with festivals celebrated on all four Sundays: Creation in Christ, Holy Cross Day, Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, and our Patronal Festival, Michael and All Angels. Then last Sunday we celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving. This Sunday we return to keeping the Sundays after Trinity. Next week we will be keeping Luke the Evangelist, then the Last Sunday after Trinity on 25 October. There are thus two Sundays on which the systematic reading of the Gospel according to Matthew continues. This Sunday the passage is Matthew 22.1-14 and for the last Sunday after Trinity it will be 22.34-end.

The last time Sunday Mass was celebrated as a Sunday after Trinity was on 30 August, the 13th Sunday after Trinity when the gospel passage was Matthew 16.21-end though we also heard a passage from Matthew's gospel on the festival of Matthew – Matthew 20.1-6, the Labourers in the Vineyard. The passage headings in the NRSV text of Matthew's gospel from 16.21 22.14 give an indication of the flow of the account, some of which are: Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection, The Transfiguration, Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection, The Parable of the Lost Sheep, Forgiveness, The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, The Labourers in the Vineyard, Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, The Parable of the Wicked Tenants, and The Parable of the Wedding Banquet which is today's gospel passage. This latter parable also appears in a simpler form and different context in Luke's gospel, 14.15-24.

In Matthew's account Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a king who gave a wedding banquet for this son. Invitations were sent out and the king sent his slaves to call the guests. However, the guests would not come, offering a variety of excuses, some seizing the slaves and killing them. The king was furious and sent his troops to destroy the murderers and burn the city. He then told his slaves to "go into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." The slaves gathered good and bad who filled the hall. However, there was one man who was not wearing a wedding robe so the king had him bound hand and foot and thrown into outer darkness, place where there will be 'wailing and gnashing of teeth.' The passage concludes 'for many are called, but few are chosen.'

There are some parallels with the previous parable of the Wicked Tenants – the landowner planted a vineyard and leased it to tenants. At harvest time he sent his slaves to collect his produce but the slaves were killed by the tenants. The landowner sent his son, expecting them to respect his son, but they reasoned that if they killed him they would get his inheritance. The listeners were asked, what would the landowner do? He would put them to death and give the vineyard to new tenants who would give him the produce. The passage concludes that the chief priests and Pharisees on hearing the parable wanted to arrest Jesus as they realised he was speaking about them.

In the parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard, the kingdom of heaven is compared to a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for the day at an agreed rate of pay. Later in the day he hired more workers at the same rate of pay. Those hired first were not pleased because they had to work longer for the same pay. But the landowner pointed out that they had agreed to that daily wage and posed the question were they envious because he was jealous.

The Labourers in the Vineyard passage may speak of the mercy of God, as may aspects of the Wedding Banquet parable. But what about the other aspects, where do they fit into the web of relationships between God and creation and within creation?

David Duce

Abingdon Marathon Sunday 18 October There will be some road closures for the Abingdon Marathon. For details see the Special Event Notice on the Oxfordshire County Council web site:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/business/licences-and-permits/licences-and-permits/large-public-events/abingdon-marathon>

Harvest Thanksgiving The total for donations to The Porch is in the region of £330. This includes donations that have been made directly to The Porch (where donors have indicated the amount given), and any Gift Aid that can be reclaimed by The Porch. It does not include Gift Aid/GASDS that the church might be able to reclaim and pass on to The Porch – that figure will become clear when the donations have been processed by our stewardship officer.

Ride and Stride, 12 September Many thanks to all those who sponsored our riders and striders this year. £245.00 was raised which will be equally divided between Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and St Michael's Church.

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

Faith Forum The autumn Faith Forum series began on Sunday 27 September. This series focuses on eco-theology, and the speaker on the first Sunday was our own Margaret Adam, who spoke on *The Goodness of Creation*. Video and audio recordings are available on the Parish web site: https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_faith_forum.html

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)

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 **Taizé service** at St Helen's Church this Sunday, **Sunday 11 October at 5.30 pm**.

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

Parochial Church Council Meetings Notice is hereby given that the next meeting of the PCC will be held on Wednesday 18 November at 7.30 pm in St Nicolas Church. Provisional dates for subsequent meetings are Wednesday 27 January 7.30 pm via zoom and Tuesday 16 March 7.30 pm at St Nicolas Church.

All Souls' Day There will be a **Sung Requiem Mass at St Michael's Church on Monday 2 November at 7.30 pm** where we will remember our loved ones, and those who have died in the past year, and pray for all the faithful departed. Keith Bowman is collating the list of people to be remembered. There will be a list in church for this from **Sunday 18 October**, do please add names to this as soon as possible. As is our custom this will be a fresh list. No names will be automatically carried over from last year. For logistical reasons we ask that names be provided by **Sunday 25 October** at the latest. If you are not able to come to church, please give names to Keith either by email keithdm.bowman@btinternet.com or phone 01235 528962.

On **Sunday 1 November at 5.30 pm** there will be a non-Eucharistic parish service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed at **St Helen's Church**.

Stewardship Renewal and Budget Presentation Our annual renewal of stewardship offerings takes place at Mass on the Feast of Christ the King, Sunday 22 November. **Our treasurer will present the budget to the congregation immediately after Mass on Sunday 1 November**. Further details will be announced in due course.

Christmas Fair: Please join us for our annual Christmas Fair on **Saturday 14 November from 10.00 am - 2.00 pm**. There will be an exciting range of craft and gift stalls plus a raffle with generous prizes and fun activities for children. Home-made cakes, bottles, books, plants, and bric-a-brac will be on sale. A chance to buy your Christmas gifts and to enjoy some delicious refreshments – including our famed bacon rolls. Proceeds to church funds and Sobell House Hospice. **Please let Louise know if you are able to help on the day.**

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, nappies, 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/>

Abingdon Mothers' Union will meet on **Tuesday 13 October at 10.30 am in the Parish Centre**. The topic 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.

Oxford Centre for Spiritual Growth at St Michael at the North Gate Church Cornmarket Street Oxford, OX1 3EY

Two talks are planned this autumn.

A lunchtime talk on **Thursday 22 October, 1.00 pm – 1.30 pm** Church Architecture, led by Dr Mark Kirby, Lincoln College, Oxford University - *The role of buildings in worship today* Tickets free, obtainable from the web site below.

Saturday talk: **Saturday November 21 10.30 am – 1.00 pm** *Re-imagining Christmas* led by author Nick Page. -Talks to include an exploration into "Dickens Christmas" Tickets: £10.00 – £25.00 on sale from 9 October.

In-person and on-line options seem to be available for both talks. For more information and booking, see the OCSG web site: <https://www.ocsg.uk.net/events/>

St Theosevia Centre Study Days Two study days are planned for this autumn at **St Theosevia House, 2 Canterbury Road, Oxford OX2 6LU**

Saturday 14 Nov 10.30 am – 4 pm *Understanding and singing the Psalms: a Mosaic of Perspectives & Experience*

Speakers: Professor John Day, Professor David Taylor, and Michael Koenig FRCO, Betts Fellow in Organ Studies

Saturday 5 Dec 10.30 am – 4 pm *Exploring the meaning of 'Holy Tears' in East and West* Speakers: Dr Tikhon

Vasilyev, Dr Santha Bhattacharji, Dr Edward Sutcliffe, Professor Brandon Gallaher

All welcome, no registration. Study Days: students free, others £5 cash. Free coffee from 10.00 am and in lunch break 1-2 pm. You are welcome to bring packed lunch. For more information, see the web site:

<https://sttheosevia.org/>

The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) annual Christmas Carol Concert will be held on **Sunday 29 November at St Michaels at 2 pm**. Ticket information will be available in due course. Please note the date and time.

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.

We are hoping to bring out the October edition of the Parish Magazine on Sunday 18 October. Please send copy to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk by **Monday 12 October**. Thank you.

Rob Rutherford

Worship

October The celebrants and preachers for October are: 11 October The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown/ Mrs Beryl Clements; 18 October The Revd Rosalind Rutherford; 25 October Canon Richard Pyke.

Commemorations this week include: Monday: Wilfrid, bishop, missionary, 709, Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer, 1845, Edith Cavell, nurse, 1915; Tuesday: Edward the Confessor, king, 1066; Thursday: Teresa of Avila, teacher of the faith, 1582; Friday: Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, bishops, martyrs, 1555; Saturday: Ignatius, bishop, martyr, c. 107.

Wilfrid was born in Northumbria around the year 633 and was educated at the monastery on Lindisfarne. His disapproval of their Celtic insularity led him to Canterbury and then to Rome. He then journeyed to Lyon where he spent 3 years as a monk. He was appointed Abbot of Ripon and introduced the Roman monastic system following the Rule of St Benedict. During that time he argued for the Roman tradition over the Celtic tradition at the Synod of Whitby, not least about the date of Easter. He was appointed Bishop of York and went to France to be consecrated to by twelve Frankish bishops. Various fallings-out seem to have followed. As one author put it 'he continued to encounter difficulties with kings and bishops throughout his lifetime.' Later as a result of a compromise in a dispute with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Wilfrid became Bishop of Hexham in Northumbria and spent the last years of his life in the monastery at Ripon. Basil Hume in his book *Footprints of the Northern Saints* summaries Wilfrid in these words:

"Wilfrid is often presented as a flamboyant prelate who enjoyed the trappings of power and authority.

However, it was Wilfrid, more than any other, who advanced the Roman tradition in England and envisaged a Church whose affiliation and perspective moved beyond the borders of the country towards the whole of the universal church."

Wilfrid died in 709 and his body was later carried back by the brothers to the monastery at Ripon. The Anglo-Saxon crypt in the present-day Ripon Cathedral is the sole surviving element of Wilfrid's original construction.

The cathedral community celebrate the patronal festival this weekend, 9-11 October with a dinner on Friday night, Patronal Evensong on Saturday and Patronal Eucharist on Sunday morning. The Dean of Ripon wrote this intriguing piece in the September/October newsletter:

“One of the wonderful elements of our Patronal Eucharist is the reciting of our long and venerable history in prayerful gratitude for how God has worked in and through Ripon Cathedral over nearly 14 centuries. So many people are mentioned, each playing their part in their generation. In a nation and world that needs the good news of Jesus Christ more and more, this can only be an encouragement to those of us who are keen to share that good news and pass on the faith to coming generations.”

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 our 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.

The Crown Nominations Commission meets sometime in October to shortlist candidates, prior to interviews in December. This prayer appeared on the Diocese of Oxford facebook page on Monday 5 October:

Father God,
 We pray for wisdom and unity for the Crown Nominations Commission,
 including Revd Matt Beer, Prof Helen King, Helen Lamb, Revd Joy Mawdesley,
 Archdeacon Stephen Pullin and Sir Hector Sants from our diocese.
 Be with them as they meet to shortlist candidates for the next Bishop of Oxford.
 Guide their conversations and help them to listen well to one another and to your Spirit.
 We pray too for all those being considered, that they may know your guidance and peace
 throughout this process.

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 elections to the new General Synod, the candidates and electors;
- the homeless in our town;
- 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 Fisherman's Wharf, Fitchett Yard, Fitzharry's Road and Foxcombe Court.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sunday 11 October 19th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 25.1-9	Ps 23	Philippians 4.1-9	Matthew 22.1-14
Monday	Galatians 4.21-24, 26-27, 31; 5.1	Ps 113		Luke 11.29-32
Tuesday	Galatians 5.1-6	Ps 119.41-48		Luke 11.37-41
Wednesday	Galatians 5.18-end	Ps 1		Luke 11.42-46
Thursday	Ephesians 1.1-10	Ps 98.1-4		Luke 11.47-end
Friday	Ephesians 1.11-14	Ps 33.1-6, 12		Luke 12.1-7
Saturday	Ephesians 1.15-end	Ps 8		Luke 12.8-12

Collect (19th Sunday after Trinity)

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord., ...

Prayer after Communion (19th Sunday after Trinity)

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service 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-LbZlAPGtje0gQbbg>.

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/>