



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

25 October 2026 – The Last 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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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 Canon Richard Pyke to preside and preach at Mass today

The Last Sunday after Trinity

Today's collect is:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that,
through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, ...

This collect appeared in the 1549 Book of Common Prayer for the 2nd Sunday in Advent.

On 2 August this year we kept the festival of Ethelwold, abbot of Abingdon, monastic reformer and bishop of Winchester, d. 984. In Ethelwold's day, when young boys entered the monastery one of their first tasks was the learn the psalms by heart. In a sense they had plenty of opportunity to practice this as the recitation of the psalms lay at the heart of monastic worship and is still an important element to this day. The Rule of St Benedict (probably written between 530 and 540) lays down the order in which the psalms are to be read. The daily timetable set out by St Benedict included set times for reading and on Sundays all the monks were to apply themselves to reading unless they had been assigned to other duties.

Predating the time of St Benedict, arose the practice of *Lectio Divina* (Divine Reading), to which the 3rd century theologian, Origen, made an important contribution in his view of 'Scripture as Sacrament'. In more recent times, the 2nd Vatican Council in 1965 emphasised the importance of *Lectio Divina* and Pope Benedict wrote in 2005:

"I would like in particular to recall and recommend the ancient tradition of *Lectio Divina*: the diligent reading of Sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer brings about that intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking, and in praying, responds to him with trusting openness of heart. If it is effectively promoted, this practice will bring to the Church – I am convinced of it – a new spiritual springtime."

Classically there are four stages to *Lectio Divina*: reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation. Much has been written about this and there are many approaches in practice, whether practised individually or in groups. One approach used by at the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield in a group setting is for one person to read through an appointed passage, slowly. This is then followed by a period of silence and then the passage is read again by a second reader. Group members are then invited by a leader to speak a word or phrase that has struck them in the reading. There are two rules: this is not an opportunity to embark on a theological discourse, nor to engage in a conversation. Words and phrases are, as it were, cast into the air, that they may land where they will. Sometimes there may be many contributions, at other times it will be a period of total silence. In some settings the leader may say 'for the word of the Lord, thanks be to God' (or similar) after each contribution. After 30 minutes or so the session will conclude with the leader reading the passage again and the Grace will be said by all. Some readers may remember *Lectio Divina* practised at St Michael's after the sessions of the Beatitudes study course at St Michael's in 2018.

Fr Enzo, founder of the ecumenical monastic community at Bose in Italy, has written extensively about *Lectio Divina* which is one of the corner stones of their daily life. Fr Enzo died in September this year. In the foreword to *Lectio Divina – From God's Word to Our Lives*, by Enzo Bianchi (SPCK, 2015), Bishop Rowan Williams wrote:

"Fr Enzo often returns in one way or another to the theme of ... the invocation of the Holy Spirit, as a focal act of the community, ... What the Holy Spirit does is to bring us face to face with the Word of God, the living action of the Second Person of the Trinity. Thus if we read scripture as we must, invoking the Holy Spirit, what we encounter in Scripture is that living Word. We are made contemporary with what Scripture witnesses to: we discover the *unity* of Scripture not in any theory but in the person of Jesus Christ, on whom the whole of Scripture converges and around whom it finds its shape.

"If it is true that there is no way of finding or being found by God that is not also a finding of one's own humanity, then what is happening in the scriptural encounter is an unveiling of who we are – as human beings and as the particular people we happen to be. In this encounter we meet the God who has already become present in us and seeks to be made known through us; we become a place where God's glory can be manifest."

Whereas the collect speaks of feeding the mind and heart, the prayer after communion calls to mind to feeding the hungry with the living bread of the Eucharist.

David Duce

Clocks Go Back 1 Hour on Saturday night, strictly speaking at 2 am this Sunday, Sunday 25 October, the last Sunday in October. The UK is then on Greenwich Mean Time until next March.

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. Proceeds to church funds and Sobell House.

This is one of our biggest fund-raising events of the year and we should be grateful for help. Flyers will need distributing please and we would ask for your help in baking cakes or running a stall. If you have any saleable bric-a-brac or books and puzzles, please leave items at the back of the church. Also jams, plants and bottles can be sold. Please let **Louise or Joyce** know if you are able to help in any way. Thank you, *Louise*

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 is a list in church for this, 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 this Sunday, **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.

Parish Service for All Souls' The parish service of Commemoration of the Departed for All Souls' Day will be held at **St Helen's on Sunday 1 November at 5.30 pm.** Please add the name(s) of anyone you would like to have remembered to the lists available in each church. The lists are available until **25 October.** (Please note that the lists for St Michael's Requiem Mass and the Parish Service are separate lists. Names will **not** be transferred from one to the other.)

Harvest Thanksgiving Including donations made directly to *The Porch*, cash donations and gift aid passed on to The Porch, the final total raised was £370.

General Synod Elections Congratulations to Alex Scott on election to the House of Laity of General Synod, representing the Diocese of Oxford. This is for a period of 5 years. The Venerable David Tyler (Archdeacon of Dorchester) has been elected to the House of Clergy and Bishop Gavin has been elected as one of five Southern Area Bishops. A full list of the results for the Diocese of Oxford can be found at <https://oxford.anglican.org/who-we-are/how-we-are-governed/general-synod/>

The first meeting of the new Synod will be in London on 16-18 November. From the diocesan Facebook page:

Heavenly Father,

We pray for our newly elected General Synod representatives,
giving thanks for their willingness to serve your Church.

Guide them with wisdom, courage and compassion as they prepare for their first meeting.

Help them to listen well, work together and seek your will in all that they do.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Thanksgiving service for Rt Revd Richard Harries Also in eNews was the announcement that there will be a service of thanksgiving for the life of former Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Richard Harries Friday 30 October at noon at St Mary's Church, Barnes, London SW13 9HL. The service will be livestreamed via the St Mary's Barnes YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/@stmaryschurchbarnes5898/streams>.

October Faith Forum: Our next Faith Forum will be in the **Parish Centre this Sunday, Sunday 25 October.** Our speaker will be Hannah Mann, Environment Programme Manager for the Oxford Diocese. She will be speaking on 'Creation Care as Act of Praise'. A buffet lunch will be served from 12.15 pm. with the talk beginning at 12.45 pm.

The first talk in the series was given by 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 final talk in the series will be on Sunday November 22, *A new or a renewed earth?* and is to be given by Jennifer 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 preparing for confirmation the final preparation evening will be on 28 October, 7.30-8.30 pm in the Parish Centre lounge. *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** at St Helen's Church this Sunday, **Sunday 25 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.

Diocesan Synod The next meeting will be on Saturday 14 November. The agenda and papers should be published on the diocesan web site in due course.

Cafe@35 the cafe in 35 Ock Street is now serving food again. Opening times are from 10.30 am to 2 pm Monday to Thursday serving cakes, teacakes and toast with light lunches, freshly made, from 12 noon until 1.30 pm. On Fridays and Saturdays, it is open from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm serving cakes and snacks including bacon baps. The volunteers are happy to welcome all.

Silent Reflections will be held on **Tuesday 27 October from 7.30-8.30 pm**. Sue Scott will provide material for our reflections on the theme *Healing Love*. 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 5 November** 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.

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.

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/>

Mothers Union, Tuesday 3 November 10.30 am in Parish Centre. Anne Oppenheim will speak on *Magistrates in the Community*. Bring and Buy Sale. All welcome.

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

Quiet Garden Day at **Aston Tirrold Centre for Reflection**, Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold, OX11 9EJ on **Saturday 28 November 10 am - 4 pm**. Leader: Sue Sheppy on the theme *Great Expectations*. Refreshments are provided, but please bring a packed lunch. A donation of £10 would be welcome. To attend it would be helpful to email: atquietgardendays@gmail.com in advance. All are welcome.

The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) annual Christmas Carol Concert A tender shoot An informal Christmas concert for all ages in support of the Abingdon Bridge. Hear and sing beautiful music and then join us for refreshments on **Sunday 29 November at St Michaels at 2 pm**. Tickets £10 (£2.50 under 16s) from:

<https://www.ticketsource.com/the-abingdon-bridge>

The October issue of CiA News 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 October edition of the Parish Magazine is now available to download along with earlier issues from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php.

Worship

October/November The celebrant and preacher for this Sunday is: 25 October Canon Richard Pyke. The following rota for early November is **provisional**. 1 November The Revd Rosalind Rutherford, 2 November (All Souls' Day) The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown, 8 November The Revd Rosalind Rutherford.

Wednesday is the festival of Simon and Jude, Apostles. There are commemorations this week on Monday: Alfred, king, scholar, 899; Thursday: James Hannington, bishop, martyr, 1885; Saturday: Martin Luther, reformer, 1546.

Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, Scholar, 899 Bishop Asser, a Welsh monk and scholar, wrote a *Life of King Alfred* in 893, before Alfred's death in 899. From the *Life of King Alfred*:

"In the year of the Lord's Incarnation 849 Alfred, King of the Anglo-Saxons, was born at the royal estate called Wantage, in the district known as Berkshire. In 853 King Ethelwulf sent his son Alfred to Rome in state, accompanied by a great number of both nobles and commoners. At this time Pope Leo was ruling the apostolic see; he anointed the child Alfred as king, ordaining him properly, received him as an adoptive son and confirmed him.

"... [Alfred] learnt by heart the 'daily round', that is, the services of the hours, and then certain psalms and prayers; these he collected in a single book, which he kept by him day and night he took it everywhere for the sake of prayer and was inseparable from it.

"He ... applied himself attentively to charity and distribution of alms to the native population and to foreign visitors of all races, showing immense and incomparable kindness and generosity to all, as well as to the investigation of things unknown. Wherefore many Franks, Frisians, Gauls, Vikings, Welshmen, Irishmen and Bretons subjected themselves willingly to his lordship, nobles and commoners alike; and, as befitted his royal status, he ruled, loved, honoured and enriched them all with wealth and authority, just as he did his own people."

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;
- newly elected Members of General Synod;
- 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 Gosling Court, Grebe Close, Harding Road and Healey Close.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sunday 25 October Last Sunday after Trinity	Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18	Ps 1	1 Thessalonians 2.1-8	Matthew 22.34-end
Monday	Ephesians 4.32-5.8	Ps 1		Luke 13.10-17
Tuesday	Ephesians 5.21-end	Ps 128		Luke 13.18-21
Wednesday Simon & Jude	Isaiah 28.14-16	Ps 119.89-96	Ephesians 2.19-end	John 15.17-end
Thursday	Ephesians 6.10-20	Ps 144.1-2, 9-11		Luke 13.31-end
Friday	Philippians 1.1-11	Ps 111		Luke 14.1-6
Saturday	Philippians 1.18-26	Ps 42.1-7		Luke 14.1, 7-11

Collect (Last Sunday after Trinity)

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Prayer after Communion (Last Sunday after Trinity)

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Collect (Simon & Jude, Apostles)

Almighty God, who built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone: so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ... Amen.

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-LbZJAPGtie0gQbbg>.

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/>