



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

27th June 2021

4th Sunday after Trinity

Team Rector: The Revd Dr Charles Miller (520144)
Team Vicar: The Revd Paul Smith (534654)
e-mail: paul315smith@btinternet.com

Churchwarden: Miss Joyce Kelly (533555)
(07833 535768)
e-mail: joyceekelly@btinternet.com

(designate) Mrs Louise Heffernan (01235 525412)
(07779 650968)
e-mail: lheff@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk

Bookings*: Miss Joyce Kelly (as above)

Parish Office: The Parish office is now open again **Mondays to Thursdays, 10 am-1 pm** until further notice. Please observe COVID protocols and sign in when you visit.

Administrator: During normal working hours phone or leave a message on:
Telephone (520144) *or*
Mobile (07395 943957)
e-mail: administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

Web site: <https://www.stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk>

If you would like to receive this pew leaflet electronically, please email pewleaflet@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk with the subject line SUBSCRIBE.

***Items for inclusion in the next 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]

MESSAGE FROM FR PAUL: News from the Parish and Ordination Anniversaries

Dear Friends

Welcome to Mass on this Fourth Sunday after Trinity. I thought I would share with you some information about a piece of work which the PCC are about to engage in over the coming months and about which the Team Rector shared on Trinity Sunday.

A review of all Team Ministries is taking place across the diocese, leading to written documents known as Team Instruments or Schemes whichever is applicable in each situation/location. At last week's PCC, our Associate Archdeacon, Canon David Tyler, (who lives in the parish, in the house which was previously occupied by the Team Vicar of St Michael's and St Nicolas'), spoke to the meeting about the process. This will involve Canon David interviewing team clergy, Wardens from each congregation, and other members of the PCC as he discerns to be appropriate. The process will happen over a matter of months. The findings of Canon David's report will be presented to the PCC in the first instance. This is to alert you to this significant piece of work in our parish and ask you to remember the process regularly in your prayers.

I am delighted that we can re-instate the **Thursday Mass at 12.30pm** this week (**1 July**) after well over a year of us not being able to meet around the altar at what was a regular and important part of our worshipping life during the week. On a practical note, please read the details below for attendance. Unfortunately, we cannot have lunch together yet, but we can still be nourished by the Sacrament of the Eucharist at the altar. It will be wonderful to come together again each Thursday and not least it provides an opportunity for those, who for various reasons, cannot come to Mass on Sundays.

It so happens that as we re-gather I will celebrate the 20th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood on that day! This will be a great joy, and additionally, to have the Revd Pauline Seaman assist me as deacon at the altar as she celebrates her diaconal anniversary at this time. I have written a reflection for the upcoming issue of *A Candle in Window* on my twenty years of priestly ministry – just over half of which I have been privileged to serve among all of you here (yes, it's that long!). So as we come to the Eucharist to offer thanksgiving as we do every time it is celebrated, I will be offering heartfelt thanks for all the blessings God has given me, for the inward strengthening of the Spirit, and not least for all of you. Thanks be to God!

With love and prayers

Fr Paul

BOOKING INFORMATION If you did not confirm your place with the sidesperson last Sunday, please contact **Joyce Kelly** (details on cover) before **12 noon on Friday** to ensure we have space for you.

It will **not** be necessary to book if you are attending Mass on **Thursday 1 July** or on subsequent Thursdays because numbers are likely to be smaller than Sundays. However, please be mindful that it is essential that you sign-in on the list at the table by the North Door on arrival; sanitise your hands as usual; and take note of where to sit when taking your place; thank you for keeping us all safe in this way. If you have any queries about Thursday Mass attendance please do speak with **Fr Paul** or **Joyce Kelly**.

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT ST HELEN'S CHURCH

St Helen's will live-stream their 10.30 am Eucharist through Zoom. A recording will be made available after the service. For details see the Parish Resources page on the St Helen's web site https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html

Morning Prayer will not be said publicly for the foreseeable future.

SILENT REFLECTIONS will be on Tuesday 29 June at 7.30 pm in the following manner. If you wish to attend, please text Sue on 07786 736 226. Entry will be by the north door of the church (by Albert Park). Masks will need to be worn and hand sanitisers will be available. Chairs will be set out 2 metres apart round the labyrinth. Father Paul will introduce material on the theme: *Sinking Sand to Solid Rock: Reflections for the Feast of St Peter*. A copy will still be emailed to all those on our list, and made available from our website. If you can, print off your own copy to bring, but further copies will be available in church. Labyrinth walks will be possible one at a time.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The June edition of 'A Candle in the Window' (2021 issue 5) is now available. Read about TS Eliot, about Macbeth, about Chance and Randomness, Street Pastors and Flower arranging etc! Explore it! It can be downloaded from <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php>. There is still time to contribute to the July magazine! The deadline is the end of Monday 28 June. Email: candle@abingdonparish.org.uk

ORDINATIONS Bishop Steven will ordain 32 new deacons at three separate services in the cathedral on Saturday 3 July. These services will be live-streamed. Seven will serve in the Dorchester Archdeaconry. The full list of ordinands is available at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/new-deacons/> These are not the easiest of times for both those being ordained and those organising ordinations. Our prayers are asked for the ordinands and also those in the diocese involved in the planning of these services both in our own diocese and across the Church of England.

Ordinations to the priesthood include deacon Benjamin Tyler, curate of Wantage, on 27 June. Fr Benji will celebrate his First Mass at the church's Patronal Festival, the feast of SS Peter and Paul, on 29 June.

THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL REVIEW was presented to Diocesan Synod last Saturday. It is available on-line and a good read for those who like reading annual reports. One item that caught the editor's eye was this in the Education section: "In a partnership with USPG, 10 church primary schools twinned with schools in southern India to help promote learning and practical steps to tackle the climate emergency". There is a link to the report on our *Prayer and Worship* resources page.

THE ABINGDON BRIDGE - TAB - are currently looking for some more volunteers to be a receptionist at our counselling rooms at our new premises above the Coventry Building Society at 3 Market Place in Abingdon. We have a bank of volunteers so you may only need to do a slot once a week or fortnight.

We operate Monday to Thursday 2-7 pm and Friday 2-6pm subject to change as we follow current guidelines. The work is not onerous and is mainly admitting clients who have bookings into the office and showing them to the waiting room. This is a vital role which supports the counsellors. COVID 19 safety measures are in place throughout. If you are able to help for an afternoon every week, fortnight or even monthly. Please contact sandy@theabingdonbridge.org.uk All volunteers will be fully DBS checked. Thank you. *Laurence*

Worship

This Week Celebrants and preachers for the next 5 weeks (the end of the current rota) are 27 June Fr Paul, 4 July the Revd Jen Brown, 11 July Fr Paul/Mrs Beryl Clements, 18 July the Revd Rosalind Rutherford, 25 July Fr Paul.

This week could be termed The Week of the Apostles. It is the only week in which more than one festival commemorating Apostles falls in the same week in the Advent 2020 to eve of Advent 2021 period, Tuesday is the festival of Peter and Paul, Apostles; Friday is the festival of Thomas the Apostle. Irenaeus, bishop, teacher of the faith, c. 200 is commemorated on Monday and on Friday Henry, John, and Henry Venn the younger, Priests, Evangelical Divines, 1797, 1813 and 1873. Peter and Paul may be commemorated on the same day or Peter on 29 June, Paul having already been remembered on 25 January – the Conversion of Paul. The readings and collects below are for the combined festival.

Irenaeus was born around the year 130 and might have been a native of Smyrna (a Greek town in Asia Minor). As a boy he heard St Polycarp (Bishop of Smyrna) preach. Polycarp had been a disciple of the apostle John. After studying in Rome, Irenaeus became a priest at Lyon and became Bishop of Lyon following the martyrdom of his predecessor in 177. The name 'Irenaeus' means peacemaker, a role he played in a dispute that arose around 190 over the date of Easter. Only two works by Irenaeus have fully survived, the five volume *Against Heresies* and *Demonstration of the Apostolic Preaching* (discovered in an Armenian translation in 1904) alongside fragments of letters and other writings. *Against Heresies* is a catechism of Christian Doctrine and was composed to refute heresies that fell under the umbrella of Gnosticism. The Cambridge Dictionary definition of Gnosticism gives a flavour: "a 2nd century religious movement whose followers believed that knowledge and a pure life could free people from the material world, which was created by an inferior god called a demiurge". Irenaeus contended against these beliefs, giving positive value to the full humanity of the incarnate Christ and affirmed the public teaching of bishops to combat false doctrines. As one writer has put it: "by his own admission, Irenaeus possessed little rhetorical or literary skill, and the work as a whole is somewhat disorganized and repetitive. But he sets out the teachings of the Church simply, clearly and in the spirit of truth, and more than adequately exposes the fraudulence of Gnosticism."

Irenaeus is also important for the way he uses the four gospels as 'historical sources for the life and teaching of Jesus'. The quotation is from John Barton's book *A History of the Bible* (p240-243) to which the reader is referred.

From *Against the Heresies*:

The Word became the dispenser of the Father's grace for the benefit of humankind, and for our sake made these generous arrangements; revealing God to us, and raising us to God. In raising us to God, he shields the Father from human sight lest we ever undervalue God through familiarity, and also so that we always have something to strive after. On the other hand, he revealed God to us that we would not fall away and as a result, cease to exist. For the glory of God is a human being fully alive, and the life of humanity consists in the vision of God. Thus if the revelation of God in this world gives life to every living thing, how much more will the revelation of the Father by the Word give life to those who see God.

Ordination

In this season of ordinations and hence anniversaries of ordination, readers might like to reflect on the *Prayer of Ordination for Priests* said by the bishop.

We praise and glorify you, almighty Father, because in your infinite love you have formed throughout the world a holy people for your own possession, a royal priesthood, a universal Church.

We praise and glorify you because you have given us your only Son Jesus Christ, the image of your eternal and invisible glory, the firstborn of all creation and head of the Church.

We praise and glorify you that by his death he has overcome death; and that, having ascended into heaven, he has given his gifts abundantly, to equip your holy people for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ

And now we give you thanks that you have called these your servants, whom we ordain in your name, to share as priests in the ministry of the gospel of Christ, the Apostle and High Priest of our faith, and the Shepherd of our souls.

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord we pray:

Here the bishop and priests lay their hands on the head of each ordinand, and the bishop says

Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant N for the office and work of a priest in your Church.

When the bishop has laid hands on all of the ordinands, the prayer continues

Through your Spirit, heavenly Father, give these your servants grace and power to proclaim the gospel of your salvation and minister the sacraments of the new covenant.

Renew them in holiness, and give them wisdom and discipline to work faithfully with those committed to their charge.

In union with their fellow servants in Christ, may they reconcile what is divided, heal what is wounded and restore what is lost.

May they declare your blessings to your people; may they proclaim Christ's victory over the powers of darkness, and absolve in Christ's name those who turn to him in faith; so shall a people made whole in Christ offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you, our God and Father, to whom, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please pray:

- giving thanks for the ordained ministry of Fr Paul and the Revd Pauline Seaman;
- for all those preparing for ordination at this time;
- for the work of our PCC following last week's meeting and the beginning of reviewing our Team Ministry towards writing a new instrument or scheme;
- for the needs of our world and all those engaged in the work to promote the greater reverence and care for creation and the environment;
- the suffering, recently departed and all whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in St. Helen's Mill, St. Helen's Walk, St. Helen's Wharf and St. Michael's Avenue.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun	Wisdom 1.13-15; 2.23-24	Ps 30	2 Corinthians 8.7-end	Mark 5.21-end
Mon	Genesis 18.16-end	Ps 103.6-17		Matthew 8.18-22
Tues Peter & Paul	Zechariah 4.1-6a, 10b-end	Ps 125	Acts 12.1-11	Matthew 16.13-19
Wed	Genesis 21.5,8-20	Ps 34.1-12		Matthew 8.28-end
Thur	Genesis 22.1-19	Ps 116.1-7		Matthew 9.1-8
Fri	Genesis 23.1-4,19, 24.1-8, 62-end	Ps 106.1-5		Matthew 9.9-13
Sat Thomas	Habakkuk 2.1-4	Ps 31.1-6	Ephesians 2.19-end	John 20.24-29

Collect (4th Sunday after Trinity)

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever... Amen.

Prayer after Communion (4th Sunday after Trinity)

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect (Peter & Paul)

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life: grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect (Thomas)

Almighty and eternal God, who, for the firmer foundation of our faith, allowed your holy apostle Thomas to doubt the resurrection of your Son till word and sight convinced him: grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may believe and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Some On-line Resources for Worship

Parish resources page

http://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html.

St Michael's Prayer and Worship resources page

https://www.stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk/worship_resources.htm

Oxford Cathedral: See. <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/oxfords-cathedral/online-worship>. Livestream events will appear on the cathedral's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqz9I9-LbZJAPGtje0gQbbg/videos>

Community of the Resurrection: live streaming and recordings of the community's daily round of prayer and praise <https://www.facebook.com/Join-with-us-103095121647089>. Details of services at the facebook page and also at the Community web site, <https://mirfield.org.uk/community-of-the-resurrection/our-life-and-work/worship/> 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. the Sunday Mass is live-streamed (check the web site for time), <https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/>