



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

17th October 2021
20th Sunday after Trinity

Regular Service Times

Sundays: Sung Mass, 9.30 am
Tuesdays: Silent Reflections, last Tuesday of the month (except December)
Thursdays: Said Mass, 12.30 pm

Contacts

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

Churchwardens: Miss Joyce Kelly (533555)
(07833 535768)
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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]

'Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant' (Mark 10.43)

Dear Friends

We welcome the Revd Rosalind Rutherford as our president and preacher at Mass today and we look forward to her ministry among us.

We often learn a lot in ways that we can neither control or would choose. This has been the case during the pandemic. It has been a gift to both observe and receive the generosity of others: both among those we know and those on the front-line who have served the nation. As in most seasons, this time has not brought out the best in some. The majority of people have demonstrated exemplary care, kindness and compassion, gaining a fresh understanding of the gift of life for themselves and their neighbour.

So we have been living together in a different world at a precarious and very worrying time. The disciples had their own struggles in their time. We see this in today's gospel as James and John are jostling for the place of honour. Their egos are driving their needs and they are eluded by the wider wonder of the nature of God's kingdom and the cost of discipleship. The request for the top place angers their fellow disciples and draws a clear reminder from Jesus that he came to serve and that this is what he expects of his disciples – then and now – and in all seasons.

The miracle is that both James and John lived *in* the service of others. Their attitude of 'me first' was transformed by the Holy Spirit into 'others first'. This was seen in the martyrdom of James and in John's foundation of a vibrant community, leaving us the gospel that bears his name.

The world is very different from what it was two years ago. We are not in a post-pandemic era as some are suggesting. We remain in a pandemic with all the uncertainties of the winter ahead and the call and challenge to both live life caring for one another and placing our trust in the God who never lets us go. I believe that the call upon the church everywhere is like that of James and John who were among that first small band of disciples to ask whether she is living a 'me first' or an 'others first' life.

With love and blessings, *Fr Paul*

St Michael's District Church Council (DCC)

Each church in its living in service to one another and to the wider world has its business and governance to which it has to attend. The DCC meets this month on **Thursday 28 October at 7pm** and the minutes of the last meeting of 23 September together with my Team Vicar's report are on the Notice Board. Should you have any questions please do speak with me, one of the Churchwardens, or Hilary Clare, our DCC Secretary. Many thanks, *Fr Paul*

THANKSGIVING SERVICE Vernon Butt died on 5 April 2020 during the first Covid-19 lockdown. There will be a thanksgiving service for his life on Sunday 31 October at 11.30 in St. Michael's, following the Sunday Mass for All Saints. Coffee will be served after Mass before the service and Glynne warmly invites people to stay for this occasion as we celebrate Vernon's life and give thanks for all he shared with us and meant to us.

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT ST HELEN'S CHURCH

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

Morning Prayer has begun again and will be said publicly in St Helen's every weekday at 9.10am. *All Welcome*

MUSIC FOR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON Sunday 17 October: 4.00pm (*Note later starting time*) *The Creation, Haydn*. We are fortunate to welcome the East Oxford Community Choir together with their twin town choir from Grenoble, accompanied by a full orchestra to repeat for us a performance they are giving elsewhere the day before.

THE PORCH STEPPIN' STONE CENTRE The special collection at our Harvest Thanksgiving service on 5 October raised £260 for The Porch in Oxford.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: NOVEMBER 20 FROM 10.30 AM TO 2 PM With only a few weeks to go before this event, please could you start rooting out possible donations of books, bric-a-brac (china, glassware, ornaments etc.) full bottles, good quality puzzles and games, plants and unopened toiletries. Fr Paul has given permission for donations to be left at the back of the church after 1 November. Many people have volunteered to help but more stall-holders will be needed so please let Nicola or Louise know if you are able to help. The Fair will raise money for church funds with a 10% donation to charity.

ALL SOULS DAY *Tuesday 2 November 7pm*. As we remember our loved ones, and those who have died in the past year, there will be a Mass to pray for all the faithful departed. Keith Bowman is collating the list of people to be remembered. There will be a list in church from next Sunday, 17 October, do please add names to this as soon as possible. For logistical reasons we ask that names be provided by Sunday 24 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. *Fr Paul*.

SILENT REFLECTIONS will be held on Tuesday 26 October at 7.30 pm. Entry will be through the North door (opposite Albert Park). The wearing of masks is still recommended in areas of close contact. Final prayers will be at 8.30 pm and refreshments will be available. Rosalind Rutherford will introduce material on the theme: *A child in the midst*. A copy will be emailed to all those on our list, and made available on St Michael's website. Paper copies will be available in church.

ABINGDON DEANERY SECRETARY The Abingdon Deanery is seeking an adaptable person to provide secretarial and administrative support to ensure the smooth running of the Deanery. The secretary will work closely with the Area Dean, the Lay Chair and Deanery Treasurer in leading the work of the Synod, especially by providing information and documents. The hours are flexible (average 18 per month but varies through the year) and the rate of pay depends on qualifications and experience. For further details of the post (self-employed/freelance) and submission of applications see the <https://www.abingdondeanery.org.uk/jobvacanciesinandaroundthedeanery.htm> or speak to Sue Scott. A copy of the advertisement has been posted on a notice board in church. Closing date: 8 November 2021.

THE BEAUTIFUL COLOUR OF VOCATION is the title of an event in Oxford Cathedral on Saturday 30 October. "Black History Month is a moment to focus our minds once again on the injustice that UK minority ethnic people are currently underrepresented in church leadership, lay and ordained ministry and church officer posts. Revd Poly Falconer, our Diocesan UKME Enabler, has curated a series of events during October that are not to be missed, culminating in a special event at the Cathedral on Saturday 30 October." The series includes four on-line lectures, the first being on Monday 4 October from 6pm to 7pm, *Structures, Barriers, and Authenticity - UKME people's vital contribution through the church* by Mr Raj Patel. For further details and booking information please see <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/called-as-we-are/>

THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH is presenting a quiet reflective study afternoon (2pm to 4pm) on Saturday 23 October at St Michael's at the North Gate Oxford. This will be a Zoom live-streamed event, but there might be space for limited personal attendance. The title is *St Teresa and the Garden of our Souls* and is to be given by Sister Clare-Louise SLG. See <https://www.ocsg.uk.net/events/st-teresa-and-garden-our-souls> for further details or phone 07523 529 621 for attendance in person.

SWEET SLICES OF HISTORY The next Friends of St Helen (FOSH) event takes place at 7.30pm on Thursday 4 November in the Parish Centre. Marjory Szuko will be telling us the story of the creation of sweet dishes and cakes from historical recipes. There will be wine, and tasters of some of Marjory's creations. We are also hoping that she will sign copies of her book of the same name, which was shortlisted for the Fortnum & Mason Food and Drink Awards in 2019. Attendance is free for members, £5 for non-members. Numbers are limited, so if you would like to come please contact the Administrator by 1 November (administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk).

CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ An Autumn Puddings Quiz is planned for 6 November 2021 at Trinity Church, all being well. For more information, please contact Cliff Marshall at candpmarshall@btinternet.com.

THE ABINGDON PASSION PLAY COMMITTEE is a small interdenominational group whose aim is to continue the production of an Abingdon Passion Play, with the next one fixed provisionally for June 2024. We are in urgent need of new members from local churches within the Church in Abingdon who are helpful, enthusiastic and full of suggestions, as well as a Publicity Officer. If you would like to find out more or would like to get involved, please contact Jane Cadogan at jane.cadogan@tinternet.com. It is hoped to begin fundraising in January 2022 for the next production.

CHURCH TWINNING The committee would welcome new members from any of the interdenominational churches of the Church in Abingdon. Committee members enjoy meeting Christians from other countries as well as discussing ecumenism. We plan visits to Abingdon from a twin town annually, as well as arrange and take part in these visits. We also organize an away visit to a twin town each year. The twin towns are Argentan and Colmar (France), Lucca (Italy), Sint Nikolaas (Belgium) and Schongau (Germany). There are only four committee meetings a year, plus an informal planning meeting for any visit here. If you are interested in this outreach, contact Eileen Bontempelli on 01235 526331 or at epkbontempelli@gmail.com.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW Issue 8 of the Parish Magazine is now available to download from <http://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php>. What can we learn from the book of Ruth? Whose burial in Westminster Abbey caused surprise to some? Who won what? Read a reflection on an island holiday, about harvest celebrations and about words for 'church' across Europe etc.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 14 November 3.00pm Music for a Sunday Afternoon: Pavlova Winds with Glynne Butt (piano) will play trios by Poulenc and Glinka. Some exhilarating and tuneful music! We are delighted that all four players are available to repeat a concert they performed recently in Oxford.

Saturday 27 November 7pm: Abingdon Passion Play AGM at Christ church Barns with entertainment. Further details to follow.

Worship

This Week The celebrant and preacher this month are 17 October the Revd Rosalind Rutherford, Fr Paul/ Mrs Beryl Clements on 24 October and Fr Paul/ the Revd Elizabeth Birch on 31 October (All Saints Sunday).

Monday is the festival of Luke the Evangelist. Henry Martyn, translator, missionary, 1812, is commemorated on Tuesday along with Frideswide, abbess of Oxford, 727.

James the Deacon Following on from last week's pew leaflet, our greetings were sent to the congregation of the Church of James the Deacon in York on their Golden Jubilee. The parish priest, Fr Luke Tillett, was delighted to receive these and it turned out that Fr Paul and Fr Luke know each other through Walsingham. Fr Luke sent a photograph of their new icon of James the Deacon that was dedicated by Archbishop Stephen during their Patronal Festival Eucharist last Sunday. The photograph can be found on the church's facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stjamesthedeaconyork/> Small world, or as Fr Thomas CR put it in a recent sermon, "ours is a religion of nudges", or as the poet T.S. Eliot wrote:

These are only hints and guesses, Hints followed by guesses; and the rest Is prayer, observance, discipline, thought and action. The hint half guessed, the gift half understood, is Incarnation.

Frideswide, Abbess of Oxford was the daughter of a Mercian king, said to have been born in 650 and died on this day in 727. She is the patron saint of the city, university and diocese of Oxford. She founded a monastery in Oxford. Her body was buried in the floor of her Saxon church, then in 1180 placed in a new shrine in St Frideswide's Priory on the site of the present cathedral, subsequently replaced by the present one in 1289. It seems that little can be said about her life with any certainty, the earliest account of her life is by William of Malmesbury, written around 1125. There are various images of St Frideswide in the cathedral, the most recent being the statue by the sculptor Peter Eugene Ball. Readers with internet access might like to consult <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/blog/st-frideswide>.

Climate Change COP26

This prayer was recently posted by the Diocese of Oxford on their facebook page.

Creator of our common home
Hear the cry of the earth
Our world stands in great peril
Many are suffering
We have put at risk our present and our future
through the rapid warming of the earth and the careless destruction of its beauty
Give to the leaders of the world fresh hope and courage
As they gather for COP26
Unite us all in a common mission to heal and cherish our environment
And steward the resources of our world for future generations
May this conference be a turning point in human history
For the sake of all the peoples of the earth. Amen.

Please pray for:

- Steven and Gavin our bishops, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- our response to the costly call of discipleship in our own time;
- the healing ministry of the church on the Feast of St Luke;
- grace that the church would find ways of responding well to the pandemic with hope, courage and boldness;
- the forthcoming COP26 summit in Glasgow;
- the suffering, all who mourn, the recently departed, and all whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in Baillie Close, Baker Road, Banbury Court and Barton Lane.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun	Isaiah 53.4-end	Ps 91.9-end	Hebrews 5.1-10	Mark 10.35-45
Mon S. Luke	Isaiah 35.3-6	Ps 147.1-7	2 Timothy 4.5-17	Luke 10.1-9
Tues	Romans 5.12,15,17-end	Ps 40.7-12		Luke 12.35-38
Wed	Romans 6.12-18	Ps 124		Luke 12.39-48
Thur	Romans 6.19-end	Ps 1		Luke 12.49-53
Fri	Romans 7.18-end	Ps 119.33-40		Luke 12.54-end
Sat	Romans 8.1-11	Ps 24.1-6		Luke 13.1-9

Collect (20^h Sunday after Trinity)

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ... Amen.

Prayer after Communion (20th Sunday after Trinity)

God our Father, whose Son, the light unfailing, has come from heaven to deliver the world from the darkness of ignorance: let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our understanding that we may know the way of life, and walk in it without stumbling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect (Luke the Evangelist)

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ... 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: 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 (5pm on Fridays). the Sunday Mass is

live-streamed (usually at 7.30 am, but check the web site), <https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/>