



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

21st November 2021

Christ the King / Sunday next before Advent

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)
e-mail: joyceekelly@btinternet.com
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]

'Power Embodied – Truth made Flesh'

Dear Friends

Today, on this *Feast of Christ the King*, the church's liturgical year comes to its end. In the gospel reading from John, Jesus stands before Pilate and the awful drama of his arrest, suffering and death is on the horizon. At the heart of the meeting of Pilate and Jesus, from John's perspective, are two incarnations, it seems. These are power embodied ranged against truth made flesh. Both Pilate and Jesus claim to rule but their understanding of power and sovereignty are completely different as well as opposed. Pilate's question to Jesus: 'Are you the King of the Jews' shows his incredulity at Jesus' claim. This is because Jesus' kingship and sovereignty are based not on an abuse of power, but self-giving love and service, and the pursuit of truth. We shall explore today what truth means in Jesus' eyes, and how through his pattern of service, and not power, he subverts both the lies of this world and of our own lives. At the end of the church's year, before we begin a new set of readings from next Sunday (Advent 1, Year C, and the gospel being Luke), we do not have it easy. We are faced with the challenge of central spiritual challenges: truth, service, power.

Today is also our *Stewardship Renewal Sunday* when we have an opportunity to renew our pledge of giving to St Michael's for next year, 2022. We make this pledge as a Thanksgiving Offering for the work of God in this place. All the envelopes which are returned today will be brought by the churchwardens to the altar at the offertory where I shall say prayers of blessing over them. What we give in monetary terms is part of our stewardship for the ongoing mission and ministry of our church. Our stewardship is not about money alone, important though that is. What we give of our time and talents is also part of what we give back to God in the service of his Kingdom and to his glory. I want therefore to thank you for all you do, in whatever capacity, and in particular today, to thank you for considering prayerfully what it is you are able to pledge financially for the coming year, and for your generosity.

With love and blessings, *Fr Paul*

STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL Thanksgiving Offering Cards for the coming year will be presented at Mass on the Feast of Christ the King, this Sunday, 21 November. Please bring Thanksgiving Offering Cards to church on 21 November or if this is not possible, please return to the Parish Office for our treasurer, Susan Read, to collect.

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 is said publicly St Helen's every weekday at 9.10am. *All Welcome*

ST NICOLAS' CHURCH has booked Coseners House for their traditional lunch on 5 December. The cost of the meal is £30.00. If any members of St Michael's congregation would like to join them they would be very welcome. Please contact Eluned Hallas by 18th November at eluned@hallas.org.uk for further details.

SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER St Nicolas Church's, 3pm, informal concert with retiring collection in aid of Church funds by **Arco Strings**. Featuring works by Haydn, Telemann, Handel, Vaughan-Williams, Gluck, Charpentier, Dvorak, Franck, Grieg, Radiohead, John Barry & Bach. *All Welcome*.

THE KELLOGG COLLEGE ANNUAL VINCENT STRUDWICK LECTURE on Religion in Public Life on 23 November, *Facing up to the spiritual challenge of the environmental crisis* will be given this year by the Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading, at 5.30pm. The lecture will be online. The booking link can be found on our Prayer and Worship resources page.

QUIET GARDEN DAY at Aston Tirrold Centre for Reflection on Saturday 27 November 10 am - 4 pm. Leaders: Joan Impey and Sue Sheppy. Theme: *Advent*. Refreshments are provided, but please bring a packed lunch. A donation of £10 would be welcome. Email: abi.perrow@googlemail.com, if you want to attend.

CHRISTMAS MARKET at St. Helen's Church. Come and enjoy some refreshments and a chance to do your Christmas shopping on Saturday November, 10.00am to 2.30pm. Sales of books, jewellery, gifts, plants, toys, pictures, a raffle, handbells all on offer, along with bacon butties, savouries and cakes to eat in or to take away.

ABINGDON PASSION PLAY AGM Saturday 27 November 7pm: at Christ Church Barns. There will be entertainment including music, magic, and fun. Finger food and drinks.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT *The Salvation Army Central Southern Area Fellowship Band* are giving a concert on 27 November at 7pm at 12 West St Helen Street, Abingdon, OX14 5BL. Limited tickets available, £5 per person, please book via phone 07435075660 or email abingdon@salvationarmy.org.uk

SILENT REFLECTIONS will be held on Tuesday 30 November 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. Sue Sheppy will introduce material on the theme: *Light in our darkness*.

A copy will be emailed to all those on our list, and made available on the *Prayer and Worship* resources page on our website. Paper copies will be available in church. (NB There will be no Silent Reflections in December.)

MOVING INTO STILLNESS circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes will be held on Thursday 2 December 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.

CARSWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL are holding a Christmas Fair on Friday 3 December from 3.05pm to 6.30pm.

ADVENT LABYRINTH WALKS the church will be open on Tuesday 7, 14 and 21 December 2021 between 11 am and noon, and 7 pm and 8 pm. There will an opportunity to walk the labyrinth or simply to enjoy the sacred space. Material for reflection will be available on a different Advent theme each week. A short prayer will be said at the beginning and end of each session, but feel free to come and go as you please. Entry will be through the door on the north side of the church (opposite Albert Park). The wearing of masks is still recommended in areas of close contact.

ABINGDON SCOUTS AND GUIDES Their post box will be in church until **Sunday 12 December**. They will deliver your Christmas cards/letters to Abingdon, Radley and Shippon only. 30p per card.

CHRISTMAS CARDS John Clare has packs of Christmas cards produced by the Church Twinning committee, priced at £4.50 for 10, to help us maintain our links with churches in Abingdon's twin towns, particularly important after Brexit! Anyone who would like some please see him in person or on 01235 525898 or johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com

GENERAL SYNOD met in London on Tuesday and Wednesday 16/17 November. There are links on our *Prayer and Worship* resources web page to the agenda, papers and recordings of Synod sessions. The agenda included motions from Oxford Diocesan Synod on the Responding to the Climate Emergency and the Future of Work.

NEW PODCAST FROM BISHOP STEVEN – Resilience In a candid conversation with the Bishop of Western Louisiana, the Rt Revd Jacob Wayne Owensby, Bishop Steven delves deeper into the first letter of 1 Peter. Facing the uncomfortable realisation of feeling too content in the world as it is, and the importance of being the light in a world that's aching for more, Bishops Steven and Jacob explore how to be people of resilience and grit in times of great hardship. There is a link to the podcast on our *Prayer and Worship* resources page.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The November issue of the Parish Magazine is now available to download from <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php> The theme of the December issue will be *Old and New*. Contributions - articles, short reflections, poems etc on this theme or not are all welcome. Please send to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk by **28 November**.

Worship

This Week The celebrants and preachers for the next four weeks are: Fr Paul on 21 November, the Revd Elizabeth Birch on 28 November, Fr Paul on 5 and 12 December.

Sunday is the feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the church's year. Commemorations this week include Monday: Cecilia, martyr, 230; Tuesday: Clement, bishop and martyr, c. 100; Thursday: Catherine, martyr, 4th century, Isaac Watts, hymn writer, 1748.

Cecilia was one of the most revered martyrs of the Roman Church, yet little is known about her beyond the fact that at some point in the second or third century a woman called Cecilia allowed the Church to meet in her house in Trastevere in Rome and that subsequently the church erected on that site bore her name. She is honoured as the patron saint of musicians. From an *Exposition on the Psalms* by St Augustine:

'Sing to God a new song. Sing to him with joyful melody.' ... God himself has provided you with a way of singing. You do not have to bother to search for the right words as if you needed to find a lyric to please God. Simply praise God with 'songs of joy'. It is fine praise of God when you sing with real joy. You ask, how is this done? It means realising that words are not enough to express what we are singing to God in our hearts. At harvest time, both in the fields and the vineyard, the labourers work incredibly hard, and they always begin their day with songs whose words express their joy. But when the joy brims over and words are not enough, they abandon even this coherence and give themselves up to the sheer delight of singing.

What is this joy I speak of, this singing exultantly? It is an inner melody that means our hearts are bursting with feeling that words cannot contain. And to whom does such joy belong if not to the God who is beyond language? When words will not come, and you cannot keep silent, what else can you do but let the melody soar? What else can you do when the rejoicing heart runs out of words and the intensity of your joy will not be imprisoned by language? What else can you do but sing out to God with 'songs of joy'?

Thanksgiving Offerings Readers might like to reflect again on these words from a hymn of Saint Ephrem the Syrian.

Blessed is the One who has filled our feast
with sustenance from His treasury!
Guest, prepare your ears
and your mouths to sing praise.
Be receivers and givers;
render glory for what he has provided.

God gave from His treasure;
give, also you, from your treasures.
For God, deeds are simple;
and for you, a hymn of thanksgiving.
God gave as He wished;
give, also you, as you are able.

Climate Change COP26 The conference is over, an outcome document has been adopted by nearly 200 countries. The UN Secretary-General said that the document, 'reflects the interests, the contradictions, and the state of political will in the world today'. That is a reason, if any were needed, for continued prayer.

Please pray for:

- Steven and Gavin our bishops, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- that we and all leaders of the church may imitate the serving nature of Christ's kingship and live in the way of truth and peace;
- Her Majesty the Queen, especially at this time;
- our government and politicians that they may place truth and integrity at the heart of their calling;
- a generous response to our stewardship renewal today;
- all church musicians and singers especially as the Feast of St Cecilia falls tomorrow, Monday 22 November;
- the suffering, all who mourn, the recently departed, and all whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in Byron Close, Caldecott Chase, Caldecott Close and Caldecott Court.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun	Daniel 7.9-10, 13, 14	Ps 93	Revelation 1.4b-8	John 18.33-37
Mon	Daniel 1.1-6, 8-20	Canticle: <i>Bless the Lord</i>		Luke 21.1-4
Tues	Daniel 2.31-45	Canticle: <i>Benedicite</i> 1-3		Luke 21.5-11
Wed	Daniel 5.1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28	Canticle: <i>Benedicite</i> 4-5		Luke 21.12-19
Thur	Daniel 6.12-end	Canticle: <i>Benedicite</i> 6-8a		Luke 21.20-28
Fri	Daniel 7.2-14	Canticle: <i>Benedicite</i> 8b-10a		Luke 21.29-33
Sat	Daniel 7.15-27	Canticle: <i>Benedicite</i> 10b-end		Luke 21.34-36

Collect (Christ the King)

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Prayer after Communion (Christ the King)

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Canticle: *Bless the Lord* (from The Song of the Three 29–34)

Blessed are you, the God of our ancestors, *
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed is your holy and glorious name, *
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you, in your holy and glorious temple, *
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you who look into the depths, *
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

Blessed are you, enthroned on the cherubim, *
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, *
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Blessed are you in the heights of heaven, *
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.
Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, *
worthy to be praised and exalted for ever.

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/>