



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

6th September 2020
13th Sunday after Trinity

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

Churchwardens: Mr Peter Squire (797051)
(07711 548015)
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Miss Joyce Kelly (533555)
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Bookings*: Miss Joyce Kelly (as above)

Parish Office: Monday 10.00 – 13.00
Tuesday 10.00 – 13.00
Wednesday 10.00 – 13.00
Thursday CLOSED
Friday 10.00 – 13.00

Please observe COVID protocols and sign in if you visit the office.

Administrator: Leave a message on: (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]*

PASTORAL LETTER - BIDDEN OR UNBIDDEN GOD IS PRESENT

Dear Friends

Those words are engraved on a bronze coloured plaque just inside my Vicarage door. When I read them I often think of a verse in today's gospel when Jesus says: 'Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them' (Matthew 18.20) The presence of Jesus, by his Spirit, is not dependent on whether there are more or less of us in church this week than last. That's probably a helpful reminder when some still cannot be physically present during the pandemic.

The Lord is aware of our need of him, even when we may not be. On earth he never took 'a head count' before he showed up and came among those who needed him. He promises to be present where Christians come together, not only for worship in public, or at home privately, but wherever people love him and serve him in faithful obedience. He does not need 'to book in', or come through the correct door. Thanks be to God, he is here among us and all Christians gathering in every place at any time; not on the outside looking in, not hovering on the edge, but at the centre.

We welcome Canon Charles Masheder as president and preacher at this Mass. Afterwards please do enjoy one another's company outside, remaining safe, and keeping the social distance required, as difficult as that may still remain for us.

With love and blessings, *Fr Paul*

SUNDAY MASS If you wish to come to Mass on Sundays, please contact Peter Squire (details on the cover) before 12 noon on Fridays. The Order Of Mass for each Sunday can be found on the web site, in short and long forms: https://stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk/worship_resources.htm

Should you wish to bring your own printed copy or load onto a mobile device or follow the Mass at home. There will be printed copies of the short form only available in church.

MORNING PRAYER AT ST HELEN'S CHURCH begins on Monday, 7 September at 9.10 am in the Lady Chapel. There will be assigned seats for the regular attenders; more spaces will be available nearby in the Lady Aisle. There is no plan yet to start Evening Prayer.

CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYER **St Nicolas'** is open on Mondays from 10 am to 1 pm. **St Helen's Church** on Wednesdays and Saturdays, 11 am to 1 pm, and **St Michael's** on Thursdays from **11 am to 1 pm**. There is a funeral at St Michael's on Thursday 10th September so the church will **not** be open for private prayer that day. We regret that toilets cannot be opened in any of the churches during the times for private prayer. *Fr Paul*.

PARISH OFFICE normal office hours resume in September: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10 am-1 pm. The office is closed on Thursdays. Please observe COVID protocols and sign in if you visit the office.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION - AGAIN! The Electoral Roll has to be revised again because of the postponement of the Annual Church Meetings back in April. The new revision will take place in the period Friday 11 September to Saturday 26 September. The Electoral Roll is our official membership list, and you need to be on the Electoral Roll in order to be able to vote at the Annual Church Meetings. If you are not already on the Electoral Roll and would like your name to be added, please complete the simple application form, available at the back of the church, or from Keith Bowman. Your name can be added to the Roll if you are baptised and aged 16 or over, and you satisfy some other simple conditions. Please speak to Keith (01235 528962) if you have any questions about this. Would you also let him know if you have changed your name or address in the past year. **Advance notices:** the postponed Annual Church Meeting will be held after Mass on Sunday 4 October for which formal notices will soon be posted in church. We shall also keep Harvest Festival on this Sunday. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be on Thursday 22 October at 7 pm at St Michael's.

RIDE AND STRIDE 2020 Oxford Historic Churches Trust's annual sponsored Ride & Stride will take place on Saturday 12 September, respecting the appropriate government guidelines. **Louise** and **Nicola** are willing to cycle on the day so do please speak to them and be generous in your sponsorship. Half the money raised comes to St Michael's. We are not allowed to serve refreshments, nor can we offer toilet facilities, but St Michael's will be offering a socially-distanced sign-in desk for riders. These are difficult times but this is an important aspect of our ministry of welcome.

THE ABINGDON BRIDGE AGM scheduled for 22 September has had to be cancelled. The Trustees are instead holding an online meeting to meet the legal requirements of an AGM. Do please read the latest letter from the Chairman on their web site which also has a very good short video on the work of TAB. <https://www.theabingdonbridge.org.uk/>

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW Issue 7 will be available on Sunday 6 September to download from <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php>

Worship

Presidents at Mass on Sundays in September: 6th September The Revd Canon Charles Masheder, 13th The Revd Jen Brown, 20th and 27th (Patronal Festival) The Revd Paul Smith.

This week The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary is commemorated on Tuesday and Charles Fuge Lowder, priest (1880) on Wednesday.

The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary According to the scholars Bradshaw and Johnson, the feast appears to owe its origins in Jerusalem to the dedication of a church to Holy Mary next to the pool of Bethesda and near to the house of Anne, in which Mary was presumably born. The church may have been dedicated on 8 September 543 and the anniversary may be the origin of the feast, though there might already have been a commemoration that gave rise to the feast and the dedication of the church. The four feasts of Mary (birth, annunciation, presentation and dormition) have their origins in the Christian East. The New Testament is silent on the early life of Mary. The second century, *Protevangelium of James* shaped early Christian Marian devotional piety and was widely read in the Christian East. (There is a link to M.R. James' translation of this non-canonical document on the *Prayer and Worship* resources page.) Hugh Wybrew wrote in *Orthodox Feasts of Christ and Mary*:

Mary's birth came as a climax of the work of God among his chosen people. From the beginning God had been working towards the incarnation of his Son in Jesus. ... If the texts glorify Mary they do so as Mother of the Messiah, of Jesus Christ. She is exalted, not for herself, but for her free and glad obedience to the saving will of God. ... [The texts of the feast] serve, too, to remind us that God works within human history only with human co-operation freely given. They remind us, finally, that the scope of God's salvation is not less than cosmic: it is not just humankind, but the whole of creation that is to be taken into God, to share his life.

This latter point is fundamental in present-day Orthodox writers on the environment such as Patriarch Bartholomew.

Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God, who stooped to raise fallen humanity through the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen your glory revealed in our human nature and your love made perfect in our weakness, may daily be renewed in your image and conformed to the pattern of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, ...

Charles Fuge Lowder, priest, died on 9 September 1880. He came under the influence of the Oxford Movement during his studies at Exeter College. After ordination he was increasingly drawn to a ritualistic expression of the faith, despite fierce opposition. As a curate in Pimlico and Stepney and later as the first vicar of St Peter's London Docks, he came to epitomize the 19th century Anglo-Catholic slum priest. From the website of St Peter's London Docks:

Soon afterwards [1866] cholera struck the East End, Lowder organised Sisters of Mercy and others to care for the sick and raised funds for a tented hospital. The Priests and Sisters took great risks and worked without stint for the people of Wapping. At the end of the cholera people were calling Lowder, 'the Father' because he seemed like the father of the whole community. This soon became 'Father Lowder', the first known example of an Anglican priest being thus addressed.

Please pray for:

- the church when she gathers, for worship or business;
- all returning to schools, colleges and universities over the next weeks, students and staff alike;
- The Abingdon Bridge and their work with young people in the town;
- the suffering, recently departed and all whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people in our parish living in Blacknall Road, Bostock Road, Boxhill Walk and Brewers Court.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun	Exekiel 33.7-11	Ps 119.33-40	Romans 13.8-end	Matthew 18.15-20
Mon	1 Corinthians 5.1-8	Ps 5.5-9a		Luke 6.6-11
Tues	1 Corinthians 6.1-11	Ps 149.1-5		Luke 6.12-19
Wed	1 Corinthians 7.25-31	Ps 45.11-end		Luke 6.20-26
Thur	1 Corinthians 8.1-7, 11-end	Ps 139.1-9		Luke 6.27-38
Fri	1 Corinthians 9.16-19, 22-end	Ps 84.1-6		Luke 6.39-42
Sat	1 Corinthians 10.14-22	Ps 116.10-end		Luke 6.43-end

Collect (13th Sunday of Trinity)

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and 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

Diocesan Church at Home (Live-streamed Eucharist) page.

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/> The Diocesan Church at Home services resume on Sunday 6 September, presumably at 10 am (more details were not available at the time of writing).

Oxford Cathedral on-line services (includes service booklets and sermons)

<https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/oxfords-cathedral/online-worship>.

An archive of cathedral services and sermons is available on Soundcloud <https://soundcloud.com/user-867515242>

Community of the Resurrection: live streaming and recordings of the community's daily round of prayer and praise

<https://www.facebook.com/CoRMirfield/> Details of services at <https://mirfield.org.uk/community-of-the-resurrection/our-life-and-work/worship/>

Walsingham In addition to the daily live-streaming of Shrine Prayers at 6 pm. the Sunday Mass is live-streamed at 9.00 am, <https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/>

RESOURCES ACCESSIBLE BY TELEPHONE

Daily Hope A Church of England resource offering hymns, prayers and reflections as well as full services via a freephone number 0800 804 8044.