



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

15th November 2020
2nd Sunday before Advent

Team Rector: The Revd Dr Charles Miller (520144)
Team Vicar: The Revd Paul Smith (534654)
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Churchwardens: Mr Peter Squire (797051)
(07711 548015)
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Miss Joyce Kelly (533555)
(07833 535768)
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Bookings*: Miss Joyce Kelly (as above)
Parish Office: The Parish Office is closed to visitors until further notice.
The working hours are 10 am to 4 pm Monday to Wednesday and Friday
Administrator: Monday and Wednesday (520144)
On other days 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]*

PUBLIC WORSHIP AND PRIVATE PRAYER At the time of writing, under the new National Restrictions that came into force on Thursday 5 November places of worship have been closed unless being used for very limited purposes which include private prayer, broadcasting acts of worship but not public worship. There will be no Mass at St Michael's this Sunday. It is currently anticipated that our next Sunday Mass will be on the **2nd Sunday of Advent, 6 December**. A recorded **Eucharist for Sunday 15 November**, presided by The Revd Jen Brown and preacher Bishop Henry Scriven, will be made available to view through the *Parish Resources page* by late morning https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html

Morning Prayer will not be said publicly during the current lockdown, nor will the monthly Wednesday Communion Service take place at St Helen's Church.

St Nicolas' should be open for private prayer on Mondays from 10 am to 1 pm, but for up-to-date information please see their web site <https://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/> and **St Michael's** will be open on Thursdays from **11 am to 1 pm**. St Helen's Church will not be open until further notice.

The full text of the service books that would have been used at St Michael's over the period of the new restrictions will be made available for download from our Worship and Resources page. Any readers requiring a printed copy should contact David Duce.

MONTH OF PRAYER The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and other senior church leaders are inviting Christians across the nation to participate in a month of prayer. It is suggested that we pray daily for a specific area of national concern, wherever we may be, culminating in a collective moment of prayer at 6pm each evening, with cathedrals and churches across the country invited to ring a bell at this time. Daily prayers can be downloaded in printable form from

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/PftN%20Booklet%20spreads.pdf>

Anyone requiring a printed copy is asked to contact David Duce.

FR PAUL We assure Fr Paul of our prayers and best wishes for his on-going recovery. He has currently been signed-off until 16 November. His return to work will be a gradual process.

PASTORAL CARE Whilst Fr Paul is convalescing, Canon Charles Mashedor has stepped up to provide pastoral care. He is happy for people to contact him by telephone, 01235 520959.

LICENSED LAY MINISTRY The Editor fears this is a little late in the day. Last Saturday was the Annual Service for Licensed Lay Ministers and the admission and licensing of new lay ministers. Because of the National Restrictions, the service took place over Zoom. Bishop Steven presided and The Revd Dr Paul Sheppy contributed a hymn. The Order of Service is available at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/> and at the time of writing a recording of the service was promised. It is opportune to give thanks for Lay Ministry in our Diocese and Parish, for the ministry of Gwen Bevington LLM in this parish and for The Revd Canon Dr Phillip Tovey, Warden of LLMs.

ADVENT ONLINE READING GROUP An online Advent Reading Group will start meeting via Zoom at 4pm on Thursday 19 November and for the following four Thursdays. The book to be read is *The Meaning is in the Waiting* by Paula Gooder published by Canterbury Press in 2008. The group will be facilitated by Rosalind Rutherford and materials will be circulated in advance, so that it is not essential to buy the book. To join the group contact Susan Scott, on 01235 522960 or susan.scott21@btinternet.com. Information regarding Zoom will be sent directly to participants.

DECEMBER FAITH FORUM This would normally be held in St Helen's Church Centre at 9.15 am on the first Sunday of the month. Due to the uncertainty surrounding possible post-lockdown restrictions relating to COVID-19, we have decided to hold the December Faith Forum talk on Sunday 6 December on Zoom only. There will be no gathering in the parish centre. Please also note that the start time for the December talk has been changed to 9am. We hope that this will not cause any inconvenience. A link to the Zoom session will be circulated nearer the time. We hope that many of you will be able to join us. For those unable to join the Zoom session, a recording will be made available on-line following the event.

CHURCH TWINNING John Clare has Christmas cards with cosy scenes of Abingdon, priced at £4.50 for a packet of 10, to raise money for Church Twinning with our fellow Christians in our twin towns. The Church Twinning Committee thinks Brexit makes it especially important to keep in touch with them. Packets can be ordered from John Clare (01235 525898), for home delivery or collection.

ABINGDON SCOUTS AND GUIDES CHRISTMAS POST Because of the pandemic, the Christmas post delivery service normally offered by the Scouts and Guides to addresses in Abingdon, Radley and Shippon has been cancelled.

STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL Our annual renewal of Thanksgiving Offerings to St Michaels' should have taken place on the feast of Christ the King, which this year falls on Sunday 22 November. However, under the current National Restrictions the church will not be open that day. Most people should have received a letter about stewardship renewal either by email, in person, or by home delivery. If you didn't and would like to receive this information, please contact Julie Woodley (01235 527901). If you can return a Thanksgiving Offering card to Julie before 22 November, by post or by hand, please do so. Various options for presenting the cards at the altar at a later date, with our customary Act of Thanksgiving, are currently under consideration and we will update you on this as soon as possible. *Julie Woodley (Stewardship Officer) and David Duce (Assistant)*

ST ETHELWOLD'S GARDEN at 30 East St Helen's Street is to remain open to visitors. The gates at St Ethelwold's House offer an open refuge and a welcome to all.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW Issue 9 of 'A Candle in the Window' can be downloaded from <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php>. Issue 10 will be the last before Christmas. The theme is 'Comfort and Joy'. Please contribute to make it a bumper issue! For example a reflection on Christmas, a poem, an image and why it is important to you, a picture of the cake you made using the recipe in Issue 9 (if you included some camel you probably looked at the wrong verse), something to cheer us up... Please send to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk by Friday 27th November. *Rob Rutherford, Eluned Hallas, Louise Heffernan*

CARING FOR CREATION is a new diocesan newsletter "for anyone and everyone who's ready to explore their Christian calling to care for God's world". It is available on-line, to subscribe see <https://mailchi.mp/oxford.anglican.org/care-for-creation-october-new-subscriber>

Worship

Sunday Mass: Services are suspended until further notice. A recorded Eucharistic service will be available on the Parish web site on Sunday 15 November.

This week Margaret, queen and philanthropist, 1093 and Edmund Rich, archbishop, 1240 are commemorated on Monday; Hugh, bishop, 1200 on Tuesday; Elizabeth, princess, philanthropist, 1231 on Wednesday; Hilda, abbess, 680 and Mechtild, beguine and mystic, 1280 on Thursday; Edmund, king, martyr, 870 and Priscilla Lydia Sellon, a restorer of religious life in the Church of England, 1876 on Friday.

Edmund of Abingdon A local boy who became Archbishop of Canterbury. His parents were Reginald and Mabel. It seems possible that his father was a wool merchant or draper and was a man of some means. Edmund was the eldest child of a fairly large family, one brother became Edmund's assistant in the administration of Canterbury diocese, other brothers entered Cistercian and Benedictine houses and two sisters were placed in convents. Edmund was a theologian who studied in Paris and Oxford. Little of his writings survive, best known is perhaps *Mirror of the Church* (*Speculum Ecclesie*) which sets out Edmund's vision of the religious life. He gave this practical advice for 'keep holy the sabbath day':

You should go to church and devoutly say Lauds or hear it quietly, with mass and the other offices without chattering. And afterwards, if there be any preacher at hand who means to give a sermon you should quietly listen to the word of God, commit it to memory, and fulfil it in your works. And when you are at lunch, distribute freely to the poor from the good things God has provided for you. And afterwards you shall not go to the tavern to watch wrestling or to carollings or other foolish vain games, for from such things as these arise misfortunes and mortal sins, but you should visit the sick and the hapless, and thus end festive days in the service of God.

In 1222 Edmund was appointed treasurer and canon of Salisbury cathedral until 1233 when he was elected archbishop of Canterbury. He took some persuading to accept the position, one author noting that he put up far more than the customary liturgical resistance "I am not worthy". He became a mediator between the king and his barons and it is said by some that his actions averted a civil war. In August 1240 Pope Gregory summoned all metropolitans and their suffragans to come to Rome for a council. It seems that for political reasons Edmund felt it expedient to go early to Rome, but he died along the way in a small Augustinian priory in Soissy on 16 November that year.

Priscilla Lydia Sellon Dr Pusey, one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement believed that communities of women would be powerful instruments to confront poverty, ignorance and vice in England's cities, as the Roman Catholic Sisters of the Charity established by St Vincent de Paul in 1633 had done elsewhere. The first such community, the Society of the Holy Cross was established at a house in Regent's Park in London in 1845. In the same year, Lydia answered a call from the Bishop of Exeter for "gentlewomen to work among the poor and sick of Devonport and Plymouth" and set up the Devonport Society (Sisterhood of Mercy of Devonport and Plymouth). According to Peter Anson in *The Call of the Cloister* it seems there was a worry amongst some in the London sisterhood that "this

masterful Lady Superior in the west of England ... ‘wished to possess herself of their establishment’”. Both sisterhoods sent members of their communities to nurse in the Crimea during the war. After the war relations between the two communities became more complicated culminating in the amalgamation of the two as The Congregation of Religious of the Society of the Most Holy Trinity with Mother Lydia as abbess. In 1880 an estate at Ascot was purchased with the aid of gifts from Mother Lydia’s father and Dr Pusey with the aim of providing convalescent care for patients from London hospitals. The last member of the society, Mother Cecilia, died at the age of 89 on 12 February 2004. However, before her death provision was made for Ascot Priory to continue as a charity “in particular in accordance with the doctrines commonly known as Anglo-Catholic, as resource for retreats and conferences and other charitable work”, which it does to this day with, in these present times of restriction, a live-streamed Eucharist on Sundays and Mondays to Fridays.

Please pray for:

- the Licensed Lay Ministers in our parish and diocese and their Warden;
- Fr Paul and his recovery and Canon Charles Masheder providing pastoral care to our congregation;
- Fr Jamie McGrath and the congregation of The Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Edmund in Abingdon;
- young people struggling with the challenges of lockdown and the work of organisations such as The Abingdon Bridge;
- the suffering, recently departed and all whose year’s mind falls at this time;
- people in our parish living in Denton Close, Dodson Court, Draymans Walk and Drayton Road.

Eucharistic Lectionary

| Sun | Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end | Ps 90.1-8, 12 | 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11 | Matthew 25.14-30 |
|------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Mon | Revelation 1.1-4, 2.1-5 | Ps 1 | | Luke 18.35-end |
| Tues | Revelation 3.1-6, 14-end | Ps 15 | | Luke 19.1-10 |
| Wed | Revelation 4 | Ps 150 | | Luke 19.11-28 |
| Thur | Revelation 5.1-10 | Ps 149.1-5 | | Luke 19.41-44 |
| Fri | Revelation 10.8-11 | Ps 119.65-72 | | Luke 19.45-48 |
| Sat | Revelation 11.4-12 | Ps 144.1-9 | | Luke 20.27-40 |

Collect (2nd Sunday before Advent)

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Some On-line Resources for Worship

Church of England Month of Prayer for the Nation

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation#na>

Bishop Olivia’s films and other resources on ‘the beauty of creation and care of the earth’

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/making-a-difference/environment/>

Bishop Steven is producing an increasingly popular weekly podcast. Current and past episodes are available from

<https://blogs.oxford.anglican.org/podcast/>

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 is live-streamed at 10 am each Sunday.

Oxford Cathedral are revising their livestreamed worship. From 5 November the plan is to livestream Evening Prayer at 6.05 pm and a Eucharist at 6.30 pm on weekdays, and on Sundays a Eucharist at 11 am and Said Evening Prayer at 6.05. <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/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

Diocesan Eucharist Recordings should be available from around 11am each Sunday. Simply call 01865 920930 and, once connected, dial 0 for the full service or 1 a shortened form. Standard call rates apply.

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