



St MICHAEL & ALL
ANGELS CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

22nd November 2020

Christ the King / Sunday next before Advent

Team Rector: The Revd Dr Charles Miller (520144)
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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]*

MESSAGE FROM FR PAUL

Dear Friends

It is good to be back after several weeks. I am glad to report that I have recovered well but I have to take things gently as I return to duties. I am, therefore, working part-time (a five hour day) from this last Monday 16 November until Monday 30 November when this will be reviewed by my GP. During this time, if there are pastoral matters, Canon Charles Masheder can still be contacted on (01235 520959).

I am very grateful to our Wardens and my clergy colleagues for all they have done during my sick leave and to all of you for your love, prayers and messages, all of which have been very much appreciated. Thank you. In these days of continuing uncertainty, and another Lockdown, it is so easy to be weighed down and disheartened. Yet, on this Feast of Christ the King we look to Him who reigns supreme over all things, through his self-emptying and self-giving for us all. As the Very Revd Professor Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church has recently said: 'In Christ, there is no longer "social distance" between us and God. God chose to dwell with us in Christ in order that we might be one with another and one with God. God accomplished this through the kenosis (self-emptying) of Christ'.

Thanks be to God that this was accomplished for the whole world.

Please continue to pray for me as I continue to pray for you all each day.

With love and blessings

Fr Paul

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 22 November** 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 Prayer and Worship resources page. Any readers requiring a printed copy should contact David Duce.

SILENT REFLECTIONS We will still be 'at home' for Silent Reflections on Tuesday 24 November and Rosalind Rutherford is providing material on the theme 'Embracing Darkness'. A copy will be emailed to those on our list, and made available from our website on the Prayer and Worship resources page.

ANNUAL CHURCH IN ABINGDON BEREAVEMENT SERVICE An earlier pew leaflet reported that the annual service had been cancelled this year due to the pandemic. It has however been possible to put together an online service, hosted by All Saints and Trinity Churches, which is now available at: <https://youtu.be/Wz0hryPNKAo> (The link is also on our Prayer and Worship resources web page.)

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.

NOVENA OF PRAYER FOR THE RELIGIOUS LIFE There is a danger of being overwhelmed by too many cycles of prayer, but bearing that in mind, the novena of prayer for an increase in vocations to the religious life, from Friday 20 November to Saturday 28 November, might be of interest to some readers. A booklet, written by a group of monks and nuns in the Church of England is available from https://www.sswsh.com/uploads/Religious_Life_Novena_FINAL.pdf

The themes for the nine days include: for those discerning a vocation, those who live the contemplative life, for Franciscan communities, for those connected with religious communities as oblates, tertiaries, associates and companions. Anyone requiring a printed copy is asked to contact David Duce.

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.

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. People should have received a letter about stewardship renewal. 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)*

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW Reminder! You are invited to contribute to the December edition of 'A Candle in the Window'. In addition to previous ideas you could send us photographs of Autumn colours or a memory of an unusual Christmas etc. Encourage others to contribute as well! Please send to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk by Friday 27 November. Issue 9 of 'A Candle in the Window' can be downloaded from <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php>. *Rob Rutherford, Eluned Hallas, Louise Heffernan*

CHURCH IN ABINGDON CHRISTIAN FOCUS The winter edition of Christian Focus has been cancelled this year. It is hoped to be able to produce an issue in the Spring. If you have anything at all that you would like to share with other Christians in Abingdon, please send it to the editor: benjeapes@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR THOSE ALONE AT CHRISTMAS Due to COVID, it is not possible for people at the Peachcroft Christian Centre to organise their usual Christmas Day meal and celebration at the Centre for people across Abingdon on their own – their first Christmas Day lunch was back in 2013. So, this year they are hoping to create and distribute Christmas hampers (with edible and non-edible items), with the help of a team of volunteers, on Christmas Day so that guests receive the simple but important gift of human contact showing that someone in their community cares about them. They will also make contact with other organisations in the town (such as Foodbank and GPs surgeries) and ask for referrals. This is not an evangelism event. We are called to love our neighbours and see this project as a form of service to our community. Appropriate safeguarding and health and safety guidelines will be followed. The hope is to fund 80 hampers at £25/hamper. If the funding target (£2,000) is not reached, either the amount spent on each hamper or the number of people we can offer hampers to will be reduced. Any excess funds will be passed on to The Abingdon Foodbank or The Abingdon Bridge. If you would like to support the project by making a grant or have any questions please contact Stephanie by emailing stephanie.ouzman@peachcroftcc.org or events@peachcroftcc.org or phone 07379 469311. See also <http://www.peachcroftcc.org/page/christmas-hampers-2020>.

Worship

Sunday Mass: Services are suspended until further notice. A recorded Eucharistic service will be available on the Parish web site on Sunday 22 November.

This week Sunday is the feast of Christ the King. Clement, bishop and martyr, c. 100 is commemorated on Monday; Catherine, martyr, 4th century and Isaac Watts, hymn writer, 1748 on Wednesday.

Christ the King is a relatively recent feast that dates back to 1925 when it was approved by Pope Pius XI. It was originally celebrated on the last Sunday of October, though now it is celebrated on the last Sunday of the liturgical year. It acquired “commended” status in the Church of England in *The Promise of His Glory* (1990) and was incorporated into the Common Worship calendar in 1997, following the practice of other provinces in the Anglican Communion.

“Christ the King” brings to the fore in the editor’s mind two churches: first the Church of Christ the King, Gordon Square, in London that was the home of the University of London Anglican Chaplaincy from 1963 to 1992. The church itself was built in 1853 by a controversial group called the Catholic Apostolic Church and is still owned by a charity called the Trustees of the Catholic Apostolic Church. Clergy serving at Christ the King over the years have included Fr Simon Holden CR (1969 -1974) and Bishop Michael Marshall (1964-69) later Vicar of All Saints Margaret Street, and Suffragan Bishop of Woolwich.

The second “Christ the King” was the priory of the Community of the Resurrection in Sophiatown, Johannesburg, South Africa. One story, told by Archbishop Desmond Tutu will have to suffice.

We were standing with my mother on the balcony of the women’s hostel where she was cook when this white man in a big black hat and a white flowing cassock swept past on the way to the residence of the Blaxalls. You could have knocked me down with a feather, young as I was at the time, when this man doffed his hat to my mother; I couldn’t understand a white man doffing his hat to a black woman, an uneducated woman. At the time, of course, it was just an incident among many which one thought one had forgotten; but it made, it appeared later, a deep impression on me and said a very great deal about the person who had done this. For it was, as I later discovered, none other than Father [Trevor] Huddleston, who had come to be priest-in-charge of Christ the King Church and prior of Christ the King Priory of the Community of the Resurrection.

From Trevor Huddleston Essays on his Life and Work, 1998

After his funeral at Mirfield (he died in 1998), Bishop Trevor’s ashes were interred in the garden of the Church of Christ the King, Sophiatown.

Thanksgiving Offerings Whilst it is not possible to renew our Thanksgiving Offerings in the usual way on the feast of Christ the King this year, readers might like to reflect 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.

Please pray for:

- all those affected in this time of pandemic and especially for all care homes, for staff, residents and their families;
- the witness of the church that she may bring healing and hope in all she does;
- John Orridge, recently appointed Diocese of Oxford Director of Finance as he prepares to take up his post in January 2021;
- an increase in vocations to the religious life;
- the suffering, recently departed and all whose year’s mind falls at this time;
- people in our parish living Dundas Close, East St. Helen Street, Edward Street and Elwes Close.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun	Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24	Ps 95.1-7	Ephesians 1.15-end	Matthew 25.31-end
Mon	Revelation 14.1-5	Ps 24.1-6		Luke 21.1-4
Tues	Revelation 14.14-19	Ps 96		Luke 21.5-11
Wed	Revelation 15.1-4	Ps 98		Luke 21.12-19
Thur	Revelation 18.1-2, 21-23; 19.1-3,9	Ps 100		Luke 21.20-28
Fri	Revelation 20.1-4, 11-21.2	Ps 84.1-6		Luke 21.29-33
Sat	Revelation 22.1-7	Ps 95.1-7		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 (in earlier calendars the Collect for the Sunday next before Advent)

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.

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: services now include Evening Prayer live-streamed at 6.05 pm on weekdays, and on Sundays a Choral Eucharist at 11.05 am and Choral Evensong at 6.05 pm. <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> A daily Eucharist is celebrated by members of the clergy.

The cathedral blog is hosting a series of 30 daily reflections on the *Rule of St Augustine* written by Fr Richard Peers, sub-dean of the cathedral since September this year <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/blog/category/cathedral>

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.