



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

10th January

Baptism of Christ/ First Sunday of Epiphany

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: During January the Parish Administrator can be contacted by email or phone (see below) from Monday – Thursday. Please phone to arrange access to the office on Mondays or Thursdays; observe COVID protocols by signing in if you visit. The Administrator will be working from home on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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]*

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MESSAGE FROM FR PAUL

Dear Friends

Following the announcement of a third Lockdown the clergy and wardens of the parish met to discuss worship during this period. We made the difficult decision to close our buildings for private prayer and public worship for the foreseeable future. With the increasing number of Covid infection rates, not least in our own town and parish, we felt that this was the most responsible thing to do for the safety of us all.

It is hoped that from next Sunday 17 January we will be able to offer on-line worship via Zoom at St Michael's. I will offer a Mass from the Vicarage for us all, and invite you to make a Spiritual Communion at each service for those of you who are able to join me. An invitation for this service will be sent out via e-mail.

I am acutely aware that this will be a challenging time for us all. I am also aware that not everyone will be able to participate on-line. The alternative telephone service to access the Diocesan Eucharist and also the Daily Hope remain available and I hope these may provide a helpful way for those who cannot participate.

This Sunday when we celebrate the Baptism of Christ we are reminded that we are incorporated into the death and resurrection of Jesus through our own baptism. We are washed and made clean through the waters of baptism and called out of darkness into his marvellous light. We are bound together by our baptism and, at this time, this is a comforting and sure truth to which we must hold.

I would like to stress that I will be making daily efforts to contact people while we cannot meet. If you wish to phone I would be very pleased to hear from you.

May the light of Christ which is revealed to the whole world in this Epiphanytide dispel the darkness we may feel at this time and all that overshadows the world in this pandemic.

With love and blessings and the assurance of my prayers.

Fr Paul

SUNDAY WORSHIP AND PRIVATE PRAYER

As stated above our worship will be on-line via Zoom while our building remains closed for Public Worship. The link for this will be made available via e-mail for those who wish and can access worship in this way.

The Order of Mass for these on-line services will be available on the web site should you wish to follow the Mass at home. The Order of Mass as it would have been celebrated on 10 January is available on the web site

https://stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk/worship_resources.htm

St Helen's are aiming to live-stream their Eucharist with ministers and technicians only for **Sunday 10 January. Details will be sent to those who receive the pew leaflet by email.**

Morning Prayer will not be said publicly for the foreseeable future.

ST MICHAEL'S XMAS RAFFLE The St Michael's Xmas raffle 2020 raised £115 for church funds. *Helen Owen*

SANCTUARY LAMPS 2021 There is now a list on the Notice Board at the back of church for those who wish to sponsor the lighting of Sanctuary Lamps during next year in memory of a loved one or to commemorate another occasion. During lockdown whilst the list is inaccessible, please contact David Duce who will ensure an acknowledgement is given in this pew leaflet in accord with the sponsor's wishes.

NEW DAYLIGHT BOOKS It is time to re-subscribe for the year for these books of daily readings, comment and prayer which are edited by the Revd Sally Welch and published by the Bible Reading Fellowship. If you would like them in printed format please get in touch with Brenda on 01235 522881 **before the end of February**. The cost is £17.85 for the year, but cheaper if we can order 5 or more sets. For more information see

<https://www.brfonline.org.uk/collections/new-daylight> BRF also offer options to receive this publication by email or through an app.

THE PARISH CHRISTIAN BOOK READING GROUP will meet via Zoom, fortnightly, on a Thursday afternoon from 4pm to 5pm beginning on 21 January. The book the group will be reading and discussing is Encounters - Jesus, connection and story: past, present and future by Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, published by Darton-Longman and Todd, ISBN: 978-0-232-53466-5 The group is open to anyone, but if you wish to participate please inform Susan Scott on 01235 522960, susan.scott21@btinternet.com so the Zoom details can be forwarded to you.

CHURCH IN ABINGDON CHRISTIAN AID WALK 2021 will be 'self-service' this year and can be done anytime during January, singly or in household/wider groups and must follow COVID guidelines at the time the walk is completed. Visit 9 CiA churches to find a single letter [on poster] at each church to make an anagram of a word connected with Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal. Our poster is displayed in the main notice board and will remain in place for the

whole month. Participants will be asked for the 'word' they have found. Sponsors are invited to make a donation via the Just Giving page, <https://www.justgiving.com/team/Abingdon-Churches-OR838> Prospective walkers should contact Rob King Ab 553715 rking.home@ntlworld.com or Mary Anderson on mary.fulani@gmail.com or 07956 813524 for details of the walk.

CHRISTMAS CHRISTIAN AID ONLINE QUIZ Following the success of the quiz in May for Christian Aid Week, another quiz is planned for the evening of Saturday 16 January 2021. More details of this event and how to register will be circulated to our CiA church representative, or contact Cliff Marshall at candpmarshall@btinternet.com. In any case please save the date on your new calendars.

FAITH FORUM: Spring 2021 will see the continuation of our series on 'other voices', this time looking at healing, health & disability in the life of the Church. The first of the talks will be on 7 February and will be held via Zoom. The speaker will be the Revd Dr Helen Leathard, Professor Emerita of Healing Science & Pharmacology and Trustee of the Guild of Health & St Raphael -The role of the Church in promoting physical and mental wellbeing.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW We are hoping to bring out the first edition of the new year on Sunday 7 February. The deadline for contributions is Friday 29 January. Pictures, poems, reflections, hopes, memories etc all welcome. Please send to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk

Worship

The Sanctuary Lamps from 10 to 16 January are sponsored by Sue Scott in memory of Lewis Scott.

Baptism of Christ In the Eastern Orthodox tradition the theme of the feast of the Epiphany is the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan. In our calendar the first Sunday of Epiphany, is the festival of the Baptism of Christ, and an act of Thanksgiving for Holy Baptism is included at the start of Mass. It includes a prayer over water and an act of penitence and dedication. It does not include a renewal of baptismal vows; that takes place during the Easter Vigil. The act of dedication concludes with this prayer:

Almighty God, in our baptism you have consecrated us to be temples of your Holy Spirit. May we, whom you have counted worthy, nurture your indwelling Spirit with a lively faith, and worship you with upright lives; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Fr Hugh Wybrew in his book *Orthodox Feasts of Christ and Mary* writes:

Our baptism, like his, commits us to live in accordance with his and the Father's will. That will is that we should love him and our neighbours as ourselves. Doing this means dying to our fallen selves, and letting the Holy Spirit raise us to share the new life of the crucified and risen Christ, within the love of God the Holy Trinity. That love was revealed at Jesus' baptism in Jordan, and in the waters of death that overwhelmed him on the cross. From those waters was born the new and eternal life we can enjoy now as the free gift of God.

Commemorations this week include on Monday Mary Slessor, missionary, 1915; Tuesday, Aelred, abbot, 1167; Wednesday, Hilary, bishop, teacher of the faith, 367 and George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers), 1691.

Mary Slessor was born into a Presbyterian family in Aberdeen in 1848, moved with her family to Dundee at the age of 11 and in 1875 was accepted as a teacher for the mission in Calabar, Nigeria. She rapidly became fluent in the local language, Efik. She wasn't comfortable with the lifestyle of the local missionaries and wanted to work among the 'untouched multitudes' and asked to be posted to a more remote region. She travelled extensively and began to adopt children, often abandoned twins or orphans of slave mothers, who then travelled with her. After a period of home leave 1907, she and two European helpers returned to set up a women's industrial training centre. Women were constantly exploited and her solution was to establish centres where unattached women could support themselves by farming and industrial work. She died in 1915 and her last words were in Efik 'O God, release me soon.' There are many reminders of her in Nigeria and on the centenary of her death in 2015 a new memorial to her was unveiled outside The Steeple Church in Dundee. Her work continues through the Mary Slessor Foundation.

Sources: <http://www.thesteeplechurch.org.uk/> <http://maryslessor.org/> and *Far above Rubies* by Richard Symonds (1993).

Please pray for:

- all in our parish suffering from Covid-19;
- our changed worshipping life during this time of Lockdown;
- all front-line and key workers and those administering vaccinations against Covid-19;
- the suffering, recently departed and all whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in Hitching Court, Hive Mews, Hobbs Close and Hogarth Place.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun Baptism of Christ	Genesis 1.1-5	Ps 29	Acts 19.1-7	Mark 1.4-11
Mon	Hebrews 1.1-6	Ps 97.1-2, 6-10		Mark 1.14-20
Tues	Hebrews 2.5-12	Ps 8		Mark 1.21-28
Wed	Hebrews 2.14-end	Ps 105.1-9		Mark 1.29-39
Thur	Hebrews 3.7-14	Ps 95.1, 8-end		Mark 1.40-end
Fri	Hebrews 4.1-5, 11	Ps 78.3-8		Mark 2.1-12
Sat	Hebrews 4.12-end	Ps 19.7-end		Mark 2.13-17

Collect (Baptism of Christ)

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord...

Some On-line Resources for Worship

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.

Online each Sunday, Church at Home takes place at 10am. See

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>

Oxford Cathedral: See. <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/Join-with-us-103095121647089> (new address). 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. the Sunday Mass is live-streamed at 9.00 am, <https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/>

RESOURCES ACCESSIBLE BY TELEPHONE

Diocesan Eucharist Recordings of most of the Sunday services 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.