



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

28th March 2021 and 4th April 2021
Palm Sunday and Easter Day

Team Rector: The Revd Dr Charles Miller (520144)
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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. Over Easter the office will be **closed** from **2-6 April**.

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]

MESSAGE FROM FR PAUL – From Tree of Shame to Tree of Glory

Dear Friends

It is very good to be returning to church on this Palm Sunday to mark Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Through this solemn week we journey with him to the cross, 'the tree of shame', on which he won our salvation. Then during the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday), we live his last days with him until the celebration of the Resurrection when the cross, becomes the 'tree of glory'. This year, perhaps more than ever, we celebrate that he has overcome suffering and death and rejoice in His love which will never let us go.

Times of services and their broad content are detailed below and you will need to book your place with Peter Squire. It is important that Covid-19 restrictions are observed carefully which does include leaving the church after each service as soon as possible in the interest of everyone's safety. Thank you for being mindful of this.

Two other important items:

LENT APPEAL: Today is the final opportunity to make a contribution to our two charities TARIRO and TAB and details of how to do this are listed elsewhere in this pew leaflet. If you need to delay any contributions then these will of course be gratefully received later. However, it would be good to announce a total on Easter Day.

ADCM: In the interest of safety, and in line with all the Annual Meetings across the parish, (including the APCM on Thursday 29 April) this meeting will now take place on-line, via the Zoom Platform, on **Monday 19 April, at 7.00pm**, and not in-person after Mass on Sunday 18 April. A link will be provided nearer the time. We will need to nominate two Churchwardens as usual, and elect people to the DCC and PCC and Deanery Synod. It will be possible to do that from today. Please do consider prayerfully whether you are called to serve St Michael's in these ways and let me know if you would like to discuss it, or have decided to offer your time and talents in this way. Each person brings their own gifts and talents and we strive to work together for the greater glory of God in this place. I look forward to hearing from you!

It was said by Her Majesty last Easter: "We need Easter more than ever this year..." and I would suggest the same wise words apply this year. May you all know the blessings of a joyful and Happy Easter!

With love and prayers.

Fr Paul

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY (28 March, 9.30am) MASS with PALM BLESSING: No outside procession this year but the blessing of Palms, which will be placed on your seats, will take place in church and we will hear the Passion Reading as usual, from Mark's narrative, but with three readers only. There will be a socially distanced choir on this day who will sing for us.

MAUNDY THURSDAY (1 April, 7.30pm) This will be a Mass but without the usual elements of Foot Washing, Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, Stripping of the Altars and a Watch of the Passion this year. We will recall the night when Our Lord instituted the Eucharist before his death and at the end of our celebration the congregation will leave in silence.

GOOD FRIDAY (2 April, 2.00pm) As we mark the most solemn day in the church's year there will be the reading of the Passion, from John's gospel (with few readers), the Proclamation of the Cross and no receiving of communion from the reserved sacrament this year. This will be a said service with no organ or music.

HOLY SATURDAY (3 April, 7.30pm). There will be no Easter Fire this year because of the no outside gatherings rule; the Paschal Candle will be lit from the West End, processed into church, and the Exsultet will be sung. We will have the Vigil readings, the Gloria, (followed by an organ fanfare). We will renew our baptismal vows in this liturgy and celebrate the first Mass of Easter and rejoice in the resurrection of Our Lord from the dead.

EASTER DAY (4 April, 9.30am) This will be a Said Mass with music and singing by a socially distanced choir. We shall also bless the Easter Garden.

Service sheets will be on the web site in due course, should you wish to bring your own printed copy, load onto a mobile device or follow the Mass at home. Printed copies will be available in church. Service booklets for the liturgies that we would traditionally use are also available from the web site. See

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

BOOKING INFORMATION If you wish to attend any of the services at St Michael's during Holy Week and Easter, **booking is essential**. Please contact **Church Warden Peter Squire** (details on the cover) before **12 noon at least 2 days** before each service, so Friday 26 March for Palm Sunday, Tuesday 30 March for Maundy Thursday, Wednesday 31 March for Good Friday, Thursday 1 April for the Easter Vigil and Friday 2 April for Easter Day.

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT ST HELEN'S CHURCH

St Helen's will live-stream their 10.30 am Eucharist through Zoom. A recording will be made available after the service. For details see the Parish Resources page on the St Helen's web site https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html

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

HOLY WEEK COMPLINE at St Helen's Church, Monday to Wednesday 29-31 March at 8.00 pm. Booking is required. Please contact the Parish office. "Jesus – Tempted yet Faithful" - three different ministers will explore the ways in which Jesus made the choice for good, from beginning to end, and some of the meanings for us. It is yet to be confirmed if these can be zoomed or recorded; please check the St Helen's website if you are interested.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER DAY: We invite you to make a donation towards lilies and other flowers as we celebrate Easter. It would be most helpful if you could let Hilary Clare know as soon as possible, and in any case before Maundy Thursday, by phone (525898), email (hilarymclare@gmail.com) or even in person. Payment will be more complicated this year, but we suggest that you put your donation in an envelope (marked Flowers, and with your name either on it or inside) and leave this in church - or drop in to Hilary at Blunsdon, Faringdon Road, OX14 1BQ. Preferably before Easter, but afterwards will be fine. With grateful thanks

SILENT REFLECTIONS We will still be 'at home' for Silent Reflections on Tuesday 30 March and Fr Paul is providing material on the theme "Who do you say I am?". This will aid us in our time through Holy Week as we look towards Easter. A copy will be emailed to those on our list, and made available from our website. The good news is that there is a strong possibility that we will be able to return to church for our April session. *Sue Sheppy*

LENT 2021 We have set a target of £500 to be divided equally between the two charities, *The Abingdon Bridge (TAB)* and *Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe*. The most convenient way to donate is by bank transfer to: NatWest Bank, Account no: 61580376 Sort code: 600101, account name Abingdon Parochial Church Council St Michael's Church; please use the reference LENT 2021. Alternatively cheques made payable to 'Abingdon Parochial Church Council St Michael's Church' may be sent to The Treasurer, St Michael's Church, Parish Office, St Helen's Court, Abingdon OX14 5BS. In the present circumstances it is not feasible to receive cash donations. Please make donations on or before Palm Sunday if you can so that a total can be announced on Easter Day.

BISHOP STEVEN'S SERIES OF PODCASTS from the autumn on Isaiah 40-55 have now been published as a short book under the title *Comfortable Words: a call to restoration*. The book is dedicated to the clergy and lay ministers, church wardens and volunteers of the Diocese of Oxford for "your outstanding and inspiring service over the past year". See our *Prayer and Worship Resources* page for more details.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION The date of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting is 29 April 2021. (Our Annual District Church Meeting is MONDAY 19 APRIL at 7pm via Zoom). On this basis, the Electoral Roll is being revised in the period Friday 12 March to Friday 2 April. 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 Meeting. If you are not already on the Electoral Roll and would like your name to be added, please complete the simple application form, available 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.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The next issue will be on Easter Day. We would like some photographs to illustrate 'New Life' which is springing up everywhere. Email contributions to Candle@abingdonparish.org.uk by the end of Monday 29th March. Thank you!

Meanwhile the March issue is available and can be downloaded from <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php>

Worship

This Week The president for Palm Sunday's Mass will be Fr Paul. He will preside on Maundy Thursday, the Easter Vigil on Saturday (assisted by the Revd Jen Brown) and on Easter Day. Canon Charles Masheder will lead the Good Friday liturgy. Collects and readings for each of these services can be found below. During Holy Week there are no commemorations in the calendar.

For Holy Week

From Christ Within Me – Prayers and meditations from the Anglo-Saxon tradition, selected, translated and edited by Benedicta Ward, SLG.

The Cross, the Tree of Life

Unclothed Himself God Almighty
whom he would mount the Cross
courageous in the sight of all men.
I bore the powerful King, the Lord of heaven;
I durst not bend.
Men mocked us both together
I was bedewed with blood.
Christ was on the Cross.
Then I leaned down to the hands of men
and they took God Almighty.

Behold the wood of the Cross
Whereon was hung the world's salvation;
Oh, come let us worship.

T.S. Eliot, Four Quartets (East Coker)

I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait without love
For love would be love of the wrong thing; yet there is faith
But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.
Wait without thought, for you are not ready for thought:
So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing.
Whisper of running streams, and winter lightning.
The wild thyme unseen and the wild strawberry,
The laughter in the garden, echoed in ecstasy
Not lost, but requiring, pointing to an agony
Of death and birth.

R.S. Thomas, Groping

Moving away is only to the boundaries
of the self. Better to stay here,
I said, leaving the horizons
clear. The best journey to make
is inward. It is the interior
that calls. Eliot heard it.
Wordsworth turned from the great hills
of the north to the precipice
of his own mind, and let himself
down for the poetry stranded
on the bare ledges.

For some
it is all darkness; for me, too,
it is dark. But there are hands
where I can take, voices to hear
solider than the echoes
without. And sometimes a strange light
shines, purer than the moon,
casting no shadow, that is
the halo upon the bones
of the pioneers who died for truth.

From Christ Within Me – Prayers and meditations from the Anglo-Saxon tradition, selected, translated and edited by Benedicta Ward, SLG.

A Rainbow

When the feast celebrating the anniversary of the death of bishop Wilfrid was over, the whole company went out of doors to sing Compline in the twilight. Suddenly a wonderful white arc shone before them in the sky; apart from lack of colour it looked exactly like a rainbow. We worshipped and praised the Lord for this sign, the Lord who is wonderful in his saints, for we clearly saw that he was with us, building a wall of protection around his chosen vineyard.

Please pray for:

- our observance of Holy Week that we might come to a joyful celebration of Easter;
- the success of our LENT Appeal for TARIRO Hope for Zimbabwe and TAB The Abingdon Bridge;
- preparation for our ADCM on Monday 19 April at 7pm and for the nomination of two Churchwardens and members to DCC, PCC;
- all those whose Easter faith has been dimmed and long for it to be rekindled;
- the suffering, recently departed and all whose year’s mind falls at this time;
- people living in Mill Road, Mill Stream Court, Mons Way and Mullard Way;

Eucharistic Lectionary

Palm Sun	Isaiah 50.4-9a	Ps 31.9-16	Philippians 2.5-11	[(Palm) Mark 11.1-11] Mark 15.1-39 [40-end] or Mark 14.1-end of 15
Mon	Isaiah 42.1-9	Ps 36.5-11	Hebrews 9.11-15	John 12.1-11
Tues	Isaiah 49.1-7	Ps 71.1-14	1 Cor. 1.18-31	John 12.20-36
Wed	Isaiah 50.4-9a	Ps 70	Hebrews 12.1-3	John 13.21-32
Thur	Exodus 12.1-4, 11-14	Ps 116.1, 10-end	1 Cor. 11.23-26	John 13.1-17, 31b-35
Fri	Isaiah 52.13 – end of 53	Ps 22	Hebrews 10.16-25	John 18.1 – end of 19
Sat Vigil/ Liturgy	Genesis 1.1-2.2 Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-18; 9.8-13 Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20-21 Ezekiel 36.24-28		Romans 6.3-11	Mark 16.1-8
Easter Sun	Isaiah 25.6-9	Ps 118.1-2,14-24	Acts 10.34-43	John 20.1-18 or Mark 16.1-8
Mon	Acts 2.14,22-32	Ps 16.1-2,6-end		Matthew 28.8-15
Tues	Acts 2.36-41	Ps 33.4-5,18-end		John 20.11-18
Wed	Acts 3.1-10	Ps 105.1-9		Luke 24.13-35
Thur	Acts 3.11-end	Ps 8		Luke 3 24.35-48
Fri	Acts 4.1-12	Ps 118.1-4,22-36		John 21.1-14
Sat	Acts 4.13-21	Ps 118.1-4,14-21		Mark 16.9-15

Collect (Palm Sunday)

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ... Amen.

Collect (Maundy Thursday)

God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may he nourish us by his presence and unite us in his love; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect (Good Friday)

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect (Easter Eve)

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through his merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect (Easter Vigil/ First Mass of the Resurrection/ Easter Day)

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen.

Some On-line Resources for Worship

The Diocese, Christ Church Cathedral, Community of the Resurrection and the Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham will all be offering a variety of services during Holy Week and Easter. For details please refer to their web sites. For readers comfortable with computer-mediated presence, the Community of the Resurrection hope to live-stream the all-night vigil at the altar of repose on Maundy Thursday/ Good Friday.

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.