



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

25th April 2021

Mark the Evangelist / 4th Sunday of Easter

Team Rector: The Revd Dr Charles Miller (520144)
Team Vicar: The Revd Paul Smith (534654)
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Churchwardens: Mr Peter Squire (797051)
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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.

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

Dear Friends

Today we keep the Feast of Mark, Apostle and Evangelist, and welcome the Revd Rosalind Rutherford to preside and preach and look forward to what she has to say to us. Thank you for giving her your customary welcome.

I am delighted to announce that at our Annual District Church Meeting (ADCM) on Monday 19 April, Joyce Kelly and Louise Heffernan, were nominated as Churchwardens for the forthcoming year. They will be elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Thursday 29 April, and sworn in at the Archdeacon's Visitation in September (the Visitations have been delayed this year as a result of the pandemic). Peter Squire steps down this year after a four year tenure and we are very grateful for all his hard work and diligence, not least in such an extraordinary year as 2020. Please pray for Joyce and Louise in their roles of leadership and give thanks for all that Peter has done in his time as Churchwarden.

It was very good to also receive nominations for Beryl Clements and Nicola Ng as new and first time members of our District Church Council (DCC) at the ADCM. We look forward to the valuable contribution they will make on DCC. Please also pray for them.

I want to look ahead by drawing your attention to the Feast of the Ascension which falls this year on **Thursday 13 May**. There will be two celebrations of the Eucharist in the parish that day. We will have a Said Mass here at **12.30pm** and warmly invite you to come to that service on this significant day in the liturgical year. The other celebration will be at St Nic's at **7.00pm**. In previous years that would have been for the whole parish, but numbers this year will, of course, will be limited. Please ensure that whichever service you are able to attend that you book your place. Details of how to book will be made available nearer the time.

With love and prayers.

Fr Paul

BOOKING INFORMATION If you wish to attend Mass on Sunday 25 April, **booking is essential**. Please contact **Church Warden Peter Squire** (details on the cover) before **12 noon on Friday 23 April**.

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.

SILENT REFLECTIONS on Tuesday 27 April will be held in St Michael's in the following manner. If you wish to attend, please text Sue on 07786 736 226. Entry will be by the north door of the church (by Albert Park). Masks will need to be worn and hand sanitisers will be available. Chairs will be set out 2 metres apart round the labyrinth. Sue Sheppy will introduce material on the theme "What brings you to your knees?". A copy will still be emailed to all those on our list, and made available from St Michael's website. If you can, print off your own copy to bring, but further copies will be available in church. Labyrinth walks will be possible one at a time.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING will take place on **Thursday 29 April at 7pm via Zoom**. The papers for the meeting and the annual report can be downloaded from <https://stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/download.html> A financial report will be added to this page when available. The Zoom link for the meeting will be sent out with the electronic copy of this pew leaflet to those on our email distribution list. Other readers wishing to attend the meeting are invited to contact a Church Warden for the link.

FAITH FORUM The Faith Forum talk in May will be given by Fr Paul Smith. Fr Paul will be speaking on "Thinking about the healing miracles of the gospels in the light of disability." The talk will be held on Zoom at 9.15am on Sunday, 2 May. The Zoom link for the meeting will be sent out with the electronic copy of this pew leaflet to those on our email distribution list. Other readers wishing to attend the meeting are invited to contact a Church Warden for the link.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK this year is from 10-16 May. A Zoom Quiz is planned for 7 May, further details will be provided when received. On-line donations can be made at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/> - this page also includes details of the e-envelope scheme which enables individuals to set up a fund-raising scheme for Christian Aid.

VACANCY Following the announcement that Jenny Balshaw will be leaving her post at the end of next month, the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames has a vacancy for a senior administrative position. The post will be part time, hours to be agreed with the Rector. The post requires a variety of skills to enable support for the three churches in the parish, clergy team and lay church officers. Please contact the Parish office for more information and application details. Telephone 01235 520144. The closing date for applications is **Wednesday 5 May**.

LENT 2021 We have received £1040 in donations for our Lent appeal for *The Abingdon Bridge (TAB)* and *Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe*. In addition, as a result of some digging by our treasurer, a way has been found to claim gift aid on eligible donations, so the overall total raised is £1237.50, £618.75 for each charity. Our target was £500, so this is a wonderful result and we are very grateful to everyone who contributed.

ELECTORAL ROLL The revision of the roll has now been completed and the draft revised roll is displayed on the church web site. Any error or omission should be notified to Keith Bowman (keithdm.bowman@btinternet.com or 01235 528962) **by 28 April**.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The third issue for 2021, which includes a number of contributions from members of our congregation, is now available and can be downloaded from <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php>.

NEW PODCAST: COME AND EAT Series six of Bishop Steven's popular podcasts has just started. This series focusses on Holy Communion. See the *Prayer and Worship* resources page on our web site for the link.

Worship

This Week the president and preacher for Sunday Mass will be the Revd Rosalind Rutherford, followed by Canon Charles Masheder (2 May) and Fr Paul/ Mrs Beryl Clements (9 May). Our parish is keeping the festival of Mark the Evangelist on Sunday, which is also *Vocations Sunday* in the Church of England. The festival of Philip and James, Apostles falls on Saturday (commemorated together because the Church in Rome (*Santi Apostoli*) where their relics rest was dedicated on this day in 560). There are commemorations of Christina Rossetti, poet, 1894 on Tuesday, Peter Chanel, missionary, martyr, 1841 on Wednesday, Catherine of Siena, teacher of the faith, 1380 on Thursday and Pandita Mary Ramabai, translator, 1932 on Friday.

Pandita Mary Ramabai was born in Gangamul, near Mangalore in India in 1858, the daughter of a Sanskrit scholar. Her early life was tragic; both her parents and her sister died of starvation within months of one another and she and her brother then moved to Calcutta. There she became known for her extraordinary teaching skills and the University of Calcutta gave her the title 'Pandita' (Wise Teacher). She came into contact with Christianity, first through the Society of St John the Evangelist (Cowley Fathers) in Poona in India, then she moved to England to study and was invited to stay with the Wantage Sisters, the Community of St Mary the Virgin, at their London Rescue Home. She was baptised and after travel to the USA she returned to India and learnt Greek and Hebrew and worked on a translation of the scriptures into Marathi, with a specific audience of uneducated women of lower castes. She died in 1922 as she was completing final checking of her translation. Some links to resources about her can be found on our *Prayer and Worship Resources* page.

Nicolas Ferrar of Little Gidding Prompted by Tom Bewley's article in issue 3 (2021) of *A Candle in the Window*, the editor decided to re-read A.L. Maycock's biography of Nicolas Ferrar. Whilst Ferrar was a student at Cambridge (early 1600s) the plague struck. "... as soon as a case of plague was reported in the town, the university authorities were accustomed to suspend all lectures and to grant a general leave of absence without loss of stipend or privileges. Tutors hastily retired into the country with their pupils; the colleges shut their gates and stood as in a state of siege; the university was quickly deserted. Whilst Nicolas was in residence there were at least three serious epidemics." Later Ferrar travelled to Europe and again encountered the plague in Germany which resulted in the Venetian authorities imposing strict quarantine rules. Apparently the procedure was that the traveller had to be in possession of a certificate of health which must be carried at all times and shown on demand. Otherwise the traveller was required to remain in a state *lazaretto* (pest-house) for forty days "there [the traveller] shall have convenient lodging and diet at his pleasure". Accounts written at the time indicate the pest houses were places of appalling filth and squalor. For Ferrar, however, his period in the pest-house coincided with Lent and to him the conditions for spending this penitential season were welcome and appropriate.

Please pray for:

- vocations to all forms of ministry and religious life, from all sections of the community;
- the people of India and Myanmar and for all troubled places in the world;
- for all victims of racism and for respect for all humanity;
- the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Thursday and for Joyce and Louise to be elected as Churchwardens for this congregation;
- for the work of our District Church Council and for Beryl Clements and Nicola Ng, new elected members;
- the suffering, recently departed and all whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in Orpwood Way, Overmead, Oxford Road and Palmer Place.

Eucharistic Lectionary

(On Sundays in Eastertide the reading from Acts must always be used as either first or second reading. At St Michael's it will be the only reading preceding the Gospel.) The readings for Sunday are for the festival of Mark the Evangelist, the readings for the 4th Sunday of Easter are also included. The readings that will be used at our Mass are shown in bold.

Sun Mark 4 Easter	Acts 15.35-end Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-18, 9.8-13	Ps 119.9-16 Ps 23	Ephesians 4.7-16 Acts 4.5-12	Mark 13.5-13 John 10.11-18
Mon	Acts 11.1-18;	Ps 42.1-2, Ps 43.1-4		John 10.1-10 (<i>or</i> 11-18)
Tues	Acts 11.19-26	Ps 87		John 10.22-30
Wed	Acts 12.24-13.5	Ps 67		John 12.44-end
Thur	Acts 13.13-25	Ps 89.1-2, 20-26		John 13.16-20
Fri	Acts 13.26-33	Ps 2		John 14.1-6
Sat Philip and James	Isaiah 30.15-21	Ps 119.1-8	Ephesians 1.3-10	John 14.1-14

Collect (Mark the Evangelist)

Almighty God, who enlightened your holy Church through the inspired witness of your evangelist Saint Mark: grant that we, being firmly grounded in the truth of the gospel, may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord... Amen.

Prayer after Communion (Mark the Evangelist)

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect (Vocations Sunday)

Almighty God, you have entrusted to your Church a share in the ministry of your Son our great high priest: inspire by your Holy Spirit the hearts of many to offer themselves for the ministry of your Church, that strengthened by his power, they may work for the increase of your kingdom and set forward the eternal praise of your name; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord... Amen.

Collect (4th Sunday of Easter)

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever... Amen.

Collect (Philip and James, 1 May)

Almighty Father, whom truly to know is eternal life: teach us to know your Son Jesus Christ as the way, the truth and the life; that we may follow the steps of your holy apostles Philip and James, and walk steadfastly in the way that leads to your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ... Amen.

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) Online each Sunday 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>. 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

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