



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

2nd May 2021
5th Sunday of Easter

Team Rector: The Revd Dr Charles Miller (520144)
Team Vicar: The Revd Paul Smith (534654)
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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 is the Fifth Sunday of Easter and it seems that we are galloping through Eastertide! Nevertheless, we keep focussed on that sense of new life and joy as our Alleluias continue to ring out as the Risen Lord points us to hope and peace in our lives, church, and world. We welcome Canon Charles Masheder as our president and preacher today. I look forward to being with you again next Sunday (9 May) and to the preaching ministry of Beryl Clements who will deliver the sermon.

You will see elsewhere in the pewleaflet that I am giving a talk this morning to the *Faith Forum*, which is why I am not with you. The invitation to speak about Jesus' healing miracles from the perspective of someone with a disability came as a result of my planned Sabbatical which as you know has had to be postponed. Part of the Sabbatical was to be spent studying some of the healing miracles in the above way. However, because of the postponement what I will be offering will be in less depth, and my aim is to look at perhaps two of the miracles which I have wrestled with over the years from within my own experience; the resolutions I may have reached and the questions that I may still have. If you are unable to join the Zoom link, (which will remain available after the talk on the St Helen's website), but would like a script, I would be happy to make that available if you let me know.

Finally, we have all been aware in recent days of the overwhelming situation in India as a result of the pandemic. It brings into clearer focus how fortunate we are to have the vaccine programme, the sacrificial dedication of doctors and nurses and other health professionals in our own country, and the work of the NHS. Moreover, it brings us back to the sense of gratitude we must have even in what have been such challenging times for us all. So as we pray for the people of India, let us pray also for the grace to be ever more thankful for all our privileges, and live with a renewed sense of daily gratitude for all God's blessings.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

With love and blessings,

Fr Paul

BOOKING INFORMATION If you did not confirm your place with the sidesperson last Sunday, please contact **Joyce Kelly** (details on cover) before **12 Noon on Friday** to ensure we have space for you.

CHURCH KEYS Could anyone who has any Church keys, please notify Joyce Kelly so that she can update the key holders list.

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.

ASCENSION DAY this year falls on Thursday 13 May. Mass will be said at St Michael's at **12.30pm** and there will also be a celebration at St Nicolas' Church at **7.00pm**. Booking will be essential and further details will be announced next Sunday.

DIOCESAN CHURCH AT HOME services are coming to an end. *From Diocesan e-News* "We are so grateful to everyone who has volunteered their talents and time to Church at Home this year, and to all of you who have supported the service - it's been a joy to worship alongside you. With onsite worship on the horizon and hundreds of churches offering their own online services, our final Church at Home will be on Sunday 17 May. We hope you will join us to worship together and pray for God's peace in whatever the future may hold."

FAITH FORUM The Faith Forum talk today (Sunday 2 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. 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. 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. The virtual quiz event, Quiztians, first run in 2020 will be run again this year, hosted by special guests Tobi and Prisca Bakare, Rhidian Brook, Kris Marshall, Kate Bottley and Rowan Williams. This will be at 7pm on Saturday 9 May. For registration (essential) and further details please see <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/virtual-events>

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 In response to our donation to TARIRO, Fr Nicolas CR wrote: "I am really touched that with all the difficulties of fund raising this year you managed to raise so much. I think it is wonderful that people in this country care so much for kids they never see." For the latest news from TARIRO see <https://tarirouk.com/news/honde-valley-agriculture/> - a new project run by graduates from the TARIRO Youth Project to set up a small farm to produce good crops for sale locally.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The May edition will be available on or just before Sunday 9 May which is the start of Christian Aid Week. The third issue for 2021, which includes a number of contributions from members of our congregation, 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 Canon Charles Mashedor (2 May), Fr Paul/ Mrs Beryl Clements (9 May) and the Revd Dr Charles Miller (16 May). There are commemorations of the English saints and martyrs of the Reformation Era on Tuesday and Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer, c. 1417 on Saturday.

Julian of Norwich experienced a series of sixteen revelations on aspects of the love of God on 8 May 1373. Her real name is unknown, but at some unknown point in her life she became an anchoress attached to the Church of St Julian in Norwich and it was by that name that she became known to later generations. The passages below are extracts from the start and end of a chapter on Julian of Norwich by Rowan Williams in his book *Holy Living*.

Julian's immense appeal to most readers is that she represents in some sense a theology that leads into contemplative awareness; uninterested in winning arguments and consolidating formulae, she speaks repeatedly of what she *sees* and what is 'shown'. The mind or sensibility she embodies is a receptive one, taking time to absorb what has been manifested.

... [So] prayer for Julian is bound up with self-awareness, a keen eye for what is getting in the way of God's active being in us; and it will flourish as and when we stop trying to pray in order to make something happen on God's part and so become more fully aligned with the simple 'happening of God' which is going on unbrokenly in all reality. The stilling of our activity and the focus of our attention on what is, not on what we are bringing about – this is the prayer Julian implicitly commends to us.

Please pray for:

- Steven and Gavin our bishops;
- The Revd Helen Kendrick, our Area Dean, unwell at this time;
- the response of the Church of England following its report on racism, for healing of those who have been hurt and damaged and for respect for all people in line with God's unconditional love;
- the work of our Parochial Church Council (PCC) in the coming year, following our Annual Parochial Church Meeting last week, for all elected Churchwardens in our parish, especially Joyce and Louise in this congregation;
- the people of India suffering as a result of the pandemic, medical professionals and politicians responding to the crisis and international agencies seeking to provide much-needed resources;
- Orthodox churches for whom today is Easter Day;
- the suffering, recently departed and all whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in Park Crescent, Park Road, Parsons Mead and Penlon 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.)

Sun Easter 5	Baruch 3.9-15, 22-4.4 or Genesis 22.1-18	Ps 22.25-end	Acts 8.26-end	John 15.1-8
Mon	Acts 14.5-18;	Ps 118.1-3, 14-15		John 14.21-26
Tues	Acts 14.19-end	Ps 145.10-end		John 14.27-end
Wed	Acts 15.1-6	Ps 122.1-5		John 15.1-8
Thur	Acts 15.7-21	Ps 96.1-3, 7-10		John 15.9-11
Fri	Acts 15.22-31	Ps 57.8-end		John 15.12-17
Sat	Acts 16.1-10	Ps 100		John 15.18-21

Collect (5th Sunday of Easter)

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever... Amen.

Prayer after Communion (5th Sunday of Easter)

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. 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/> The final *Church at Home* will be on Sunday 17 May.

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.