



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

11th July 2021

6th Sunday after Trinity

Team Rector: The Revd Dr Charles Miller (520144)
Team Vicar: The Revd Paul Smith (534654)
e-mail: paul315smith@btinternet.com

Churchwarden: Miss Joyce Kelly (533555)
(07833 535768)
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(designate) Mrs Louise Heffernan (01235 525412)
(07779 650968)
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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: Moving Forward

Dear Friends

At the beginning of last week the Prime Minister announced that, subject to a review in a week's time, all Covid-19 restrictions will be lifted from Monday 19 July. For some this will be very much a cause of celebration, while for others it will be a time of renewed anxiety and concern. To not legislate any longer (especially concerning the matter of mask wearing), and to trust in people's common sense and personal responsibility on the one hand is both hopeful and laudable, and yet I fear on the other hand, is hasty and dangerous. I long to be proved wrong, with the majority surprising me with the 'common sense' to which the Prime Minister refers.

What we all know is that the Coronavirus is here to stay. Furthermore, infection rates are rising at an alarming rate and in Oxford city (at the time of writing) I understand we are among the highest in the country. Yet one of the arguments for lifting all restrictions is because the summer season is the best time to do it and preferable to the Autumn or Winter.

I have to confess that there is within me a sense of uneasiness about such a drastic approach while, for many reasons, I recognise that relaxation is necessary.

My greatest hope is that as a national church we can respond generously, hopefully, and charitably. The House of Bishops is yet to issue its guidance as to how we move forward with those things which we have not been doing for all these months. I hope this information will come to us soon, via the diocese, and I expect that in our own parish we will move forward together in a common approach in our three congregations.

Whatever decisions are made, we know that God goes through this with us. We are neither abandoned nor alone. The words of the prophet Isaiah, beautifully inscribed at the centre of the Labyrinth at the West End of our church could not be a more fitting reminder: 'Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name you are mine....' (Isaiah 43.1b).

With love and prayers

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.

It will **not** be necessary to book if you are attending Mass at 12.30 pm on **Thursday** because numbers are likely to be smaller than Sundays. However, please be mindful that it is essential that you sign-in on the list at the table by the North Door on arrival; sanitise your hands as usual; and take note of where to sit when taking your place; thank you for keeping us all safe in this way. If you have any queries about Thursday Mass attendance please do speak with **Fr Paul** or **Joyce Kelly**.

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.

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED! A new parish website is being created on which St Michael's will have its own section. Louise would appreciate it very much if you could send her photographs of past events and activities such as special services, circle dancing, visits, the fete or the pilgrimage - anything which gives an idea of what happens at St Michaels in normal times. (Please ask permission if anyone's face is clearly visible.) Please send to lheff@stmichaels-abingdon.org if possible for 21/07/2021. *Louise Heffernan*

THE COMMUNITY OF THE RESURRECTION are holding their Annual Festival on Saturday 10 July. The main events are The Festival Day Mass at 12.30 pm, preacher, Fr Robert Igo, Abbot of Ampleforth, 4.00 pm Benediction, 5.00 pm Solemn Evensong. Events will be live-streamed on the Community's facebook channel, <https://www.facebook.com/Mirfieldservices/> and through the web site <https://mirfield.org.uk/live-streaming/> There are links to these sites on our *Prayer and Worship Resources* web page, including a link to the service booklets. A number of brethren will be giving talks which will be available through the YouTube channel. The day is focusing on our environment and our response to it. At the time of writing the detailed programme of talks was awaited, but there are introductory talks by Nathan, a postulant in the Community, Charlie Novice CR and *The Spirituality of the Concern for the Environment* by Fr Nicolas CR available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL-DJYEgyOPWzhTa4eVMSUQ> If you have access to YouTube, these are, in the editor's view, well-worth listening to.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The July edition of 'A Candle in the Window' is available to download from It can be downloaded from <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php>. This contains the usual rich mixture: priests, poets, a drummer, bell ringers, at least one walker and several forms of recreation. Oh and some maths homework. What is not to like as they say? The next issue will be published in September.

COME AND EAT The final episode of Bishop Steven's podcast on the Eucharist, *Come and Eat* has now been released. All episodes are available to listen to on SoundCloud, <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/our-faith/come-and-eat/>. Transcripts of the talks are available through Bishop Stephen's blog, <https://blogs.oxford.anglican.org/series/my-extraordinary-family/>

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON are hosting an event on Friday 30 July from 1pm to 3pm at the Long Alley Almshouses to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Almshouse Association of which the charity is a member. The Long Alley Garden, Hall and one of the almshouses will be open and light refreshments will be served.

ABINGDON PASSION PLAY The Abingdon Passion Play committee is due to meet on 18 July 2021 to keep alive the possibility of a new production in the not too distant future. Anyone interested in joining us is invited to contact the chairman, John Clare, at johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com.

THE ANNUAL PRIME TIME SUMMER EVENT is taking place at Christ Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon, 5-8 August. The event is designed for people who are retired. Although it is run at church, it is open to the entire community; people of all faiths or none. The programme is structured around our memory of distant school days. Further information and the outline programme can be found at: <https://cca.uk.net/events/2315/joy!/>

THE REVD JEN BROWN WRITES: *Research Survey: Listening to Christian religious teaching.* I am inviting people to take part in an on-line survey as part of my PhD research. Specifically, I am looking for people aged 18+ in the UK who regularly attend church to take part in this study. The aim of this study is to examine the thoughts and feelings that result from listening to Christian religious teaching using music and the spoken word. If you choose to take part in this survey, you will be asked to listen to a recording and answer questions about what you have heard, together with questions about your own feelings.

This study has received ethics approval from Coventry University, where I am a student. Participation in the survey is voluntary and all responses are anonymous. If you have any questions or would like more information before taking the survey, or would like the survey link emailed to you, please feel free to contact me using my university email: brownj68@uni.coventry.ac.uk. To take the survey, you can type or copy & paste this link into your web browser: https://coventry.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5mye8G2StpYssv3

Worship

This Week Celebrants and preachers for the next 3 weeks (the end of the current rota) are 11 July Fr Paul/Mrs Beryl Clements, 18 July the Revd Rosalind Rutherford, 25 July Fr Paul.

11 July is the commemoration of Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, Father of Western Monasticism, Patron of Europe, who died around 500. However, being a Sunday this year, the 6th Sunday after Trinity takes precedence. John Keble, priest, poet, 1866 is commemorated on Wednesday then Swithun, bishop, c.862 and Bonaventure, friar, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1274 on Thursday and Osmund, bishop, 1099 on Friday.

Bonaventure was born in Italy in 1218 and became a Franciscan Friar in 1243. (St Francis was born in 1182 and wrote the first Rule, 'a way of life', for his brothers in 1209.) His intellectual abilities were soon recognised and at the age of 36 he was elected Minister-General of the Franciscans and gave the order a stability in training and administration that was previously lacking. Bonaventure was noted for his ability to reconcile opposing views which led to Pope Gregory X appointing him cardinal bishop of Albano in Italy, reportedly against his will. It is said that he kept the papal messengers waiting whilst he finished the washing-up. He is credited with bringing about a temporary reunion of the churches in the East and West. He upheld all the teaching of St Francis except that Francis felt the Order should possess no books. Bonaventure died on this day in 1274. A number of his writings, commentaries on scripture and philosophical works, are available in modern editions and translations.

Tangentially related to this, Nathan in his introductory video to the CR Festival Day says:

One of the sages came to Anthony the Just, that is St Anthony of the Desert and said 'Father, how can you endure being deprived the comfort of books?' and he said 'My book, philosopher, is the nature of beings, and it is there when I want to read the words of God'.

St Augustine writes 'the universe was written by God as a book and scripture was made by God as a universe. If we can encounter God on the leaf of a page, then why not on an actual leaf? If we are close and attentive readers of scripture then we should become close and attentive of the whole universe.'

Please pray for:

- Steven and Gavin our bishops;
- the mission and ministry of the church especially as we emerge from the pandemic and restrictions are lifted;
- The Anglican Society of St Francis, all Benedictine Communities, the Community of the Resurrection and all religious communities in the Anglican Communion;
- more vocations to the religious life;
- the suffering, recently departed and all whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in Stonehill Walk, Stratton Way, Suffolk Way and Sutton Close.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun	Amos 7.7-15	Ps 85.8-end	Ephesians 1.3-14	Mark 6.14-29
Mon	Exodus 1.8-14,22	Ps 124		Matthew 10.34-11.1
Tues	Exodus 2.1-15	Ps 69.1-2,31-end		Matthew 11.20-24
Wed	Exodus 3.1-6,9-12	Ps 103.1-7		Matthew 11.25-27
Thur	Exodus 3.13-20	Ps 105.1-2,23		Matthew 11.28-end
Fri	Exodus 11.10-12.14	Ps 116.10-end		Matthew 12.1-8
Sat	Exodus 12.37-42	Ps 136.1-4,10-15		Matthew 12.14-21

Collect (6th Sunday after Trinity)

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, ... Amen.

Prayer after Communion (6th Sunday after Trinity)

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ 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

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 (check the web site for time), <https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/>