



St MICHAEL & ALL
ANGELS CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

18th July 2021
7th 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)
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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: Breaking Down Barriers

Dear Friends

In writing to the Ephesians Paul finishes the passage we shall hear today with a number of construction metaphors. Christ is the master builder. He demolishes an old dividing wall – here between Jew and Gentile, circumcised and uncircumcised – and he puts in its place one temple. He himself is the cornerstone, the prophets and apostles form the foundation, and from the cornerstone the whole building is built.

We tend to like building walls. Somehow we believe they protect us and make us feel safe. Even within the Church, it seems barriers are constructed against those of different church traditions and with differing views. There should be no dividing walls for there are no walls within the body of Christ. Walls are not needed, for the sole reason that our security is found in him, who loves and values all of us equally.

With the lifting of restrictions from tomorrow by the Government, there will be a lot of work to be done in re-building. It will be only after the restrictions are lifted that advice will be issued by the church. Whatever is said, given that numbers of infections are exponentially high (and even a small number of deaths being reported in our area in the last week) I think we shall need to move forward gently and carefully. The Clergy and Wardens of the parish will meet tomorrow morning (Monday 19 July) to talk through how we begin to live safely with the lifting of restrictions. Please would you pray for that meeting: for wisdom in discerning what is best at this time, that we may move forward in one heart and mind, respectfully and lovingly in a time of continued uncertainty.

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.

PAT ASHTON died in the John Radcliffe Hospital on Sunday 11 July, after a short illness. She celebrated her 91st birthday in March and with her late husband, Hugh, had worshipped at St Michael's since the early 1990s. In recent years ill-health has prevented her from attending Sunday services, but members of our congregation have been in weekly contact with her until Covid-19 restrictions made this impossible. She was a faithful member of the Walsingham group, having organised the annual pilgrimage for several years, continuing to join the pilgrimage until again, ill-health intervened. Just to take one example of Pat's contribution at St Michael's, the Newsletter for 1997 recorded thanks from Pat and the late Dr Joan Norris to all who supported a sale of goods on 8 December 1996 to support the work of Dr Francesca Elloway (CMS). Among Pat's many contributions outside the parish, she was very active in local government and served as Mayor of Wallingford and later was appointed an Alderman Emeritus in recognition of her years of service to the town. Pat's family has asked that her Funeral take place here in St Michael's and details of that, and what is possible, will be made known when they become available. We send our condolences to her family and friends. *May she rest in peace rise in glory!*

SILENT REFLECTIONS will be held on Tuesday 27 July at 7.30 pm; the precise manner will depend on the restrictions in place at the time. It is likely that the wearing of masks will be optional, and that refreshments will be available at the end. Rosalind Rutherford will introduce material on the theme: *The Lilies of the Field*. A copy will still be emailed to all those on our list, and made available on our *Prayer and Worship Resources* page. Paper copies will be available in church.

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*

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The next issue will be in September. That means you have time to catch up and we have time for a breather. The current and past issues can be downloaded from <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php>. Thanks are due to over 70 people who have contributed since lockdown began.
Rob Rutherford.

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

THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN CLIMATE NETWORK RELAY (YCCN), from the G7 in Cornwall to COP26 in Glasgow, is raising awareness of the need for climate justice and fair finance. The draft Relay route passes through the Diocese of Oxford in late July and mid-August. Parishes are strongly encouraged to support this courageous project, which is open to all ages but led by young Christians. The YCCN website <https://www.yccn.uk/> lists many opportunities for support by churches and individuals.

EQUIPPING FOR LIFE – LEARNING FOR DISCIPLESHIP AND MINISTRY Our diocese is offering a range of training and learning opportunities aimed at encouraging and equipping mission and ministry both in and through the local church. Details of the forthcoming courses for September to December 2021 are now available at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/our-faith/lifelong-learning/> Courses include Introduction to Worship (focusing on Morning and Evening Prayer and the Service of the Word) and Topics in Christian Doctrine. The correct booking link is on this web page, a link published in the programme brochure is no longer operative.

Worship

This Week Celebrants and preachers for the next month are 18 July the Revd Rosalind Rutherford, 25 July Fr Paul, 1 August Fr Paul and 8 August Fr Paul/ Mrs Beryl Clements.

Thursday is the feast of Mary Magdalene. Commemorations this week include on Monday Gregory, bishop and his sister Macrina, deaconess, teachers of the faith, c.394 and c.379; on Tuesday Margaret of Antioch, martyr, 4th century and Bartolomé de las Casas, Apostle to the Indies, 1566; finally on Saturday Bridget, abbess, 1373.

Mary Magdalene is given a unique place in each of the four gospels. She stayed beside the cross during the crucifixion and was the first of Jesus' followers to discover the empty tomb on Easter morning. She was the first person to whom the risen Lord appeared and was sent to give the good news of the resurrection to the other disciples. *From a homily of Gregory the Great*, which reflects on some verses in the Gospel that will be read at Mass on Thursday (John 20.1-2, 11-18).

'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?' Mary is asked the cause of her sorrow so that her desire may increase, for as she names the one she seeks, she discovers herself burning with yet greater love for him. 'And Jesus said to her: "Mary"' First of all he called her 'woman', the common address at that time for one of her sex, and she did not recognise him. But now he calls her by her own name, as if to say: 'Recognise the one who recognises you.' You will remember that the Lord had said to Moses, 'I know you by name.' Moses was his own name, and the Lord told him that he knew him by name, as if saying 'I do not know you in some general way. I know you personally.' In the same way, he addressed her by her own name. Mary too recognised her creator and

immediately calls out 'Rabbouni', that is 'teacher'. Outwardly, it was he who was the object of her search, but inwardly it was he who was leading her to search for him.

Bartolomé de las Casas was born in 1484 at Las Casas in Seville, Spain. In 1502 he arrived in Haiti and was at first a willing participant in the conquest of the Carribean. But he did not remain indifferent to the treatment of the Indians and in 1532 became a Dominican friar after witnessing injustices inflicted on them. He was consecrated Bishop of Chiapa in Mexico in 1543. He died in 1566 in Madrid. He exposed the oppression of indigenous peoples by Europeans and called for the abolition of slavery. He worked out a plan for peaceful colonisation by recruiting Spanish farmers as colonists. A group of farm labourers departed for America in 1520 but they were insufficient in number, local opposition grew, including an attack from the Indians and the plan failed. But Bartolomé is remembered as a man of unquestioned courage and a theologian of great depth. He set out the challenge of the gospel in a world of injustice. From Las Casas: *In search of the Poor of Jesus Christ* by Gustavo Gutierrez.

Bartolomé was seized with a passion: his love for the living Jesus Christ, scourged, buffeted, crucified, and murdered in the 'captive poor' of the Indies 'not once, but thousands of times'. Their spoilage, exploitation, and murder was 'blasphemy of the name of Christ'. His definitive argument is drawn from the Parable of the Sheep and Goats in the Gospel of Matthew. He argues that an act addressed to the poor always reaches the God present in the poor. And in a commentary on the words of Christ 'You fed me nothing ... you gave me no water ...' Bartolomé insists: 'They are damned, not for doing evil, but for not doing good'. The poor of the Indies are being robbed, he argued, and in them, Christ himself.

Please pray for:

- all working in the NHS at this time of uncertainty;
- all those anxious about the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions;
- the breaking down of barriers that divide peoples and nations;
- the suffering, recently departed and all whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in Sympson Close, Tannery Court, Tennyson Drive and Thames Street.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun	Jeremiah 23.1-6	Ps 23	Ephesians 2.11-end	Mark 6.30-34,53-end
Mon	Exodus 14.5-18	Ps 136.1-4,10-15		Matthew 12.38-42
Tues	Exodus 14.21-15.1	Ps 105.37-44		Matthew 12.46-end
Wed	Exodus 16.1-5,9-15	Ps 78.17-31		Matthew 13.1-9
Thur Mary Magdalene	Song of Solomon 3.1-4	Ps 42.1-10	2 Corinthians 5.14-17	John 20.1-2,11-18
Fri	Exodus 20.1-17	Ps 19.7-11		Matthew 13.18-23
Sat	Exodus 24.3-8	Ps 50.1-6,14-15		Matthew 13.24-30

Collect (7th Sunday after Trinity)

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ... Amen.

Prayer after Communion (7th Sunday after Trinity)

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect (Mary Magdalene)

Almighty God, whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be a witness to his resurrection: forgive our sins and heal us by your grace, that we may serve you in the power of his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, 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

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/>