



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

3rd October 2021

Harvest Festival / 18th Sunday after Trinity

Regular Service Times

Sundays: Sung Mass, 9.30 am
Tuesdays: Silent Reflections, last Tuesday of the month (except December)
Thursdays: Said Mass, 12.30 pm

ABINGDON FAIR: ENTRANCE TO PARK ROAD IS FROM FARINGDON ROAD TODAY

Contacts

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.

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: 'All good gifts around us, are sent from heaven above'

Dear Friends

There are many Harvest hymns we have come to love over the years. The line 'All good gifts around us' from Matthias Claudius' Harvest hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter', and which we shall sing at the Offertory today, always pricks my conscience. It reminds me of how much I take for granted and of my strange assumption that everything is going to stay the same. In common with others, my experience of the last eighteen months has turned that on its head! I have learned afresh that things can take us by surprise; we cannot always be in control of what happens; and ultimately 'our times are in God's hands'. (Psalm 31.15). Covid has awakened in us the ability to observe the things we sometimes miss because we spend our time rushing from one thing to another and failing to pause long enough to notice the beauty of God's creation around us.

A second well-loved Harvest hymn is our opening hymn today: 'Come ye thankful people, come'. In this hymn, I respectfully take issue with Henry Alford's line: 'God our Maker, doth provide for our *wants* to be supplied'. My understanding of God the creator's generosity is that he does not supply what we *want*, but what we *need*. And there is a big difference! Recent events have sharpened the divide between rich and poor in our nation and across the world. With the damage that is being done to our planet through greed, waste, and carelessness, we are called, as part of our discipleship, not least in this time in history, to reassess how we reverence creation, care for God's earth for those who come after us, and how we should walk more gently upon the earth.

God gives us our own particular gifts with which to serve him. As the elections for General Synod approach – and mentioned elsewhere in today's pewleaflet and in our prayer points – you will note that two of our lay people in the parish are bringing their own gifts in standing for election. I do commend Alex Scott to you from our own congregation to your prayers in particular, as she stands for election. It is heartening that we have such an able young person among us who is willing to stand to represent the diocese on General Synod. With so many important issues that will be debated over the next five years throughout the church, we pray for the outpouring of the Spirit on all those who will be elected to this body within our church.

This harvest, as we give thanks for all God's good gifts, and his faithfulness in meeting our needs, may we be inspired to act and pray for the future of our world, our church, and for all those who are in material need today.

With love and blessings *Fr Paul*

Father Paul's Reduced Working Hours: I shall be continuing to work to a reduced working pattern until **Wednesday 6 October** at which point I will be reviewed by the doctor. Should this need to be extended, this information will of course be shared as soon as possible thereafter. Thank you all for support and prayers which I have appreciated. *Fr Paul*

ABINGDON FAIR The usual entrances to Park Road from Conduit Road and Victoria Road will be **closed on 3 October** because of Abingdon Fair. Please use the entrance in Faringdon Road instead. Road closures should be lifted early on Wednesday 6 October.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE Vernon Butt died on 5 April 2020 during the first Covid-19 lockdown. There will be a thanksgiving service for his life on Sunday 31 October at 11.30 in St. Michael's.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH The Team Rector is leading a course on *Living in Love and Faith*. The course is for people aged 16-25. If interested, please speak to the Rector. Details are yet to be decided.

The second of the four Faith Forum sessions on this topic will be at St Helen's Church at 9.15 am on Sunday 3 October, although of course this time conflicts with our 9.30 am Sunday Mass. For those who would like to follow up the course for themselves, flyers are at the back of church with details, including the website which provides a wealth of information. Additionally, the Team Rector will be making available the handouts from the Faith Forum sessions. Alternatively, please contact Fr Paul if you would like one.

SURFING IN HEAVEN: A WEEK OF PRAYER is the title of an event held at Exeter Cathedral from 26 September to 2 October. The week was led by Father George Guiver CR and Sister Elizabeth Jane CSMV explored different ways of praying from engaging in the daily office (morning and evening prayer) to contemplative forms of prayer. The week started with a sermon by Fr George in the Sunday morning Eucharist followed by a discussion session in the evening, Sundays@6. Readers with internet access can find recordings of the sessions on the cathedral's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/exetercathedral>

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT ST HELEN'S CHURCH

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

Morning Prayer is beginning again and will be said publicly in St Helen's every weekday at 9.10am from tomorrow, **Monday 4 October**. *All Welcome*

GIFTS FOR HARVEST FESTIVAL: As we celebrate our Harvest Festival this Sunday we will again be supporting The Porch, in Oxford. They are currently raising money for their building project following the purchase of a former church which will provide a larger space for wheelchair access where they can provide care for a wider group of people. Covid has brought about an increased need and so this year we are asking for donations towards the cost of their building project. There will be basket at the back of the church for you to place your donation. Thank you in advance for your generosity. *Fr Paul*

MUSIC FOR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON The first of the series of three Sunday afternoon concerts being held at St Michael's over the next couple of months is this Sunday.

Sunday 3 October: 3.00pm Barbara Stuart (clarinet), Peter Willis (tenor) and Glynne Butt (piano) have chosen some of their favourite music for this concert. You can hear songs by Handel, Mozart, Vaughan Williams, and Britten; Clarinet solos by Mendelssohn and Finzi and piano music by Chopin. Not to be missed! There will be something for everyone. We do hope you will come along to support and to help us in raising money for church funds and bring your friends – although the main reason for coming is, of course, to enjoy some good music. Entrance to Park Road will be from Faringdon Road because of Abingdon Fair.

THE BEAUTIFUL COLOUR OF VOCATION is the title of an event in Oxford Cathedral on Saturday 30 October. "Black History Month is a moment to focus our minds once again on the injustice that UK minority ethnic people are currently underrepresented in church leadership, lay and ordained ministry and church officer posts. Revd Poly Falconer, our Diocesan UKME Enabler, has curated a series of events during October that are not to be missed, culminating in a special event at the Cathedral on Saturday 30 October." The series includes four on-line lectures, the first being on Monday 4 October from 6pm to 7pm, *Structures, Barriers, and Authenticity - UKME people's vital contribution through the church* by Mr Raj Patel. For further details and booking information please see <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/called-as-we-are/>

MOTHERS' UNION is having a session of circle dancing at Saint Michaels Church on Tuesday 5 October at 10:30am. Anyone who is interested is invited to come along and join in. See note above about access to Park Road.

MOVING INTO STILLNESS: circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes will be held St Michael and All Angels on Thursday 7 October from 9.45 – 10.45 am, before the regular circle dancing session at 11 am. Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed. Tea and coffee will be provided between the two sessions.

ST FRIDESWIDE PILGRIMAGE It was not possible to hold this event in 2020, but a pilgrimage to our cathedral is planned for Saturday 16 October. There are five pilgrimage routes to the cathedral, the longest is a route of 9 miles following the Thames Path from under Abingdon Bridge. The number of walkers on each route is limited to 25 and booking is essential. On arrival at the cathedral the programme includes prayer stations, tea in the Great Hall and a Pilgrimage service at 5pm. A number of tickets will be available for non-walkers. Ticket prices range from £2.50 to £6. For further details and booking (which appears to be on-line only *Ed*) see <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/oxford-cathedral/st-frideswide-pilgrimage>

THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH is presenting a quiet reflective study afternoon (2pm to 4pm) on Saturday 23 October at St Michael's at the North Gate Oxford. This will be a Zoom live-streamed event, but there might be space for limited personal attendance. The title is *St Teresa and the Garden of our Souls* and is to be given by Sister Clare-Louise SLG. See <https://www.ocsg.uk.net/events/st-teresa-and-garden-our-souls> for further details or phone 07523 529 621 for attendance in person.

AFGHAN REFUGEES - A CHANCE TO HELP Since 2016 St Ethelwold's House has provided accommodation for refugees and asylum-seekers, and we anticipate a huge increase in demand in the wake of the crisis in Afghanistan. All of us could help by making a standing order, and/or a one-off donation to Host Abingdon, Sort Code 40-35-34 Account No 34134214. Donors need to email the treasurer at ruth.sillitoe@gmail.com so that she knows who made the donation. Many thanks. *Mary Anderson and Gwen Bevington*

SPACE MAKERS Some readers might be interested in *Space Makers* the contemplative toolkit for schools, recently launched by the Diocese of Oxford, to help tackle the growing mental health crisis. This is based on five key practices, one for each day of the school week, of *Stilling, Noticing, Dwelling, Mending* and *Blessing* and includes the use of a simplified form of Ignatian and Examen spiritual practices. For more details see the diocesan web site <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/contemplative-space-makers-toolkit-for-schools-to-tackle-mental-health/>

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The September issue of *A Candle in the Window* (2021 Issue 7) is available for you to download from <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php>

PATHWAYS For readers with internet access, the Autumn 2021 edition of the diocesan magazine can be downloaded from <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/pathways-pdf-version/> There are some printed copies in church, last seen on the bookstall table by the south porch.

CANON HUGH WYBREW celebrated 60 years of ordination to the priesthood at St Mary Magdalen's Church in Oxford last Sunday where he sang the High Mass. Canon Wybrew has preached at St Michael's in the past and as a scholar of orthodox liturgy is often quoted in this pew leaflet.

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTIONS We were asked in the intercessions last Sunday to pray for the candidates in the 2021 General Synod elections. Clergy members of the Deanery Synods in the diocese can vote for clergy candidates and lay members for the lay candidates. The candidates from Abingdon Deanery include The Revd Kevin Mentzel (an Army Chaplain (with permission to officiate) who worships in Marcham Church) and Alex Scott and Carol Worthington. Another clergy candidate who will be familiar to some readers is Canon Toby Wright (Team Rector and Area Dean of Witney). Voting closes on 8 October. The full list of candidates with links to election addresses can be found at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/who-we-are/governance/general-synod-2021/>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Music for a Sunday Afternoon

Sunday 17 October: 4.00pm (Note later starting time) The Creation, Haydn. We are fortunate to welcome the East Oxford Community Choir together with their twin town choir from Grenoble, accompanied by a full orchestra to repeat for us a performance they are giving elsewhere the day before.

Sunday 14 November: 3.00pm Pavlova Winds with Glynne Butt (piano) will play trios by Poulenc and Glinka. Some exhilarating and tuneful music! We are delighted that all four players are available to repeat a concert they performed recently in Oxford.

Saturday 20 November: Autumn Fair: more details will follow.

Worship

This Week The celebrant and preacher this month are 3 and 10 October Fr Paul, the Revd Rosalind Rutherford on 17 October, Fr Paul/ Mrs Beryl Clements on 24 October and Fr Paul on 31 October (All Saints Sunday).

Commemorations this week include Francis of Assisi, friar, deacon, 1226 on Monday; William Tyndale, translator, martyr, 1536 on Tuesday and on Friday Denys, bishop, and companions, martyrs, c. 250 and Robert Grosseteste, bishop, philosopher, scientist, 1253.

Francis of Assisi It is appropriate to remember in our prayers the Anglican Society of St Francis, the nine houses around the UK of the brothers of the Society of St Francis and the sisters of the Community of St Francis. The First Order of the Society consists of men and women who live under vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. 'The object of the First Order is to build up a body of men and women who, accepting Christ as their Lord and Master, will seek to follow him in the way of renunciation and sacrifice as an act of witness and for the loving service of his brothers and sisters in the world'. (The principles of the First Order of SSF.) The Second Order is a community of women living under vows at a convent in Freeland, Oxfordshire. They follow the Rule of St Clare and are principally dedicated to the life of prayer. The Third Order (TSSF) European Province, consists of men and women, married and single, whose Rule of Life commits them to following the way of Francis and Clare through their daily life at home, at work and with the Christian community wherever they find themselves set. Finally the Companions of the Society of Saint Francis are those who, in the course of their Christian journey, have met or heard of the Sisters and Brothers, and have a desire to accompany them in the way of Christian commitment. While they do not wish, or are not in a position to live a life in community, Companions wish to support those who have been called to this way of life. For readers with internet access the Society's web site <https://www.franciscans.org.uk/> and the Third Order's web site <https://tssf.org.uk/> have a wealth of information about the Society.

Climate Change COP26 Continuing the Franciscan theme, *Seeing Differently* is a new book (published by Canterbury Press, January 2021) by Simon Cocksedge TSSF, Nicholas Alan SSF and Samuel SSF. From the publisher's description:

This timely book brings together the stories of Saint Francis – his rejection of wealth, caring for lepers, befriending animals and living simply, his poetry and hymnody in praise of creation that is still sung today – and the influential writings and examples of inspiring Franciscans who have followed him, such as Clare, Bonaventure, Duns Scotus and Angela of Foligno, drawing them into conversation with contemporary concerns for our planet.

It gathers 800 years of accumulated wisdom and practical examples of how Franciscans have found ways to live at home and at peace with creation. It explores that long tradition and experience to ask what lessons can be drawn for today to challenge and enable readers to re-visit their own relationship with creation.

THIS? (published by Kevin Mayhew) is a simple study guide produced by The Revd Susan Sayers TSSF. The author explains the title thus:

I realise that *THIS?* is rather a strange title! So I thought, maybe it should be followed by a question mark? In a way, the question mark is the journey of discovery which this book describes. That's because I want us to explore together the full reality of *THIS?*: where we actually are, who and what we really are, what is our 'This', and is God's 'This' a fuller reality? If so, how does that affect the way we lovers of the Creator react to Earth Warming?

Please pray for:

- Steven and Gavin our bishops, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- on this Harvest Thanksgiving for a greater reverence for the earth, its future, and gratitude for all we have;
- the Porch Steppin' Stone Centre, their clients, volunteers and staff;
- the Society of St Francis, the First, Second and Third Orders;
- candidates in the General Synod elections and the electors, especially Alex Scott from this congregation and Carol Worthington from St Helen's;
- the suffering, all who mourn, the recently departed, and all whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in Abbey Close, Abbott Road, Andersey Way and Anna Pavlova Close.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun Harvest Thanksgiving	Joel 2.21-27	Ps 126	1 Timothy 6.6-10	Matthew 6.25-33
Mon	Jonah 1.1-2.2,10	Ps 69.1-6		Luke 10.25-37
Tues	Jonah 3	Ps 130		Luke 10.38-end
Wed	Jonah 4	Ps 86.1-9		Luke 11.1-4
Thur	Malachi 3.13-4.2a	Ps 1		Luke 11.5-13
Fri	Joel 1.13-15, 2.1-2	Ps 9.1-7		Luke 11.15-26
Sat	Joel 3.12-end	Ps 97.1,8-end		Luke 11.27-28

Collect (Harvest Thanksgiving)

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ... Amen.

Prayer after Communion (Harvest Thanksgiving)

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect (18th Sunday after Trinity)

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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

Oxford Cathedral: 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 (5pm on Fridays). the Sunday Mass is live-streamed (usually at 7.30 am, but check the web site), <https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/>