



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

16th January 2022
2nd Sunday of Epiphany

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

Contacts

Team Rector: The Revd Dr Charles Miller (520144)
Team Vicar: The Revd Paul Smith (534654)
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Churchwardens: Miss Joyce Kelly (533555)
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Bookings*: Miss Joyce Kelly (as above)

Parish Office: **Normal hours:** The Parish office is open **Mondays to Thursdays, 10 am-1 pm.**
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]

The Promise of Care and Proclamation of Glory

Dear Friends

Today we welcome the Revd Rosalind Rutherford as our president and preacher and we look forward to her ministry among us.

As part of the Epiphany gospel readings we are today treated to the well-known account of the miracle at Cana in Galilee, when at a wedding, Jesus changes water into wine. It is his first miracle and it 'reveals his glory' and is therefore seen as one of the 'epiphanies' or 'showings' of who he is.

When we read the gospels, and perhaps particularly John's gospel, we can often see a deeper meaning beneath the story, even when the story includes a miracle. This first miracle of Jesus (John 2.1-11) which is a sign not only of human compassion or sympathy, but also of divine glory, a revelation of power that had been laid hidden from the beginning of all things. There had been many prophecies that the messiah would come, but the wonder of his coming was not known. He came not as a unique man of God's favour but as God himself, the Word made flesh. Jesus revealed himself not in the Temple or the Royal Palace of Jerusalem but at a wedding party in a small town in Galilee. It was in someone's home where supplies ran short. It was good wine and there was plenty of it. There was something like 600 litres of it. Not many people would decline an invitation to such a party! God is always generous in his care for the body and the soul and so we look for signs of his blessing, grace and glory in our lives as he promises to care for us at all times.

A final word about the District Church Council (DCC). At the time of writing we are preparing to meet this evening (Thursday 13 January) to discuss our Charitable and Mission Giving Policy here at St Michaels and this is a meeting which has been made open to all. Next Thursday 20 January, the DCC meets again, and part of our agenda will be devoted to Communication. I realise that the congregation is not always aware of the work of the DCC or its decisions. I would like therefore to invite anyone interested to come along to participate in discussing this important topic.

With love and blessings. *Fr Paul*

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

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18 to 25 January It is with regret that with the increase in Covid infection the CiA have had to take the difficult decision **not** to hold Midday prayers at St Nicolas' Church from Monday 17 January to Friday 21 January from 12 – 1 pm in person. However, the CiA are inviting people to participate by joining in prayer at home, at these times each day. Hard copy material should be available in churches on Sunday. Each day will concentrate on prayer for a specific area of church work including: Administration and other support staff; Children and families; Youth/Young Adults, Outreach – e.g. Street Pastors, Food Bank, Cafes, Mission Work; Seniors, including Bereavement, Residential Homes and Pastoral.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have produced a range of material under the theme *We saw his star in the East*. This has been produced by churches in the Middle East and is available to download from:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022>. Welsh, Irish and Scots Gaelic versions are also available.

INTER-CHURCH QUIZ AT PEACHCROFT CHRISTIAN CENTRE Friday 21 January 7.30 - 9 pm. Due to the Covid-19 situation this event has been **CANCELLED**.

DEDICATION FESTIVAL – Tuesday 25 January, Sung Mass, 7pm We shall celebrate our Dedication Festival on this day with a Sung Mass. Fr Paul has to be in self-isolation on this day. We are fortunate to have the Revd Elizabeth Birch as our president and preacher who has kindly stepped in at short notice. This is an important day in the life of our community here at St Michael's. Please do come along and give thanks for the dedication of this house of prayer if you can.

SILENT REFLECTIONS – Tuesday 25 January will be held 'at home' this month. This is not Covid related, but because 25 January is the date of our Dedication Festival. Material will be sent round as it was during Lockdown to those on our list, and will also be available to download from the *Prayer and Resources* section of our website. The material will include some reflections on the Conversion of St Paul which is also commemorated on this day.

FAITH FORUM will resume on the first Sunday of February (6th) at 9am in the parish centre. We will be making a brief return to our theme of 'Other voices', with the Revd Polly Falconer. Polly is the UKME Development Enabler for the Oxford Diocese, and will speaking on the topic, 'Does God See Colour?'. *The Revd Jennifer Brown*

PILGRIMAGE TO OBERAMMERGAU – JULY 2022 The 2020 Oberammergau Passion Play pilgrimage led by the Team Rector, originally scheduled for 2020, has been re-scheduled for July 13-21 2022. The 'pilgrims' are accommodated in the Gutshof outside charming Salzburg for most of the week then travel to Oberammergau for the famous Passion Play itself. A large number of the original group cannot now go so there is plenty of space, especially double-

occupancy rooms, for those interested in joining the pilgrimage. If you are interested in going, please let the Rector, Charles Miller, know of your interest either directly or through the Parish Office (01235 520144).

NEW DAYLIGHT BOOKS It is time to re-subscribe for the year for these books of daily readings, comment and prayer which are edited by the Revd Sally Welch and published by the Bible Reading Fellowship. If you would like them in printed format please get in touch with Brenda on 01235 522881 **before the end of January**. The cost is £14.55 for the year, if we can order 5 or more sets. For more information see <https://www.brffonline.org.uk/collections/new-daylight> BRF also offer options to receive this publication by email or through an app.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON is seeking to appoint a new Governor. Christ's Hospital is the oldest of Oxfordshire's charities and dates from 1553. It is controlled by The Master, twelve Governors and support staff managed by The Clerk to the Governors. For further details please follow the link on the home page of our web site. The closing date for applications is the end of February 2022.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW We are hoping to bring you the February edition on or before 6 February. Please contribute! The theme is 'Awakening' which could be interpreted in a number of ways but if you want to write about something else that is fine too. Deadline Friday 28 January. Thanks! *Rob Rutherford*

CHRISTIAN AID NEW YEAR WALK 2022 1– 31 January: Following the success of last year's walk, the New Year Walk for Christian Aid in 2022 will again be a self-directed walk. Walkers will be able to complete the walk whenever they wish in January either on one day or spread across the month as convenient. Details of the challenge set for walkers, the destination points to be visited and how to make donations are now available from our web site. Printed copies are available, by request, from *David Duce* (contact details on first page). For any further more information about either of these events, please contact Cliff Marshall at candpmarshall@btinternet.com.

CHRISTIAN AID DONATIONS Alongside the walk, which will have its own particular online donation link, a Christmas Appeal donations link has been set up to use if you would like to support Christian Aid's work this year. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/abingdon-christianaid2021-or838> The funds go direct to Christian Aid. The advantage of using this Just Giving site is that the Abingdon Committee can identify what has been raised for the Charity in Abingdon.

Worship

This Week The celebrants and preachers for the coming weeks are: The Revd Ros Rutherford on 16 January, Canon Charles Masheder on 23 January, and Fr Paul on 30 January.

Festivals and commemorations include Monday: Antony of Egypt, hermit, abbot, 356 and Charles Gore, founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932; Tuesday: Amy Carmichael, spiritual writer, 1951; Wednesday: Wulstan, bishop, 1095; Thursday: Richard Rolle, spiritual writer, 1349; Friday: Agnes, child martyr, 304; Saturday: Vincent of Saragossa, deacon, martyr, 304.

Anthony of Egypt was born around 251 and at the age of 20 he heard the gospel message 'If you would be perfect, go sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me'. He went to live in the desert, living an austere life of manual work, charity and prayer. His simple rule of personal discipline and prayer was taken up and spread throughout Christendom. He died peacefully in the desert in the year 356 at the age of 105. He asked to be buried secretly so that his person might be hidden in death as in life. From Rowan Williams, *Silence and Honey Cakes – The Wisdom of the desert* (p43). The opening quotation is from a collection of Sayings of the Desert Fathers, translated by Rowan Williams.

It was revealed to Abba Anthony in the desert that there was a person living in the city who was spiritually his equal. He was a physician; whatever he had beyond what he needed he gave to the poor, and every day he sang the Trisagion [the threefold liturgical prayer, 'Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy on us'] with the angels.

Some more elaborate versions begin with a 'great old man', variously identified, actually asking God if there is anyone who is as holy as he is, and being taken in the Spirit to Alexandria to see some very ordinary person doing a very ordinary job. There is no notion of vocation that is superior in the abstract; only the attempt to identify those who become holy by doing what they alone are called by God to do. There are no standardized forms of holiness, no holiness that is impersonal. It is axiomatic that each person brings something different to the enterprise of desert life. Sin is always sin, but people live with different degrees of pressure and temptation.

Charles Gore was born in 1853 in Wimbledon, the third son of the Hon. Charles Alexander Gore and his wife the Countess of Kerry. He went up to Balliol College Oxford in 1871 and during this time he attended his first retreat, probably at the Cowley House of the Society of St John the Evangelist (SSJE). In Oxford Union debates Gore supported radical causes and defended the trade union movement. He then became a fellow of Trinity College and was ordained deacon in 1876. He gained parish experience at St Margaret's Toxteth Park in Liverpool. In 1880 he

became Vice-Principal of Cuddesdon Theological College (now Ripon College). This provided him with what is described as a happy experience of communal living. In October 1887 a number of clergy attended a retreat at Keble College, conducted by Gore, after which the Society of the Resurrection was formed. In 1892 Gore and 5 others made their professions in Pusey House Chapel and so the Community of the Resurrection was formed, living in Radley Vicarage (Gore had accepted the living of Radley) before moving to the present home at Mirfield in 1902. Gore went on to become Dean of Westminster, Bishop of Worcester, Birmingham and Oxford and died on 17 January 1932. Reflecting the saying of Anthony of Egypt above, the rule of CR contained this advice from Dr Pusey: 'It is the saying of holy men that, if we wish to be perfect, we have nothing more to do than to perform the ordinary duties of the day well'.

Prayers during the Pandemic The Community of the Resurrection use this prayer each day at the start of Evensong.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. We unite in prayer with all, in the present emergency. We pray for a time when our worship may again be together and for the sharing of the common cup, for hope that we may do things better, for a greener and more equal society; for parts of the world which lack either resources or will to respond well to the virus and for those who suffer as a consequence. Let us pray. Lord have mercy.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity From the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland web site:

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East, the history of which was, and still is, characterised by conflict and strife, tainted with blood and darkened by injustice and oppression. The Christians of the Middle East offer these resources conscious that the world shares many of the travails and much of the difficulties that it experiences, and yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness.

The prayer for the first day of the week:

Creator of light, illumine our path by the light of Christ who moves before us and leads us. May he be a beacon for our pilgrimage. Enlighten us and dwell within us. Guide us to discover a manger in our hearts where a great light still shines. We thank you for the gift of that unfading Star, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Heal our divisions and draw us closer to the Light that we may find our unity in him. Amen.

Please pray for:

- Steven and Gavin our bishops, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- Her Majesty the Queen and all the Royal Family;
- our Government especially at this time of speculation and difficulty, for honesty and integrity;
- our District Church Council (DCC) meeting on Thursday evening (20 January at 7pm);
- unity, such as Christ wills and by the means he chooses;
- the life and work of religious communities in the Anglican Communion;
- people living and working in in Ely Close, Exbourne Road, Eyston Way and Fairacres.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sunday	Isaiah 62.1-5	Ps 36.5-10	1 Corinthians 12.1-11	John 2.1-11
Mon	1 Samuel 15.16-23	Ps 50.8-10, 16-17, 24		Mark 2.18-22
Tues	1 Samuel 16.1-13	Ps 89.19-27		Mark 2.23-end
Wed	1 Samuel 17.32-33, 37, 40-51	Ps 144.1-2, 9-10		Mark 3.1-6
Thur	1 Samuel 18.6-9, 19.1-7	Ps 56.1-2, 8-end		Mark 3.7-12
Fri	1 Samuel 24.3-22a	Ps 57.1-2, 8-end		Mark 3.13-19
Saturday	2 Samuel 1.1-4, 11-12, 17-19, 23-end	Ps 80.1-6		Mark 3.20-21

Collect (2nd Sunday of Epiphany)

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

Prayer after Communion (2nd Sunday of Epiphany)

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Some On-line Resources for Worship

A Church Near You Live Streamed events

https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live_stream&diocese=27

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/>