



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

20th March 2022
3rd Sunday of Lent

Regular Service Times

Sundays: Sung Mass, 9.30 am
Tuesdays: Silent Reflections, last Tuesday of the month (except December)
Thursdays: Moving into Stillness, Taizé circle dancing with silent interludes, first Thursday of the month, 9.45 am to 10.45 am
Thursdays Said Mass, 12.30 pm

Contacts

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

Churchwardens: Miss Joyce Kelly (533555)
(07833 535768)
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Mrs Louise Heffernan (01235 525412)
(07779 650968)
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Bookings*: Miss Joyce Kelly (as above)

Parish Office: Following recent covid restrictions, the Parish Centre Office is now open from Monday to Thursday, **10 am to 1 pm**.

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]

Dear Friends

'Signs of Hope'? – Bridges of Hope

In her chapter 'Bridges of Hope', Teresa White, suggests a variety of ways in which we can move from despair to hope. This may be through poetry, music, story, laughter, prayer or reflection. These are what she calls 'bridges of hope'. There are other ways too, of course, to find hope and feel the nearness of God. Today I want to draw attention to two of Teresa White's suggestions in the sermon: music and prayer. I plan to both look at them in their own right and make connections between them as we see how they provide the spiritual riches and resources we need for daily living.

This week, on **Thursday, at 7pm**, the Eucharist will be celebrated on the eve of the Feast of the Annunciation in St Helen's. On this important Feast in the church's year when we recall the visit of the Archangel to Mary, we are invited again to contemplate that by her 'Yes' to God, her obedience led to the Incarnation when God became flesh in Jesus. I would encourage you to come for this occasion for the whole parish. More details can be found below. Next **Sunday 27 March** is Mothering Sunday and we shall take a pause from the sermon series as we give thanks and pray for all mothers, living and departed and the welfare of all families; give thanks for Mary, the mother of Jesus and her role in the plan of salvation; and for the gift of mother church. Please also remember to put your clock forward so that we all arrive at church at the same time!

Prayer for Ukraine: Please do continue to make use of the Prayer Station at the Tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved and spend some time to pause pray for peace, and light a candle. You may like to do this after you have received communion or before you leave church today. We pray through Christ the Prince of Peace that weapons may be laid down and those who wage war may turn from the paths of evil to ways of righteousness, justice and peace.

Finally, if you need directing to a charity to make donations to the humanitarian response to this war, and haven't made a contribution elsewhere, there are details and links in this pewleaflet.

With love and blessings

Father Paul

PARISH OFFICE It transpires that the opening times shown in recent issues of the pew leaflet were wrong. The office is open from 10 am to 1 pm (not 3 pm as previously advertised), Monday to Thursday. The times have also been corrected on our website. *Editor*

SERMONS DURING LENT The context of the sermons will be based on the following chapters in Teresa White's book, *Hope and the Nearness of God*.

Sunday 20 March Lent 3: *Bridges of Hope – Father Paul*

Sunday 27 March Lent 4: *We take a break to celebrate Mothering Sunday – Mrs Beryl Clements*

Sunday 4 April Lent 5: *The Holy Spirit: Source of Hope – Father Paul*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS We will continue to walk the Stations of the Cross in St Michael's on Tuesday evenings 22 March and 5 April at 7.30 pm. On 29 March Silent Reflections will meet as usual. Stations of the Cross will be led by Fr Paul and others. Please enter church through the South Door.

THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION will be celebrated on the eve of the feast at **St Helen's Church**, Thursday, 24 March at 7 pm with a Sung Eucharist in the Lady Chapel and simple but festive refreshments afterward in the South Aisle.

SILENT REFLECTIONS will be on Tuesday 29 March at 7.30 pm. Entry will be through the North door (opposite Albert Park). Final prayers will be at 8.30 pm and refreshments will be available. Sue Sheppy will be providing materials on the theme: *To be a Pilgrim*. A copy will be emailed to all those on the Silent Reflections list, and made available on the *Prayer and Worship Resources* page of our website. Paper copies will be available in church. All are welcome.

LENT APPEAL 2022 We are continuing the tradition of fund-raising for our two nominated charities, *The Abingdon Bridge (TAB)* and *Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe*. Readers are invited to make donations to St Michael's designated for the two charities. This could be done as one or more donations through Lent but before Palm Sunday. We have set a target of £1,000 to be divided equally between the two charities and hope to announce the sum raised on Easter Day. The most convenient way to donate is by bank transfer to: NatWest Bank, Account no: 61580376 Sort code: 600101, account name Abingdon Parochial Church Council St Michael's Church; please use the reference LENT 2022. Alternatively cheques made payable to 'Abingdon Parochial Church Council St Michael's Church' may be sent to The Treasurer, St Michael's Church, Parish Office, St Helen's Court, Abingdon OX14 5BS. Cash donations should be placed on the collection plate before Palm Sunday in an envelope clearly marked "LENT 2022" though if you could donate by other means this would be appreciated. *Father Paul and the DCC Standing Committee*

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION The date of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting has been set as 28 April 2021. On this basis, the Electoral Roll is being revised in the period Friday 11 March to Friday 1 April. The Electoral Roll is our official membership list, and you need to be on the Electoral Roll in order to be able to vote at the Annual Church Meeting.

If you are not already on the Electoral Roll and would like your name to be added, please complete the simple application form, available from Keith Bowman. Your name can be added to the Roll if you are baptised and aged 16 or over, and you satisfy some other simple conditions.

Please speak to Keith (01235 528962) if you have any questions about this. Would you also let him know if you have changed your name or address in the past year.

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

EASTER FLOWERS Donations are invited for Easter lilies and other flowers. Please contact Hilary Clare (525898, hilarymclare@gmail.com), or any Sunday after mass. Last day for giving will be Palm Sunday, 10 April.

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL Many charities have launched appeals to provide help in the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, including the British Red Cross, <https://www.redcross.org.uk/> and UNHCR <https://www.unrefugees.org.uk/>. The Disasters Emergency Committee has also launched an appeal <https://www.dec.org.uk/>.

QUESTIONS OF OUR TIMES WEBINARS: The Christian Evidence Society is hosting a series of free webinars on science & faith on Tuesday evenings in March. For more details and links to book, visit <https://christianevidence.org/> and click on 'New Questions of Our Times'. The final webinar in the series on Tuesday 22 March, "Are we alone in the universe?" will be led by Dr Jennifer Wiseman, a senior astrophysicist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, where she serves as the Senior Project Scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope.

COME AND SEE is a programme organised by the Diocese or anyone enquiring about faith, returning to faith after many years or moving to a new place in their faith in the disorientation of the pandemic. The 5-week programme starts in March. Individuals can register to receive short daily emails to reflect on, a weekly short film and contemplative exercises to try out each week. This year's programme, focuses on the Lord's Prayer. For more details see <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/campaigns/come-and-see/come-and-see.php>

Everyone who signs up for Come and See, including families, will receive a link to a film from Bishop Steven each Sunday during Lent. The daily emails are also available on-line at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/>. Links to the weekly videos can also be found on that page under the appropriate Day.

ABINGDON PASSION PLAY are holding an event to raise money for their next play, *Gardeners Question Time*, to be held at Trinity Hall Conduit Rd Abingdon OX14 1DB on Saturday 26 March, tea and cake from 3.30 pm, questions from 4 pm to 5.30 pm. Tickets (£10) can be bought from The Bookstore The Precinct, or online from <https://www.abingdonpassionplay.co.uk> where more details can be found.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHAPTER HOUSE ART EXHIBITION The newly refurbished Chapter House is hosting an art exhibition featuring 13 embroideries created by poet, artist and lawyer Dr Romola Parish. The exhibition, entitled 'Crying in the Silicon Wilderness: Meditations on Faith', will run for the duration of Lent. "A beautiful accompanying book with pictures of all the works, reflections and poetry by Romola, as well as thoughtfully-chosen extracts from the Bible, is available from the Visitor Centre Shop." The exhibition is open whenever the Chapter House is open.

THE MOTHERS' UNION IN OXFORD DIOCESE is in urgent need of a treasurer. This part-time position requires a person with accountancy skills and would suit someone who is newly retired. For more information, please contact Rev. Louise Butler (Finance and Administration for Oxford MU), 07837-009730 finance@muoxford.org.uk.

DOG WALKERS' CAFÉ We are planning to run a Dog-Walkers' Cafe on Sunday mornings, 11-12, from the First Sunday after Easter (24 April) until the end of September. This will take place after mass outside the north door. We hope to raise money and to interact with the many people who use the Albert Park. Volunteers are needed to help with this, setting up, serving, clearing up, also baking (tray bakes for humans, dog treats for dogs!). The more people volunteer the less anyone will have to do. Please contact Hilary Clare (01235 525898, hilarymclare@gmail.com) if you would like to help.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS Our Annual District Church Meeting will be before Easter this year, on Monday 4 April at 7pm. We plan to hold this meeting in-person in church. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be on Thursday 28 April at 7pm at St Helen's, in the South Aisle.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW Contributions for the Easter edition which will be available by the start of Holy Week 10 April are now invited. Do please email ideas or contributions before **2 April** to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk. Thanks. The March issue is available to download from <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php> where earlier issues may also be found. *Rob Rutherford*

Worship

This Week The celebrants and preachers for the next few Sundays are 20 March Fr Paul, 27 March Fr Paul/Mrs Beryl Clements, 3 April Fr Paul and 10 April (Palm Sunday), Fr Paul.

Friday is the 'Principal Feast' of the Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Commemorations include Monday: Thomas Cranmer, archbishop, Reformation martyr, 1556; Thursday: Walter Hilton, mystic, 1396, Paul Couturier, priest, ecumenist, 1953, Oscar Romero, archbishop, martyr, 1980; Saturday: Harriet Monsell, (co-) founder of the Community of St John the Baptist (the Clewer Sisters), 1883.

Ukraine We are encouraged by Fr Paul to light a candle by the reserved sacrament and pray the prayer for Ukraine from Archbishop's Justin and Stephen. The prayer, which can be used at any time, is reproduced below.

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

From the website of the Society of St John the Baptist (USA):

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (*The Book of Common Prayer*)

Our *Prayer and Worship* resources page includes links to two resources recommended in the latest Diocesan news mailing, one to the Ukrainian Institute in London, the second to a page on the Diocesan web site on a Christian response to war.

The Annunciation of Our Lord Bradshaw and Johnson write in their book *The Origins of the Feasts, Fasts and Seasons in Early Christianity* that although there is a link between 25 December and 25 March, there is no evidence for 25 March being specifically a commemoration of the Annunciation until the middle of the sixth century in the Christian East and later in the Christian West. Constantinople has been credited with the origins in 550, though the Armenian Church never accepted 25 December date for the nativity and celebrated the annunciation on 6 April. It isn't clear which is the earlier tradition in the East.

Some readers will have seen, and been shocked by, a report on the local BBC News programme on 14 March of the burglary and ransacking of the Russian Orthodox Church of St Nicholas the Wonderworker in Oxford the previous weekend. Amongst the items stolen was the collection the church had made for the Orthodox appeal for Ukraine. There was an immediate response from the local community who raised £8000 for the church over the weekend. Leaving aside the complexities of relationships in the Orthodox Church, it is worth noting that Oxford has a second Russian Orthodox congregation worshipping with the Greek Orthodox congregation in the shared church in Canterbury Road. This Orthodox parish is the parish of the Annunciation. Archpriest Stephen Platt at St Nicholas' Church is also Secretary General of the Society of St Alban and St Sergius, which came into being in 1929, to promote contact and understanding between Anglicans and Orthodox and has strong links to the Canterbury Road church. This feast of the Annunciation is an opportunity for prayer for our brothers and sisters in the Orthodox churches, in Orthodox parishes in this country, not forgetting our brothers and sisters in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

The extended preface for the Eucharistic Prayer for the feast of the Annunciation (Editor's emphasis):

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

We give you thanks and praise that the Virgin Mary heard with faith the message of the angel, and by the power of your Holy Spirit conceived and bore the Word made flesh.

From the warmth of her womb to the stillness of the grave he shared our life in human form.

In him new light has dawned upon the world and you have become one with us that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.

Therefore earth unites with heaven to sing a new song of praise; we too join with angels and archangels as they proclaim your glory without end:

Harriet Monsell was born in 1811. After the death of her husband, Charles Monsell (priest) she went to work in a penitentiary at Clewer near Windsor. With the guidance of the local vicar, Canon Thomas T. Carter, she was professed as a religious in 1852 and became the first Superior of the Community of St John the Baptist. The community grew rapidly and undertook a range of social work in a variety of locations, caring for orphans, running

schools and hospitals and mission houses in parishes with foundations in India and America. She died on Easter Day 1883. From *A Joyous Service* by Valerie Bonham:

The Community of St John the Baptist has the unique distinction of being founded after the work for which it became well known. Like many another great philanthropic endeavour the rescue work amongst ‘fallen women’ was not planned, but began because the need was there, and it seemed expedient to answer it. During the 1840s it had become a point of scandal that while there were a number of secular Penitentiaries for rescuing fallen women, the Established Church was doing nothing. ... Thus was born the idea for a safe refuge for women, a ‘House of Mercy’. The project was in part the brainchild of a clergyman T.T. Carter, but it only became a reality through the involvement of a recently widowed woman, Harriet Monsell. ... On Ascension Day in 1851, Harriet [was] clothed as a Sister of Mercy, alone with a growing conviction that this was the call she had awaited. But in parallel there was Carter’s growing conviction that *only* if the workers lived as Sisters of Mercy under a Rule would rescue work grow and prosper. ... on St Andrew’s Day, 30 November 1852, Harriet Monsell was professed in the presence of Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford, and was installed as the first Superior of the Community of St John the Baptist.

In 2001, with numbers in sharp decline, the Sisters moved initially to Begbroke near Woodstock, then in 2012 they moved to the newly constructed Harriet Monsell House, on the campus of Ripon College Cuddesdon. In 2020 the remaining Sisters chose to move to St Mary’s Convent and Nursing Home in Chiswick where they could have better access to company and medical care. St Mary’s is run by the Anglican Sisters of St Margaret. There are links on our Prayer and Resources web page to the web sites of UK CSJB and also to CSJB in Mendam, New Jersey, USA. The Clewer Initiative is the national work of the Church of England to combat modern slavery, made possible through funding from the Clewer Sisters which will enable the work to continue to 2030.

Please pray for:

- Steven and Gavin our bishops, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- Her Majesty the Queen and all the royal family;
- the people of the Ukraine, for all seeking refuge and that peace and justice will prevail;
- enrichment through music, poetry, and prayer and that we may find ‘Bridges of Hope’;
- on the Feast of the Annunciation we may, like Mary, turn to God and say ‘Yes’ to his will for us;
- the suffering, all who mourn, the recently departed, and all whose year’s mind falls at this time;
- people living Juniper Court, Kempster Close, Kensington Close and Kimber Road.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sunday	Isaiah 55.1-9	Ps 63.1-9	1 Corinthians 10.1-13	Luke 13.1-9
Mon	2 Kings 5.1-15	Ps 42.1-2; 43.1-4		Luke 4.24-30
Tues	Song of the Three 2.11-20	Ps 25.3-10		Matthew 18.21-end
Wed	Deuteronomy 4.1,5-9	Ps 147.13-end		Matthew 5.17-19
Thur	Jeremiah 7.23-28	Ps 95.1-2,6-end		Luke 11.14-23
Fri Annunciation	Isaiah 7.10-14	Ps 40.5-11	Hebrews 10.4-10	Luke 1.26-38
Saturday	Hosea 5.15-6.6	Ps 51.1-2,17-end		Luke 18.9-14

Collect (Third Sunday of Lent)

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord...

Prayer after Communion (Third Sunday of Lent)

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect (Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary)

We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son 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/>