



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

22nd May 2022
Sixth Sunday of Easter

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. N.B. In June Moving into Stillness will be on 9 June due to the bank holiday on 2 June.
Thursdays: Said Mass, 12.30 pm

Contacts

Team Rector: The Revd Dr Charles Miller (520144)
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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

As Ascension Day Approaches

On Thursday this week, the church celebrates the important Feast of the Ascension when the Lord left his disciples, ascended into heaven, and returned to the Father.

It is a significant moment in the church's year, as we reflect on the Ascension itself, but also as we begin to prepare with prayerful waiting for the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost.

So, there will be two opportunities to worship that day. First, there will be the usual Said Mass here at 12.30pm to which all are welcome. Second, there will be a Holy Communion at St Nicolas at 7pm with hymns and music. This is the Feast in the year which St Nic's hosts for the whole parish. It will be followed by refreshments. I will preside at that celebration and the preacher will be Canon Charles Masheder. Please try to come along to one of these celebrations as with the first disciples we are called 'to worship him with great joy' (cf Luke 24:52).

It may seem strange that the disciples worshipped in this way when the Lord parted from their sight. But, these words of St Augustine remind us that despite Jesus' visible disappearance as he ascended into heaven, his nearness to us is nonetheless undiminished:

'Christ, while in heaven, is also with us, and we, while on earth, are also with him. He is with us in his godhead and his power and his love;... He did not leave heaven when he came down to us from heaven; and he did not leave us when he ascended to heaven again'.

May this approaching Feast Day on which we gather in his name and to his glory be rich with joyful worship and praise.

With love and blessings

Father Paul

FR PAUL'S EMAIL Fr Paul continues to not be able to receive e-mails from senders with gmail accounts. He is able to send them and they are received; however replies are not coming through or found in his spam file. This is not limited to a few individuals: it applies to all senders. This is why you won't have received replies for which he sends sincere apologies. While this continues to be investigated, should you wish to send an e-mail from a gmail account, please copy in joyceekelly@btinternet.com who will kindly forward to Fr Paul. If however your e-mail is in anyway confidential or sensitive, Fr Paul requests that you telephone him on the Vicarage landline. (01235 534654) Please do leave a message and he will return your call as soon as he is able. Thank you for your understanding. *Fr Paul*

THE FLORAL EXTRAVAGANZA was a huge success last Saturday afternoon. We raised £662.40 for church funds. Very special thanks to Helen Owen who initiated this event: it was especially wonderful that she was able to be present and win one of the arrangements! Thank you to all who worked with Helen to bring this event to fruition, and not least to our bakers and those who served refreshments following the demonstration. With warmest gratitude, *Fr Paul*

Helen Owen writes: Thank you very much to all the St Michael's bakers for their array of cakes and all the helpers for the Floral Extravaganza last Saturday. It was a very enjoyable occasion.

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 (audio and video) will be made available after the service on the St Helen's web site (try https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StH/StH_publications.html).

The evening service at St Helen's at 5.30pm on Sunday 15 May will be Evensong with Easter Lessons and Carols.

ASCENSION DAY this year falls on Thursday 26 May. Mass will be said at **St Michael's at 12.30pm** and there will also be a celebration at **St Nicolas' Church at 7.00pm**.

ORGAN MUSIC FOR ASCENSIONTIDE: a recital by Andrew Shouler. St Helen's Church, Sunday 29 May at 5.30 pm. The programme includes music by Simon Preston (1938-), John Joubert (1927-2019), Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988), Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992) and Peter Hurford (1930-2019).

SILENT REFLECTIONS will be on Tuesday 31 May 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. Fr Paul will be providing materials on the theme: *Mary and Elizabeth: Meeting the Cousins of Gladness*. A copy will be emailed to all those on our list, and made available on the Prayer and Worship Resources page of St Michael's website. Paper copies will be available in church. All are welcome.

MOVING INTO STILLNESS: circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes will be held on **Thursday 9 June** from 9.45 – 10.45 am, before the regular circle dancing session at 11 am. Tea and coffee will be provided between the two sessions. **NB** There will be no circle dancing at all on **Thursday 2 June** because of the Jubilee bank holiday.

THE CHURCH IN ABINGDON (CIA) are organising a stall in Rye Farm Meadow for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and have asked if St Michaels would be able to man a cake decorating stall as we have previously done at Fun in the Park. Volunteers are invited to let me know if they can help. The date is **Thursday June 2** and we would run from 11 am till 4pm. Please let Jane Cadogan know if you could spare some time – contact her on 07743178561.

CELEBRATION SERVICE FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE There will be a Civic Service for the whole town community of Abingdon to celebrate HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at St Helen's Church on **Thursday 2 June** at 7pm. We will be thanking God for her great sense of duty, her faith and her life of devotion and care for the Nation and the Commonwealth. All very welcome!

INCENSE For some years now we have been using a blend of incense called *Rosa Mystica* made by the monks of Alton Abbey but sadly there are now only five monks in the community and their average age is over 70. As a consequence of health issues, one of the monks has recently moved to an Almshouse near Chichester Cathedral. Consequently the community have ceased producing incense. We did manage to procure a few boxes from St Michael's Abbey in Farnborough but their stock, along with that of the shop in Walsingham, has now all been sold and attempts to locate stock elsewhere have failed. Last Sunday we started using a blend called *Glastonbury* produced by the Anglican Benedictine community of monks and nuns at Mucknell Abbey in Worcestershire. Some readers may remember the community when it was based at Burford Priory. "In 2008 the decision was made to sell Burford Priory and build a new, purpose-built monastery that reflected our commitment to sustainability and to working out a contemporary expression of Benedictine life that could speak to the twenty-first century." <https://mucknellabbey.org.uk/> for more information.

THE DOG WALKERS' CAFE needs more volunteers, particularly of people to act as welcomers and stewards. This is especially necessary for wet days when we come into church. Please see Hilary if you can help.

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/>.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The May edition of the Parish Magazine 'A Candle in the Window' is available for you to download at https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html and select Issue 4. Read Fr Paul's article about the Queen, Charles Masheder's reflections on 50 years of ordained ministry and much more! For the June edition we would like to hear about Jubilee celebrations and following Claire's article about the Church in Western Australia and anticipating the Lambeth Conference, any interesting experiences of the Anglican Church abroad... *Rob Rutherford*

Worship

This Week The celebrants and preachers until the end of June are: 22 May Fr Paul; 29 May, The Revd Rosalind Rutherford; 6 June (Pentecost), the Revd Jennifer Brown/ Mrs Beryl Clements; 12 June, Parish Corporate Communion at St Michael's, The Revd Dr Charles Miller/ Fr Paul Smith; 19 and 26 June, Fr Paul.

Thursday is Ascension Day. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are Rogation Days. Commemorations in the calendar include Tuesday: John and Charles Wesley, evangelists, hymn writers, 1791 and 1788; Wednesday: The Venerable Bede, monk, scholar, historian, 735 and Aldhelm, bishop, 709; Saturday: Lanfranc, monk, archbishop, scholar, 1089.

Ukraine We are encouraged by Fr Paul to light a candle by the reserved sacrament and pray the prayer for Ukraine from Archbishops 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.

Rogation Days are the three days before Ascension Day, when prayer is offered for God's blessing on the fruits of the earth and on human labour. Common Worship makes provision for Rogation Days along with other seasons and festivals of the agricultural year. (There is a link to this material on our *Prayer and Worship Resources* page.) In the present times of economic hardship facing countless people and the threat posed to global food supply by the war in Ukraine, our dependence on the fruits of the earth and our need to care for natural resources are brought into even sharper focus than before.

The tradition (suppressed at the Reformation, but later restored) arose of processional litanies, often around parish boundaries, concluding with a Mass. The Community of the Resurrection, for example, usually have a procession, based on the litany in Common Worship. Two petitions in the litany are:

For traditional rural skills and crafts and for those who exercise them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
 For the right ordering of work in time of technological change; **hear us, good Lord.**

Slightly tenuous connections perhaps, but the editor was reminded of articles in the latest *Annual Report of The Friends of York Minster* (2022) and *Radio Times*. (14-20 May) The former includes an article entitled *York Minister: a sustainable future for the 21st century*, which talks about one of the principle projects in a 15-year plan for the estate: the York Minster Centre of Excellence for Heritage Craft Skills & Estate Management. York Minster is only one of 10 of the 42 Anglican Cathedrals to have its own dedicated body of craftspeople. These 10 cathedrals have joined to create a new generation of craftspeople capable of caring for the nation’s cathedrals and heritage buildings in the 21st century, through the Cathedrals’ Workshop Fellowship <https://cwfcathedrals.co.uk/>. Exciting technical developments in the York stone yard, for example, include use of digital technology, 3D scanning and Computer Aided Design (CAD). New scanning technology reduced the time to template a 24 panel tracery window from ten days to two days. Such developments enable more work to be completed by highly skilled people in a given time. Fabric restoration/ conservation work is one thing cathedrals are not short of. Another development is the use of numerically controlled stone cutting machines to cut to within 2mm of a finished piece, leaving the highly skilled masons to finish the work by hand. And *Radio Times*? A new series, *The Prince’s Master Crafters: the Next Generation*, started on Wednesday 18 May at 8.00pm on *Sky Arts*. From the article [the first episode had not been broadcast at the time of writing] six young people starting out in heritage crafts such as stone and wood carving, blacksmithing and stained glass, are set task each week to try their hand at other disciplines. At the end of the programme one will be given the chance to place one of their pieces in Highgrove House, home of Prince of Charles (who is very involved in the programmes). The link to York Minister – one of the craftspeople is a stone mason at the Minister.

Ascension Day From the introduction to the liturgy:

Today we recall how he [Christ] left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Trusting in his reign over all creation, and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule, let us hear the story of his parting.

The reading from Acts (1.4-11) follows.

The Extended Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer:

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ the King of glory.
 Born of a woman, he came to the rescue of our human race.
 Dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin.
 By the glory of his resurrection he opened the way to life eternal
 and by his ascension, gave us the sure hope that where he is we may also be.

Please pray for:

- Steven and Gavin our bishops, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- Our worship on Ascension Day that it may be filled with joy as we await the coming of the Spirit;
- Her Majesty the Queen, as the celebrations of her Platinum Jubilee approach, and all the royal family;
- the work of the NHS, all local nurses, doctors, and therapists;
- those living with physical disabilities, chronic illnesses and pain, and for the challenges they face in their daily lives, especially those who lack support;
- the suffering, all who mourn, the recently departed, and all whose year’s mind falls at this time;
- people living in Masefield Crescent, Mayotts Road, Meadowside and Meadowside Court.

Eucharistic Lectionary

6 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 16.9-15	Ps 67	Revelation 21.10,22-22.5	John 5.1-9
Mon	Acts 16.11-15	Ps 149.1-5		John 15.26-16.4
Tues	Acts 16.22-34	Ps 138		John 16.5-11
Wed	Acts 17.15,22-18.1	Ps 148.1-2, 11-end		John 16.12-15
Thur: Ascension Day	Acts 1.1-11	Ps 47	Ephesians 1.15-end	Luke 24.44-end
Fri	Acts 18.9-18	Ps 47.1-6		John 16.20-23
Sat	Acts 18.22-end	Ps 47.1-2, 7-end		John 16.23-28

Collect (6th Sunday of Easter)

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

Post Communion (6th Sunday of Easter)

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect (Ascension Day)

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; 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

A Church Near You Live Streamed events

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

Parish resources page (Look under St Helen's Church, Publications and downloads)

<http://www.abingdonparish.org.uk/>

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, see

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqz9I9-LbZJAPGtje0gQbbg>

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/>.