



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

7th August 2022

Transfiguration of Our Lord / 8th Sunday after Trinity

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 (EXCEPT AUGUST), 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
On sabbatical. For Pastoral Care matters please contact the Churchwardens

Churchwardens: Miss Joyce Kelly (533555)
(07833 535768)
e-mail: joyceekelly@btinternet.com
Mrs Louise Heffernan (01235 525412)
(07779 650968)
e-mail: lheff@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk

Bookings*: Miss Joyce Kelly (as above)

Parish Office: The Parish Centre Office is 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 pew 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]

Welcome – The festival of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

Fr Paul has now started his sabbatical. We welcome our Team Rector, the Revd Dr Charles Miller, to preside and preach at Mass today. The Revds Elizabeth Birch, Rosalind Rutherford and Pauline Seaman have kindly arranged to celebrate the Thursday lunchtime Masses, working around other commitments.

Our Mass today follows the family format used for the first Sunday of the month where there is just one reading prior to the gospel and an Affirmation of Faith replaces the Nicene Creed. The first Sunday is also the Sunday on which we welcome families giving thanks for the gift of a child, in preparation for the child's baptism, and when the newly baptised return to be presented with baptismal candles, though at the present time there are no candidates preparing for baptism at St Michael's.

The Sundays in August are the 8th to 11th Sundays after Trinity, though this year two festivals are translated from adjacent days to Sundays. Today we keep the Transfiguration of Our Lord and next Sunday The Blessed Virgin Mary (the Assumption or Dormition).

The Old Testament reading for the Transfiguration (which isn't read in church today) is from Daniel (7.9-10, 13-14) and concludes: "To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed." The New Testament reading, from the second letter of Peter (1.16-19) alludes to the Transfiguration "We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain." The gospel reading, Luke 9.28-36 is Luke's account of the Transfiguration.

YEAR'S MIND LIST If you would like someone added to the Year's Mind list (the list of names read out in the intercessions at Mass on Sundays and Thursdays) please get in touch with Eileen Duckett Tel. 01235 522384, Email: eileenduckett27@gmail.com. Names already on this list will remain as I am not starting a new list, merely adding names to the existing list.

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 (https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StH/StH_publications.html).

MORNING PRAYER at 9.15 am on weekdays at St Helen's Church will cease beginning Monday 1 August and will resume on Monday 5 September.

CHRISTIAN AID SUMMER AFTERNOON TEA Sunday 14 August, 2.30pm: the Christian Aid Task Group invites you to join them for Afternoon Tea in the garden of St Ethelwold's House between 2.30 and 4.00 pm. Cream scones and cake will be served and donations will be invited for the work of Christian Aid with some of the poorest communities of the World.

CHILDREN HEARD AND SEEN is a charity that the MU have been supporting for several years. They help families affected by imprisonment. From 19-21 August they are having a residential weekend at Hill End Camp near Cumnor for 200 attendees, most of whom are children. Abingdon MU have been asked to provide cakes, which is a big Ask! We need help with this from all the congregations in the parish. If you are willing to make some cakes, I will need to have them by **18 August**. For more information and offers of cake, please contact Elizabeth Dawson (526415, e.m.dawson.15@outlook.com) and see my article in the latest edition of *A Candle in the Window*. Your support would be much appreciated. *Elizabeth Dawson*

FUNDRAISING EVENT – PIANO RECITAL, SUNDAY 21 AUGUST, 3PM Date for your diary. Mami Shikimori, local professional concert pianist is coming to St Michael's to give a concert. The programme will include old favourites such as Beethoven's "Appassionata" sonata, Tchaikovsky's "Chanson Triste", and Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm". Her playing has been described as "Exquisite" by the Sunday Times, and "Sheer Delight" and "Dazzling" by the BBC Music Magazine. Proceeds will go to church funds and charities TAB and Tariro. Please do come along and bring your family and friends. Tickets are £12 for adults and free for children, available from The Bookstore, Bury Street, Abingdon, or from myself or Louise Heffernan. Refreshments will be provided and FREE PARKING. (St Michael's can now accept debit/credit card payments for church donations or church events.) *Nicola Ng*

RIDE AND STRIDE 2022 Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust's annual sponsored Ride & Stride will be on **Saturday 10 September**. Louise and Nicola are willing to cycle on the day so please be generous in sponsoring them. Half the money raised comes to St Michael's. Julie Woodley also needs help on the day to welcome visitors to our church and provide drinks. Please speak to Julie if you can help. Thank you.

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The July edition of the Parish Magazine 'A Candle in the Window' is available to download from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php Previous issues are also available at this location. The usual rich mixture! The next issue will be published in September. *Rob Rutherford*

Worship

This Week The celebrants and preachers until the end of August are: 7 August The Revd Dr Charles Miller, 14 August Canon Charles Masheder, 21 August The Revd Elizabeth Birch, 28 August The Revd Dr Charles Miller.

As noted above we are keeping the festival of the Transfiguration of Our Lord on 7 August (translated from 6 August).

Commemorations this week are Monday: Dominic, priest, founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221; Tuesday Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921; Wednesday: Laurence, deacon, martyr, 258; Thursday: Clare of Assisi, founder of the Poor Clares, 1253 and John Henry Newman, priest, 1890; Saturday: Jeremy Taylor, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1667; Florence Nightingale, nurse, social reformer, 1910; Octavia Hill, social reformer, 1912. There are links to material about some of these people on our *Prayer and Worship* resources page.

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.

TRANFIGURATION OF OUR LORD Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain and Jesus is transfigured before them. To an extent the Transfiguration has been neglected, though that is largely in the Western tradition. "Christians in the Eastern tradition regard the transfiguration as central to the symbolism of the gospel, disclosing as much about themselves as about God. In the West, by contrast, the feast of the transfiguration is a minor event and ignored entirely in some denominational traditions." (Dorothy Lee, *Transfiguration*, 2004). In the Church of England the Transfiguration was elevated to the status of Red Letter Day in the proposed 1927/8 revisions to the Prayer Book. The Transfiguration gospel reading also used on the Sunday Next before Lent, as the *Companion to Common Worship* explains: "... appropriately reminding worshippers that they are strengthened for the challenges of the Christian life (of which Lent is a cameo) by the certain knowledge of the glory of God in Christ".

Accounts of the Transfiguration appear in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, though they differ in detail. The Transfiguration does not feature explicitly in John's gospel, though Michael Ramsey in his classic book *The Glory of God and the Transfiguration of Christ* (1949) wrote:

The Fourth Evangelist records the story of the Ministry, Passion and Resurrection of Jesus with the conviction that the glory of God was manifested throughout the events. Hidden from those who did not believe, it was apparent to those within the circle of faith. The Transfiguration is omitted, for the glory belongs not to any isolated episodes but to the story as a whole; ... in several ways the tradition of the Transfiguration left its mark upon the thought and language of the writer. His Gospel is indeed the Gospel of glory.

From Dorothy Lee's book, discussing Luke's account of the Transfiguration:

The transfiguration occurs at the centre of Luke's Gospel, closely bound to what precedes and follows it. It is tied to the revelation of Jesus' suffering and death, showing the divine glory in the context of the passion. The story functions as the climax to the Galilean ministry, and points forward to the journey Jesus will undertake to Jerusalem, the centre of salvation-history...

Luke's story of the transfiguration belongs within a wider narrative frame concerned with the question of Jesus' identity (9.1-50). The question is posed by Herod "Who is this of whom I hear such things?" – and answered in the ensuing episodes which together form the central section of Luke's Gospel. Each scene answers the question in a different way, preparing the reader for the journey to Jerusalem.

The Orthodox priest and theologian, Fr Andreas Andreopoulos writes in his book *This is My Beloved Son* (2012) in a section headed *The Transfiguration Offers a Key to Understanding the Whole Bible*:

[Earlier] We thought of Scripture in general as a map of the journey toward salvation. Well, the story of the Transfiguration is more than one of the areas on the surface of the map. It is also part of the map legend, the apparatus we need to read the map correctly. As such, in the Transfiguration we see several ways to approach Christ, but we can also discern the inner connection between these approaches. All of those ways reveal something about Christ, but we are better prepared for the journey toward salvation when we consider all of them. ... There should not be a difference in the way our sources and the pillars of our faith guide us, and for this reason, by considering them next to each other, we learn to read them correctly. Jesus Christ, who reveals himself in the Transfiguration, is the historical Jesus who was born under Pontius Pilate, but he is also the Word

of God. He is the one who will come at the end of time in clouds of glory, and also the Christ whose sacramental body is the church. Considering all of these aspects at the same time reveals to us something of about how the Bible should be read.

Finally, from Fr Hugh Wybrew's book *Orthodox Feasts of Christ and Mary* (1997):

The transfiguration of Jesus, like his baptism, is a revelation of the Trinity. Jesus, God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, shines with the light of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity; while the voice of the Father, the First Person, proclaims Jesus' Sonship. It is the light of the Trinity which dazzles the disciples' sight on the holy mountain, and causes them to fall to the ground in amazement. ... In Orthodox thought the whole of the material creation is destined to be transformed in the kingdom of God. Orthodoxy does not separate the material and the spiritual. The material creation is meant to become the home of the Spirit and to find its fulfilment within the life of the Trinity.

The transfiguration of Jesus concerns therefore not only him personally, but ourselves and all creation. It is a sign of all humankind's eventual transfiguration, within a transformed universe. When we contemplate the icon of this feast, we contemplate our own ultimate destiny.

THE LAMBETH CONFERENCE On Sunday Archbishop Justin announced a change to the Lambeth Calls process: "However, having listened to the bishops, Archbishop Justin advised delegates that electronic recording of choices will not be in place for the remaining calls, an announcement that was greeted with supportive applause. An opportunity will be given at the end of each session for a verbal indication of agreement. If the calls gain clear assent they will be sent forward for further work." [*Read into that what you will. Ed.*] The final day of the conference programme is Sunday 7 August and participants depart on 8 August. The Archbishop of Canterbury will give a closing keynote "on the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission (Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure). Looking to the decade ahead, how can we encourage our churches and communities to carry out the five marks of mission in their contexts?" (from the Conference Programme). The closing service will take place in Canterbury Cathedral, starting at 15.45. Interested readers may follow livestreams of the daily sessions on Facebook and YouTube and (video) daily summaries are also available. Links to these pages can be found on our *Prayer and Worship* resources page.

The prayer for the final day of the conference in the Prayer Guide was provided by the Sisters of Jesus Way, an Anglican Evangelical Community, founded in 1979 based in West Kirby on the Wirral <https://www.redacre.org.uk/>. Their prayer is the prayer of Jesus for His Disciples and for All Believers in John 17:

Holy Father protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me – so that they may be one as we are one." (John 17:11). My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.... I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me". (John 17:20-22)

Please pray for:

- Steven and Gavin our bishops, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- the Lambeth Conference;
- Her Majesty the Queen and all the royal family;
- the candidates standing for election as the next leader of the Conservative Party who will be our new Prime Minister and for the electorate;
- areas of the world where there is war, conflict and tension, and regions affected by famines and economic crises;
- Fr Paul on sabbatical and for all those who assist in his absence;
- the suffering, all who mourn, the recently departed, and all whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in River Close, Riverview Terrace, Ruskin Avenue and Saxton Road.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun	Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14	Ps 97	2 Peter 1.16-19	Luke 9.28-36
Mon	Ezekiel 1.2-5,4-end	Ps 148.1-4, 12-13		Matthew 17.22-end
Tues	Ezekiel 2.8-3.4	Ps 119.65-72		Matthew 18.1-5,10-12-14
Wed	Ezekiel 9.1-7, 10, 18-22	Ps 113		Matthew 18.15-20
Thur	Ezekiel 12.1-12	Ps 78.58-64		Matthew 18.21-19.1
Fri	Ezekiel 16.1-15, 60-end	Ps 118.14-18		Matthew 19.3-12
Sat	Ezekiel 18.1-11a, 13b, 30, 32	Ps 51.1-3, 15-17		Matthew 19.13-15

Collect (Transfiguration of Our Lord)

Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may see him as he is; who is alive and reigns with you, ... Amen.

Post Communion (Transfiguration of Our Lord)

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect (8th Sunday after Trinity)

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, ... 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/>.