



# St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

---

**7<sup>th</sup> November 2021**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent**

## **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)  
e-mail: [paul315smith@btinternet.com](mailto:paul315smith@btinternet.com)

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

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pewleaflet@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk)***

***[\*for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals please contact the Parish Office]***

## **Thy Kingdom come, O God: The Kingdom Season.**

Dear Friends

The Kingdom Season is a short season in the church's year which bring us to the close of the liturgical year before we begin the new church year on Advent Sunday. But, this short Kingdom season begins with All Saints' Day, then All Souls' Day both of which we have celebrated already. During this season, a total of 23 Christian monarch, priests, teachers of the faith, or mystics are remembered in the lectionary. The final Sunday of the Kingdom Season celebrates Christ the King in two week's time. On this great feast we recognise that God's work is completed and we wait for the New Kingdom to be revealed in all its fullness.

Apart from All Saints' (which is white/gold), the liturgical colour is red which signifies both the flames of the Holy Spirit and also the royalty of Christ and the sacrifice he made on the cross by the shedding of his blood. The season is a time for forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing. The Collects and Post Communion Prayers have already, or will, speak of an 'eternal and glorious kingdom', where 'the whole created order [will] worship at his feet', of us being 'knit together in one fellowship', or us 'coming to share the joy of heaven' and the 'heavenly feast' prepared for us there.

The Kingdom Season is the climax of the church's year when we look forward to the day when the Kingdom of God will be fully realised on earth as in heaven. Its final Sunday gives us an opportunity to reflect on the kingship of Christ and what his kingship and his rule look like. We observe throughout that the readings are apocalyptic in tone, depicting the end of the world and judgement themes predominate until they conclude with the triumphant Feast of Christ the King who will reign over all things in the peaceable Kingdom of God.

I pray that this Kingdom Season may be a rich source of reflection for you all. May it help us to look beyond the present and immediate, and aid us in catching a vision of something greater, including what it means to be those who are called to pray daily and earnestly for the coming of God's Kingdom.

With love and blessings, *Fr Paul*

**STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL** Thanksgiving Offering Cards for the coming year will be presented at Mass on the Feast of Christ the King, Sunday 21 November. Following the Mass this morning, **Sunday 7 November**, our treasurer, Susan Read will give a presentation of the Budget for 2022. This will take place in church and papers will be available.

### **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](https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html)

**Morning Prayer** has begun again and will be said publicly in St Helen's every weekday at 9.10am. *All Welcome*

**CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL OXFORD** will have prayers for COP26 at the regular services, and there will be an additional daily Eucharist at 1pm in the Latin Chapel. All are welcome to that service, which will be particularly focused on prayer for climate justice.

**FROM GLYNNE BUTT:** I was so appreciative of all Vernon's St. Michael's friends who contributed in innumerable ways to his Thanksgiving Service last Sunday. My warmest thanks to you all, whether you sang, helped with refreshments, handed out service sheets, cleared up, welcomed visitors or were just present to share your memories of Vernon. After a number of kind words, one visitor who wrote to me concluded: 'the whole effect left one feeling grateful for having known Vernon.' I hope you all felt something of the same. Thank you for being there.

*PS.* If any of you have a service sheet you don't plan to keep (we ran out!), I would be very grateful to have a few spares to send to people who weren't able to attend.

**THE CHURCH IN ABINGDON ANNUAL BEREAVEMENT SERVICE** will take place on Sunday 7 November, 3pm, at Trinity Church. This will offer an opportunity to light a candle for loved ones who have died and to give thanks for our key workers who provided such sterling support throughout lockdown.

**POPPY APPEAL 2021** Poppies can be bought in church. You can find them on the table by the votive candle stand near the north door as you come in. Readers with internet access will find details of other ways to support the Poppy Appeal at <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/poppy-appeal>

**ST NICOLAS' CHURCH** has booked Coseners House for their traditional lunch on 5 December. The cost of the meal is £30.00. If any members of St Michael's congregation would like to join them they would be very welcome. Please contact Eluned Hallas by 18th November at [eluned@hallas.org.uk](mailto:eluned@hallas.org.uk) for further details.

**ABINGDON DEANERY SECRETARY** The Abingdon Deanery is seeking an adaptable person to provide secretarial and administrative support to ensure the smooth running of the Deanery. The secretary will work closely with the Area Dean, the Lay Chair and Deanery Treasurer in leading the work of the Synod, especially by providing information and documents. The hours are flexible (average 18 per month but varies through the year) and the rate of pay depends

on qualifications and experience. For further details of the post (self-employed/freelance) and submission of applications see the <https://www.abingdondeanery.org.uk/jobvacanciesinandaroundthedeanery.htm> or speak to Sue Scott. A copy of the advertisement has been posted on a notice board in church. Closing date: 8 November 2021.

**BOOK SALE** St Nicolas' Church will be holding a book sale on Saturday 13 November, 10 am – 1 pm, Covid restrictions permitting. Come and find out the great books that everyone else was reading during lockdown! **Great bargains!**

**DIOCESAN SYNOD** meets on Saturday 13 November. The main discussion item is Addressing Poverty and Inequality. This will include a presentation led by the Venerable Stephen Pullin, Archdeacon of Berkshire and Chair of the Addressing Poverty and Inequality Focus Area, and Hannah Ling, Social Justice Adviser. This meeting of Synod also receives and is invited to approve the diocesan budget for 2022. In summary expenditure is not to exceed £18.7 million (of which £14.8 million is for parish ministry), funded by net income (which makes allowance for rebates and under-collection) from parish share of £18.7 million (0% increase from 2021). Interested readers will find a link to papers for the meeting on our *Prayer and Worship* resources page.

**MUSIC FOR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON** The final concert in this series will be on **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.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR: 20 NOVEMBER 10.30 am – 2pm** With only three weeks to go before this event, please could you start rooting out possible donations of books, bric-a-brac (china, glassware, ornaments etc.) full bottles, good quality puzzles and games, plants and unopened toiletries. Fr Paul has given permission for donations to be left at the back of the church after 1 November Many people have volunteered to help but more stall-holders will be needed so please let Nicola or Louise know if you are able to help. The Fair will raise money for church funds with a 10% donation to be shared between TAB and Tariro. An anonymous sponsor will provide a matching donation to the two charities.

**OUR CAKE STALL AND NATASHA'S LAW** We shall be running a cake stall as usual and shall be asking for donations of home-made cakes and biscuits. Because of Natasha's law which governs food labelling of pre-prepacked for direct sale food, we would ask that cakes and biscuits are brought in unwrapped in cake tins so that they can be packed after sale. Please would you also, if possible, include a list of ingredients or a copy of the recipe. And please avoid cakes containing nuts and seeds. Thank you, *Louise and Nicola*.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** John Clare has packs of Christmas cards produced by the Church Twinning committee, priced at £4.50 for 10, to help us maintain our links with churches in Abingdon's twin towns, particularly important after Brexit! Anyone who would like some please see him in person or on 01235 525898 or [johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com](mailto:johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com)

**NEW PODCAST FROM BISHOP STEPHEN** Episode 1: Exiles, Bishop Stephen writes "We will only navigate the challenges of the coming years if we learn to be a deeper church again. This new series of podcasts explores what God is saying to us as a Church through the first letter of Peter." There is a link to the podcast on our *Prayer and Worship* resources page.

**THE KELLOGG COLLEGE ANNUAL VINCENT STRUDWICK LECTURE** on Religion in Public Life on 23 November, *Facing up to the spiritual challenge of the environmental crisis* will be given this year by the Rt Revd Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading, at 5.30pm. The lecture will be online. The booking link can be found on our *Prayer and Worship* resources page.

**A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW** The November issue of the Parish Magazine will be available on Sunday 7 November to download from <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php> Thank you to all contributors.

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Saturday 27 November 7pm:** Abingdon Passion Play AGM at Christ church Barns with entertainment. Further details to follow.

#### **Worship**

---

**This Week** The celebrants and preachers for the next four weeks are: Fr Paul on 7, 21 and 28 November and Fr Paul/ Mrs Beryl Clements on 14 November (Remembrance Sunday).

Commemorations this week include Saints and martyrs of England on Monday, Margery Kempe, mystic c. 1400 on Tuesday, Leo the Great, bishop, teacher of the faith, 461 on Wednesday, Martin, bishop, c. 397 on Thursday, and Charles Simeon, priest, evangelical divine, 1836, on Saturday.

**Climate Change COP26** The COP26 conference runs from 31 October to 12 November. Bishop Olivia, Bishop of Reading, is attending the conference and joining a range of events. Recordings of interviews she has given to local radio stations are available on the diocesan Soundcloud site. There is a link on our *Prayer and Worship* resources page along with links to a recently published voluntary submission and policy position from the Anglican Consultative Council.

Our Rector, Charles Miller, in his book *The Gift of the World* on the theology of the Orthodox theologian Dumitru Staniloae wrote:

In his understanding of the natural order Staniloae stresses the solidarity between humankind and the natural world. ... The source of that solidarity is the part which the natural order is meant to play in God's act of self-disclosure. Fundamentally it means that the created world around us is not to be engaged simply as the incidental, unrelated context of man's life and spiritual growth. Rather, it means, on the one hand, that the natural order has a chief part to play in man's sanctification and deification, and, on the other hand, that the created world derives its primary meaning from its part in humankind's salvific process. So there exists a profound bond between humankind and the natural order. It is not a relationship of dominion and subjection, as Genesis 1.28 has often been read, but of mutual need, responsibility and interdependence. "Nothing will be saved without you", the opening words of the poem performed by the poet Yrsa Daley Ward at the opening session of COP26. Perhaps there is an echo of the prayer attributed to St Teresa of Avila:

Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which He looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

**Charles Simeon** was born in Reading in 1759 and educated at Cambridge where he spent the rest of his life. He became a Fellow of King's College in 1782 and having been ordained priest in 1783 became Vicar of Holy Trinity Church. He wasn't very welcome in the parish initially, having been appointed through family links, but his care and love for his parishioners overcame their antipathy and his preaching greatly increased the congregation. He had carved on the inside of the pulpit (where only the preacher could see) words from John 12.21 'Sir, we would see Jesus'. He did this as a reminder that people came not to gaze on a great preacher but to seek Jesus. He became a leading evangelical influence in the church and was one of the founders of the Church Missionary Society. Whilst holding the office of Second Bursar at King's he made a substantial donation to the replacement of the bridge across the Cam. The new bridge was completed in 1821 and is the bridge that is there today. The Simeon Trust set up by Charles Simeon shortly before he died is the sole patron, joint patron or a member of a patronage board, in over 180 Church of England benefices across England including St Aldate's in Oxford. Links to more information about Charles Simeon and the Simeon Trust can be found on the *Prayer and Worship* resources page.

**Please pray for:**

- Steven and Gavin our bishops, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- Her Majesty the Queen, especially at this time;
- our response to the financial challenges of our church's 2022 budget;
- the annual Licensed Lay Minsters service in our cathedral on Saturday 6 November at which new LLMs will be licensed, for the Revd Dr Canon Phillip Tovey Warden of LLMs and LLMs who serve in parishes in Abingdon;
- Oxford Diocesan Synod meeting on Saturday 13 November;
- the PCC meeting on Monday (8 November) at which the Associate Archdeacon will present his review of our Team Ministry in the parish;
- the COP26 summit in Glasgow;
- the suffering, all who mourn, the recently departed, and all whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in Bridge Street, Bridges Close, Broad Street and Buckland Mews.

## **Eucharistic Lectionary**

<b>Sun</b>	Jonah 3.1-5,10	Ps 62.5-end	<b>Hebrews 9.24-end</b>	<b>Mark 1.14-20</b>
<b>Mon</b>	Wisdom 1.1-7	Ps 139.1-9		Luke 17.1-6
<b>Tues</b>	Wisdom 2.23-3.9	PPs 34.1-6		Luke 17.7-10
<b>Wed</b>	Wisdom 6.1-11	Ps 82		Luke 17.11-19
<b>Thur</b>	Wisdom 7.22-8.1	Ps 119.89-96		Luke 17.20-25
<b>Fri</b>	Wisdom 13.1-9	Ps 19.1-4		Luke 17.26-end
<b>Sat</b>	Wisdom 18.14-16,19.6-9	Ps 105.1-5, 35-42		Luke 18.1-8

### **Collect (for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent)**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Prayer after Communion (for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent)**

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

### **Some On-line Resources for Worship**

*Parish resources page*

[http://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P\\_resources.html](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](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/>