



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

25th July 2021

James the Apostle / 8th Sunday after Trinity

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

Churchwarden: Miss Joyce Kelly (533555)
(07833 535768)
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(designate) Mrs Louise Heffernan (01235 525412)
(07779 650968)
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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

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]

MESSAGE FROM FR PAUL:

Dear Friends

At a meeting with Clergy and Wardens at the beginning of last week we discussed the implications for our parish following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. We wanted to move forward carefully, mindful that there would be those who rejoiced following the lifting of restrictions, and those who are made anxious by them. We were also aware that for some people their vulnerability had increased because of the changes and remembered that the commandment to 'love your neighbour' is part of keeping each other safe.

You may be aware that in our area the number of infections has been increasing at an alarming rate. With this in mind too, we made these initial decisions:

- Although mask wearing is not mandatory, we agreed that we would strongly encourage people to continue wearing masks when attending worship;
- Advance Booking will no longer be necessary, but the sidespersons will note your attendance on arrival and ask you to use hand sanitiser;
- Additionally, although social distancing is no longer a legal requirement, we felt that people should be given the option to observe social distancing if they were more comfortable doing so;
- As from this Sunday 25 July, we would introduce congregational singing in line with the Church of England's guidance issued on 19 July. However, this would require everyone wishing to participate in singing to wear masks while doing so. Congregational singing would be limited to the Introit and Offertory hymns only initially, with the Choir only singing the Communion Hymn;
- The exchange of the Peace would not be done through 'touch', but as has become our practice – through a 'bow' or other safe greeting;
- Refreshments would now be available after Sunday worship for those who wished to stay, but this would be drinks only and not involve serving of biscuits or any other food;
- We would review all of the above in a month's time.

Please continue to pray for one another during this time of transition.

With love and prayers

Fr Paul

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT ST HELEN'S CHURCH

St Helen's will live-stream their 10.30 am Eucharist through Zoom. A recording will be made available after the service. For details see the Parish Resources page on the St Helen's web site https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html

Morning Prayer will not be said publicly in St Helen's until September. Precise details will be issued nearer the time.

PAT ASHTON RIP Pat's Funeral Mass will take place here in St Michael's on **Monday 9 August at 11am**. I am aware that a number you may like to be here to say Farewell to Pat and to remember her with thanksgiving. If you are going to come please would you let **Joyce Kelly**, our Churchwarden, know by e-mail or telephone. *Fr Paul*

SILENT REFLECTIONS will be held this **Tuesday 27 July at 7.30 pm**. Mask wearing is strongly encouraged and serving of tea and coffee will be available at the end. Please sign on arrival to register your attendance. Rosalind Rutherford will introduce material on the theme: *The Lilies of the Field*. A copy will still be emailed to all those on our list, and made available on our *Prayer and Worship Resources* page. Paper copies will be available in church.

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED! A new parish website is being created on which St Michael's will have its own section. Louise would appreciate it very much if you could send her photographs of past events and activities such as special services, circle dancing, visits, the fete or the pilgrimage - anything which gives an idea of what happens at St Michaels in normal times. (Please ask permission if anyone's face is clearly visible.) Please send to lheff@stmichaels-abingdon.org if possible for 21/07/2021. *Louise Heffernan*

A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW The next issue will be in September. That means you have time to catch up and we have time for a breather. The current and past issues can be downloaded from <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php>. Thanks are due to over 70 people who have contributed since lockdown began.

Rob Rutherford.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL OF ABINGDON are hosting an event on Friday 30 July from 1pm to 3pm at the Long Alley Almshouses to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Almshouse Association of which the charity is a member. The Long Alley Garden, Hall and one of the almshouses will be open and light refreshments will be served.

THE ANNUAL PRIME TIME SUMMER EVENT is taking place at Christ Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon, 5-8 August. The event is designed for people who are retired. Although it is run at church, it is open to the entire community; people of all faiths or none. The programme is structured around our memory of distant school days. Further information and the outline programme can be found at: <https://cca.uk.net/events/2315/joy!/>

THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN CLIMATE NETWORK RELAY (YCCN), from the G7 in Cornwall to COP26 in Glasgow, is raising awareness of the need for climate justice and fair finance. The draft Relay route passes through the Diocese of Oxford in late July and mid-August. Parishes are strongly encouraged to support this courageous project, which is open to all ages but led by young Christians. The YCCN website <https://www.yccn.uk/> lists many opportunities for support by churches and individuals.

EQUIPPING FOR LIFE – LEARNING FOR DISCIPLESHIP AND MINISTRY Our diocese is offering a range of training and learning opportunities aimed at encouraging and equipping mission and ministry both in and through the local church. Details of the forthcoming courses for September to December 2021 are now available at <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/our-faith/lifelong-learning/> Courses include Introduction to Worship (focusing on Morning and Evening Prayer and the Service of the Word) and Topics in Christian Doctrine. The correct booking link is on this web page, a link published in the programme brochure is no longer operative.

MATCH BOX WORSHIP is the title of a news item on the Oxford Diocese web page that caught the editor's eye. The Revd Dr Rosie Bruce, now a priest in the ministry team of the Damascus Group of parishes (Drayton, Appleford, ...) was asked as an exercise in her ministry training to see if worship could be stripped back as much as possible to the point where everything needed would fit in a matchbox. Soon an evening service was devised that just needed a candle, image for focus, reading and prayer and would indeed fit into, a (large) matchbox. Many years later, the idea resurfaced during lockdown and was tried out with a small group of parishioners in Drayton who had no internet access and were unable to attend worship in person, in order to reassure them that they were not alone. Initially printed service sheets were distributed and later boxes. It turned out that people were not just using these gifts on a Sunday but returned to them during the week. "We are hoping to keep this practice going long after the lifting of restrictions as we know many people may be nervous about coming back to in-person services, or may have mobility issues or may need to self-isolate. Although the contents of the boxes change, generally people will receive the verse of a hymn, a psalm, a picture of the church or local area, small objects to help focus their prayer thoughts, and prayer cards too. It is always worth checking in and talking to people about the contents of the boxes." Source <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/match-box/>

Worship

This Week Celebrants and preachers for the next month are 25 July Fr Paul, 1 August Fr Paul and 8 August Fr Paul/ Mrs Beryl Clements, 15 August Fr Paul/ The Revd Elizabeth Birch.

Sunday is the feast of James the Apostle (James the Great). Commemorations this week include on Monday, Anna and Joachim, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Tuesday, Brooke Foss Westcott, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1901; Thursday, Mary, Martha and Lazarus, companions of Our Lord. William Wilberforce, social reformer, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson, anti-slavery campaigners 1833, 1797 and 1846 are commemorated on Friday then on Saturday Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556.

James the Apostle was one of the two brothers (the other was John) present with Jesus at his transfiguration and again in the garden of Gethsemane. The two brothers caused anger amongst the other followers when they asked Jesus that one should sit on his left and the other on his right when he came into glory. James was put to death by the sword on the orders of Herod Agrippa, who hoped to stem the flow of the Good News by disposing of Christian leaders. From a homily of John Chrysostom:

'Then the other ten became angry at the two brothers.' See how imperfect all the disciples were: the two who tried to receive preferential treatment over the other ten, and the ten's jealousy of the two disciples. And yet, ... when we look at these two disciples later on in their lives, we observe how free they were of these impulses. In the Acts of the Apostles we read how John, whom here is recorded as the one who asks for preferential treatment, in fact yields to Peter when it comes to preaching and in working miracles. And James, for his part, was not to live long. From the beginning he was inspired by so great a zeal, that setting aside all earthly interests, he rose to such pre-eminence that it was inevitable that he would be killed straightaway.

William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson were founder members of the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade set up in May 1787. Clarkson was the secretary and he successfully recruited William Wilberforce MP to act as parliamentary spokesperson. Equiano spoke at many public meetings and gave first-hand accounts of his life as a slave. He wrote one of the few first-hand accounts of the life of a slave in his book *The Interesting Life of Olaudah Equiano* (several editions are currently in print). The collect:

God our deliverer: who sent your Son Jesus Christ to set your people free from the slavery of sin: grant that, as your servant William Wilberforce toiled against the sin of slavery, so we may bring compassion to all and work for the freedom of all the children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

Please pray for:

- our parish at this time as we transition with some changes under Covid-19 guidance and keeping everyone safe, especially the vulnerable;
- the clergy and people of our neighbouring parish, St James the Great, Radley;
- the people of Germany following floods;
- those caught up in modern day slavery, the perpetrators of slavery, those who work to release the entrapped;
- the suffering, recently departed and all whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in Thames View, The Charter, The Holt and The Hyde.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sun	Jeremiah 45.1-5	Ps 126	Acts 11.27-12.2	Matthew 20.20-28
Mon	Exodus 32.15-24,30-34	Ps 136.1-4,10-15		Matthew 12.38-42
Tues	Exodus 33.7-11,24.5-9,18	Ps 103.8-12		Matthew 13.36-43
Wed	Exodus 34.29-end	Ps 99		Matthew 13.44-46
Thur	Exodus 40.16-21, 34-end	Ps 84.1-6		Matthew 13.47-53
Fri	Leviticus 23.1,4-11,15-16,27,34-37	Ps 81.1-8		Matthew 13.54-end
Sat	Leviticus 25.1,8-17	Ps 67		Matthew 14.1-12

Collect (James the Apostle)

Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay: through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ... Amen.

Prayer after Communion (James the Apostle)

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect (8th Sunday after Trinity)

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ... Amen.

Prayer after Communion (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

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: See. <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/oxfords-cathedral/online-worship>. Livestream events will appear on the cathedral's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqz9I9-LbZJAPGtjeOgQbbg/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 normally starts around 8.10 am, after Matins at 7.30 am. *NOTE: Sunday 25 July is the Community's Foundation Day and Mass will be at 11.30 am.*

Walsingham In addition to the daily live-streaming of Shrine Prayers at 6 pm. the Sunday Mass is live-streamed (check the web site for time), <https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/>