



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

9 August 2026 – 10th Sunday after Trinity
16 August 2026 – The Blessed Virgin Mary / 11th Sunday after Trinity
Regular Service Times

Sundays: Sung Mass, 9.30 am
Tuesdays: Silent Reflections, last Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm (except December)
Thursdays: Said Mass, 12.30 pm
Moving into Stillness, Taizé circle dancing with silent interludes, usually first Thursday of the month, 9.45 am to 10.45 am. There is no circle dancing of any kind in August 2026.

Contacts

Team Rector: The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown
Email: rector@abingdonparish.org.uk

Team Vicar: (To join the parish after Christmas)

Churchwardens: Miss Joyce Kelly (01235 533555 / 07833 535768)
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Mrs Louise Heffernan (01235 525412 / 07779 650968)
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Associate Priest The Revd Dr A. K. M. Adam (AKMA)
e-mail: akma@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

Bookings*: Miss Joyce Kelly (as above)

Parish Office: The Parish Centre Office is normally open from Monday to Thursday, **10 am to 1 pm.**

Administrator: During normal working hours phone or leave a message on:
Telephone (01235 520144)
e-mail: administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

Web site: <http://www.stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk>

Items for inclusion in the next issue of pew leaflet to be sent to David Duce by midday on Tuesday 18 August (double issue for 23 and 30 August).

Telephone 522591

pewleaflet@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk

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

We welcome our Team Rector, The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown, to preside and preach at Mass on 9 August and Canon Richard Pyke on 16 August

10th Sunday after Trinity (9 August)

Today's gospel reading, Matthew 14.22-33 follows on from last Sunday's reading, the feeding of the five thousand. The disciples get into a boat and cross to the other side while Jesus dismissed the crowds. Jesus then went alone up a mountain to pray. Meanwhile the wind rose and the boat was being tossed around in the waves, far from land. We are told that in the early hours of the morning, Jesus came to them, walking on the water. The disciples were terrified and did not at first know who it was. But Jesus told them not to be afraid. Peter then got out of the boat and started walking on the water towards Jesus but began to sink in the face of the wind. Jesus caught him and asked why he doubted. Not the last time in the gospel when Peter doubted, in particular at the arrest and trial of Jesus when he denied that he was with Jesus (26.69-). When Jesus got into the boat the wind dropped and the disciples worshipped him – "Truly you are the Son of God."

The related passage, 1 Kings 9.9-18, tells how the prophet Elijah met God on the mountain at Horeb. Again a great wind features, this time splitting mountains and breaking rocks. The wind was followed by an earthquake and a fire, but God was in none of these. It was in 'a sound of sheer silence' that Elijah encountered the Lord where he is told to return to the wilderness of Damascus and anoint Hazael as King over Aram and Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel.

Clare of Assisi, the founder of the Poor Clares, is commemorated in the calendar on Tuesday. Clare was born to a wealthy family and was captivated by the preaching of St Francis. The Poor Clares lived a life of corporate poverty, strict enclosure and dependence on God. There are today houses of Roman Catholic Poor Clares in Arundel, Nottingham and York, living a life of prayer and service, preserving a careful balance between prayer, study and work. Perhaps one example of the 'sound of sheer silence' in modern religious life. In the Church of England, the Community of St Clare, Freeland (near Oxford), is another example.

Our body is not made of iron. Our strength is not that of stone.

Live and hope in the Lord, and let your service be according to reason. *Clare of Assisi*

David Duce

The Festival of the Blessed Virgin Mary (16 August, translated from 15 August)

In the Roman Catholic Church the festival is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the Orthodox Church the Dormition of the Virgin Mary. Bradshaw and Johnson in their book *The Origins of Feasts, Fasts and Seasons in Early Christianity* write that the feast had its origins in Jerusalem and was first documented in a fifth-century Armenian Lectionary as a feast of Mary Mother of God (*Theotokos*). Various explanations have been offered for the date though no conclusive arguments have emerged. It might have been the date of the dedication of the place where the feast was first celebrated, or related to a one-time celebration of the birth of Jesus on 15 May. From Hugh Wybrew, *Orthodox Feasts of Christ and Mary*:

The transfiguration of Jesus does not concern him alone, but points to the ultimate transformation of all creation. In the same way the dormition of the Mother of God is not about her entry into glory alone, but shows us the destiny God intends for the whole human race. The divine plan of salvation, whose first beginnings we have seen in the birth of the Virgin, has now come to fruition in her passing from death to life. If the risen Christ is 'the first fruits of those who have died' (1 Corinthians 15.20), Mary is the first who has been 'made alive in Christ' (1 Corinthians 15.22). It is the pledge, too, of the healing of all creation, destined to be transfigured by the creative and redemptive suffering love of God in Christ.

David Duce

The Revd Naomi Gardom We are delighted to announce that, subject to legalities, the Revd Naomi Gardom been appointed as the next Team Vicar in the Abingdon-on-Thames team. Naomi will join the team from the University Church in Oxford where she currently serving her curacy. Naomi's licensing will be on **Wednesday 6 January 2027 at 7.30 pm in St Helen's Church.**

Tony Richmond, RIP Tony's funeral will be in St Nicolas' Church on Tuesday 18 August at 2 pm. Donations in Tony's memory to Parkinson's UK will be gratefully received and can be made through Tonks Brothers, Funeral Directors, web site: <https://www.tonksbrothers.com/funeral-details?tribute=tonyrichmond>.

Pew leaflets during August To work around other commitments and allow for a brief break, the publication schedule for this pew leaflet during August will be:

Sunday	
23 and 30 August	double issue published 20 August, content deadline Tuesday 18 August
6 September	single issues, published 3 September content deadline Tuesday 1 September

St Helen's and St Nicolas' Churches are also reducing the frequency of their weekly newsletter/ pew slip during August with double issues for 2 & 9 August and 16 & 23 August and a single issue for 30 August. So there will be something new to read each week if you are able to access the online copies of the St Helen's and St Nicolas' publications (through the Publications sections of their web sites).

Glynne and Peter are getting married! They are having a Service of Blessing at St. Michael's at **2.30 pm on Friday 21 August** and would be delighted to welcome any church friends who would like to share the occasion with them.

Weddings' Coordinator Is there anyone who is interested in volunteering as Weddings' coordinator for St Michael's. This involves being the contact person for the wedding couple. Maggie Davis our previous coordinator moved away from Abingdon last year and since then Joyce has been filling this role, but we really need to have someone else in this position. If you are interested or would like more information, please speak to Joyce Kelly.

Confirmation and admission to Holy Communion It has been over a year since we last had a confirmation service here in the parish, and I am aware that there may be both young people and adults in our churches who wish to be confirmed. This notice is to ask that if you or your child would be interested in confirmation, please speak to Revd Jen or Fr AKMA so that we can begin to plan confirmation classes. We can also offer preparation for admission to Holy Communion if there are any children who would like to begin receiving Holy Communion prior to confirmation.

Jennifer Brown

Sunday Worship at St Helen's Church St Helen's will live-stream their 10.30 am Eucharist through Zoom. The Zoom link can be found in the St Helen's Church newsletter (on-line) and on the Publications page at their web site. 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/StHpublications.html>).

There isn't a service in St Helen's Church at 5.30 pm this Sunday. The next Taizé Service will be on Sunday 9 August at 5.30 pm.

Morning Prayer is *normally* held at 9.10 am on weekdays at St Helen's Church.

8 am Communion Service Rather than alternating monthly between St Helen's and St Nicolas', the 8 am BCP Holy Communion service will continue to be held at St Nicolas' each month. This is currently for a trial period until the end of the year (the Christmas Day service will be at St Helen's, as in past years), at which time we will review the situation to see how it is working.

Jennifer Brown, Team Rector

Cream Tea The Cream Tea on 25 July £460 for church funds. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

The next Cream Tea will take place on **Saturday 29 August between 2.30 pm and 4.30 pm**. Do please bring along your family and friends and promote wherever you can. It should be a lovely afternoon with some delicious cakes and live piano music. Help with circulation of posters and fliers would be greatly appreciated. If you feel able to give a hand there are some you might collect in the south aisle. Even one or two is a help. Thank you, *Louise*.

Piano Recital Huw Rhys James, the acclaimed Austria-based concert pianist, will perform works by Bach, Schumann and Debussy here on **6 September at 3 pm**. Huw's mother lives locally and Huw and family regularly attend St Michael's when in the UK and has given many concerts in St Michael's. The afternoon promises to be a real treat so please do put the date in your diary. Tickets £15. Refreshments available. (Help with poster/flyer distribution would also be much appreciated).

Pavlova Wind Quintet The concert planned for **Sunday 20 September has been CANCELLED**. The concert will now take place next spring.

The Abingdon Bridge Charity Golf Day We are delighted to invite you to our second charity golf day being held on **11 September 2026 at Hadden Hill Golf Club, Didcot**. The entry deadline is **Friday 28 August**. Further details can be found on the TAB web site <https://www.theabingdonbridge.org.uk/event-details/the-abingdon-bridge-charity-golf-day-2026> and further details and the entry form will be circulated with the digital version of this pew leaflet. If you would be interested in playing but are unable to submit an entry for 4 people, please let us know as we'll keep a list of names and hopefully team you up with others. If you're not a golfer or unable to attend on the day, you can still support us by donating a raffle prize or sponsoring a hole. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact TAB. Email: kirsty@theabingdonbridge.org.uk Telephone: 01235 522375 (Working days Monday - Thursday 9.30am - 4.45pm)

Kirsty Darter & Hilary Daffern (Trustee)

Ride & Stride The 2026 Ride + Stride in aid of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) takes place on **Saturday 12 September**. The event raises money for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, and above all is great fun! 50% of the money raised by us goes to St Michael's Church and the other 50% to OHCT. Further details can be obtained on the OHCT website <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/> and from our church coordinator, Louise Heffernan lheff@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church for those willing to welcome on the day. A sponsorship form will also be available, perhaps for a stride rather than ride this year.

Abingdon Foodbank Most needed at present are biscuits, squash, cereal, tinned mac'n'cheese and UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed) as well as empty egg boxes, carrier bags and wet cat or dog food. There is a collection box in church and goods donated there will be taken to the South Abingdon Foodbank.

There are collection points in local supermarkets and some other local businesses. The "Give Help" page has details of ways to donate and a link to the "BanktheFood app" which has frequently updated lists of most urgently needed items. <https://abingdon.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/>

PATHWAYS Printed copies of the Summer 2026 issue of the Diocese of Oxford magazine are available in church. The issue is well worth reading. At the time of writing (Wednesday), a digital copy was not available.

CiA News The **July** issue of CiA News is now available to download and there is a copy on the Notice Board by the welcome table. A digital copy is available to download from the parish web site: https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html.

A Candle in the Window The **July** edition of the Parish Magazine is available to download from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php A green edition! No more until September so do catch up!

Worship

August The celebrants and preachers for August are: 2 August, The Revd Rosalind Rutherford; 9 August, The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown; 16 August, Fr AKMA; 23 August, The Revd Canon Ruth Pyke; 30 August, Fr AKMA.

[9 – 15 August] Saturday is the festival of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be kept in the parish on Sunday 16 August.

Commemorations during the week include Monday: Laurence, deacon, martyr, 258; Tuesday: Clare of Assisi, founder of the Poor Clares, 1253 and John Henry Newman, Doctor of the Church, 1890; Jeremy Taylor, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1667, Florence Nightingale, nurse, social reformer, 1910 and Octavia Hill, social reformer, 1912; Friday: Maximillian Kolbe, friar, martyr, 1941.

[16 – 22 August] Thursday: Bernard, abbot, teacher of the faith, 1153 and William and Catherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army, 1912, 1890.

Octavia Hill was born in 1838 into a family active in social work. She was influenced by friendship with F. D. Maurice and John Ruskin. As a teacher she was appalled at the conditions her pupils were living in. She persuaded John Ruskin to buy three slum properties which he gave to Octavia to manage, which she did in a more sympathetic way insisting on financial viability. The scheme was extended and she became a pioneer in housing reform.

In 1885 a collaboration with two others to raise public awareness of railway developments threatening the Lake District led to the foundation of the *National Trust*.

From *Homes of the London Poor* by Octavia Hill.

I desired to be in a condition to free a few poor people from the tyranny and influence of a low-class of landlords and landladies; from the corrupting effect of continual forced communication with very degraded fellow-lodges; from the heavy incubus of accumulated dirt: that so he never-dying hope which I find characteristic of the poor might have leave to spring, and with it such energy as might help them to help themselves.

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux entered the Benedictine abbey at Citeaux in 1112. He was leader of the reform within Benedictine tradition at this time and was sent to establish a new monastery at a place he named Clairvaux ('Place of Light'). Hundreds of houses were formed on this reformed tradition which became known as the Cistercian system. From *Bernard of Clairvaux – A Lover of Teaching the Way of Love*, selected writings, edited by M. Basil Pennington.

(On the *Song of Songs* 23.6-9) By your leave then we shall search the sacred scripture for these three things, the garden, the storeroom, the bedroom. The one who thirsts for God eagerly studies and meditates on the inspired word. Know that there we are certain to find the one for whom we thirst. Let the garden, then, represent the plain, unadorned historical sense of scripture, the storeroom its moral sense, and the bedroom the mystery of divine contemplation.

For a start, I feel my comparison of scriptural history to a garden is not unwarranted, for in it we find persons of many virtues like fruitful trees in the garden of the Bridegroom, in the paradise of God. You may gather samples of their good deeds and good habits as you would apples from trees.

(Letters 101:2) Believe me, who have experience, you will find much more labo[u]ring among the woods than you ever will among books. Woods and stones will teach you what you can never hear from any professor.

In Times of Drought

Our Team Rector suggested including this prayer for rain from the Book of Common Prayer, which readers might like to use.

O God, heavenly Father, who by thy Son Jesus Christ hast promised to all them that seek thy kingdom, and the righteousness thereof, all things necessary to their bodily sustenance: Send us, we beseech thee, in this our necessity, such moderate rain and showers, that we may receive the fruits of the earth to our comfort, and to thy honour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Common Worship Times & Seasons includes a Rogationtide Procession. Readers may recall that extracts of this have been published before in this pew leaflet as used by the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield in their rogationtide procession around the house, orchard and garden. *Times & Seasons* suggests that the section below may be inserted in the Common Worship litany.

Grant favourable weather, temperate rains and fruitful seasons,
that there may be food and drink for all creatures.

Hear us, good Lord.

Bestow your blessing upon the lands and waters, and all who work upon them,
to bring forth food and all things needful to your people.

Hear us, good Lord.

Prosper all who care for the earth, the water, and the air;
that the riches of your creation may abound from age to age.

Hear us, good Lord.

This is rather off topic, but given the extremely serious situations caused by wildfires in many countries, readers might be interested in this piece that appeared on the BBC News web site on 1 August, 'How Australia combines modern tech and Indigenous knowledge to fight wildfires'. It is a poignant reminder of how ancient knowledge about fire and land management has been lost or ignored, but is now being recovered and applied in the current situation. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czdmvr984yyo>.

The Middle East This prayer for Iran appeared in diocesan e-News, and on the Church of England web site. It has also been reproduced in the March issue of *A Candle in the Window*. The prayer was written by the Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford. Bishop Guli was born in Iran. Her family left the country in the wake of the Iranian Revolution in 1980, when she was 13 years old, and to date she has been unable to return.

Ever-loving God,
who hears us in our anguish and distress,
and longs for us to be free.
We pray for the people of Iran and the wider Middle East,
at this time of fear and uncertainty.
Be near to those who are anxious;
bring comfort to all who are suffering.
Guide those with the power to make decisions,
and lead them in the ways of wisdom, compassion and moderation:
that people of goodwill would seek harmony and reconciliation.
Join us with our Christian brothers and sisters in all places,
in praying for peace with justice,
through him who is the prince of peace, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for the Peace of the World

A prayer from the Church of England:

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

During another Season of Vacancies

The prayer below has been derived from a prayer composed by Fr Paul when the Revd Dr Jennifer Brown was appointed Team Rector.

Almighty God,
 By the outpouring of your Holy Spirit,
 You call each of us to walk in the way of Christ and to serve him, with diverse gifts, in the church and the world.
 We praise you for calling Revd Naomi to be Team Vicar in our parish,
 and ask you to bless her, Matthew and their family, in all their preparations over the coming months.
 Grant her the needful gifts of grace to minister and serve among us,
 and that as the whole people of God in this parish, we may work together for the coming of your kingdom,
 to the glory of your Holy Name, Amen.

This prayer for the Diocese of Oxford during the Vacancy in See is taken from the Summer 2026 edition of the diocesan magazine, *Pathways*.

God of gentleness and love
 Draw near to us as we draw near to you.
 Dwell in every heart and conversation.
 Fashion in us the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ.
 Help us to discern together all that you are calling us to be
 and all that you are calling us to do.
 Assist us, by your Spirit, to become a more contemplative,
 more compassionate and more courageous church,
 for the building of your kingdom and the glory of your Son.

Please pray for:

- Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury and Stephen, Archbishop of York;
- Bishop Gavin, Acting Bishop of Oxford, the Crown Nominations Commission, and the Archdeaconry of Dorchester team: David Tyler, Jane Haslam and Rob Glenny;
- His Majesty King Charles, Her Majesty Queen Camilla, and all the royal family;
- victims of the wild-fires around the world, and those working to bring relief;
- farmers facing huge challenges in these drought conditions;
- students awaiting examination results over the next two weeks;
- the suffering, especially those who are known to us and who are on our prayer list;
- those recently departed and those whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in [9 August] Caldecott Road, Causeway, Cemetery Road, Challenor Close;
 [16 August] Chaunterell Way, Checker Walk, Clifton Drive, Coleridge Drive.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sunday 9 August 10th Sunday after Trinity	1 Kings 19.9-18	Ps 85.8-13	Romans 9.10.5-15	Matthew 14.22-33
Monday	Ezekiel 1.2-5,24-end	Ps 148.1-4 12-13		Matthew 17.22-end
Tuesday	Ezekiel 2.8-3.4	Ps 119.65-72		Matthew 18.1-5, 10, 12-14
Wednesday	Ezekiel 9.1-7, 10.18-22	Ps 113		Matthew 18.15-20
Thursday	Ezekiel 12.1-12	Ps 78.58-64		Matthew 18.21-9.1
Friday	Ezekiel 16.1-5, 60-end	Ps 118.14-18		Matthew 19.3-12
Saturday	Ezekiel 18.1-11a, 13b, 30, 32	Ps 51.1-3, 15-17		Matthew 19.13-15
Sunday 16 August The Blessed Virgin Mary	Isaiah 61.10-end	Ps 45.10-end	Galatians 4.4-7	Luke 1.46-55
Monday	Ezekiel 24.15-24	Ps 78.1-8		Matthew 19.16-22
Tuesday	Ezekiel 28.1-10	Ps 107.1-3, 40, 43		Matthew 19.23-end
Wednesday	Ezekiel 34.1-11	Ps 23		Matthew 20.1-16
Thursday	Ezekiel 36.23-28	Ps 51.7-12		Matthew 22.1-14
Friday	Ezekiel 37.1-14	Ps 107.1-8		Matthew 22.34-40
Saturday	Ezekiel 43.1-7	Ps 85.7-end		Matthew 23.1-12

Collect (10th Sunday after Trinity)

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

Post Communion (10th Sunday after Trinity)

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect (Blessed Virgin Mary)

Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord...

Collect (Blessed Virgin Mary)

God most high, whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh: we thank you that in this sacrament of our redemption you visit us with your Holy Spirit and overshadow us by your power; strengthen us to walk with Mary the joyful path of obedience and so to bring forth the fruits of holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect (11th Sunday after Trinity)

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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=Livestream&diocese=27>

Parish Communications and Links <http://www.abingdonparish.org.uk/Pcommunications.html>

St Michael's Prayer and Worship resources page <https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StM/StMworshipresources.html>

St Michael's Publications page <https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StM/StMpublications.html>

Oxford Cathedral: Livestream events will appear on the cathedral's YouTube channel, see <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqz9I9-LbZJAPGtje0gQbbg>.

The University Church of St Mary the Virgin (Oxford) live stream, see <https://www.youtube.com/c/UniversityChurch/featured>

Community of the Resurrection: live streaming and recordings of the community's daily round of prayer and praise, see <https://mirfield.org.uk/live-streaming/> and YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/@StreamingAtMirfield>. 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 Saturdays). the Sunday Mass is live-streamed (usually at 7.30 am, but check the web site). <https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/whatson-2/livestream/>