



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

1 March 2026 – 2nd Sunday of Lent **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.

Contacts

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

Team Vicar: Vacancy

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) or
Mobile (07395 943957)
e-mail: administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

Web site: <http://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]

We welcome The Revd Rosalind Rutherford to celebrate and preach at Mass today

TARIRO

'God moves in mysterious ways' as the saying goes and occasionally one gets a nudge in an unexpected direction. My plan this week was to include a parish-wide piece about the Team Vicar appointment process, but it turns out this has been rescheduled for next week. As I was thinking what to write, I received an email from Fr Nicolas CR, founder of TARIRO.

As readers will know our Lent Appeal this year is for The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) and TARIRO – Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe, charities we have supported jointly in various ways for a number of years. In addition to the Lent Appeal this year we are also organising another concert in May by Wantage Academy Brass, this time accompanied by Caritas Children's Choir and Wantage Youth Brass in aid of these two charities and St Michael's Church.

I would normally strike a balance between what I write about TARIRO and what I write about TAB, but the email about the financial situation facing TARIRO that leads me in the circumstances to focus on TARIRO.

TARIRO is facing a serious financial situation, in short, TARIRO is running out of money. Currently reserves are sufficient to see the charity through until June, but after that, the regular income would mean ceasing support for 75% of the youngsters currently supported which would be a disaster as they would have to leave school for good. In part it is the success of TARIRO that has led to this situation. A number of younger children, in desperate situations, were taken on recently and with 10 youngsters now in tertiary education, the costs of education, food, shelter and clothing, have risen substantially.

The residential theological college, the College of the Resurrection was founded by the Community of the Resurrection on the Mirfield site, hence (and otherwise) Fr Nicolas has links with many former students and their parishes and has sent out an appeal for support to them and their churches and to other supporters. Whilst one-off donations are extremely helpful, having stable income streams is very important to TARIRO as indeed it is to TAB and other charities, and so regular donations by bankers' order are most welcome.

Fr Nicolas is extremely grateful for the on-going support from St Michael's, and anything we can do to help in the present situation would be very much appreciated, both by the charity, but most importantly by the youngsters they support. Our support through prayer at this time is equally important.

David Duce

Lent Appeal 2026 Last year The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) and TARIRO – Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe – were chosen as our charities for our Lent Appeals in 2025 and 2026. We hope you will feel able to support this year's appeal. There are four ways to donate:

- By bank transfer. The preferred way to donate is by bank transfer to: NatWest Bank, Account no: 61580376 Sort code: 600101, account name Abingdon Parochial Church Council St Michael's Church; please use the reference LENT 2026.
- By credit card. Please speak to Joyce or Louise.
- By cheque. Please make cheques payable to 'Abingdon Parochial Church Council St Michael's Church' and put on the collection plate in an envelope clearly marked LENT 2026, hand to a Church Warden or send to The Treasurer, St Michael's Church LENT 2026, Parish Office, St Helen's Court, Abingdon OX14 5BS.
- In cash placed on the collection plate in an envelope clearly marked LENT 2026 though if you could donate by other means this would be appreciated.

Unfortunately, donations made through the church are not eligible for Gift Aid. Only donations made directly to the charities would be eligible for Gift Aid. Anyone wishing to make such a donation should consult the relevant web sites: <https://www.theabingdonbridge.org.uk/support-us> and <https://tarirouk.com/donate/>. If you pay directly to the charities and feel comfortable doing so, it would be helpful if you would put an anonymous note of the amount given in an envelope marked LENT 2026 and place on the collection plate. Please indicate if the donation was made through Gift Aid. This will enable us to give a more complete picture of the total amount raised.

Please speak to Joyce or Louise if you have any queries about any of the above. It would be very helpful if donations could be made on or before Palm Sunday.

Joyce and Louise on behalf of St Michael's DCC

Church Heating As of Tuesday 24 February the church heating has been restored to full working-order. Long may it so continue!

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 has all the paperwork and would be able to hand this over. If you are interested or would like more information, please speak to Joyce Kelly.

Help needed The Parish office is looking for volunteers who could help in the office when the administrator is on holiday. If you can help, could you please let a Church Warden know.

Also, Norman Gee is looking for help with the IT system, could you please let a Church Warden know if you are able to help.

Appointment of a new Bishop of Oxford – An Update. As part of the consultation process, the Diocese is arranging an online open meeting at which they can hear views from any member of the diocese who would like to attend. This will be on **19 March at 6 pm on Zoom**. Registration is essential. This meeting is open to anyone who lives or works in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Berkshire. The [registration link](#) is now open.

A prayer resource pack is now available on the diocesan web <https://oxford.anglican.org/who-we-are/how-we-are-governed/diocesan-synod/vacancy-in-see/prayer> It includes a collection of prayer points and a full set of intercessions for a eucharistic context. The “headline prayer” is included later in this pew leaflet.

Annual Meetings Note the dates. The Annual District Church Meeting will take place on **Sunday 26 April**. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Annual Meeting of Parishioners will take place on **Thursday 30 April**. Further details will be announced in due course. The timetable for the annual revision of the Electoral Roll has now been set and an announcement about this will appear in next week’s pew leaflet.

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 is no evening service at St Helen’s on 1 March.

The March *Taizé Prayer service* will be on **Sunday 8 March in St Helen’s Church at 5.30 pm**.

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

Faith Forum The second talk in the current series was on Sunday 22 February, where the Revd Dr Phil Cooke spoke on “How Music Works in Worship”. Our Team Rector, Jennifer Brown, gave the first talk, ‘What we say and how we say it: the words we use in liturgy.’ Currently [Wednesday] there is a link to a recording of the first talk and talks in earlier series on the parish web site:

https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_faith_forum.html

Retreats at the Community of St Mary the Virgin, Wantage Details of retreats for 2026 are now available on the Community’s web site <https://csmv.co.uk/calendar-of-retreats/>.

St Michael’s Fundraising Cream Teas 2026 The fundraising committee is currently planning events for this year’s calendar. We already have the dates planned for the popular Cream Teas events enjoyed by many of our local community.

We are beginning to seek helpers who would like to be involved in making these afternoons a real success.

If you feel that you would like to help at one of the Cream Tea fundraisers this year, either by baking cakes, serving refreshments, general help or selling raffle tickets, we would be extremely grateful.

If you are able to kindly offer your help in any way, please contact Louise, Joyce or Helen mob 07724 160435.

Thank you. St Michael’s Church Fundraising Committee.

Dates for Cream Teas 2026

25 April, 30 May, 27 June, 25 July, 29 August (Bank Holiday Weekend), 26 September

Fundraising Events 2026

If you feel that you would like to put forward a fundraising event this year, please contact Louise, Joyce or Helen mobile 07724 160435. Thank you.

Abingdon Foodbank At present the foodbank is currently asking for noodles, UHT milk, fruit juice, tinned fruit, squash, corned beef, meatballs, sweetcorn and cooking oil. Deodorants for men and women also needed as are carrier bags. In December 2025, Abingdon Foodbank distributed 272 standard emergency food parcels to people facing hardship in Abingdon and the surrounding villages. These parcels fed 731 people, of which 272 were children. The 2025 Christmas hamper campaign saw special Christmas parcels distributed to 388 local families. We worked with schools and local agencies to help us identify people in need, and thanks to your wonderful donations we helped feed 1,233 people, of which, 644 were children.

There is a collection point in church and other points are situated 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/>

Mothers’ Union, Tuesday 3 March: Domestic Abuse “Reducing the Risk” – Cllr Gwyneth Lewis *Reducing the Risk* is a locally based charity, working locally, regionally and nationally, to support adults and children at risk of domestic abuse and empower the professionals and volunteers who support them. <https://reducingtherisk.org.uk/> Cllr

Gwyneth Lewis is a Town Councillor, former Mayor and member of St Nicolas'. All welcome. Meetings are held in the **Parish Centre 10.15 for 10.30 am.**

Stations of the Cross will be held on Tuesday evenings at **7 pm** (for about 40 minutes) on **3, 10, 17 March**; these will be lay led. If you park in Park Road or Crescent, come in to get a parking permit.

Moving into Stillness: circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes on **Thursday 5 March in the church room from 9.45 – 10.45 am** before the regular circle dancing session at 11 am. Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed. Tea and coffee will be provided between the two sessions. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

World Day of Prayer This year the World Day of Prayer takes place on **Friday 6 March 2026 at St Edmund's Church, 2.30 pm.** The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria and the theme is 'I will give you rest, come' from Matthew 11:28 – 30. The service shares the stories of four Nigerian women who inspire us to work towards a world without injustice, insecurity, marginalisation, religious persecution, poverty and despair. We will join a great wave of prayer that encircles the globe, all praying with and for the country and people of Nigeria. All welcome, Refreshments will follow the service.

Quiet Garden Day at Aston Tirrold and Uphorpe Village Hall, Thorpe Street, Aston Uphorpe, Didcot OX11 2EQ on **Saturday 7 March 2026 10 am - 4 pm.** Leader: Josie Midwinter on a Lenten theme. Refreshments are provided, but please bring a packed lunch. A donation of £10 would be welcome. To attend it would be helpful to email: atquietgardendays@gmail.com in advance. (The Village Hall is being used whilst the *Centre for Reflection* is being renovated.) All are welcome.

Abingdon Artists' Spring Exhibition takes place in the **south aisle of St Helen's Church from Monday 9 to Saturday 14 March, 10 am to 4.30 pm each day.** With over 100 pictures on display, it's well worth a look and it's also an opportunity to buy cards and unframed work.

Cranmer Commemoration play *The Prayer Book Society* is staging the play *The Trial of Thomas Cranmer* at the **University Church in Oxford on 21 March, 11 am to 4 pm**, as part of this year's Cranmer Commemoration. More details of the day, the play and how to book are available at this link <https://www.pbs.org.uk/event/cranmer26> The day starts with Choral Mattins at 11 am.

Agnostics Anonymous The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 24 March at 6 pm in The Parish Centre**, aiming to finish about 7.15 pm. "Are you saved. Ideas of salvation in the bible and today", led by The Revd Professor John Barton and the Revd Dr Jennifer Brown. Everyone welcome.

Wantage Academy Brass Concert As previously announced, our annual fund-raising concert for *The Abingdon Bridge, TARIRO – Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe* will be on **Saturday 9 May at 6 pm.** Last year Wantage Academy Brass were joined by Wantage-based CARITAS Children's choir. The Children's choir will be singing again this year and Wantage Youth Band will also be performing. Please note the date now if you have not already done so. Booking information should be available next week.

CiA News The **February** issue of CiA News is available to download and there is a copy on the Notice Board by the welcome table. See https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html.

A Candle in the Window We hope to publish the March issue of the Parish Magazine on Sunday 8 March Contributions welcome to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk (by the end of **Sunday 1 March**). The February edition of the Parish Magazine and previous issues are available to download from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html.

Worship

March Celebrants and preachers are: 1 March The Revd Rosalind Rutherford; 8 March The Revd Dr Jane Baun; 15 March The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown; 22 and 29 March Fr AKMA.

There to two commemorations this week: Monday: Chad, bishop, missionary, 672 and Saturday: Peperua, Felicity and companions, martyrs, 203.

1 March is St David's Day, Dewi Sant, patron saint of Wales, but falling on a Sunday this year does not appear in the lectionary. In the Church of Wales the commemoration is translated to Monday.

David of Wales was born about 520, the son of a King and whose mother was a saint of the early Celtic Church. He was nicknamed the Waterman, probably because of the strict monastic rule he kept which included abstinence from alcohol (commonly in the form of beer at that time). David lived in a time when history was passed on by word-of-mouth rather than the written word and references in written records are sparse. Legends surrounding the saint are plentiful, often emphasising the holiness of David and the importance of Wales. The earliest known written 'life' of St David was written by a monk called Rhygyfarch around 1080, five hundred years after David died.

For more information, see the web site of St David's Cathedral
<https://www.stdavidscathedral.org.uk/discover/history/St-David>

The last words of David are said to have been 'Be joyful, keep the faith, do the little things you have seen me do.'
The collect from the Church of Wales prayer book:

God our Father, you gave Saint David to the people of Wales to uphold the faith: encouraged by his example, may we joyfully hold fast to the things which lead to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

The gospel passage in the Church of Wales lectionary for the day is Matthew 16.24-27:

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

Discovering Jesus in the Eucharist this Lent From diocesan *eNews*, 12 February.

"Come and See" is the Diocese of Oxford's free online experience that allows people to explore spirituality and find out more about the Christian faith. This Lent, join Bishop Steven as we delve into the Eucharist, or Holy Communion. Everyone who registers receives a short daily email to reflect on (also available as a podcast), and a weekly video from Bishop Steven exploring the theme in a bit more detail. There are intergenerational activities each Sunday, so you can do it together as a family too. You can sign up now to receive the daily emails, and check in with your local parish, to see if they're running Come and See in their services, in small groups or in another way."

For more details and the link to sign up to register to receive the daily emails is

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see> [*I'm not personally aware of local groups in our parish. Ed.*]

TAB and Tariro There are now copies of the latest publicity brochures from both TARIRO and TAB on the literature table by the south porch in the literature holder nearest The Bookstall. Do please take copies and use during Lent.

For more information about the two charities, see their web sites: <https://www.theabingdonbridge.org.uk/> and <https://tarirouk.com/>. Here are a few suggestions for prayer, lightly revised from suggestions made last year.

Give thanks and pray for the work of TAB:
for the charity's Trustees that they may govern with wisdom and integrity; for the TAB team, CEO, heads of departments, counsellors, coaches, therapists and office staff, volunteers, their clients.
Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for the youth ambassadors representing the voices of young people and their opinions.
Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for the well-being programme of 1 to 1 support for young people; Bridge 18 to 25, support for 18 to 25 year olds.
Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for the healthy lifestyles programme and workshops, for the SMART (Social Media Anxiety Resilience Team) Project enabling young people to become more digitally resilient, for the gym and sports programme.
Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for young people who need mental health support but are unable to access it.
Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

Give thanks and pray for the work of Tariro:
for the charity's Trustees that they may govern with wisdom and integrity; for the partner trust, Tariro Youth Project in Zimbabwe; for the on-going financial resources needed to support the children.
Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for the young children who have recently joined Tariro, for their health and schooling. For the five young people baptized earlier this year.
Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for the 100+ young people who have been supported by Tariro over the last 16 years. For their future employment and stability.
Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for the farming projects (pigs, chickens and vegetables), for the members of the Tariro family now in leadership roles.
Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

for all young people in Zimbabwe, living in poverty, orphaned or in abusive homes, without hope for the future.
Lord in mercy, hear our prayer.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his mercy endures for ever. (Psalm 136)

During another Season of Vacancies

The prayer below is the prayer used for the appointment of a new Archbishop of Canterbury. But it is not entirely inappropriate in the current situation as the next stage of ministry in the parish of Abingdon is discerned.

Heavenly Father, shepherd of your Church,
send us a faithful pastor to lead with wisdom, courage, and love,
proclaiming your Gospel, celebrating the sacraments,
and guiding your people in unity and truth.

Strengthen your Church, we pray, and direct us in your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Church of St Mary Magdalen, Oxford, is in an interregnum at this time, though the appointment of a new Vicar, Dr Jonathan Lewis-Jong (a curate at St Mary Magdalen’s 10 years ago) has just been announced. This prayer, slightly adapted to our situation, appeared in their Parish Newsletter last month.

O God, who alone guides and guards the Church
by your Spirit. Strengthen and encourage us
in this time of uncertainty and opportunity, and inspire
those who maintain our worship, and those engaged
in the discernment and selection of a new Team Vicar.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

A prayer for the appointment of a new Bishop of Oxford to succeed Bishop Stephen when he retires later this year.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift:
Look graciously on your Church and illuminate our path as we seek a new Bishop.
Help us to work together for the good of your kingdom and all who live, work and study in the Diocese of Oxford.
Give wisdom and listening hearts to those who have influence.
Send out your Holy Spirit to call one who will faithfully teach, pastor, care for and equip us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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, ...

Please pray for:

- Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury and Stephen, Archbishop of York;
- Steven (preparing for retirement) and Gavin our bishops in this diocese; for the Vacancy In See Committee;
- His Majesty King Charles, Her Majesty Queen Camilla, and all the royal family;
- all victims of war, injustice, and oppression; Gaza, Iran, Sudan, Ukraine;
- victims of domestic abuse, support organizations and local charity *Reducing the Risk*;
- the on-going work and financial health of TAB and TARIRO;
- Elijah Rory Morgan, recently baptized to be presented with his baptismal candle;
- the suffering, especially those who are known to us and who are on our prayer list;
- all who have recently departed, and all whose year’s mind falls at this time;
- people living in: Stanford Drive, Stenton Close, Stert Street and Stevenson Drive.

Eucharistic Lectionary

2nd Sunday of Lent	Genesis 12.1-4a	Ps 121	Romans 4.1-5, 13-17	John 3.1-17
Mon	Daniel 9.4-10	Ps 79.8-9, 12, 14		Luke 6.36-38
Tues	Isaiah 1.10, 16-20	Ps 50.8, 16-end		Matthew 23.1-12
Wed	Jeremiah 18.18-20	Ps 31.4-5, 14-18		Matthew 20.17-28

Thur	Jeremiah 17.5-10	Ps 1		Luke 16.19-end
Fri	Genesis 37.3-4, 12-13, 17-28	Ps 105.16-22		Matthew 21.33-43, 45-46
Sat	Micah 7.14-15, 18-20	Ps 103.1-4, 9-12		Luke 15.1-3, 11-end

Collect (2nd Sunday of Lent, alternative collect)

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord....

Prayer after Communion (2nd Sunday of Lent)

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ 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/>