



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

3 May 2026 – Philip and James, Apostles / 5th Sunday of Easter
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
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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)
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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 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 our Team Rector, The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown to preside and preach at Mass today

Philip and James, Apostles

Slightly more is known about Philip and James, Apostles, than St Mark whose festival we kept last Sunday. James is mentioned in today's gospel, John 14.1-10. Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?' Earlier in the gospel, John records how Jesus met Philip and said 'follow me'. Philip brought along Nathanael. Philip appears in the lists of apostles in Matthew (10.3) Mark (3.18), Luke (6.14) and Acts (1.13). In Acts chapter 6, Philip is one of seven men chosen to give out food. However, not all occurrences of the name Philip refer to the same person, and this is one example.

James is the common Jewish name, Jacob and is not a unique name in the books of the New Testament. Matthew 13.55 mentions James the brother of Jesus, and Mark 6.3 'Jesus, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon'. Then there is James, the Son of Alphaeus, one of the twelve apostles; Matthew 10:3, Mark 3:18, Luke 6:15, Acts 1:13. The New Testament contains a letter by James, one of the letters to all Christians. The author is often identified with James 'the brother of the Lord', a prominent leader of the church in Jerusalem, though scholarly opinion waxes and wanes about authorship. Some calendars such as The Book of Alternative Services of The Anglican Church of Canada include a commemoration of James of Jerusalem, also known as James the Just, brother of Our Lord, on 23 October.

The James whose festival is kept today is James the Son of Alphaeus, James the Less. He may also be 'James the younger' (Mark 15.40), witness to the crucifixion. The festival of another James, James the Apostle or James the Great, falls on 25 July.

Why though are Philip and James commemorated together? The answer here is more straightforward. The Church in Rome, the Basilica of the Twelve Apostles, where their relics rest, was dedicated on this day in 560 AD.

The Collect for Philip and James is based on the Collect in the 1549 Book of Common Prayer in turn based on the day's gospel, John 14.1-10. As one author puts it the Collect is 'an instruction to worshippers to seek Jesus, and through him, the Father.'

Almighty Father,
whom truly to know is eternal life:
teach us to know your Son Jesus Christ
as the way, the truth, and the life;
that we may follow the steps of your holy apostles,
Philip and James,
and walk steadfastly in the way that leads to life eternal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

David Duce

New Parish Administrator appointed The Rector and Wardens of the parish are pleased to announce that Kate Burland will be taking up the post of parish administrator, beginning on Tuesday 5 May. Kate is a member of St Helen's congregation and has served on the Parochial Church Council. We welcome her to this new role and look forward to working with her.

Wantage Academy Brass Concert 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. Tickets are now available on-line, <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FYLI>, and will be available at the door. Adults price £12, concessions £10, 16 & under free. ***Do please support this event.***



Team Vicar Vacancy The announcement of a vacancy for a Team Vicar in the Abingdon-on-Thames Benefice has appeared on the diocesan web site. This includes a link to the Benefice profile. The closing date for applications specified is 28 May and the date for interviews 24 June. See <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/vacancies/team-vicar--abingdon-on-thames-benefice.php>

Key Liturgical Dates in May / June at St Michael's

14 May (Thursday)	Ascension Day (12.30 pm Said Mass at St Michael's, 7.30 pm Parish Communion at St Nicolas')
24 May	Pentecost (9.30 am at St Michael's)
31 May	Trinity Sunday (10 am Parish Corporate Mass at St Michael's)
4 June (Thursday)	Corpus Christi (12.30 pm Said Mass at St Michael's, 7.30 pm Parish Mass at St Michael's)

Boiler Room We need to tidy the boiler room before our forthcoming diocesan inspection on 15 May. We need to ensure that boilers can be easily accessed. The room currently holds assorted paintings, pictures, bamboo canes, and

music stands amongst other items. Please would you check that there is nothing there that you wish to keep. **At the end of April**, we shall recycle or dispose of all unclaimed or unused objects, so please let the wardens know if anything is of value.

Annual Meetings At the time of writing, the St Michael's Annual District Church Meeting had taken place, but not the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

At the Special Meeting preceding the Annual District Church Meeting the terms of office of members of the DCC was reviewed in the light of discussions at the last meeting of the DCC and subsequently. It was agreed that DCC members shall be elected for a 3-year term and may serve as many consecutive terms as they wish. The requirement to stand down after three years has been removed.

At the Annual District Church Meeting, Joyce Kelly and Louise Heffernan were nominated for election as Church Wardens and their nominations will be forwarded to the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (whose right it is to elect Church Wardens for the parish).

Hilary Clare was nominated for election to the Parochial Church Council for a 3 year term of office. This nomination will be forwarded to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Peter Sumner was re-elected to the District Church Council (DCC) for a 3 year term of office. It was agreed that the number of elected members on the DCC would be reduced from 9 to 6, still leaving 2 positions unfilled. The elected members continuing in office are Beryl Clements, Laurence King and Douglas Aitken.

Nominations for Alex Scott and Sue Scott for election to Deanery Synod will be forwarded to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Church Wardens, PCC and Deanery Synod representatives are *ex officio* members of the DCC. The posts of secretary and treasurer are decided by the DCC at the first meeting of the new session. The secretary and treasurer, if not members of the DCC by some other route, may be and usually are, co-opted.

The Archdeacon's Visitation for the Dorchester Area, Abingdon Deanery, will be on Thursday 4 June at 7.30 pm at Wantage SS Peter and Paul, Church Street, Wantage. During this service, Church Wardens for the coming year will formally begin their terms of office after being sworn in.

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 3 May.

The next Taizé service will be on **Sunday 10 May 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.

Bishop Steven's final service before his retirement will be on **Sunday 31 May at 5 pm at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford**. Spaces will be limited. Further details and apply for tickets at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/christchurchcathedral1/2108762>

The booking site says "Booking closes at 10pm on Sunday 10 May. We recommend securing a ticket at your earliest convenience as demand for places will be extremely high and only a few seats will be reserved for worshippers who arrive without a ticket."

The Service will also be broadcast on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/live/bfgiSABuvxg>

Abingdon Foodbank currently needs oat milk, pesto, rice pudding, sardines & tuna, custard, UHT milk, cooking oil, coffee, hot chocolate, corned beef, squash and tinned fruit. It also needs carrier bags and shampoo.

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/>

Mothers' Union Meet on Tuesday 5 May, 2026 at 10:30 am in the Parish Centre. The topic for the meeting is *MU Looking Forward* and the speaker is Jenny Searle. All are welcome.

Moving into Stillness circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes on **Thursday 7 May in the church 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.

Christian Aid Week, 10 – 16 May: There will be a stall in the **Market Place Saturday 9 May**. There will be stalls selling plants, cakes, preserves, books, CDs and DVDs. Plants: Gardeners, please can you save some garden plants in a saleable condition – either bedding plants, perennials or vegetable seedlings, and houseplants? Labelled please. Preserves and cakes: Cooks, we'd appreciate lots of homemade cakes and preserves for sale. Remember to put a list of allergens. Books, CDs and vinyl records: Please look out any items you no longer want that are in a saleable condition and you think would sell well. All donations can be brought to Abingdon Baptist Church before 9 May or to the Market Place on the day. There are opportunities to make financial donations to Christian Aid on-line.

Oxford Centre for Spiritual Growth Saturday 9 May, from 10.30 am - 1 pm – *The life and thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer - religionless Christianity and unconscious Christianity*. A Study led by Dr Eleanor McLaughlin, Lecturer in Theology at Ripon College Cuddesdon. The event will be held at the Church of St Michael at the North Gate, Oxford. For more information see <https://www.ocsg.uk.net/event/the-life-and-thought-of-dietrich-bonhoeffer/> where tickets will be on sale in due course.

Cakes & Ale Festival to Commemorate St Edmund of Abingdon, **Saturday 16 May**. Events all day in our town centre and Churches. Talks, concerts etc – pick up a programme from the back of Church or read on-line <https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StEdmund.pdf>. A number of events are taking place at St Michael's: 9.45 – 10.45: Moving into Stillness Circle Dancing with Elizabeth Mitchell. Taster £3 donation. 3 pm to 5 pm Festival Recital (tickets £15 including refreshments) and 7 pm Celidh dancing (with Melobo Band & The Vale Islanders) tickets £15 (including first drink and cake), £10 under 18s. Tickets for ticketed events are available at the door or on-line – see the programme.

CiA News The **April** 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 May edition of the Parish Magazine on 10 May. It would be good to have contributions by the end of Sunday 3 May. It isn't too late to read the April edition or even issues from the last 6 years! Find them here: https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php. Please send contributions to Candle@abingdonparish.org.uk.

Worship

May Celebrants and preachers for May are: 3 and 10 May, The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown; 17 May Fr AKMA, 24 May (Pentecost) The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown; 31 May (Trinity Sunday, Parish Corporate Mass at 10 am), The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown and Fr AKMA.

The festival of Philip and James, Apostles, will be kept in the parish on Sunday (translated from Friday 1 May). Commemorations during the week include: Monday: English saints and martyrs of the Reformation Era and Friday: Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer, c. 1417.

Julian of Norwich experienced a series of sixteen revelations on aspects of the love of God on 8 May 1373. Her real name is unknown, but at some unknown point in her life she became an anchoress attached to the Church of St Julian in Norwich and it was by that name that she became known to later generations. Rowan Williams in a chapter on Julian of Norwich in his book *Holy Living* writes:

... we might well take it for granted that a 'revelation' was what settled questions, an ending of uncertainty; but this text is the record of a lengthy and patient investigating of the initial vision. To encounter revelation, it seems, is to be launched on a process of interwoven divine gift and human exploration – which casts a fresh light on what we might want to say about the fundamental Christian revelation itself. To claim that we receive revelation is not – on this basis – to assert that we are in possession of answers not provided to others, but to say that we have been impelled by the act of God into this unfolding process of reflection and growth. And what we know 'by' or 'through' revelation becomes inseparable from the time it takes to reflect and grow.

The Archbishop and the Pope Readers might have seen on TV News or elsewhere that Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury and Pope Leo met in the Vatican on Monday 27 April. Pope Leo encouraged 'Catholics and Anglicans to proclaim Christ to the world together, working to overcome any differences and challenges.' The meeting recalled the historic meeting between Pope St. Paul VI and Archbishop Michael Ramsey, which took place 60 years ago. The text of the Pope's address is available at

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/speeches/2026/april/documents/20260427-arcivescovo-canterbury.html>

and the text of the Archbishop's reply is at

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speeches/archbishop-canterburys-address-pope-leo-xiv>

The Pilgrim's Way Also in the news on 27 April was the unveiling of a new milestone to mark Southampton's place on the pilgrimage route from Reading Abbey to the shrine of St James in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, a mere 647 miles away. The granite marker had been shipped from Spain. A similar milestone marking the start of the route was unveiled in Reading last year. This St James is James the Greater (or elder).

<https://www.britishpilgrimage.org/portfolio/st-james-way>

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 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, provided this prayer when they were recently seeking a new Vicar.

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 composed by the Vacancy in See Committee for the appointment of a new Bishop of Oxford to succeed Bishop Stephen when he retires later this year.

God our Shepherd,
We give you thanks for Bishop Steven's ministry as our bishop
and ask your blessing on him as he prepares to retire.
At this time, we ask your blessing also on our diocese and those who have been chosen to shape its future.
May they listen to one another, to the voices of your people, and to the voice of your Holy Spirit.
May your love be at the heart of all their decisions and your will be done in the appointment of a new bishop.
We ask this through your Son, who shared your love in his life among us and showed it in his death for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 Crown Nominations Commission;
- His Majesty King Charles, Her Majesty Queen Camilla, and all the royal family;
- the peace of the world;
- the suffering, especially those who are known to us and who are on our prayer list;
- those whose year's mind falls at this time;
- people living in Turnagain Lane, Turner Road, Victoria Road and Vineyard.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sunday Philip and James, Apostles	Isaiah 30.15-21	Ps 119.1-8	Ephesians 1.3-10	John 14.1-14
Monday	Acts 14.5-18	Ps 118.1-3 14-15		John 14.21-26
Tuesday	Acts 14.19-end	Ps 145.10-end		John 14.27-end
Wednesday	Acts 15.1-6	Ps 122.1-5		John 15.1-8
Thursday	Acts 15.7-21	Ps 96.1-3, 7-10		John 15.9-11
Friday	Acts 15.22-31	Ps 57.8-end		John 15.12-17
Saturday	Acts 16.1-10	Ps 100		John 15.18-21

Collect (Philip and James, Apostles)

Almighty Father, whom truly to know is eternal life: teach us to know your Son Jesus Christ as the way, the truth and the life; that we may follow the steps of your holy apostles Philip and James, and walk steadfastly in the way that leads to your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ...

Prayer after Communion (Philip and James, Apostles)

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect (5th Sunday of Easter)

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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/>