



St MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

28 June 2026 Peter and Paul, Apostles, 4th 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.
See below for revised date in July 2026. There is no circle dancing of any kind in August 2026.

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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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.

Telephone 522591

pewleaflet@stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk

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

We welcome The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown to preside and preach at Mass today

Peter and Paul, Apostles

This week is slightly complicated. The festival of Peter and Paul Apostles falls on 29 June and will be kept in the parish on that date, this Sunday. Some churches will transfer it to the following Monday. The calendar also provides an option to keep the festival as Peter only and provides separate readings for this. Friday 3 July is the festival of Thomas the Apostle, but we will be keeping that festival in the parish next Sunday, 5 July.

The lectionary for Peter and Paul provides two alternative sets for the first and second readings along with the gospel passage Matthew 16.13-19. We will be using set 1.

Set 1	Set 2
Acts 12.1-11	Zechariah 4.1-6a, 10b-end
2 Timothy 4.6-8, 17-18	Acts 12.1-11

The passage in Matthew's gospel in the NRSV translation is headed "Peter's Declaration about Jesus". Jesus said to the disciples, "who do people say that the Son of Man is?", followed by the question, 'but who do you say that I am?'. It was (Simon) Peter who answered, "you are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God". Jesus then declares that Peter is the rock on which he will build his church, that he will be given the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and 'whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then in the verse following this passage (v20) Jesus 'sternly ordered' the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The collect alludes to the promise made to Peter (my emphasis).

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life: grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, *may ever stand firm upon the one foundation*, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

The passage from Acts tells of Peter's imprisonment following his arrest by King Herod. It was expected that Peter would be put to death. The night before Herod was set to bring him out of prison, he was rescued by an angel of the Lord.

In the passage from 2 Timothy (the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy), Paul writes that the time of his departure has come "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith." He writes that at his first defense, nobody came to his support but the Lord stood by him and gave him strength. He concludes "The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever."

St Augustine wrote in sermon:

"Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one, even though they were martyred on different days. Peter went ahead, Paul followed. Let our way then, be made straight in the Lord. It is a narrow, stony, hard road we tread; and yet with so many gone before us, we shall find the way smoother. The Lord himself is the way, the unshakeable apostles and the holy martyrs likewise. So let us celebrate this feast day made holy by the blood of these two apostles. Let us embrace their faith, their lives, their labours, their sufferings, their preaching, and their teaching."

Pentecost is also the main time for ordinations, to the diaconate and priesthood. In our diocese, ordinands will be ordained to the diaconate on Saturday 4 July in Christ Church Cathedral (services at 10 am and 2 pm will be live-streamed) and ordinations to the priesthood will follow, presumably in churches around the diocese. At the time of writing (Wednesday) a list of ordinands had not been published. Whoever they are, we should hold them in our prayers.

David Duce

Status of Team Vicar Recruitment Interviews for the shortlisted candidates will take place on **Monday 29 June**.

Please continue to keep the process of finding our next Team Vicar in your prayers.

Jennifer Brown

Faith Forum The next Faith Forum will take place this Sunday, **Sunday 28 June**, when Fr AKMA will speak on the use of symbols in the liturgy. Lunch will be served from **12.20 pm** and the talk will begin at **12.45**. The talk will be live-streamed.

Church Cleaning There is an urgent need for more help with church cleaning tasks which includes cleaning brass items and some sacristy tasks. Tasks that are becoming onerous for a very small number of people would be a lot less so if they could be shared across a team of people, each of whom could take responsibility for a small, manageable task, tailored to their availability. Do please think about what help you could offer and the kind of task

you do. There is plenty of scope for negotiation. Please speak to Joyce and Louise who need as a matter of urgency to take this forward.

Save the Date: Saturday, 5 December 2026, at 1.30pm at St Helen's Church Fr AKMA will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood with a Mass for the Feast of Clement of Alexandria, teacher and Church Father, with a sermon from the Revd Damian Feeney. Reception to follow.

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 will be a **Service of Healing & Wholeness** today, **Sunday 28 June**, 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.

Save the date: The First Annual Community of the Resurrection Lecture on the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus

Christ Some readers might be interested to know that The Community of the Resurrection (Mirfield) announced last week that the first lecture in this new series will be given by Bishop Rowan Williams on Saturday 10 October at 4.30 pm. The lecture will be live-streamed.

Abingdon Foodbank 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/>

New Eco Podcast The Diocese has launched a new podcast, *Common Ground*, hosted by Bishop Mary. The web page <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/news/its-not-inevitable-a-climate-scientist-on-hope-grief-and-the-future.php> has links to both Spotify and Apple Podcasts both of which have lists of the episodes in the series and recordings. The second episode, *The Locals Keep the Lights On*, Bishop Mary talks to farmer Henry Astor, owner of Bruern Farms about the challenges facing British farming. For me it was a very insightful and actionable conversation.

Gresham College Lectures Some readers might be interested in the series of six lectures by the current Gresham Professor of the Environment, Helen Czerski. Helen is a physicist and oceanographer at University College London, and has also presented numerous television and radio programmes. The lectures are available to view on-line at <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/speakers/professor-helen-czerski>

Oxford Diocesan Synod met on Saturday 13 June. Bishop Gavin gave the presidential address. Papers for the meeting are available at <https://oxford.anglican.org/diocesan-synod-documents/> The Annual General Meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance took place during this meeting. Papers for that are available from the same link.

Diocesan Synod received the final report of the Vacancy in See Committee. It includes this statement about the appointment of a new bishop:

"The Oxford CNC [Crown Nominations Commission] meets in June to finalise the role profile; on 9 October 2026 to shortlist; and on 9-10 December 2026 to interview the role. Assuming an appointment results, an announcement would be expected in February 2027. Please pray for the CNC as it seeks to discern who God is calling to be the next Bishop of Oxford and for those who may be discerning their potential call to lead our diocese."

The prayer with which the paper concludes is included in the Worship section below.

Silent Reflections will be held on **Tuesday 30 June at 7.30-8.30 pm**. Sue Sheppy will provide material for our reflections on the theme: *Bear one another's burdens*. We meet initially in the church room. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

Abingdon Mothers' Union Tuesday 7 July, 10.30 am Parish Centre. Speaker: Maureen Weston - *Why I joined Mothers' Union*. Plus: Discussion, Quizzes, Bring & Buy. All Welcome.

Moving into Stillness: circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes on **Thursday 9 July** 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. **NB Irregular date for July; there will be no circle dancing of any kind in August.**

Book Launch Thursday 9 July, 7 pm for 7.30 pm at St Helen's Church, launch for Roger Thomas's new book, *England's Oldest Town? The Archaeology of Abingdon*. There will be a short talk followed by refreshments and the new book will be for sale. All welcome.

CiA News The June 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 July edition of the Parish Magazine on 12 July. Do send contributions or ideas for contributions to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk **by the end of 5 July**. It will include several pieces on an Eco-theme. Meanwhile, the June edition of the Parish Magazine 'A candle in the window' is now available to download from the Parish website https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php. Earlier issues can also be found at this location. Do read and discuss!

Worship

June/July Celebrants and preachers for June /July are: 28 June, The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown; 5 July Fr AKMA, 12 July Fr AKMA, 19 July The Revd Rosalind Rutherford, 26 July Fr AKMA.

As noted earlier, we are keeping the festival of Peter and Paul, Apostles, this Sunday which is also the 4th Sunday after Trinity. The festival of Thomas the Apostle has been transferred to next Sunday, 5 July.

Wednesday is the commemoration of Henry, John, and Henry Venn, priests, evangelical divines, d. 1797, d. 1813, d. 1873.

Malcolm Guite Followers of the priest-poet, and singer-songwriter, Malcolm Guite, might be interested in his latest book publication, *Galahad and the Grail: Merlin's Isle*. This is Volume 1 of a 4 volume series, *Merlin's Isle: An Arthuriad*. Volume 2, *The Coming of Arthur*, is due to be published in November.

Henry, John, and Henry Venn John Venn was the son of Henry Venn. John Venn was one of the founders of the Church Mission Society (CMS) in 1797. The younger Henry Venn was the son of John and he also devoted himself to the work of CMS and was secretary of the society for 32 years (1841-1873). CMS worked initially in Sierra Leone but spread rapidly. The younger Henry Venn is remembered as a mission-theorist, who with an American contemporary, Rufus Anderson, sought to clarify the main goal of mission and the means of achieving it. From their studies emerged the concept of an indigenous church, a church that is "self-propagating, self-financing, and self-governing."

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 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.

This prayer taken from the final report of the Vacancy in See Committee.

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.

Please pray for:

- Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury and Stephen, Archbishop of York;
- Bishop Gavin, 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;
- the continuing conflicts throughout the world and all those working for peace;
- those preparing for ordination to the diaconate and priesthood at Petertide; for those to be ordained deacon in our cathedral on Saturday 4 July;
- the selection process for the Team Vicar post and all involved in this;
- 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 Ashgate, Ashmole Road, Aston Close and Audlett Drive.

Eucharistic Lectionary

Sunday 28 June Peter and Paul, Apostles	Acts 12.1-11	Ps 125	2 Timothy 4.6-8, 17-18	Matthew 16.13-19
Monday	Amos 2.6–10; 13–end	Ps 50.16–23		Matthew 8.18-22
Tuesday	Amos 3.1-8, 4.11-12	Ps 5.8-end		Matthew 8.23-27
Wednesday	Amos 5.14-15, 21-24	Ps 50.7-14		Matthew 8.28-end
Thursday	Amos 7.10-end	Ps 19.7-10		Matthew 9.1-8
Friday	Amos 8.4–6, 9–12	Ps 119.1–8		Matthew 9.9–13
Saturday	Amos 9.11-end	Ps 85.8-end		Matthew 9.14-17

Collect (Peter and Paul, Apostles)

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life: grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion (Peter and Paul, Apostles)

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.

Collect 4th Sunday after Trinity)

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

Post Communion (4th Sunday after Trinity)

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son, 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/>