

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

150 YEARS

PATRONAL FESTIVAL
SUNG MASS AND CONFIRMATION

29 SEPTEMBER 2017



*... into the centre,
out from the edge ...*

The Rt Rev'd Dr Rowan Williams

A very warm welcome to St Michael and All Angels', Abingdon, on behalf of the church family this evening as we celebrate our Patronal Festival.

This Feast formally marks the end of our 150th Anniversary celebration. It is a great joy and privilege to welcome The Rt Rev'd Dr Rowan Williams, who was the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, and is now Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge as President and Preacher. During this service Bishop Rowan will confirm Siân and Carys Hopkins, and Alistair Leggate. We are delighted and thankful to him for this.

We have had a year of many activities to mark the anniversary. In keeping with our strapline, *into the centre, out from the edge*, inspired by the labyrinth, installed when the church's re-ordering was completed in 2009, our focus has been two-fold:

into the centre.....we have been grateful to guest preachers who have enhanced our worship and thanksgiving both during the year, and at Holy Week and Easter.

out from the edge.....in mission and service we have supported two charities: The Abingdon Bridge, here in the parish which works with vulnerable young people; and an overseas project TARIRO – Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe, a UK charity founded by Fr Nicolas Stebbing of the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield, supporting young people, orphans and others in need. The remaining Loose Change boxes, designed as one of the ways to raise funds, will be brought up at the Offertory this evening, to be blessed, with the collection which shall also benefit both charities.

We hope you will stay behind for celebratory refreshments at the end of the Mass: a chance to meet Bishop Rowan, the newly Confirmed, and enjoy fellowship with one another.

Thank you for coming. Please pray for us as we continue to strive to work for the glory of God in this place in the generations to come.

With greetings in Christ, *Father Paul, Team Vicar.*

As we prepare for worship today, let us pray:

Eternal God,
your mighty angel Michael
leads the hosts of heaven
against all that defies your love
and your will for the world's salvation.

Give us grace, as we prepare to worship,
not only to praise you with our lips
but to resist all that hides
your love and glory
and to take our stand for mercy and truth.

Hear us for the sake of our Saviour Christ,
who lives to pray in us and for us. Amen.

THE GATHERING

¶ *The choir sings the Introit: 'Spirit of the living God' by Daniel Iverson (1890-1972), followed by the Introit HYMN NEH 336.*

Angel voices, ever singing,
Round thy throne of light,
Angel harps, for ever ringing,
Rest not day or night;
Thousands only live to bless Thee,
And confess Thee
Lord of might.

Thou who art beyond the farthest
Mortal eye can scan,
Can it be that thou regardest
Songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us
And wilt hear us?
Yes, we can.

For we know that thou rejoicest
O'er each work of thine;
Thou didst ears and hands and voices
For thy praise design;
Craftsman's art and music's measure
For thy pleasure
All combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer
Of thine own to thee;
And for thine acceptance proffer,
All unworthily,
Hearts and minds and hands and voices,
In our choicest
Psalmody.

Words: Francis Pott. Tune E.G. Monk.

Bishop Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All **Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Greeting

Bishop The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**

¶ *The **bishop** may offer an informal welcome to the congregation and introduce the service.*

Bishop Let us call to mind and confess our sins.

Prayer of Penitence

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

¶ *The bishop pronounces the absolution.*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
+ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm
and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in
life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *We sing the GLORIA.*

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect

¶ *The bishop invites us to prayer with the words.*

Bishop Let us pray.

Everlasting God, ... now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Readings

¶ *At the end of each reading, the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

¶ *The PSALM (103.19-end) follows the first reading.*

Response The Lord has compassion on his children.

The Lord has set his throne in heaven,
and his kingship has dominion over all.
Bless the Lord, you angels of his,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
and hearken to the voice of his word. **Response**

Bless the Lord, all you his hosts,
you ministers of his who do his will.
Bless the Lord, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion;
bless the Lord, O my soul. **Response**

¶ *The Gradual HYMN follows the second reading.*

Holy Michael, mighty warrior
steadfast at your ancient post,
in the fight against corruption
and the might of evil's boast,
captain of the angel armies,
leader of the heavenly host:

When our courage slips and falters,
when our strength is all but done,
rally us beneath the banner –
record of past victories won,
sign and pattern of the battle
fought of old by God's own Son.

With your comrades, Gabriel, Raphael,
lead us in the triumph-song
which the faithful and the holy,
joining with the martyr-throng,
raise to God in highest heaven
all the countless ages long:

Praise and glory to the Father,
praise and glory to the Son,
praise and glory to the Spirit,
holy three and holy one:
over death and all that snares us,
you the victory have won.

Words: © Paul P J Sheppy. Tune Westminster Abbey: 87.87.87.

The Gospel Reading



Deacon Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Deacon Bless the Lord, all you his hosts,
you ministers of his who do his will.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

¶ When the Gospel is announced the deacon says:

Deacon The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to John.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¶ At the end of the Gospel:

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you O Christ.

The Sermon

The Liturgy of Initiation

Presentation of the Candidates [*Please remain seated*]

¶ *The bishop asks the candidates for confirmation*

Bishop Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?
I have.

Bishop Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?
I am.

¶ *The bishop addresses the whole congregation*

Bishop Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their life in Christ?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

¶ *The paschal candle is lit. The bishop addresses all the candidates*

Bishop In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ, give you the strength to continue in the Way.

All **Amen.**

Procession to the Font [*Please stand and turn to face the font*]

¶ *The ministers and candidates process to the font. The choir and congregation sing:*

All **Water of life, cleanse and refresh us; raise us to life in Christ Jesus.**

Choir All you who thirst, come to the waters,
and you will never be thirsty again.

All **Water of life, cleanse and refresh us; raise us to life in Christ Jesus.**

Choir As rain from heav'n, so is God's word,
it waters the earth and brings forth life.

All **Water of life, cleanse and refresh us; raise us to life in Christ Jesus.**

Choir Dying with Christ, so we shall rise with him,
death shall no longer have pow'r over us.

All **Water of life, cleanse and refresh us; raise us to life in Christ Jesus.**

Choir Turn to the Lord, cast off your wickedness,
you will find peace in his infinite love.

All **Water of life, cleanse and refresh us; raise us to life
in Christ Jesus.**

The Prayer at the Font

¶ The Bishop stands before the font and says:

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Bishop Blessed are you, sovereign God of all, to you be
glory and praise for ever. You are our light and our
salvation. From the deep waters of death you have
raised your Son to life in triumph.

Grant that all who have been born anew by water
and the Spirit, may daily be renewed in your image,
walk by the light of faith,
and serve you in newness of life;
through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
we lift our voices of praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Profession of Faith

¶ The bishop addresses the congregation.

Bishop Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together
with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

¶ The bishop sprinkles the candidates with water from the font. Then the bishop says:

Bishop Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of
faith with all who have been baptized into your
name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

¶ *A litany of the Resurrection is sung as the ministers and candidates return to the place of confirmation.*



For the gift of his Spir-it Bless-ed be Christ

For the catholic Church:

All **Blessed be Christ.**

For the means of grace:

All **Blessed be Christ.**

For the hope of glory:

All **Blessed be Christ.**

For the triumphs of his gospel:

All **Blessed be Christ.**

For the lives of his saints:

All **Blessed be Christ.**

In joy and sorrow:

All **Blessed be Christ.**

In life and in death:

All **Blessed be Christ.**

Now and to the end of the ages:

All **Blessed be Christ.**

The Confirmation [Please be seated]

¶ *The candidates gather around the bishop, who stands before them and says:*

Bishop Our help is in the name of the Lord

All **who has made heaven and earth.**

All Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and for ever. Amen.

¶ The bishop extends his hands towards those to be confirmed and says

Bishop Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given these your servants new birth in
baptism by water and the Spirit,
and have forgiven them all their sins.
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and let
their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

All **Amen.**

¶ The bishop addresses each candidate by name

Bishop [*Carys, Siân, Alistair*], God has called you by name and
made you his own.

¶ He then lays his hand on the head of each, saying:

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

¶ The bishop anoints each candidate with the oil of Chrism, saying:

Receive the seal of the Spirit.

*¶ The bishop invites the congregation to pray for all those on whom
hands have been laid:*

All **Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your
heavenly grace, that they may continue yours for
ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more
and more until they come to your everlasting
kingdom. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

¶ *These responses to the prayers may be used:*

Lord in your mercy
All **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, hear us.
All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

¶ *At the end of the prayers, the following may be used:*

Merciful Father,
All **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our
Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

¶ *The Peace is introduced in these words:*

Bishop God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal
upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has
given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All **And also with you.**

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

¶ *All may exchange a sign of peace.*

¶ *We sing the offertory HYMN, NEH 373, during which a collection
will be taken for The Abingdon Bridge and Tariro – Hope for Youth
in Zimbabwe.*

How shall I sing that Majesty
 which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
 sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.

Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?

Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.

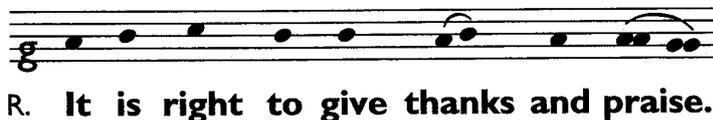
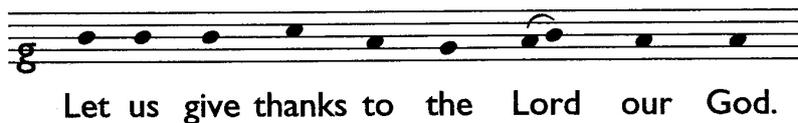
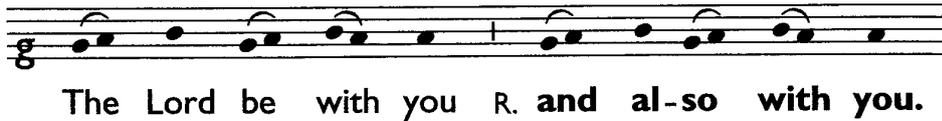
They sing because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heaven is but once begun
there alleluias be.

Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
in flame it with love's fire;
then shall I sing and bear a part
with that celestial choir.
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
with all my fire and light;
yet when thou dost accept their gold,
Lord, treasure up my mite.

How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;
thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.

Words: John Mason, 1683. Tune Coe Foen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

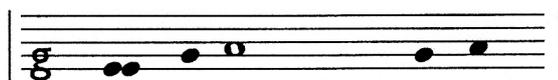


¶ *The bishop leads us in thanksgiving for God's goodness towards us, ending,*

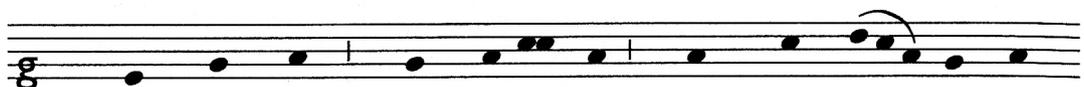
... and sing the age-less hymn of your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

¶ *In our name, bread and wine are taken and blessed, as Christ has commanded us to do. We are then invited by the deacon to acclaim Christ,*



Great is the mystery of faith:



Christ has died: Christ is ris-en: Christ will come a-gain.

Recalling the death and resurrection of our Saviour we ask God to look upon the sacrifice of Christ his Son, and to unite us with the whole Church, living and departed, in the Kingdom of God, ending,



for ev-er and ev-er. **A-men.**

The Lord's Prayer

Deacon Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us,

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

¶ The bishop breaks the consecrated bread and says

Bishop We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

¶ The bishop invites us to receive Holy Communion.

Bishop Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

¶ *The clergy, servers and Eucharistic ministers receive communion while the choir and congregation sing the AGNUS DEI,*

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

The Giving of Communion

¶ *The people receive Holy Communion.*

¶ *The choir sings the anthem 'Here is Bread', Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)*

¶ *Communion HYMN, NEH 431.*

O thou who camest from above
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart!

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer, and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up thy gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat;
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make my sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley, 1707-88.

Prayer after Communion

¶ *Silence is kept. The bishop invites us,*

Bishop Let us pray.

Bishop Lord of heaven,
in this eucharist you have brought us near
to an innumerable company of angels
and to the spirits of the saints made perfect:
as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage
we have shared their fellowship,
so may we come to share their joy in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

THE SENDING OUT

¶ *Announcements.*

The Commission

¶ *The bishop addresses the newly confirmed, saying:*

Bishop Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Amen.

The Blessing

¶ *The bishop says this blessing:*

God keep you in the fellowship of his saints;
Christ protect you by the ministry of the angels;
the Spirit make you holy in God's service;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the + Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Giving of a Lighted Candle

¶ *The bishop gives each of the newly confirmed a lighted candle.
When all have received a candle, the bishop says*

Bishop God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.
You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

All **Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

¶ *The **deacon** dismisses the people with the words,*

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

¶ *The final* HYMN, NEH 475.

Ye holy angels bright,
 who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
 fly at your Lord's command,
 assist our song,
 for else the theme
 too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.

Ye blessèd souls at rest,
 who ran this earthly race
and now, from sin released,
 behold your Saviour's face,
 God's praises sound,
 as in his sight
 with sweet delight
ye do abound.

Ye saints, who toil below,
 adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go
 some joyful anthem sing;
 take what he gives
 and praise him still,
 through good or ill,
who ever lives!

My soul, bear thou thy part,
 triumph in God above:
and with a well-tuned heart
 sing thou the songs of love!
 Let all thy days
 till life shall end,
 whate'er he send,
be filled with praise!

Richard Baxter 1615-91 et al.

The Abingdon Bridge is a local charity and it is TAB's goal to support vulnerable young people in the Abingdon area aged between 13 and 24 on the issues that affect them and provide them with the knowledge and skills they need to realise their potential. We do this by building relationships with young people through community based outreach projects, and delivering issue-based advice and guidance through workshops, group work and 1:1 sessions.

There is a clear understanding of the difference we are trying to make and how we plan to achieve it. TAB is led by an enthusiastic, committed and reliable committee of trustees who employ and invest in credible staff who are motivated, highly skilled and well-trained. TAB recognises that to make a lasting impact we must build and maintain partnerships with other organisations such as schools, statutory organisations and voluntary community groups and we seek to be at the centre of those partnerships.

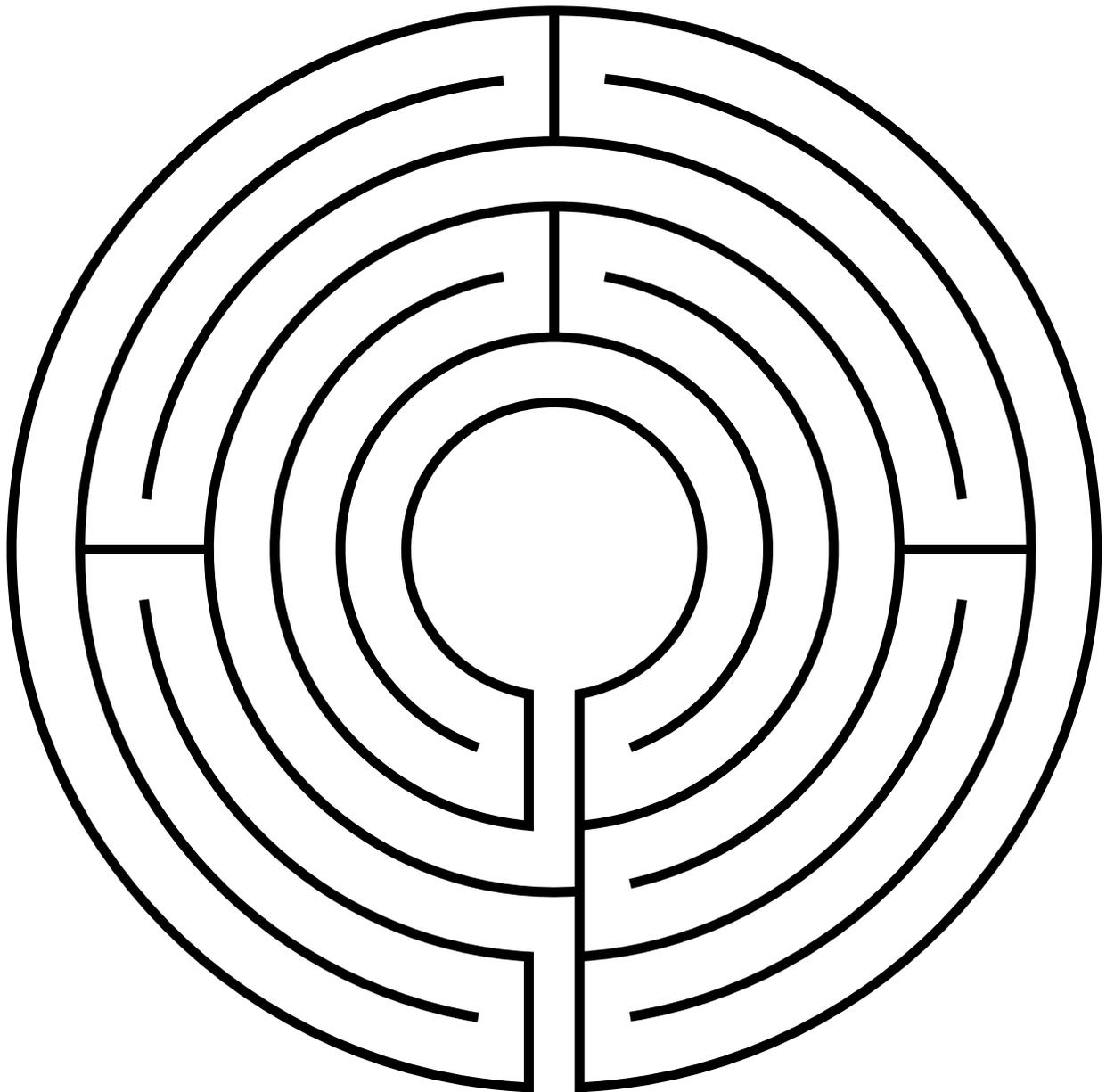
Our aim is to develop a community of healthy and safe young people who achieve economic well being, contribute to society and enjoy a fulfilling lifestyle. This will impact on the community as a whole, with higher levels of employment, reduced levels of crime and a more cohesive society in which we all live. For more information see: <http://www.theabingdonbridge.org.uk>.

Tariro - Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe is a charity based in the UK which began in 2009 when two Zimbabweans, Phillip Mutasa and Nicolas Stebbing (a Monk of the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield) along with an English student, Carl Melville, saw the need to help particular children in Zimbabwe. Tariro raises money to support young people, orphans and others who need it, in Zimbabwe.

Firstly, we established a house in Harare where several teenagers could live. Then we encouraged a group at Penhalonga to be organised and watched over by some Sisters. Soon after that a small group began in Chipinge. Most recently a group was started in Shurugwi, near Gweru. The children in each of these groups live with relations but the Sisters make sure they have all they need to go to school. As the work continued we found they had other needs:

- some go hungry because there is no food at home - we try to provide them some food at school
- teenagers need clothes to give them self respect and help them fit in with other young people
- girls especially but boys too, need soap and such things to keep themselves clean
- many need counselling as no one has talked to them about their departed parents, the fact they were abandoned as children or about the complex life that they will enter into once they leave school

We have found they respond really well to this kind of attention. Their school work improves. They become happy relaxed young people. They begin to hope for a future. For more information see: <http://tarirouk.com>.



*... into the centre,
out from the edge ...*

The labyrinth, designed and constructed by The Labyrinth Builders of Canterbury, was installed when the church was re-ordered in the autumn of 2008. The design is based on the Abingdon Labyrinth which appears in an 11th century manuscript now in Cambridge University Library.