



St HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 18th October 2026

St Luke

St Luke - Sharing the Story of God's Love

On October 18th, the Church celebrates St Luke, whose Gospel has helped generations discover the compassion of Jesus.

Traditionally identified as a physician and companion of St Paul, Luke is remembered as the author of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. His writings bring us close to Jesus and show how the first Christians shared the good news.

Luke has a particular eye for those who might otherwise be overlooked: the poor, the sick, outsiders and people longing for forgiveness. Through the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, he reminds us that love crosses boundaries and that God welcomes those who turn towards him.

There is a thoughtful connection with St Helen. Living centuries after Luke, Helen travelled to the Holy Land and is traditionally associated with finding Christ's Cross. Luke preserved Jesus' story in words; Helen helped Christians cherish the places and tangible reminders of his life, death and resurrection. Both draw our attention back to Christ.

As we remember St Luke, may we recognise Christ among us and make his compassion visible through our welcome and care.

David Pope, Churchwarden

WELCOME to all joining us this Sunday at St Helen's. **10.30am** *Sung Eucharist*, **5.30pm** *Choral Evensong*. The 10.30am service at St Helen's can be accessed on Zoom from 10.15am on: Meeting ID: 865 5159 6523; Passcode: 626891

FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: Celebrant - The Revd Dr Jen Brown

Readings: Acts 16.6-12a; 2 Timothy 4.5-17; Luke 10.1-9.

Service Setting: Rutter

Hymns

Processional: 437 Go forth and tell

Gradual: 383 Be still for the presence of the Lord

Offertory: 612 We have a gospel to proclaim

Anthem: Stanford, *O for a closer walk*

Post communion: 469 I heard the voice of Jesus say

Collect:

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Psalm 147

Response: O praise the Lord, O praise the Lord, for it is good to sing praises to our God.

- 1 O praise the Lord, for it is good to sing praises to our God:
and to praise him is joyful and right.
The Lord is rebuilding Jerusalem:
he is gathering together the scattered outcasts of Israel.
- 2 He heals the broken in spirit:
and binds up their wounds.
He counts the numbers of the stars:
and calls them all by name.
- 3 O sing to the Lord a song of thanksgiving:
sing praises to our God upon the harp.
He covers the heav'ns with cloud, and prepares rain for the Earth:
and makes grass to sprout upon the mountains.
- 4 Praise the Lord O Jerusalem:
sing praises to your God O Zion.
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates:
and bless'd your children within you.

For prayer:

- For peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine and all places affected by war; for civilians, aid workers and those seeking reconciliation.
- For doctors, nurses, carers and all who work to heal; for those awaiting treatment or struggling with their mental health.
- For people facing food and heating worries as winter approaches, and those supporting them.
- For refugees, people without a home, and those who feel lonely or excluded.
- For our church community, that we may listen carefully, welcome generously and share Christ's hope

Please pray for the residents of Fairlawn Wharf, Faringdon Road, Farriers Mews, Ferry Walk.

For health, consolation & wellbeing: Annelise Dennis, Vanessa Madden, Ann and Ron Moss, Anne Smithson, Sarah Stevens, Katie Stuart, Alli

Intercessory prayer requests to clairembolton@googlemail.com.

5.30 PM CHORAL EVENSONG

Readings: Isaiah 61.1-6; Colossians 4.7-end

Responses: Reading

Psalms: 103

Office Hymn: 216 Give us the wings of faith

Canticles: Aston in F

Anthem: Elgar, *The Spirit of the Lord*

Final hymn: 10 Abide with me

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE: Celebrant - The Revd Ruth Pyke

10.30am *Sung Eucharist*, **5.30pm** *Service of Healing & Wholeness*

Readings: Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18; 1 Thessalonians 2.1-8; Matthew 22.34-end

The Window: The October edition of the Parish Magazine will be available from Sunday 18th October. Colour from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php or wait for B&W copies available in church.

CiA News: The **October** issue of CiA News is available to download from: https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html. Copies also in church.

PATHWAYS: Printed copies of the Summer 2026 issue are available in church.

REGULAR SERVICES AND THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

ON WEEKDAYS

9.10am Morning Prayer

ON MONDAY

9.30-11.00am *Baby and Toddler Group* in the hall

12.00-2.00pm *Private Art Tour of St Helen's* in the church

1.45-3.45pm *Volunteer Group* in the lounge

ON TUESDAY

12.00-2.00pm *Private Art Tour of St Helen's* in the church

3.00-5.00pm *Private Art Tour of St Helen's* in the church

5.00-8.30pm *Private Booking (Yellow Submarine)* in the hall

7.30-9.00pm *Bell ringing* in the tower (alternate weeks)

ON WEDNESDAY

10.30am Holy Communion

1.00-2.30pm *Preaching Group meeting* in the hall

5.15-8.00pm *Beavers & Cubs* in the hall

7.30-8.30pm *Confirmation Preparation* in the lounge

ON THURSDAY

2.30-5.00pm *Lighting Meeting* in the lounge

6.15-8.00pm *Private Booking (Life Drawing)* in the hall

ON FRIDAY

4.00-6.00pm *Young Bell Ringers Practice* in the tower

5.30-6.00pm *Quest choir practice* in the church

6.00-7.00pm *Adult choir practice* in the church

ON SATURDAY

ON SUNDAY

10.30am Sung Eucharist

12.15pm *Faith Forum* in the hall with buffet lunch

4.00-8.00pm *Private Booking (Support Group)* in the hall

5.30pm Taizé (2nd Sunday)

5.30pm Choral Evensong (3rd Sunday)

5.30pm Service for Healing & Wholeness (4th Sunday)

7.30-9.00pm *Private Booking (Handbells)* in the lounge

*The 8am Sunday Holy Communion (1662) service is held at **St NICOLAS** Church*

PROGRAMMES & EVENTS: OCTOBER 2026

Abingdon Marathon, Sunday 18th October. For road closure details see:
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/business/licences-and-permits/licences-and-permits/large-public-events/abingdon-marathon>.

A musical concert of Europe and Bach again! Sunday 18th October 5.00pm at St Michael's. Christopher Brittan on Flute and Malcolm Pearce on Piano. Tickets £15.00. Refreshments available.

St Helen's@lunch, Tuesday 20th October 12.30pm at The Hilton Garden Hotel, Abingdon.

Confirmation preparation, Wednesday 21st October 7.30pm in the lounge.

Faith Forum, Sunday 25th October 12.15pm in the hall, with buffet lunch.

Silent Reflections, Tuesday 27th October 7.30pm at St Michael's Church. Sue Scott will provide material for our reflections. We meet initially in the church room. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

Confirmation preparation, Wednesday 28th October 7.30pm in the lounge.

PROGRAMMES & EVENTS: NOVEMBER 2026

Parish Service for All Souls', Sunday 1st November 5.30pm at St Helen's Church.

Sung Requiem Mass, Monday 2nd November 7.30pm at St Michael's Church. We will remember those who have died in the past year and pray for all the faithful departed on All Souls' Day. Please add the name(s) of anyone you would like to have remembered to the list available in church from **Sunday 18 October**. We ask that names be provided by **Sunday 25 October** at the latest. If you are not able to come to church, please give names to Keith Bowman either by phone 01235 528962 or email keithdm.bowman@btinternet.com

Mothers Union Meeting, Tuesday 3rd November 10.00-12.00pm in the hall.

Prayers & Bears, Tuesday 3rd November 11.00-12.00pm at St Michael's, suitable for young children (including babies/toddlers).

Confirmation preparation, Wednesday 4th November 7.30pm in the lounge.

Moving into Stillness, Thursday 5th November 9.45-10.45am at St Michael's church. Circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes followed by **Circle Dance, 11.00am** regular circle dancing session. 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.

"Music at the Unicorn" folk concert, Thursday 5th November 7.00pm at St Helens. Further details at <https://musicattheunicorn.org.uk/>

ADMS Concert, Saturday 7th November 7.30-9.30pm at St Helen's, with rehearsal from 1.30pm. Come and join the Abingdon & District Musical Society as they celebrate their 80th Anniversary! Eighty years of bringing together singers and musicians is quite a milestone. The programme includes Borodin's Polovtsian Dances, Franck's Symphony in D minor, Shostakovich's Festive Overture and, bringing orchestra and choir together, Elgar's The Music Makers, with Joanna Harries as mezzo-soprano soloist.

Tickets are available at www.wegotickets.com/adms or on the door.

Remembrance Day, Sunday 8th November 10.00am Civic Service at St Helen's. **Eucharist 5.30pm** at St Helens.

St Michaels Christmas Fair, Saturday 14th November 10am-2pm at St Michael's.

PCC Meeting, Wednesday 18th November 7.30pm at St Nichola's church.

St Helen's@lunch, Thursday 19th November 12.00noon, at Aston Pottery.

Faith Forum, Sunday 22nd November 12.45 – 1.15pm in the Hall.

St Helen's Church Jesse Tree Decorating, Tuesday 24th November 10.00am – 12.00pm. Help needed please!

Silent Reflections, Tuesday 24th November 7.30pm at St Michael's Church.

Mothers Union Service, Thursday 26th November 11.00am in the hall.

St Helen's Christmas Market, Saturday 28th November. Please keep the date free and start collecting things that could be sold. If you are willing to help run a stall, please let Jeanette Thomas (jeanette.thomas@btinternet.com) or Pat Hudson (patricia.a.hudson16@gmail.com) know. *See also church notice*

Quiet Garden Day, Saturday 28th November 2026 10am - 4pm at Aston Tirrold Centre for Reflection, Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold, OX11 9EJ. Sue Sheppy will lead on the theme *Great Expectations*. 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. All are welcome.

Advent Carol Service, Sunday 29th November 5.30pm at St Helen's church, followed by mulled wine & mince pies. All welcome.

DCC Meeting, Monday 30th November 7.30pm in the hall.

SAVE THE DATES - at St Helen's!

AKMA's Ordination Anniversary Mass, Saturday 5th December 1.30pm.

The Revd Naomi Gardom's Licensing, Wednesday 6th January 2027 7.30pm.

Corporate Confirmation Service, Sunday 31st January 2027 10.30am.

ST HELEN'S CHURCH NOTICES

At the recent General Synod elections, Alex Scott from St Michael's has been elected to the House of Laity. Congratulations!

Faith Forum, Sunday 25th October 12.15pm in the parish hall. Our speaker will be Hannah Mann, Environment Programme Manager for the Oxford Diocese. She will be speaking on 'Creation Care as Act of Praise'. A buffet lunch will be served from 12.15pm. with the talk beginning at 12.45pm.

Parish Service for All Souls': The parish service of Commemoration of the Departed for All Souls' Day will be held at **St Helen's on Sunday 1st November at 5.30pm**. Please add the name(s) of anyone you would like to have remembered to the lists available in each church. The lists are available until 25th October.

St Helen's 2027 calendar: Please support your church by buying one for your friends & family. Mary Anderson will sell them after every 10.30 service for £9.75.

Robin's sponsored bike ride, Saturday 17th October in aid of the Newman Holiday Trust. If you sponsored Robin and family, please make payment at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/robinday2026> or see Jeanette Thomas (jeanette.thomas@btinternet.com)

Your Church needs you!

We are fortunate to be part of a very welcoming and active church, highlighted in the events and notices above - but we need your help to deliver this!

HOSPITALITY

In the coming months, we hope to offer hospitality to all, from coffee & pastries while decorating the Jesse Tree or preparing the Christingle oranges to mulled wine & mince pies after Advent Carols, to the larger corporate celebrations planned for AKMA's Ordination Anniversary, Rev Naomi's licensing, the Corporate Confirmation service and our own Epiphany tea.

We need people who can help with this please!

Our Sunday coffee team does a great job each week. We also need volunteers who can help with more 'substantial' hospitality that might include baking food, setting tables, serving and washing up. **More importantly, is there anyone, or two people together, to co-ordinate this?** The coordinator role includes sending out requests for help, putting up "sign up" sheets for offerings of food, having an overall knowledge of what glasses, plates, cloths, cutlery we have and where it is stored, checking in with clergy, Administrator or wardens as to what is required and when. **Please let the wardens or Administrator know if you can help.**

CHRISTMAS MARKET NOTICE – HELP NEEDED FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 3PM

Last year, a wonderful team of volunteers helped set up tables for the Christmas Market on the Thursday morning within a couple of hours. On the Friday morning, donations were gratefully received and stalls set up. Many hands made light work and good company. This year, due to a prior booking, the church will not be available for us to start setting up until 3pm on Friday 27th November. To help make the market yet another success, **please can you volunteer to help from Friday 27th 3pm onwards?** There will be a break while the choir rehearse during which we will enjoy soup and sandwiches together, then continue to finish bringing donations to the church centre on Friday morning between 10am-12pm or see Pat or Jeanette to make alternative arrangements. We need brand-new goods, pre-loved, home baking, books, jigsaws, jewellery, tombola prizes, anything that will sell please. Thank you *Pat Hudson & Jeanette Thomas*

EVENTS

Between 30th November and 11th December, eight different school events are taking place in St Helen's. These include rehearsals, and services/concerts in the afternoon or evening. We wish to show a welcoming face, so we need stewards to be present when they arrive, and to supervise clear up when they leave. Most of schools have held events in the church many times so know the ropes but we still need to make sure this is so, as staff personnel change over the years. This is a great opportunity to learn how to steward an event to help in the future. If you could offer help on one or more occasions, please let the Administrator or speak to one of the wardens.

**With such a busy time ahead, it is vital that all users of the church servery leave it clean and tidy please. There have been several occasions recently when it has been left in disarray and this is unfair on the next user. Please treat it as you would your own home. Please also report anything you find missing, or unacceptable to the administrator. Thank you*.*

CONTACT US

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown rector@abingdonparish.org.uk
Team Vicar	(To join the parish after Christmas)
Associate Priest	The Revd Dr A. K. M. Adam (AKMA) akma@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk
Wardens	Ms Margaret Horton and Mr David Pope
Director of Music	Dr Peter Foster
Assistant Organist	Mr Andrew Shouler
Parish Administrator	Mrs Kate Burland
Caretaker	Mr Robin Day
Parish Safeguarding	Mrs Pat Hudson safeguarding@abingdonparish.org.uk
St Helen's Safeguarding	Mr Emmanuel Chukwuma

The **Parish Office** is open Monday – Thursday, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm (closed on Fridays).

Phone: 01235 520144. Checked on Fridays.

E-mail: administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk; Website abingdonparish.org.uk/StH

A copy of this Newsletter is posted on our website.