



April 14th 2024

The Third Sunday of Easter

Back to Burgundy (so to speak)

The pandemic changed parochial patterns and habits a lot. For us at St Helen's one of the regrettable casualties was the the round of Sunday afternoon services. Over the years we had built-up a varied series of services, something different for each Sunday of the month. We've recovered our fine Choral Evensong on the third Sunday (if you haven't attended, I encourage you to be nourished by the fine musical 'sacrifice of praise' from our choir) and on the fourth Sunday the quiet, low-key Service for Healing and Wholeness takes place. Vespers was on the first Sunday.

Today we re-start the reflective service of song and silence pioneered by the ecumenical **Taizé community** based in Burgundy. The community began in the smallest way during the years of the Second World War and has grown remarkably since then with a vibrant ministry especially to young people who flock to Taizé through the year from all over the world!

St Helen's is enriched by a group of people who have been to Taizé and who have been fed through the years by its witness and style of praying. They are the drivers behind this re-start, and I for one am grateful for their interest in making this contemplative way of worship part of our monthly spiritual offering to parishioners and others within our community. I've been struck by the enquiries from people on the streets of Abingdon "When is Taizé going to start again?". So, here we are!

Tonight's 5.30 service will last about 40 minutes and begin with a bit of teaching about the Taizé style of prayer and a short musical rehearsal for us all -- everyone plays a part in the simple, repetitive chants so far as they can. To learn more about the community at Taizé and its impact delve into this month's *Window* parish magazine.

The Revd Dr Charles Miller, Team Rector

WELCOME to St Helen's on The Third Sunday of Easter. 8.00 am *Holy Communion*. 10.30 am *Sung Eucharist*. 3 pm *Baptism of Micael Geralt Sarlo*. 5.30 pm *Taizé*. The 10.30 am services at St Helen's can be accessed on Zoom from 10.15 am on: Meeting ID: 865 5159 6523; Passcode: 626891.

FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

Readings: Acts 3:12-19; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48.

Service Setting: Archer, Lincoln setting

Hymns:

Processional Te Deum: God we praise you

Gradual: SP 81 Word that formed creation

Offertory: 432 From heaven you came

Anthem: Rutter, Christ the Lord is risen again (*AWTE P. 194*)

Post communion: 148 Jesus lives, thy terrors now

Collect:

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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 for ever.

Psalm: 4

Response: It is you, O Lord, who make me dwell in safety.

Answer me when I call,

O God of my righteousness;

you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;

have mercy on me and hear my prayer. **Response**

How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;

how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?

But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness;

when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me. **Response**

Stand in awe, and sin not;

commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness

and put your trust in the Lord. **Response**

There are many that say,

'Who will show us any good?'

Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us. **Response**

You have put gladness in my heart,

more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

In peace I will lie down and sleep,

for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety. **Response**

THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

WEEKDAYS 9.10 am *Morning Prayer* in church.

ON MONDAY 9.30 am *Baby and Toddler Group* in the Parish Centre Hall. 7 pm *Passion Play Rehearsal* in the church.

ON WEDNESDAY 10.30 am *Holy Communion* in the church. 1pm *Pastoral Care Meeting* in the Parish Centre Lounge.

ON THURSDAY 7 pm *Annual Parochial Church Meeting* in the South Aisle of the church.

ON SUNDAY 8 am *Holy Communion*. 10.30 am *Sung Eucharist*. 5.30 pm *Easter Music and Readings*.

PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

The funeral of long-time parishioner Bob Winter will take place at the South Oxfordshire Crematorium in Garford at 11 am this Friday, April 19th. Those who knew Bob and wish to support Doris and their son Lee are welcome to attend.

The next meeting of the Agnostics Anonymous open discussion group will be held on Tuesday 23rd April from 6 pm - 7.30 pm in the Parish Centre. FREE and EVERYONE WELCOME. For more information call Jill Gant 01235 528929.

Date for your diary: On Saturday 27th April 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm, St Michael's Church will be hosting the first Cream Tea of the summer season. Join us for an afternoon of live music. Tea/coffee with scone/cake £5. Proceeds to church funds. All welcome.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners

and the

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

will take place on Thursday, April 18th at 7 pm

in the South Aisle of St Helen's Church

to elect officers and to conduct duly authorized business

St Helen's@lunch. Midday Thursday 18th July at Chilton Garden Centre. If you need or can offer a lift, please contact Susan Scott, 01235 522960.

Silent Reflections will be held on Tuesday 30th April at 7.30 pm at St Michael and All Angels beginning in the church room. Moving into Stillness: circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes at St Michael and All Angels on Thursday 2nd May in the church

from 9.45 – 10.45 am before the regular circle dancing session at 11 am (now on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month only).

Mothers' Union Tea. On Tuesday, 7th May at 3 pm at Cosener's House , £9.50. If members of the congregation would like to join us, you would be most welcome. Please contact Elizabeth Dawson or Jenny Morris to make your payment and book a place. Tel: Jenny, 525576 or Elizabeth, 526415.

Please pray for the residents of Fisherman's Wharf, Fitchett Yard, Fitzharry's Road and Foxcombe Court. For intercessory prayer requests contact clairebolton@googlemail.com. **For health & wellbeing:** Doris Winter, Loelia Lyon, John and Jeanne Wesson, Mary Barton, David Wickens, Sarah Stevens, Ron Moss, Emma and her mother Bec, Katie Stuart, Alli and David.

Next week's readings: Acts 4:5-12; 1 John 3:16-end; John 10:11-18.

For your thoughts and prayers:

'A man [sic] who wishes to identify himself with an increasingly secularized world, without losing in himself the sense of the sacred, must pursue a double action which will bring him ever closer to the sources of the contemplative life: 1. Live the mystery of the Church; 2. Remain in contemplative waiting upon God.'

'It is very true that throughout the whole of our life as Christians, we live in expectation. Ever since Abraham, the first believer, and together with his seed, we live in expectation of God, of his justice and of the Event which comes from Him. But for the man [sic] who is no longer in expectation and is satisfied in himself, with his privileges and rights, a whole dimension of faith becomes limited.'

Frère Roger Schutz, *The Power of the Provisional* (English translation, 1969)

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Charles Miller
Team Vicar	The Revd Paul Smith
Associate Priest	The Revd Dr Andrew Adam (AKMA)
Associate Priest	The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown
Wardens	Mrs Linda Hobbs and Mr David Pope
Director of Music	Dr Peter Foster
Assistant Organist	Mr Andrew Shouler
Parish Administrator	Mrs Jackie Cunningham
Caretaker	Mr Robin Day

The Parish office is open Monday – Thursday, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm (closed on Fridays).
Phone: 01235 520144

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

A copy of this Newsletter is posted regularly on our website.