



St HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 28th September 2025

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Harvest

Psalm 65:11 You crown the year with your bounty and your carts overflow with abundance.

Harvest Festival is a time of celebration, a time of sharing, a time to give thanks to God for his bounteous harvest, a time to give thanks for the work of farmers.

As we decorate our churches with flowers and loaves of bread baked as sheaves of corn, our choirs rehearse to lead our praise with hymns, well known and loved. We prepare ourselves to join the voices of many, both past and present, singing praise and thanks to God. As autumn 'knocks' we see fields, freshly harvested, awaiting the sowing of yet more crops, ready to maintain supplies in shops and markets.

But as climates change, crops fail, farmers struggle, prices rise, we need to care for those in our society in financial need, ensure we can all share Gods bounty, not just the financially secure.

We are all aware food costs have risen, even basic foods, the staple of many diets; whilst undesirable, for many increased costs will not prevent the provision of nutritional meals for their families. But this is not the case for families and individuals requiring support from Foodbanks; increased costs putting additional strain on limited resources.

Each Harvest Festival we bring tinned goods into church, marking the gathering in of crops; as we donate to Foodbanks, we share Gods love and bounteous provision. As you prayerfully consider your donation for Sunday, whilst shopping, if able, please consider purchasing a few extra items to share, or, if it is easier monetary donations will be welcomed, every donation, however received, will be appreciated, enjoyed and benefit those in our local community needing additional support. Please enable us this Harvest Festival to share Gods bounty throughout our community. Thank you for your donations.

Linda Hobbs

WELCOME to St Helen's this Sunday. 10.30 am *Sung Eucharist*. 5.30 pm *Service for Healing and Wholeness*. 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: Genesis 28.10-17; Revelation 12.7-12; John 1.47-51

Service Setting: Aston

Hymns:

Processional: 377 Angel voices ever singing

Gradual: 246 Christ the fair glory of the holy angels

Offertory: 543 O praise ye the Lord

Anthem: Darke, Christ, whose glory fills the skies

Post communion: 626 Ye holy angels bright

Collect:

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; 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. **Amen.**

Psalm: 103 vv 19-22

Response: The Lord has established his throne for ever.

The Lord has established his throne in heav'n:
and his kingdom has dominion over all.
Bless the Lord you angels of his,
you might ones who do his bidding:
and hearken to the voice of this 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**

5.30 PM SERVICE FOR HEALING AND WHOLENESS

Reading: Tobit 12. 6-end

Hymns:

Praise my soul the King of Heaven CP 555

Blest are the pure in heart CP 391

God that madest earth and heaven CP 15

THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

ON WEEKDAYS 9.10 am *Morning Prayer*.

ON MONDAY 9.30 am *Baby and Toddler Group* in the Parish Centre Hall.

ON TUESDAY 6.00 pm *Agnostics Anonymous* in the Parish Centre Hall.

ON WEDNESDAY 10.30 am *Holy Communion*.

ON THURSDAY 2.30 pm *Mothers' Union Committee Meeting* in the Parish Centre Hall

ON SATURDAY 10.00 am *Flower Group* in the church. 5.00 pm *Lumos Candlelight Concert* in the church.

ON SUNDAY 8.00 am *Holy Communion*. 10.30 am *Sung Eucharist – Harvest*.

PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

Afternoon tea at St Michael's today, 28th September from 2.30 pm until 4.30 pm to mark Fr Paul's retirement in addition to his final service on Thursday 9th October. All are welcome.

Faith Forum: Please note that Faith Forum meets today, **Sunday 28th September** in the parish centre. A buffet lunch will be available from 12.15 pm, and the talk will begin at 12.45 pm. Margaret Adam will be starting our autumn series on personal spirituality, speaking on the subject of prayer. We would be very grateful for a few volunteers to help set up tables and chairs in the parish centre following the 10.30 am service at St Helens! For those who can't join us in person, the talk will be available on Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85645633324?pwd=LYbJpGrcgpTWk1ZfNJ9VRq4ILHZMda.1>

Meeting ID: 856 4563 3324

Passcode: 656494

Please Sponsor Robin: Robin, Andrew and Helena Day are doing another sponsored bike ride on Saturday 4th October and are planning to cycle from Dalton Barracks to RAF Benson on the amazing 12 foot long bike they have on loan. This is aid of Camp Mohawk (see www.campmohawk.org.uk) who have given a lot of support to Robin and his family and are in desperate need of funds. Donations can be made on-line at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/thankyoucampmohawkcycle> or via Jeanette Thomas on a paper form. Robin is keen to thank the charity for all that they do for him.

Agnostics Anonymous, 30th September in the Parish Centre at 6pm. This month's speaker is Dr Bethany Sollereder who will be speaking on the topic "Why would a good God create through evolution's violence and waste?" It is good to welcome our new speaker, Dr Sollereder, who is Associate Professor in Science and Religion, and the Wills Fellow and Tutor in Theology and Religion at Harris Manchester College. Her research has been in the field of evolution and suffering. Everyone is welcome.

A Church Twinning visit to our Christian friends in St Niklaas in Belgium is taking place from 2nd to 6th October 2025. Travel will be in a group by minibus and accommodation will be with host families. If you are interested please contact Elizabeth Simpson

(simpsonem123@gmail.com) and/or Anne Dodd (anne.dodd28@googlemail.com) as soon as possible, as places are very limited.

Saturday October 4th 10 am – 1 pm. The flower group are preparing the church for harvest, extra flowers are very welcome. Buckets of water will be in the baptistry, from Friday morning onwards. Extra help welcome from all ages.

Our Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 5th October. We will be collecting tinned and dried goods (e.g. rice, pasta, etc) for the foodbank, so if you are able to contribute to the foodbank collection, please remember to bring things on the day. We would also be delighted to receive donations of homegrown flowers or produce for the harvest displays in church. If you would like to contribute fresh flowers or produce, can these please be brought to the church either on the afternoon of Friday 3rd October or first thing on Saturday 4th October, as the church will be decorated on the Saturday.

The funeral for Susan Gee will be held at 11:00 am on Thursday 9th October at St Helen's Church, followed by a reception with refreshments in the South Aisle. All are very welcome to attend. To ensure adequate catering provision, it would be helpful if you would kindly email david@gee-family.net by Sunday 5th October if you plan to attend the reception. Ladies are asked to wear something colourful, and men to wear brightly coloured (not black) ties to the service please. Family flowers only, please. Donations in memory of Susan may be made to Cancer Research UK.

Fr Paul will be celebrating 25 years of ordained ministry at a special Mass on Thursday 9th October, 7 pm, in St Michael's, marking his retirement. Preacher: The Revd Patrick Taylor, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Stratford-upon-Avon. This will be Fr Paul's final service in the parish. His final Service in St Nicolas will be Morning Prayer on 5th October.

The Northcourt Singers Concert 'Mighty in Power' at St Michael's on 10th October at 7.30pm. A concert of hymns to launch the CD which was recorded at St Michael's by local composer David Preston. Tickets are £15 by card or cash on the door. Proceeds to St Michael's and Abingdon Passion Play.

The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown will be licensed as Team Rector on Tuesday 21st October at 7 pm in St Helen's Church.

On Saturday 1st November 2025 at 11.00 a.m. in Christchurch Cathedral Oxford, Linda Hobbs will be Licensed as a Lay Minister in the Diocese of Oxford. She would be delighted if you would like to support her on this important day. Following the service she would like to invite you to join her and her family in the Parish Centre for lunch. Please email if you will be able to join her for lunch (lindahobbs1954@gmail.com) and please keep her in your prayers as she prepares for this special day.'

A big thank you from the Events Group to all the volunteers who contributed to the Heritage Weekend and fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support. Our aim was to provide a warm welcome to the town which was done so successfully, thank you. We had over 700

visitors and raised £590.27 each for St. Helen's and Macmillan. Finally, we have received a thank you from our Mayor:

“The atmosphere throughout the day was full of energy and pride, with families and visitors of all ages clearly enjoying what was on offer. It’s another wonderful example of the **passion and commitment of the people of Abingdon**, and I left feeling both inspired and grateful to witness it firsthand. Please extend my thanks to everyone who contributed to making the day such a success, including all the organisers and volunteers. You all did an outstanding job, and I was honoured to be part of it. Warm regards, Cllr Rawda Jehanli, Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames”.

The September issue of the Parish Magazine is available to download from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php. Do read it!

Please pray for the residents of Juniper Court, Kempster Close, Kensington Close and Kimber Road.

Intercessory prayer requests to clairembolton@googlemail.com.

For health & wellbeing: Sarah Stevens, Katie Stuart, Alli, David, Anne Smithson, Loelia Lyon, Mick and Vanessa Madden.

Next week’s readings: Philippians 4.4-9; John 6.25-35

Team Rector	Vacant
Team Vicar	The Revd Paul Smith
Associate Priest	The Revd Dr A. K. M. Adam (AKMA) akma@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk
Associate Priest	The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown jennifer.brown@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 Jackie Cunningham
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, morning and afternoon.

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

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