



St HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 16th November 2025

The Second Sunday Before Advent

Safeguarding

What does the word “Safeguarding” mean to you – unnecessary red tape, box ticking, time consuming training ... Or is it about life giving love, healing and wholeness, building up the body of Christ and living so that Christian values are embedded throughout every day? Policies and procedures are necessary but it's our church culture that matters, the way we do things, the way people are treated. Can we question freely, can we discuss, can we listen? Church Safeguarding matters because -

- Caring and wanting the best for each other is a basic gospel value. Jesus said “I have come that you may have life in all its fullness” – not just kept safe from harm, scraping along but to realise our fullest potential
- Proverbs 31.8 commands us to “Speak out on behalf of the voiceless and for the rights of the vulnerable”. The Bible bias is always to the vulnerable. Matthew 18.6 warns us not to cause a “little one” to stumble.
- We need to uphold the good name of the Church. Our church communities must be safe places where everyone can flourish, the vulnerable find protection and the hurt healing. If we can't do that, who can? There has too much bad press which dishonours God. Too many lives have been and are being damaged by abuse of power. We need an open minded attitude of “it could happen here” We need to protect ourselves from false accusations
- The Church is open to all including offenders so there is a balance to be had between welcome and watchfulness.

Safeguarding is for everybody by everybody. Look in a mirror and you will see the person responsible for safeguarding in our parish. Please help by taking training/DBS checks as required for your role and following policies. Thank you to the team, Emmanuel Chukwuma at St Helens, Jenny Fishpool at St Nicolas, Douglas Aitkin at St Michaels, Catherine Kimber for DBS. Thank you for trusting me to be your parish safeguarding officer.

Pat Hudson, Parish Safeguarding Officer

WELCOME to St Helen's this Sunday. 10.30 am *Sung Eucharist*. 5.30 pm *Choral Evensong*.
Today the 10.30 am Sung Eucharist service at St Helen's can be accessed on Zoom from
5.15 pm on: Meeting ID: 865 5159 6523; Passcode: 626891.

FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

Readings: Malachi 4.1-2a; 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13; Luke 21.5-19

Service Setting: Rutter

Hymns:

Processional: 2 Christ whose glory fills the skies

Gradual: 356 Judge eternal, throned in splendour

Offertory: 427 For the healing of the nations

Anthem: Franck, Panis angelicus

Post communion: 315 Now let us from this table rise

Collect:

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm: 98

Response: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.

The Lord has made known his salvation:

he has revealed his just deliverance in the sight of the nations.

Shout with joy to the Lord all the earth.

Break into singing and make melody. **Response**

Make melody to the Lord upon the harp.

Upon the harp and the sounds of praise.

With trumpets and with horns cry out in triumph

before the Lord the King. **Response**

5.30 PM CHORAL EVENSONG

Readings: Daniel 6; Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

Responses: Smith

Office hymn: 140 Christ is alive

Psalm: 97

Canticles: Stanford in C

Anthem: Stanford, O for a closer walk with God

Final hymn: 469 I heard the voice of Jesus say

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 10.00 am *Portrait Classes* in the Parish Centre Hall. 2.15 pm *Desiring Life Group* in the Parish Centre Lounge. 5.00 pm *Yellow Submarine Youth Group* in the Parish Centre Hall. 7.00 pm *PCC Meeting* in the Parish Centre Lounge.

ON WEDNESDAY 10.30 am *Holy Communion*.

ON THURSDAY 9.45 am *Photography Session* in the church. 6.30 pm *Life Drawing Class* in the Parish Centre Hall.

ON SATURDAY 8.30 am *Bell Ringing Course* in the Parish Centre Hall.

ON SUNDAY 10.30 am *Sung Eucharist*. 5.30 pm *Service for Healing and Wholeness*.

PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

StHelens@Lunch - Thursday 20th November at Aston Pottery from 12.30 pm. If you need or can offer a lift please contact Susan Scott 01235 522960.

Faith Forum: Our final Faith Forum meeting of the current series will be on Sunday 23rd November in the Parish Centre. Lunch will be served from 12.20 pm, with the talk beginning at 12.45 pm. Our speaker will be Maranda St John Nicolle, World Development Advisor for the Diocese of Oxford, who will be speaking on *Putting Faith into Practice (Living the Faith)*. There is no Faith Forum in December, but we will resume with a new series on Sunday 25th January.

Christmas Tree - Help is needed to help put up the tree on Monday November 24th and Tuesday 25th November at 10 am. Should take less than 3 hours on both days, less if lots of help available. Let Susan Scott know if you can help please. susan.scott21@btinternet.com.

Agnostics Anonymous. The last meeting for 2025 will take place on Tues 25th Nov at 6 pm in the Parish Centre. Our Rector, the Rev Jen Brown will be leading, speaking on the topic "Can you believe in both science and the Bible?" She is joined by Rev John Barton. There will be time for questions and discussion and we plan to finish about 7.15 pm.

The Christmas Market is November 29th. Please could you spare anytime between 10 am-12 pm Thursday 27th and/or Friday 28th help set up tables and arrange the stalls? Donations of home baking, new, pre-loved, preserves, jewelry, books, jigsaws, toys, Christmas decorations etc gratefully received either days or can be left in advance in the office. We also need help to sell after church Sunday 30th and to clear up Monday Dec 1st 10am-12pm again. See Jeanette, Jeanette.thomas@btinternet.com or Pat Hudson patricia.a.hudson16@gmail.com, 07787120045.

Mulled Wine - Donations of mulled wine to serve after the Advent Carol Service on Sunday 30th November gratefully received. Please leave in servery.

St Nicolas' lunch will be taking place on Sunday 7th December at Cosener's House, 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm. The deadline to book and place menu choices is Sunday 23rd November. <https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StN/downloads/StNicsChristmasLunch.pdf>.

Heavenly Realms. LAMPS Collective are returning with their brand new Christmas Show! Saturday 20th December - 3.00pm and 7.00pm - Peachcroft Christian Centre. Join the OAPs (Old Angel Pensioners) of retirement home Heavenly Realms, as they get ready to celebrate Christmas and share memories. Come along and invite your friends! Tickets £10 adult, £5 Child/young person (8-18). Suitable for age 8 upward. Ticket link: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/peachcroft-christian-centre/heavenly-realms/e-gpygml>.

Christmas Day Lunch 2025. We are offering a Christmas Day lunch at Peachcroft Christian Centre. This is for people who are going to be alone this Christmas, but who would like to celebrate in the company of others. Our catchment area is Abingdon and surrounding villages. Transport can be provided for those unable to make their own way. If you know of anyone who might benefit from joining us as a guest this year, please get in touch with Fiona on: 07503 178893 or via email: christmaslunch25@peachcroftcc.org.

The November issue of the Parish Magazine is available to download:
https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php.

Advent and Christmastide Services. Leaflets giving details can be found in St Helen's Church. Please take for friends and neighbours.

Please pray for the residents of Masefield Crescent, Mayott's Road, Meadowside and Meadowside Court. Intercessory prayer requests to clairembolton@gmail.com. **For health & wellbeing:** Sarah Stevens, Katie Stuart, Alli, David, Anne Smithson, Loelia Lyon, Christian Szurko, Mick and Vanessa Madden.

Next week's readings: Jeremiah 23.1-6; Colossians 1.11-20; Luke 23.33-43

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown jennifer.brown@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk
Team Vicar	Vacant
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 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.