



St HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 30th November 2025

The First Sunday of Advent

New Beginnings

Advent marks the start of the Church's year so, Happy New Year! With the start of Advent, we begin anew our cycle of seasons, readings, and festivals. On this first Sunday in Advent, the Church has traditionally remembered the Patriarchs of Israel, those who were the beginning of the Jewish people.

The Patriarchs were not perfect people – some might go so far as to say they were far from perfect. And yet, God called them and chose them to be the start of God's own people, the people among whom, many generations later, God himself would come among us in Jesus. Flawed though they were, the Patriarchs were people who were alert to God's action in the world. They heard and responded to his voice. They were willing to take risks because they believed God's promise to them. In that, they are models for us.

None of us is perfect. We all have our flaws and our quirky little ways. But that doesn't mean that God can't use us or won't call us to his service. What matters is whether we are willing to listen to God's voice and follow God's call. If we are, then amazing things can happen. Perhaps God is calling you to something new, or to a deeper relationship with him. Perhaps this Advent can be a new beginning.

The Revd Dr Jen Brown, Rector

WELCOME to St Helen's this Sunday. 10.30 am *Sung Eucharist*. 5.30 pm *Advent Carol Service*. The 10.30 am Sung Eucharist service at St Helen's can be accessed on Zoom from 10.15 am on: Meeting ID: 865 5159 6523; Passcode: 626891.

FOR TODAY'S 10.30 AM SERVICE

Readings: Isaiah 2.1-5; Romans 13.11-14; Matthew 24.36-44

Service Setting: Foster, Missa rorate coeli desuper

Hymns:

Introit: Archer, Advent wreath prayer, Advent 1

Processional: 38 The people that in darkness sat

Gradual: 24 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Offertory: 31 Lo he comes, with clouds descending

Anthem: Handel, And the glory of the Lord

Post Communion: 39 Wake O wake, with tidings thrilling

Postlude: J. S. Bach, Wachet auf

Collect:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm: 25

Response: Make me to know your ways O Lord, and teach me your paths.

To you O Lord I will lift my soul;

O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies triumph over me. **Response**

Lead me in your truth and teach me

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you have I hoped all the day long;

remember, Lord your compassion and love

for they are from everlasting. **Response**

Details of the 5.30 pm Advent Carol Service can be found in the separate service sheet.

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 am *Mothers' Union Meeting* in the Parish Centre Hall. 2.15 pm *Desiring Life Group* in the Parish Centre Lounge.

ON WEDNESDAY 10.30 am *Holy Communion*. 7 pm *Abingdon Music Centre Concert* in the church.

ON THURSDAY 10.00 am *Finance Group Meeting* in the Parish Centre Lounge. 1.30 pm *Music Flood/Abingdon Music Centre Primary School Carol Service* in the church. 6.15 pm *Life Drawing Class* in the Parish Centre Hall. 7.30 pm *DCC Standing Committee* in the Parish Centre Lounge.

ON FRIDAY 12.30 pm *Funeral in the church*. 3.30 pm *Events Group Meeting* in the Parish Centre Lounge.

ON SATURDAY 3.30 pm *Abingdon Concert Band Christmas Concert* in the church.

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

PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

The Abingdon District and Musical Society's annual festive family concert will be held on Saturday 13th December at 4 pm at St Helen's. Bring the whole family for an afternoon of festive music, carol singing and Christmas treats! Music includes *The Nutcracker* and *Wallace and Gromit*! Tickets available on the door or via

www.wegotickets.com/ADMS.

West Porch Nativity. We plan to have the crib set up in the West Porch of St Helen's from 19th-22nd Dec between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm, and possibly also the morning of 23rd Dec. We hope that enough people will offer to give an hour or more to sit with the crib, welcome passers by and invite them to Christmas (or other) services. A rota to sign up will be put up in church by Sun 14th Dec. Please sign up to help with this outreach and welcome.

Envelopes for the Christmas poinsettia/flowers of remembrance can be found on the welcome desk.

The November issue of the Parish Magazine is still available from:

https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php. The December edition will be published on December 7th. It will be the 60th on-line edition! Contributions welcome - copy by today, 30th November please.

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

Rota for Readers and Intercessors. As we enter Advent—the beginning of a new church year—we're looking for new volunteers to join the team to read lessons or lead the prayers at St Helen's. If you feel called to this ministry, please let us know, Susan (susanworthington40@gmail.com) or Alexandra (alexandra.green.sthelen@gmail.com).

The Parish Office will close at 1 pm on Christmas Eve and will re-open at 10 am on Monday 5th January.

For your thoughts and prayers:

- For all who will visit churches and attend services over Advent and Christmas
- For all who are struggling financially
- For all who are lonely or who find the festive season difficult
- For the people of Bethlehem and throughout the Holy Land, that they may know peace

Please pray for the residents of Mill Road, Mill Stream Court, Mons Way and Mullard Way.

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: Isaiah 11.1-10; Matthew 3.1-12

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.