



St HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 5th April, 2026

EASTER DAY

Alleluia! Christ is risen! With these joyful words we both celebrate the feast of Easter and proclaim the truth at the heart of the gospel. Jesus, the one who is both human and divine, died and now lives. In him, death has been overcome. In the resurrection, everything changed.

The joy of Easter is about more than individual salvation, important though that is. It is more than the moment that death becomes the gateway to new life, important though that is. Easter is the birth of the New Creation. It is the moment in which God begins to renew and restore creation, bringing us ever closer to the fulfilment of the promised peaceful kingdom that God desires for all life. The reality of Easter and all that it means and represents can be hard to get our heads around. Even the disciples, whom Jesus had carefully taught to expect this very thing, had a hard time grasping the reality of it and what it meant. We may not fully understand the 'mechanics' of it – *how* Jesus' resurrection achieves all these things, but I'm not sure that we need to. What we need to understand about Easter is that at its heart are joy and hope.

Our world remains troubled, and war and violence sadly still exist. The new creation of peace began at the first Easter, but is not yet fully here, though we can see signs of it if we look. There are many whose personal circumstances make it difficult to enter into the happy celebrations of Easter. We should not minimise or dismiss their pain, but we can hold out to them the promise that Easter holds. The joy of Easter remains to encourage us. The hope of Easter is that the darkness will never overcome the light of life. Death will never again have the last word, because He Is Risen!

Alleluia!

Revd Dr Jen Brown, Rector

WELCOME to St Helen's this Sunday. 8.00am *Holy Communion (1662) with hymns.*
10.30am *Sung Eucharist with all-age address* (followed by Easter Egg Hunt).
The 10.30 am service at St Helen's today can be accessed on Zoom from 10.15 am on:
Meeting ID: 865 5159 6523; Passcode: 626891.

FOR TODAY'S SERVICE

Readings: Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-8

Service Setting: Tambling, Holy Trinity Service

Hymns:

Processional: 137 Alleluia, alleluia, hearts to heaven and voices raise

Gradual 147 Jesus Christ is risen today

Offertory: 138 All the lamb's high feast we sing

Anthem. Stanford, Ye choirs of new Jerusalem

Post communion: 160 Thine be the glory

Collect: Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

Amen.

Psalm: 118 Response Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

O give thanks to the Lord for he is good

His mercy endures for ever.

Let those who fear the Lord proclaim

that his mercy endures for ever. **Response**

The right hand of the Lord does mighty things

the right hand of the Lord raises up.

I shall not die but live

and proclaim the works of the Lord. **Response**

The stone that the builders rejected

has become the head of the corner.

This is the Lord's doing

and it is marvellous in our eyes. **Response**

THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

ON WEEKDAYS 9.10 am *Morning Prayer.*

ON MONDAY 1.45-3.30pm *Volunteer Group Meeting* in the Centre Lounge.

ON TUESDAY 10.00-12.00 *Mothers' Union Meeting* in the Centre Hall

ON WEDNESDAY 10.30am *Holy Communion.*

ON THURSDAY 12.20-1.30 pm *Wedding*. 6.15-8.00pm *Life Drawing Class* in the Hall.

ON FRIDAY 4.00pm *Abingdon School Bell Club* in the church. 5.00pm *Young Ringers Practice* in the church. 5.30pm *Choir Practice* in the church.

ON SUNDAY 8.00am *Holy Communion (1662) with hymns*. 10.30am *Sung Eucharist*. 5.30pm *Taizé*. 12.30-1.30pm *ADCM documents distributed*.

PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

The April edition of the Parish magazine, 'A Candle in the Window' is available from Easter Day. Download from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php
Do read, discuss and even enjoy!

A concert of Celtic music, including songs and music for guitar, violin and tin whistle, will be given by professional singer, Valentine Roland, on **Sat 18th April at 7.30pm in St Helen's Church**. Tickets are £10 (under 16 free) and are available online at Ticketsource, from the Bookstore, in church after the 10.30 service and at the door. The church is 'promoting' this concert and will receive half the net proceeds, so do come and support Valentine and the church. "

Moving into Stillness: circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes at St Michael and All Angels on Thursday 9th April in the church from 9.45 – 10.45 am before the regular circle dancing session at 11 am with the second regular circle dancing session of the month being held on 23rd April. 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. **Please note the changes of date and room for April.**

It's nomination and election time!

The St. Helen's Annual District Church Meeting (the ADCM) will be held on Sunday 19th April, in church after the 10.30 service. This is when we elect Wardens, Pro-wardens, members of the Parish Church Council, Deanery Synod and the District Church Council. These are all important posts/councils in the running of St Helen's and the parish, and we need people to step up to the job. It's a great way to get involved in church life, to get to know others both in St Helen's and across the parish. With, we hope, the appointment of a Team Vicar in June it will be a time of new beginnings and ways of working across the parish - a great time to get involved in church planning. If you would like to stand for any of these posts, please add your name to the lists on the Welcome desk, and ask someone to propose and second you.

Church Twinning. Our friends in Schongau, Germany, have invited us, together with a group from St Niklaas, Belgium, for a Church Twinning weekend from 4th to 8th June 2026. Accommodation will be with host families. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth on simpsonem123@gmail.com for further information by 1st April, as places are very limited.

Open Church Stewarding. If you have been thinking this is something you could do to support the outreach of St Helen's church family please talk to me, Elizabeth Simpson, after the service, or email me on simpsonem123@gmail.com. With thanks.

The Parish office telephone is now working.

For prayer

- For Christians throughout the world celebrating the joy of Easter
- For the recently baptised and confirmed
- For the whole of creation
- For those who feel they are living in darkness, that they may know the comfort and hope of the light of Christ

Please pray for the residents of The Mott, The Old Foundry, The Pentagon and The Quadrant. Intercessory prayer requests to clairembolton@googlemail.com.

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

Next week's readings: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-end.

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown rector@abingdonparish.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	Vacant
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.