



Sunday 19th April, 2026

Easter 3

Easter praise

This Sunday we hold the service of Readings and Music for Eastertide. We look forward to a celebratory musical feast: the treat of St Helen's choir, no doubt augmented by singers from St Michael's and St Nicolas' Churches, ravishing us with choral expression of the joy of Easter. We remain ever grateful to our musicians.

Looking at some of the items in the service, it may strike us that Holy Week has moved into Eastertide, but not been forgotten. Hymn 132 invites us to "go to dark Gethsemane", to the judgment hall, to Calvary and finally the tomb. The choir will sing "Now the green blade riseth", which reminds us that our Lord was laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen, yet now our risen Lord is seen; nevertheless, our hearts may at times be "wintry, grieving or in pain."

Perhaps the words that best encapsulate the bitter-sweet, glorious-costly victory are those from Brian Wren's hymn, "Christ is alive". The third verse reads:

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Today we experience insult and scorn from world leaders. Wars start and continue. Gethsemane, the judgment hall and Calvary remind us that Christ is with us, willing to suffer in all our pains and shames. Ultimately, too, the tomb is empty; God lives even if our hope has died, assuring us (as Desmond Tutu said) that goodness is stronger than evil, light than darkness, love than hate, life than death. We could add, truth than lies.

And we can echo St Paul in affirming (Romans 8.34-39) that despite hardship, distress, you name it, nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Alleluia!

Gwen Bevington

WELCOME to St Helen's this Sunday. 8.00am *Holy Communion (1662)*; 10.30am *Sung Eucharist*; 5.30 pm *Service of music and readings for Eastertide*

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 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35.

Service Setting: Tambling, Holy Trinity Service

Hymns:

Processional: 165 Christ is the King, O friends rejoice

Gradual: 159 The strife is o'er, the battle done

Offertory: 304 Here O my Lord, I see thee face to face

Anthem: Wesley, Blessed be the God and Father

Post communion: SP 261 Before the throne of God above

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. **Amen.**

Psalm: 116 Response: In your presence is the fullness of joy

I have set the Lord always before me:

he is at my right hand, and I shall not fall.

Therefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices:

my flesh also shall rest secure. **Response**

For you will not give me over to the power of death:

Nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life:

in your presence is the fullness of joy,

and from your right hand flow delights for evermore. **Response**

THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

ON WEEKDAYS 9.10 am *Morning Prayer*

ON MONDAY 9:30 - 11am *Babies & Toddlers* in the Centre Hall.

1:30 - 5:50pm *Interviews* in Centre Hall

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

7:30 – 9:30pm *Deanery Synod Meeting* in Church

ON TUESDAY 5:00 – 8.30pm *Yellow Submarine Group* in the Centre Hall

6:00 – 8.30pm *Baptism preparation* in the Centre Lounge

7:30 – 9:00pm *Ringing Practice*

ON WEDNESDAY 10.30am *Holy Communion*

1:00 – 2:30pm *Preaching Group Meeting* in the Centre Hall

5.15 - 6.15pm *Beavers* 6.30-8pm *Cubs* in the Centre Hall

- ON THURSDAY** 6.15 - 8.00pm *Life Drawing Class* in the Centre Hall
7:00 – 9:00pm *Events Group Meeting* in the Centre Lounge
- ON FRIDAY** 4.00pm *Abingdon School Bell Club*
& 5.00pm *Young Ringers Practice* in the church.
5.30pm *Choir Practice* in the church.
- ON SATURDAY** 1:00 – 5:00pm Private event in the Parish Centre Hall
- ON SUNDAY** 8.00am *Holy Communion (1662)*
10.30am *Sung Eucharist*
5.30pm *Service of Healing & Wholeness*

PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

StHelens@lunch - Thursday 23rd April at the Wandering Kitchen, Berinsfield from 12.30pm. If you need or can offer a lift contact Susan Scott 01235 522960.

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 of the net proceeds, so do come and support Valentine and the church.

Silent Reflections will be held on **Tuesday 28 April** at 7.30-8.30 pm at St Michael and All Angels. Rosalind Rutherford will provide material for our reflections on the theme: *Heaven in Ordinary*. We meet initially in the church room. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

Moving into Stillness: circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes at St Michael and All Angels on **Thursday 7 May** in the church from 9.45 – 10.45 am before the regular circle dancing session at 11 am. 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.

Cream Tea: On Saturday 25 April 2.30 pm – 4.30 pm, St Michael's Church, Park Road, Abingdon will be hosting their first Cream Tea of the summer season. Please join us for an afternoon of live music. Tea/coffee with scone/cake £5. Proceeds to church funds. All welcome.

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.

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.

For prayer

- Thanks for the ministry of music
- Children and young people in our churches, and those who teach and lead them
- People living with grief and pain
- For world leaders to learn respect for others, and for truth and the common good
- The end of wars

Please pray for the residents of Thurston Close, Tower Close, Townsend, Turberville Close. Intercessory prayer requests to clairebolton@googlemail.com.

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

Next week's readings – Feast of St Mark: Proverbs 15.28-33 or Acts 15.35-41; Psalm 119.9-16; Ephesians 4.7-16; Mark 13.5-13

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.