



St HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 10th May, 2026

Easter 6
Christian Aid Week

Growing food and hope

One of my favourite Gospel mantras is “Give that you may receive” (Luke 6:38) and, as always, this feels appropriate for Christian Aid Week, which begins today. The focus this year is on growing food and hope in a suburb of Nairobi, Kenya, using the parable of the mustard seed which matures into a tree that sustains many families. Many people in the world live on less than \$1 a day. I tried doing that once, as a challenge, and it is crippling. I managed not to starve, but the diet was boring, and the idea of how to prepare the next meal dominated my days. Poverty breeds not only hunger, but also powerlessness. Christian Aid’s local partners know how to break that cycle of hardship by garnering local talent and resources. In Nairobi, the Beacon of Hope charity is nurturing communities to create the most amazing urban gardens, where people use organic fertilisers and vertical planting techniques. I want to learn more.

The results of such initiatives, sponsored by Christian Aid, are multifarious. The fruits of the urban farmers’ labours help to feed their families and make enough profit to send their children to school. But their urban farms also empower people with confidence about the future. The effects are transformative.

We have much to learn from other cultures. The Salvation Army recently made a statement based on the parable of the Good Samaritan: “Love God, Love Others.” Giving to Christian Aid has the potential to change us too as we receive inspiration about living out our Christian faith: giving, acting, praying. Download a Christian Aid [placemat](#), and learn about vertical gardens!

Please give generously to help Christian Aid’s essential work. The Abingdon group’s fundraising page is [here](#), and you can also give with cash or card in church today. Thank you.

Mary Anderson, Christian Aid

WELCOME to St Helen's this Sunday. 10.30am *Sung Eucharist*; 5.30pm *Taizé*
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 17.22-31, 1 Peter 3.13-end, John 14.15-21

Service Setting: Tambling, Holy Trinity Service

Hymns:

Processional: 368 All my hope on God is founded

Gradual: 143 Come ye faithful, raise the strain

Offertory: 516 Love divine, all loves excelling

Anthem: Tallis, *If ye love me*

Post communion: 315 Now let us from this table rise

Collect: God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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 66:

Response - Bless our God O you peoples, make the voice of his praise to be heard

Come and listen all you who fear God:
and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.
I called out to him with my mouth:
and his praise was on my tongue. **Response**

If I had nursed evil in my heart:
the Lord would not have heard me,
But in truth God has heard me:
he has heeded the voice of my prayer. **Response**

Blessed be God who has not rejected my prayer:
nor withheld his loving mercy from me.
Bless our God O you peoples:
make the voice of his praise to be heard. **Response**

THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

ON WEEKDAYS	9.10am <i>Morning Prayer</i>
ON MONDAY	9.30-11am <i>Babies & Toddlers</i> in the Centre Hall 1.45pm-3.30pm <i>Volunteer Group Meeting</i> in the Centre Lounge 7.30-9.30pm <i>Circle Dancing</i> in the Centre Hall
ON TUESDAY	7.30pm–9.00pm <i>Bell ringing</i>
ON WEDNESDAY	10.30am <i>Holy Communion</i> 5.15-6.15pm <i>Beavers</i> 6.30-8pm <i>Cubs</i> in the Centre Hall
ON THURSDAY	7.30pm <i>Parish Eucharist at St Nicolas for Ascension Day</i>
ON FRIDAY	4.00pm <i>Abingdon School Bell Club</i> 5.00pm <i>Young Ringers Practice</i> in the church. 5.30pm <i>Choir Practice</i> in the church.
ON SATURDAY	10am-4pm <i>Art Exhibition</i> in the church (St Edmund's 850 th Festival)
ON SUNDAY	10.30am <i>Sung Eucharist</i> 12pm-4pm <i>Art Exhibition</i> in the church (St Edmund's 850 th Festival) 5:30pm <i>Choral Evensong</i>

PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

Ascension Day – Thursday May 14th

The usual 12.30pm said Mass will also take place at St Michael's that day, for those who would find a daytime service helpful.

Christian Aid Week, 10th-16th May: A big thank-you to all who supported our Christian Aid market stall yesterday, contributors and purchasers alike. We will be showing a short film about Christian Aid in Kenya immediately after the service today. You may also like to follow the inspiring devotional which is available [online](#) or from the Welcome desk. If you have not already done so, we encourage you to [give a donation](#) to Christian Aid. You can find our Abingdon page by googling "Christine's fundraising page - Christian Aid" (set up by Christine Hutt) or give with cash or card in church today. Thank you again.

StHelens@lunch - Tuesday May 19th at The College Oak, Peachcroft from 12.30pm. If you need or can offer a lift, contact Susan Scott on 01235 522960

Parish Magazine: The May edition of the Parish Magazine will be available to download on Sunday 10th May from the Parish website: https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php
I can't list all the good reasons why you should!

CiA: The May edition of the CiA news is now available. Articles for the Christian Forum column in Round & About Abingdon are always welcome. If you wish to contribute, please contact Debra McKnight at dhmcknight@aol.com

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.

Prayer at St Helen's: Prayer is the strong foundation of everything we do - here in church, and in our lives. Apart from the main church services:

- Intercessory prayers are said at Morning Prayer services during the week.
- Prayers for specific people can be added to the Sunday notice sheet. Contact the parish office at administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk
- You can light a candle for someone and/or place a prayer request on the board for them.
- Prayer requests from the prayer board are also prayed for at Wednesday morning Communion.
- All streets in our parish are prayed for in turn.

To add to these focuses, we also have a Prayer Support Group who offer intercessory prayers and will pray for urgent requests. Prayers are kept strictly confidential and will be prayed as soon as we receive them. Requests are passed on via email. If you would like prayer support, please contact me at clairembolton@googlemail.com. If you would like to join our prayers please contact me at the email above, or in church after the Sunday morning service.

For prayer:

- The work of Christian Aid world-wide, and especially in Kenya
- An end to the Middle Eastern conflict that has devastating effects, especially on people living in poverty
- The process of appointing a new Team Vicar to our parish

Please pray for the residents of West St Helen's Street, Westfields, Wharf Close, Willow Brook.

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

Next week's readings

7th Sunday of Easter: Acts 1.6-14, Psalm 68.1-4, 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11, John 17.1-11

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	Mrs Kate Burland
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.