



*St* HELEN'S CHURCH  
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

Pentecost

Happy Birthday!

Today is the Feast of Pentecost – the birthday of the Church. We think of this day as marking the start of the Church because it was on the Feast of Pentecost that the disciples received the Holy Spirit and began to preach and teach publicly about Jesus.

The Greek word for 'spirit' also means 'breath' and the Holy Spirit does breathe life into the Church. Jesus' disciples had been together as a group long before the Pentecost event – during the three years that they travelled with Jesus and in the days following his resurrection and ascension. But it was only once they received the Holy Spirit that they found their voice and the courage to begin speaking openly about Jesus and what had been accomplished through his death and resurrection. It was only when they had received the Holy Spirit that the church really came to life and began to grow.

The Church still needs the Holy Spirit. The Spirit continues to breathe life into the church and to give us breath to sing God's praises and to spread the Good News of Jesus. So come, Holy Spirit, fill us with life and 'our souls inspire'.

The Revd Dr Jen Brown, Rector

**WELCOME** to St Helen's this Sunday. 10.30am *Sung Eucharist*; 5.30pm *Service for Healing and Wholeness*. 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 2.1-21, Psalm 104, 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13; John 20.19-23

**Service Setting:** Tambling, Holy Trinity Service

### **Hymns:**

Introit: Foster, O King enthroned on high

Processional: 181 Eternal ruler of the ceaseless round

Gradual: 191 O thou who camest from above

Offertory: 175 Come down O love divine

Anthem: Ives, *Listen sweet dove*

Post communion: 178 Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire

**Collect:** God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### **Psalm: 104**

**Response: Bless the Lord O my soul, O Lord my God how great you are.**

O Lord, how manifold are your works:  
in wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full you your creatures.  
There is the sea, spread far and wide:  
and there move creatures beyond number, both small  
and great. **Response**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live:  
I will make music to my God while I have my being.  
So shall my song please him:  
While I rejoice in the Lord.  
**Response**

All of these look to you:  
to give them food in due season.  
When you give it to them, they gather it:  
you open their hand and they are filled with good.  
**Response**

### **5.30 pm Service for Healing and Wholeness**

#### **Hymns all from *Sing Praise***

90 Holy Spirit, gift bestower

95 Spirit of holiness, wisdom and faithfulness

6 We praise you Father for your gift of dusk

Reading: 1 Corinthians 12.4-11

## THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

<b>ON WEEKDAYS</b>	9.10am <i>Morning Prayer</i>
<b>ON MONDAY</b>	Half Term - <b>No Babies &amp; Toddlers</b> in the centre hall
<b>ON TUESDAY</b>	6.00pm <i>Agnostics Anonymous</i> in the centre hall
<b>ON WEDNESDAY</b>	10.30am <i>Holy Communion</i> 2.00-3.30 <i>ONB Branch Bell Ringing</i> in the bell tower 5.15-6.15pm <i>Beavers</i> 6.30-8.00pm <i>Cubs</i> in the centre hall 7.30pm <i>DCC meeting</i> in the centre lounge
<b>ON THURSDAY</b>	7.15pm <i>ADMS rehearsal</i> in the church
<b>ON FRIDAY</b>	5.00pm <i>Young Ringers Practice</i> in the church 5.30pm <i>Choir Practice</i> in the church
<b>ON SATURDAY</b>	2.30-5pm: <i>Private party</i> in the centre hall
<b>ON SUNDAY</b>	10.00am <i>Trinity Sunday Corporate Communion</i> at St Michael's church

## PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

**Christian Aid Week:** a big THANK YOU to all who have faithfully donated. It's not too late to offer a gift, and the contactless machine will be open for CA donations until the end of today. With gift aid we're nearly up to £1,000. Many thanks. Mary Anderson

**Agnostics Anonymous, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 6.00–7.30 pm** in the Parish Centre. Rector Jen will speak on the topic "Is being religious good for your health?" She will be joined by Rev John Barton. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. Everyone is welcome.

**Silent Reflections, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30-8.30pm** at St Michael and All Angels in the church room. Sue Scott will provide material for our reflections on the theme: Thoughts on Pentecost. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

**Cream Tea, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2.30-4.30pm** at St Michael's church. Do please come along for a lovely afternoon with delicious cakes and live piano music. Proceeds to Church Funds.

**An evening of Viennese musical genius, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm** at St Helen's church. Peter Foster and the Hurst Ensemble will perform Mozart's clarinet quintet in A major and Brahms' piano quintet in F minor. The concert tickets cost £12 (free for under 16s) and are available online from Ticketsource, the Bookstore in Abingdon or at the door. All the proceeds to St Helen's so do come and enjoy a marvellous evening of music with friends.

**Moving into Stillness, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 9.45–10.45am** at St Michael and All Angels. Circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes before the regular circle dancing session at 11am led by Elizabeth Mitchell. No prior experience/partner needed. Tea and coffee will be provided between the two sessions. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

**ADMS perform Haydn's Creation, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm** at St Helen's church. Tickets are available via [www.wegotickets.com/ADMS](http://www.wegotickets.com/ADMS) or on the door.

**Faith Forum:** There will not be a Faith Forum meeting in May. The next meeting will take place on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June**, when Fr AKMA will speak on the use of symbol in the liturgy.

The funeral of Peter Cannon-Brookes will be at St Helen's Church on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm**. All are welcome to attend the service. Please keep Caroline and the family in your prayers.

**Parish Magazine:** The May edition of the Parish Magazine is now available to download from the Parish website: [https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P\\_window.php](https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php)

**CiA:** The May edition of the CiA news is now available. If you wish to contribute articles for the Christian Forum column in Round & About Abingdon. please email [dhmcknight@aol.com](mailto:dhmcknight@aol.com)

**Open Church Stewarding.** If you could do this to support the outreach of St Helen's church, please talk to Elizabeth Simpson, or email on [simpsonem123@gmail.com](mailto:simpsonem123@gmail.com). With thanks.

Intercessory prayer requests to [clairebolton@googlemail.com](mailto:clairebolton@googlemail.com).

### For prayer

- All who preach the Gospel and those God has called into leadership of the Church.
- Those new to the Christian faith, those seeking baptism and confirmation, and those hearing the Good News of Jesus for the first time.
- For all who teach theology and biblical studies and those who use their knowledge to build up the life of the Church.
- For all who feel themselves separated from God, and those who are longing for a relationship with God.

Please pray for the residents of Withington Court, Woodcote Way, Wordsworth Road, Wyndyke Furlong.

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

**Next week's readings:** Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end, 2 Corinthians 13.11-end, Matthew 28.16-end.

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown <a href="mailto:rector@abingdonparish.org.uk">rector@abingdonparish.org.uk</a>
Team Vicar	Vacant
Associate Priest	The Revd Dr A. K. M. Adam (AKMA) <a href="mailto:akma@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk">akma@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk</a>
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 <a href="mailto:safeguarding@abingdonparish.org.uk">safeguarding@abingdonparish.org.uk</a>
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](mailto:administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk); Website [abingdonparish.org.uk/StH](http://abingdonparish.org.uk/StH)

**A copy of this Newsletter is posted regularly on our website.**