



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

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**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2026**

**Trinity 2 / RSCM Music Sunday**

Each year the Royal School of Church Music, to which St. Helen's has been affiliated for nearly 100 years, designates a Sunday in early June as 'Music Sunday', which is, in their words, 'a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the work, dedication and talents of all those associated with church music.' Music is a vitally important element of how we express our response to God's grace in our worship, and how we seek to draw people into the church.

It is perhaps a sign of how much music matters to us that it has an unfortunate habit sometimes of becoming a focus for disagreement within churches. 2026 is an anniversary year for the composer Samuel Sebastian Wesley, who died in 1876, 150 years ago. He was the grandson of the hymn writer Charles Wesley, and had a long career as a cathedral organist and composer, working at Hereford, Exeter, Winchester and Gloucester Cathedrals. Cathedral music was in a generally poor state at the time, and Wesley wrote several brutal excoriations of the standard of cathedral choirs, with detailed recommendations for their improvement. In today's managerial culture his plan would probably start with an executive summary: hire more singers and pay them better. He was a notoriously difficult colleague and had major rows with the clergy at most of the places he worked. By reputation he was the best organist in England, but he would regularly miss services, leaving poorly qualified depts to play in his place and clearly believing that his abilities were not valued by his employers. Hopefully this model of musician-clergy relations is not common today. However Wesley's output of anthems and service music is still greatly loved by choirs and congregations: it seems unthinkable that the cantankerous complaining that fills his writings on cathedral music can come from the same imagination as his joyfully exuberant settings of texts like 'and the ransomed of the Lord shall return (in 'The Wilderness') and 'the word of the Lord endureth for ever (in the Easter anthem 'Blessed be the God and Father'). Music can bring out our worst selves as well as our best: let us pray that, with God's help, it brings more of the latter.

**Dr Peter Foster, Director of Music**

**WELCOME** to St Helen's this Sunday. 8.00am *Holy Communion (1662)*; 10.30am *Sung Eucharist*; 5.30 *Taizé*. The 10.30am service at St Helen's today can be accessed on Zoom from 10.15am on: Meeting ID: 865 5159 6523; Passcode: 626891.

## **FOR TODAY'S SERVICE**

**Readings:** Exodus 19.2-8a; Romans 5.1-8; Matthew 9.35-10.8 [9-23]

**Service Setting:** Aston

### **Hymns:**

Processional: SP 239 Creator God

Gradual: 497 Let all the world in every corner sing

Offertory: 377 Angel-voices ever singing

Anthem: Rutter, *I will sing with the spirit*

Post communion: SP 247 Let all creation dance

**Collect:** Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Psalm 100: Response:** O be joyful in the Lord, serve the Lord with gladness.

O shout to the Lord in triumph all the Earth:

serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his face with songs of joy.

Know that the Lord he is God: it is he who made us and we are his,

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

**Response**

Come into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise:

give thanks to him, and bless his holy name.

For the Lord is good, his loving mercy is for ever:

his faithfulness throughout all generations.

**Response**

## **THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S**

**ON WEEKDAYS** 9.10am *Morning Prayer*

**ON MONDAY** 9.30–11.00am *Babies & Toddlers* in the hall

6.00 – 9.00pm *Parish Youth BBQ* in the hall & garden

**ON TUESDAY** 10.00-12.00pm *Lighting Scheme meeting* in church and lounge

2.00-4.00pm *Desiring Life* in the lounge

4.00-6.00pm *Events Group meeting* in the lounge

5.00-8.30pm *Private booking* in the hall

7.30pm–9.00pm *Bell Ringing* in church

**ON WEDNESDAY** 10.30am *Holy Communion*

5.15-6.15pm *Beavers* 6.30-8.00pm *Cubs* in the hall

**ON THURSDAY** 6.15–8.00pm *Private booking* in the hall

<b>ON FRIDAY</b>	9.30 – 10.30am <i>School service set up</i> in the church 5.00pm <i>Young Ringers Practice</i> in the church 5.30pm <i>Choir Practice</i> in the church
<b>ON SATURDAY</b>	8.00 – 11.00am <i>School service</i> in the church 10.00-12.00pm <i>Private booking</i> in the hall
<b>ON SUNDAY</b>	8.00am <i>Holy Communion (1662)</i> ; 10.30am <i>Sung Eucharist</i> ; 5.30pm <i>Evensong</i>

### PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

**Colin and Val Casemore** have regretfully postponed their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary celebrations planned for after the service today, **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June**.

**Book Sale & Coffee Morning, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 10.00am-12.00 noon** at St Nicolas church

**Les Misérables, 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June**, at Oxford High School. A production conducted by our own Peter Foster. Tickets available <https://oxfordhigh.gdst.net/our-community/our-events/>

**Albert Park Singers Summer Concert, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 7.00 pm** at St Michael's Church. Join us for an evening of choral favourites from West End Shows to traditional folk songs. Free entry and refreshments, donations to Sobell House and St Michael's Church

**Jonathan and Alison Oliver** will be celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in June. They are renewing their vows during the morning service on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June** and invite you to join them for cake and fizz afterwards!

**Faith Forum, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 12.45pm** in the parish centre. Fr AKMA will speak on the use of symbol in the liturgy.

**Time Out for Parents - The Primary Years – A course from Care for the Family Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30pm**, 4, 11, 18, 25 June, 9 and 16 July at Peachcroft Christian Centre, Abingdon. A course designed to help negotiate the early years and build strong family relationships. Open to all parents and carers of primary age children. For booking and more information visit the website: <https://www.peachcroftcc.org/community>

**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).

The June edition of the **Parish Magazine 'A candle in the window'** will be available from Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June from [https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P\\_window.php](https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php)

The funeral of Loelia Lyon will take place at South Oxfordshire Crematorium at 3.00 pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Thank you very much to the Cannon-Brookes family for the beautiful floral arrangements which remained in church after Peter's funeral on Monday.

**Status of Team Vicar Recruitment:** Shortlisting for the post of Team Vicar took place on Monday 1st June. From the applications received, we were able to shortlist candidates for interview. Interviews will take place on 29th June. Please continue to keep the process of finding our next Team Vicar in your prayers.

**Confirmation and admission to Holy Communion:** It has been over a year since we last had a confirmation service here in the parish, and I am aware that there may be both young people and adults in our churches who wish to be confirmed. This notice is to ask that if you or your child would be interested in confirmation, please speak to Revd Jen or Fr AKMA so that we can begin to plan confirmation classes. We can also offer preparation for admission to Holy Communion if there are any children who would like to begin receiving Holy Communion prior to confirmation.

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

**For your prayers:**

- For all musicians who provide music to aid our worship
- That music will be a fruitful way of strengthening relationships in the churches and communities of Abingdon

Please pray for the residents of Abbey Close, Abbott Road, Andersey Way, Anna Pavlova Close.

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

**Next week's readings:** Jeremiah 20.7-13; Romans 6.1b-11; Matthew 10.24-39

<b>Team Rector</b>	The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown <a href="mailto:rector@abingdonparish.org.uk">rector@abingdonparish.org.uk</a>
<b>Team Vicar</b>	Vacant
<b>Associate Priest</b>	The Revd Dr A. K. M. Adam (AKMA) <a href="mailto:akma@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk">akma@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk</a>
<b>Wardens</b>	Ms Margaret Horton and Mr David Pope
<b>Director of Music</b>	Dr Peter Foster
<b>Assistant Organist</b>	Mr Andrew Shouler
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Mrs Kate Burland
<b>Caretaker</b>	Mr Robin Day
<b>Parish Safeguarding</b>	Mrs Pat Hudson <a href="mailto:safeguarding@abingdonparish.org.uk">safeguarding@abingdonparish.org.uk</a>
<b>St Helen's Safeguarding</b>	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.**