



St HELEN'S CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 12th July 2026

Trinity 6

Mission

Last week, I wrote about St Thomas the Apostle. Although we don't know much about his life, tradition has it that he travelled to India as a missionary, spreading the Gospel and founding churches. Mission has always been part of the life of the Church, although today we can sometimes feel a bit uneasy about it.

In the 19th Century, mission became entangled with Empire, and while I don't doubt the good intentions and motivations of those (mainly) Victorian-era missionaries, looking back, we might not be comfortable with their methods, which were not always sympathetic to the cultures they encountered. Mission today, however, is a different sort of thing. Not least, when we think about mission, we aren't sending members of our congregations to faraway parts of the world. We're working right on our own doorstep, here in our own town.

Mission today tends to focus on showing God's love through service to others. This may be overtly Evangelical, as when we engage with people at Christmas and Easter, sharing with them the stories around those holidays, together with a mince pie or chocolate egg, depending on the season, or through an event like Agnostics Anonymous. At other times, mission can be about offering something to the community, making clear that it is the Church that's doing the offering, but without explicitly talking religion.

At its heart, mission is about making God's love known in the world. When people know they are loved, they often want to respond. It might take time, but we trust that the Holy Spirit is working, not just with and through us, but before us and after our encounters with others, so that the seeds we plant may find fertile soil in which to grow.

The Revd Dr Jen Brown, Rector

WELCOME to St Helen's this Sunday. 10.30am *Sung Eucharist*; 5.30 *Taizé Prayer*. 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: Isaiah 55.10-13; Romans 8.1-11; Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23

Service Setting: Aston

Hymns:

Processional: 267 Thou, whose almighty word

Gradual: SP187 Speak O Lord as we come to you

Offertory: 516 Love divine, all loves excelling

Anthem: Wesley, *Lead me Lord*

Post communion: 533 O for a heart to praise my God

Collect: Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 forever. **Amen.**

Psalms 65: Response: You visit the earth and water it; you crown the year with your goodness, with your goodness.

You visit the earth and water it:

you make it very plenteous.

The river of God is full of water:

you prepare the grain for your people, and so you provide for the earth

Response

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges:

you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase.

You crown the year with your goodness:

and your paths overflow with plenty.

Response

May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness:

and the hills be girded with joy.

May the meadows be clothed with flocks of sheep:

and the valleys stand so thick with corn that they shall laugh and sing.

Response

THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

ON WEEKDAYS	9.10am Morning Prayer
ON MONDAY	9.30–11.00am <i>Babies & Toddlers</i> in the hall 6.30pm <i>Private Booking</i> in the church
ON TUESDAY	
ON WEDNESDAY	10.30am Holy Communion 2.30–4.00pm <i>Mothers Union Committee Meeting</i> in the hall 5.15–6.15pm <i>Beavers</i> 6.30–8.00pm <i>Cubs</i> in the hall
ON THURSDAY	6.15–8.00pm <i>Private booking</i> in the hall
ON FRIDAY	5.00pm <i>Young Ringers Practice</i> in the church 5.30pm <i>Choir Practice</i> in the church
ON SATURDAY	10.00–12.00noon <i>Private Booking in the hall</i> 12.00–1pm: <i>Wedding rehearsal</i> in the church
ON SUNDAY	10.30am Sung Eucharist 5:30pm Choral Evensong

PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

East St Helen Street active travel scheme, Monday 13th July 6.30-8.00pm at St Helen's church. Oxfordshire County Council invite all to attend for an update about this scheme.

StHelens@lunch, Thursday 23rd July 12.30pm at the White Horse, Ock Street. If you need or can offer a lift contact Susan Scott, 01235 522960.

The Friends of St Helen's (FOSH) AGM, Saturday 1st August 2.30-4.30pm at St Helen's church. The AGM will be followed by a delicious cream tea in the south aisle, cost £5. *If you are not currently a Friend, do come along to find out more about the Society.*

Garden Party to celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union, Abingdon Branch, Tuesday 4th August 3.00-5.00pm at 11 Thurston Close, OX14 5RD. Entry £5 for tea, scone and cake.

Heritage Weekend, Saturday 19th September 10.00-4.00pm in St Helen's church. The theme this year is 'Working roles, past and present'. Volunteers needed to help welcome visitors, bake and serve refreshments. Please contact Pat Hudson 07787120045 if you can help.

We are starting a new **House Group for Bible Study**. We expect to meet fortnightly during the day. If this interests you, please talk to Cathy Green or Norman Gee.

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.

The July edition of the Parish Magazine will be available to download from Sunday 12th from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php A green edition!
No more til September so do catch up!

Contributions are needed for the Christian Forum column in Round & About Abingdon for August onwards. Please send to Debra McKnight dhmcknight@aol.com

Confirmation and admission to Holy Communion: 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.

For prayer

- For all those in our community who are in need or want
- For those engaged in mission locally, nationally, and internationally, and for organisations supporting mission and evangelism
- For those who come to Church seeking comfort, peace, companionship, and encounter with God
- For all in our churches who serve the wider community.

Please pray for the residents of Bath Court, Bath Street, Bergen Avenue, Blacklands Way

For health, consolation & wellbeing: Colin Casemore, Annelise Dennis, Vanessa Madden, Ann and Ron Moss, Louise Siddle, Brian Smith, Anne Smithson, Sarah Stevens, Katie Stuart, Alli

Next week's readings: Isaiah 44.6-8; Romans 8.12-25; Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43

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 on our website.