



St HELEN'S CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 26th July 2026

St James

There are at least five identifiable James-es in the New Testament. That shouldn't be a surprise, since the name we give to James was 'Jacob' in both Hebrew and Greek, and that equivalence persists in several other languages to this day, and (as you may suppose) the name 'Jacob' was and is a favourite in Judaic traditions. Two James-es were apostles; we call one James the Great, and the other James the Less, and I can never remember which is which until I look them up. James the Less might be 'the son of Alphaeus', or might be 'the brother of the Lord', or might possibly be some other James altogether; James the Great, whose feast we observe this Sunday, was certainly the brother of John, and they were the sons of Zebedee.

James the Great almost certainly did *not* write the Letter of James — that's more likely to be James the Less, or James the Man of Mystery. James left his mark mostly as he appears with his brother John in an apostolic double act. Jesus called James and John from cleaning their father's nets in the family fishing business, when he called them 'Boanerges' or 'sons of thunder' — presumably they were loud, or tempestuous, or in some other way thunder-like. They went with Jesus, usually along with Peter, to the raising of Jairus's daughter, to the Mount of the Transfiguration, to the garden on the night of the Last Supper as Jesus prayed (and they dozed). James and John (or their mum, on their behalf) asked Jesus to sit at his sides in the coming kingdom, which nettled the other apostles.

The one great thing for which we remember St James the Great is his role in the church in Galicia, which led to the discovery of his remains and to his patronage of Spain and particularly the 10th century city of Compostela. While the cathedral there was long a destination for pilgrims, only in the second half of the 20th century has the number of pilgrims increased rapidly. Perhaps one valuable lesson from St James comes from this: the old and traditional sometimes turns out to have been a new development that rapidly seems so convincing that it's as if it had always been so (and vice versa, sometimes things that seem like innovations have been lurking in back pages and footnotes all along).

Fr AKMA

WELCOME to St Helen's this Sunday. 10.30am *Sung Eucharist*; 2.00-4.00pm *Bell Ringing* in the tower (silent) 3pm *Baptism of Leia Evans*; 5.30 *Service of Healing and Wholeness*
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: Acts 11.27-12.22; 2 Corinthians 4.7-15; Matthew 20.20-28

Service Setting: Archer, Lincoln setting

Hymns:

Processional: 442 God is love, let heav'n adore him

Gradual: SP 153 From heaven you came, helpless babe

Offertory: 591 The Kingdom of God is justice and joy

Communion hymn SP 212 Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away

Post communion: 277 All for Jesus

Collect: Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ, and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, be ready at all times to answer your call without delay; 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.**

Psalm 126: Response: The Lord has done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoiced.

When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion;
then were we like men restored to life.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
and our tongue with singing. **Response**

Turn again our fortunes O Lord:
as the streams return to the dry south.
Those that sow in tears:
shall reap with songs of joy. **Response**

THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

ON WEEKDAYS	9.10am Morning Prayer
ON MONDAY	1.45-2.45pm <i>Volunteer Group</i> in the office
ON TUESDAY	7.30-9.30pm <i>Wedding preparation</i> in the lounge
ON WEDNESDAY	10.30am Holy Communion 7.00-8.30pm <i>Wedding consultation</i> in the lounge
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
ON SATURDAY	2.30-4.30pm <i>FOSH AGM and Cream Tea</i> in the church
ON SUNDAY	10.30am Sung Eucharist

PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

The newsletter will be printed twice in August. The deadline for entries for Sundays 2nd & 9th will be 28th July and the deadline for Sundays 16th & 23rd August will be 11th August.

The Revd Naomi Gardom We are delighted to announce that, subject to legalities, the Revd Naomi Gardom has been appointed as the next Team Vicar in the Abingdon-on-Thames team. Naomi will join the Abingdon-on-Thames team from the University Church in Oxford where she is currently serving her curacy. Naomi's licensing will be on **Wednesday 6th January 2027** at 7.30pm in St Helen's Church.

Silent Reflections will be held on **Tuesday 28th July 7.30 – 8.30pm** at St Michael and All Angels. Peter Sumner will provide material for our reflections on the theme: *Am I not a Man and a Brother?* We meet initially in the church room. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

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, Tuesday 4th August 3.00-5.00pm at 11 Thurston Close, OX14 5RD. Entry £5 for tea, scone and cake.

Coffee Morning, Saturday 8th August 10.00am-2.00pm. Richard & Ruth Pyke invite you to join them at home, 17 St Amand Drive, for coffee and cake (including gluten free). Donations will be welcome in aid of St Helen's church.

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 is available to download from Sunday 12th from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php A green edition!

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.

Change to 8 o'clock Holy Communion The 8am Sunday Holy Communion service will be at St NICOLAS Church for the whole of August.

Intercessory prayer requests to clairembolton@googlemail.com.

For prayer

- For all churches, schools, hospitals, and other institutions under the patronage of St James the Great
- For Spain, for the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, for all who walk the Camino and all other pilgrims
- For veterinarians, equestrians, furriers, tanners, pharmacists, oyster fishers, woodcarvers, and all who turn to St James in prayer

Please pray for the residents of Bridge Street, Bridge Close, Broad Street, Buckland Mews

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

Next week's readings: Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21

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.