



St HELEN'S CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 2nd & 9th August 2026

St Ethelwold & Trinity 10

Power and Obedience

Who was St Ethelwold? He is known as Ethelwold of Winchester, both because he was born there and because he later was made Bishop of Winchester. We think of him as a local, Abingdon, saint, however, because after spending time as a monk at Glastonbury, he was sent to be Abbot of Abingdon. There was just one problem – the abbey in his time was no longer active (there were priests here, but no monks)! So, he had to build a new church and cloisters, and establish a new community of monks here. His venture in Abingdon was a great success, and Abingdon became a centre of learning and monastic life.

Like many Anglo-Saxon saints, he was born into a noble family. He had links to the royal court, and was close to some of the most important religious figures of his day. Those connections naturally meant that he had power and influence. He used these to advance monastic reform, education, and the building of new monasteries around the country. He was also active in politics and strengthened connections between Church and State. We might be wary of religious leaders from privileged backgrounds cosyng up to political power, but this probably wasn't a problem for the Anglo-Saxons. For them, faith was intimately bound up with every aspect of life, including political.

In August, we tend to take a break from some of our regular routines, including here at church. But that doesn't mean we take a break from faith! We can follow the example of Ethelwold and other Anglo-Saxon saints and carry our faith into every aspect of life, bringing prayer and an openness to God into all that we do.

The Revd Dr Jen Brown, Rector

Almighty God, By the outpouring of your Holy Spirit, You call each of us to walk in the way of Christ and to serve him, with diverse gifts, in the church and the world. We praise you for calling Revd Naomi Gardom to be Team Vicar in our parish, and ask you to bless her, Matthew and their family, in all their preparations over the coming months. Grant her the needful gifts of grace to minister and serve among us, and that as the whole people of God in this parish, we may work together for the coming of your kingdom, to the glory of your Holy Name, Amen.

WELCOME to St Helen's for the first two Sundays in August. 10.30am *Sung Eucharist*. There are no evening services in August. The 10.30am services at St Helen's can be accessed on Zoom from 10.15am on: Meeting ID: 865 5159 6523; Passcode: 626891.

FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST

Readings: Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21

Service Setting: Archer, Lincoln setting

Hymns

Processional: 278 Alleluia sing to Jesus

Gradual: 536 O God of Bethel

Offertory: 455 Guide me, O thou great redeemer

Communion hymn: 284 Bread of heaven, on thee we feed

Post communion: 315 Now let us from this table rise

Collect: Almighty God, the light of the faithful and shepherd of souls, who set your servant Ethelwold to be a bishop in the Church, to feed your sheep by the word of Christ and to guide them by good example: give us grace to keep the faith of the Church and to follow in the footsteps of 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.**

FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST

Readings: 1 Kings 19.9-18; Romans 10.5-15; Matthew 14.22-33

Service Setting: Archer, Lincoln setting

Hymns

Processional: 546 O worship the King

Gradual: 396 Christ is the world's true light

Offertory: 411 Dear Lord and father of mankind

Communion hymn: 313 My God and is thy table spread

Post communion: 384 Be still my soul

Collect: Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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 85 Response: The glory of the Lord shall dwell in our land.

I will hear what the Lord God will speak:
for he will speak peace to his people.

Response

Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him:
and his glory shall dwell in our land.

Response

Truth shall flourish out of the earth:
and righteousness shall look down from heav'n

Response

THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

ON WEEKDAYS	9.10am Morning Prayer
ON MONDAY	10.00am <i>Toddler tidy up</i> in the hall (3 rd)
ON TUESDAY	10.00am <i>Mothers Union</i> in the hall (4 th)
ON WEDNESDAY	10.30am Holy Communion
ON THURSDAY	
ON FRIDAY	5.00pm <i>Young Ringers Practice</i> in the church
ON SATURDAY	
ON SUNDAY	10.30am Sung Eucharist

The 8am Sunday Holy Communion service will be at St NICOLAS Church until further notice.

PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

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

Tony Grealy, RIP We were sorry to learn of the death of Tony Grealy, who died on 20th July. Funeral arrangements will be announced when available.

Evelyn Hancox and Tony Richmond, RIP Both Evelyn and Tony were long-standing members of St Nicolas' and will be known to many. It is with sadness that we received the news that Evelyn Hancox died on 22 July and Tony on 28 July. Evelyn's funeral will be on Wednesday 5 August at 1 pm at St Nicolas' Church and all are welcome. Details of Tony's will be announced when available.

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.

FOUND a black walking stick. Please contact Jill Gant via the parish office if you think it might be yours. Thank you.

House groups update Alan Green is proposing to start a new evening House group on Mondays. This is in addition to the afternoon group that is being organised by Cathy Green and Norman Gee. If you are interested in the evening group, please speak to Alan after a morning service or email alan.green40@gmail.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.

The Revd Naomi Gardom 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.

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:

- All bishops, priests, and leaders of religious communities
- Friends of Abingdon Abbey Buildings and all who care for our community's heritage assets
- Those who promote religious education
- All in our community who are in physical or spiritual need

Please pray for the residents of Buckles Close, Burgess Close, Burton Close, Bury Street, Byron Close, Caldecott Chase, Caldecott Close, Caldecott Court.

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

Readings for Sunday 16th August: Isaiah 61.10-end; Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 1.46-55

Readings for Sunday 23rd August: Isaiah 51.1-6; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown rector@abingdonparish.org.uk
Team Vicar	(To join the parish after Christmas)
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.