



St HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 6th September 2026

Trinity 14

Children and church

Back in March, together with the Rector and several other members of the Parish, I attended a day conference at Ripon College Cuddesdon on the theme 'Children's and Youth Ministry in the Sacramental Tradition'. During the day there were a number of short presentations covering a variety of topics including different forms of service for young children and their carers, introducing contemplative worship to children, and the role of music both in church choirs and in church/school collaboration. Having been a member of one church for over thirty years, I found it exciting to explore all these possibilities. However, it was clear that all these projects require dedicated staff time to establish, even if only a few hours a week.

Here at St Helen's, we of course have a long tradition of children and young people in the choir, not only receiving excellent musical training but being nurtured in faith as well. Over the last year or so, our first Sunday services have encouraged more families to attend, knowing that there are opportunities for children to be involved in the service. We provide age-appropriate teaching through Junior Church, Quest and Senior Quest. We prepare children and young people for First Communion and Confirmation. There are also contacts with the wider community through the Baby & Toddler Group, Baptism, and links with schools, both hosting visits and services. As our staff team becomes fully established over the next year or so, I hope that as a parish we shall be able to build on these firm foundations.

At this time of year, we hold all children and young people in our thoughts and prayers as they start or return to education, facing new challenges as they move to a new level of education or into new classes.

Sue Pemberton, Junior Church, Baby & Toddler Group

WELCOME to all joining us this Sunday at St Helen's.

10.30am *Sung Eucharist (First Sunday-with Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child) & Blessing of school bags.* **2.00pm** *Abingdon Town Council Mayor's Civic Service.*

The 10.30am service at St Helen's can be accessed on Zoom from 10.15am on:
Meeting ID: 865 5159 6523; Passcode: 626891

FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: Celebrant - The Revd Dr Jen Brown

Readings: Romans 13.8-end; Matthew 18.15-20

Service Setting: Foster, St Matthew's Service

Hymns

Processional: SP272 Faith overcomes

Gradual: 334 Awake, awake, fling off the night

Offertory: 311 Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour

Anthem: Attwood, *Teach me O Lord*

Post communion: SP177 Living God, your word has called us

Collect: Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Intercessory prayer requests to clairembolton@googlemail.com.

For prayer:

- Children starting nursery or school for the first time.
- Children and young people returning to school or college
- All those who work in an education setting, or who provide activities for children through clubs, organisations and classes.
- For families, facing the many challenges of life today.

Please pray for the residents of Cotman Close, Couldrey Close, Crabtree Place, Croasdell Close

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE: Celebrant - The Revd Dr Jen Brown

10.30am *Sung Eucharist, Festival of the Holy Cross and Patronal Festival*
5.30pm *Taizé*

Readings: Numbers 21.4-9, Psalm 22; Philippians 2.6-11; John 3.13-17

CHURCH NOTICES

We rejoice with Sam & Frank to be married in St Helen's on 12th September 2026

Faith Forum: Our Autumn Faith Forum series begins in September and ties-in with Creationtide, offering an exploration of what is often termed eco-theology, that is, the theology that provides the rationale for creation care and informs our approach towards environmental action. Faith Forum meets in the parish centre hall, with lunch from 12.15pm and talks beginning at 12.45pm. When possible, talks are also made available on Zoom. Dates for the Autumn talks are:

September 27: The goodness of creation (Margaret Adam)

October 25: Creation care as act of praise (Hannah Mann, Diocese of Oxford)

November 22: A new or a renewed earth? (Jen Brown)

Desiring Life will commence again 15th September, 2.00-4.00pm in the lounge.

Confirmation and admission to Holy Communion: A parish-wide Confirmation Service is planned for **Sunday 31st January, 10.30am** at St Helen's.

For those wishing to be confirmed there will be preparation evenings on **14th, 21st & 28th October, 7.30-8.30pm** in the parish centre lounge. If you or your child would be interested in confirmation, and have not already done so, please speak to Revd Jen or Fr AKMA. We can also offer preparation for admission to Holy Communion prior to confirmation.

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.

Foodbank: The foodbank needs biscuits, squash, cereal, tinned macaroni cheese & UHT milk as well as empty egg boxes, carrier bags and wet cat or dog food. The collection box is by the welcome desk. Your ongoing support is much appreciated.

The Window: The September Issue of the Parish Magazine will be published and available on September 13th. candle@abingdonparish.org.uk

CiA News: The **September** issue of CiA News is available to download from the web site: https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_communications.html. Copies also in church.

PATHWAYS: Printed copies of the Summer 2026 issue of the Diocese of Oxford magazine are available in church.

THE COMING WEEK AND REGULAR SERVICES AT ST HELEN'S

ON WEEKDAYS	9.10am Morning Prayer
ON TUESDAY	7.30-9.00pm <i>Bell ringing</i> in the tower (alternate weeks)
ON WEDNESDAY	10.30am Holy Communion 1.00-5.30pm <i>School Services</i> (9 th)
ON THURSDAY	7.00pm <i>Wedding rehearsal</i> (10 th) 7.00-9.15pm <i>Orchestra rehearsal</i> (10 th)
ON FRIDAY	4.00-6.00pm <i>Young Bell Ringers Practice</i> in the tower 5.30-6.30pm <i>Quest choir practice</i> 6.30-7.30pm <i>Adult choir practice</i>
ON SATURDAY	10.00-6.00pm <i>OHCT Ride & Stride</i> (12 th) 1.00pm <i>Wedding</i> (12 th)
ON SUNDAY	10.30am Sung Eucharist 5.30pm Taizé (2nd Sunday) 5.30pm Choral Evensong (3rd Sunday) 5.30pm Service for Healing & Wholeness (4th Sunday)

*The 8am Sunday Holy Communion (1662) service is held at **St NICOLAS** Church*

CONTACT US

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.

E-mail: administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk; Website abingdonparish.org.uk/StH

A copy of this Newsletter is posted on our website.