



St HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 27th September 2026

Trinity 17/Preparing for Harvest

Harvest Festival

[Genesis 1:29-30](#) states, "God said, 'Behold, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the face of all the earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. They will be yours for food..' This passage highlights God's provision for all living creatures, demonstrating God's bounty in creation.

As we now approach our Harvest Festival service, as we decorate our churches with flowers, sheaves of corn shaped from bread, as we praise God with favourite hymns, all around us we see the approach of Autumn, fields being harvested, crops being gathered, trees heavy with fruit; we witness God's provision.

Psalms 65:11 You crown the year with your bounty and your carts overflow with abundance. Each year as we join in worship, we bring gifts of food into church, today we distribute our donated tinned food or monetary donations via the Foodbank, supporting those in our community experiencing food poverty. Historically, food was shared around the Parish, but just as then, with each gift, we share God's love and bounteous provision.

As we gather in grateful worship, we thank God for the blessings of our country, where fields have crops ready to harvest, but we must remember those countries where crops have failed, areas of the world where water is scarce. As Christians we must be aware of the damage we have inflicted on creation, we must care for our world, as we care for our world we care for those who are vulnerable, and ensure all can share God's bounty, not just the financially secure.

As we gather in worship and prayer, we thank God for the blessings of creation, the abundance of his provision, and the gift of sufficient food. As we share God's blessings, we also share his love with our families, our friends, and our community.

Linda Hobbs, Licensed Lay Minister

WELCOME to all joining us this Sunday at St Helen's. **10.30am** *Sung Eucharist*, **5.30pm** *Service for Healing & Wholeness*. 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 Ven David Tyler

Readings: Genesis 28.10-17; Psalm 103.19-end; Revelation 12.7-12; John 1.47-end.

Service Setting: Foster, St Matthew's Service

Hymns

Processional: 543 O praise ye the Lord

Gradual: 246 Christ the fair glory of the holy angels

Offertory: 377 Angel voices ever singing

Anthem: Stanford, *Te Deum Laudamus in B flat*

Post communion: 626 Ye holy angels bright

Collect: Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; 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 for ever. **Amen**

Psalm 103.19-22. Response: The Lord has established his throne for ever

The Lord has established his throne in heav'n:
and his kingdom has dominion over all.

Bless the Lord you angels of his, you mighty one who do his bidding
and hearken to the voice of his word. **Response.**

Bless the Lord all you his hosts:
you ministers of his who do his will.

Bless the Lord all you works of his, in all places of his dominion:
Bless the Lord O my soul. **Response.**

Intercessory prayer requests to clairembolton@googlemail.com.

For prayer:

- For Foodbanks in the town of Abingdon and throughout the country
- For all suffering food poverty
- For our farmers as they bring in the harvest to feed us in the coming months

Please pray for the residents of Dundas Close, East St Helens Street, Edward Street, Elwes 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* **2.00pm:** *Animal Blessing Service at St Michael's*

Readings: Corinthians 9.6-16; Luke 12.16-30

CHURCH NOTICES

Jill Gant. There is a book for memories and tributes to Jill, on a table in the south aisle of the church. Please do add your thoughts of and prayers for Jill. There is also a card from Fr Paul Smith to all the congregation, in sympathy for our loss.

Brian Smith. Rosemary Smith would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and support following the death of her husband, Brian.

Congratulations! Congratulations to Sue Scott (St Michael's), Jenny Smith (St Nic's), and Linda Hobbs (St Helen's) who all became members of the Fellowship of St Birinus at a service in Dorchester Abbey on the 20th of September.

Faith Forum: The autumn Faith Forum series begins this Sunday, 27th September, in the parish centre. A buffet lunch will be served from 12.15pm, with the talk beginning at 12.45pm. Our series focuses on eco-theology, and our speaker this Sunday is our own Margaret Adam, who will speak on The Goodness of Creation. The meeting can be accessed on Zoom: Meeting ID: 856 4563 3324; Passcode: 656494 <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85645633324?pwd=LYbJpGrcqPTWk1ZfNj9VRq4lLHZMda.1>

Animal Blessing Service: There will be an animal blessing service at St Michael's on Sunday 4th October at 2pm to celebrate St Francis' Day/Animal Welfare Sunday. All well-behaved animals (on leads or in appropriate carriers) are welcome to attend. If you have an animal that would not be comfortable attending, we can still offer a blessing, just bring a photo of the animal. We will also have a garden of pet remembrance for those who wish to remember animal companions who have died.

Prayers & Bears: A new service suitable for young children (including babies/toddlers) will be starting at St Michael's on Tuesday 6th October at 11am. We aim to meet on the first Tuesday of each month and include a social time with refreshments.

Confirmation and admission to Holy Communion: A parish-wide Confirmation Service is planned for **Sunday 31st January, 10.30am** at St Helen's. If you or your child is 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 Window: The September Issue of the Parish Magazine is now available to download from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php

CiA News: The **September** issue of CiA News is available to download from: 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.

REGULAR SERVICES AND THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

ON WEEKDAYS	9.10am Morning Prayer
ON MONDAY	9.30-11.00 <i>Baby and Toddler Group</i> in the hall
ON TUESDAY	2.15pm <i>Desiring Life</i> in the lounge (alternate weeks) 7.30-9.00pm <i>Bell ringing</i> in the tower (alternate weeks)
ON WEDNESDAY	10.30am Holy Communion
ON THURSDAY	11.00am Memorial Service for Brian Smith. All welcome
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	1.00pm <i>Wedding</i> 7.30pm <i>Oxford Gospel Choir</i> concert in the church
ON SUNDAY	10.30am Sung Eucharist 2.00pm Animal Blessing at St Michael's church 3.30pm <i>Abingdon Fair Blessing</i> 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.