St Helen's Church
Abingdon-on-Thames

Sunday 1st November 2026 All Saints / All Souls

Would you recognise a saint if you saw one? I don't mean, 'strolling down the High Street', perhaps not even in ancient Roman attire but as they lived, wearing the clothes of their time and place, or even *our* time and place?

Artists help us to recognise saints by giving the predictable, recognisable attributes: *martyrs* get palm branches; a lily indicates a saint's *purity*. Martyrs may be shown with the instrument by which they were killed, so St Laurence carries about the grill on which he was burned. Paul carries the sword with which he was beheaded; St Bartholomew carries a flaying knife, and his skin draped over his arm; my own favourite saint, Peter of Verona, has as his attribute a cleaver embedded in his head. Saints may have a sort of trademark of their identity, so that St John the Baptist dresses in camel-skin, often accompanied by a lamb or carrying a rough stick made into a cross. Founders of churches often carry a model of the church of which they're patron.

The Evangelists are commonly shown with the animals with which they are associated: St Luke with an ox; St Mark with a lion; St Matthew with an angel; and St John with an eagle. You can see them thus around the corners of the West Porch of the church, and in our Evangelists window.

Pictures often show Jesus with a halo that has a cross within it. You can find images that indicates the Holy Trinity with a *triangular* halo. The Virgin Mary may have a regular round halo, but one with a circle of stars corresponding to the woman described in Revelation 12:1, 'a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars'. A living person — a bishop, or a monk or nun, or a benefactor — can be accorded a *square* halo during their lifetime. Jesus and Mary, and occasionally especially noteworthy *visionary* saints, appear against an almond-shaped halo surrounding their whole body, called a 'mandorla'; such images typically indicate the radiance of the whole person, and are usually called 'Jesus [or Mary, or the saint's name] *in glory*'.

So, if you were to see a thin old man walking down East St Helen's wearing a cardinal's hat and leading a lion, say 'Good morning' to St Jerome — but keep an eye on the lion. *It* may not be a saint. **AKMA**

WELCOME to all joining us this Sunday at St Helen's. **10.30am** *Sung Eucharist (First Sunday)* **5.30pm** *Commemoration of the Faithful Departed.* 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: 1 John 3.1-3; Matthew 5.1-2**.**

Service Setting: Aston

Hymns
Processional: 232 For all the saints
Gradual: 221 How bright these glorious spirits shine
Offertory: 229 Who are these like stars appearing
Anthem: Harris, *O what their joy and their glory must be*
Post communion: 227 Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days

Collect:
God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age: as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

For prayer:

- For the example of the saints in heaven, that we may follow in their pattern of holy living
- For those among us who live holy lives close to God
- For the faithful departed who we commemorate at this time, giving thanks for all they did for us during their time in this world

Please pray for the residents of Francis Little Drive, Gainsborough Green, Godfrey Close, Golafre Road.

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

Intercessory prayer requests to clairembolton@googlemail.com.

5.30 PM Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
Readings: 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18; John 6.35-40

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

10.00am *Remembrance Day Civic Service*
5.30pm *Sung Eucharist,* **Readings:** Amos 5.18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18, Matthew 25.1-13

REGULAR SERVICES AND THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

ON WEEKDAYS	**9.10am Morning Prayer**
ON MONDAY	9.30-11.00am *Baby and Toddler Group* in the hall
ON TUESDAY	10.00-12.00noon *Mothers' Union* in the hall 2.00pm **Funeral** in the church 5.00-8.30pm *Private Booking (Yellow Submarine)* in the hall 7.30pm *PCC Standing Committee* in the lounge 7.30-9.00pm *Bell ringing* in the tower
ON WEDNESDAY	**10.30am Holy Communion** 5.15-8.00pm *Beavers & Cubs* in the hall 7.30-8.30pm *Confirmation Preparation* in the lounge
ON THURSDAY	2.00-7.15pm *Set up and rehearsal (MATU)* in the church 7.15-22.15pm *Concert (MATU)* in the church 6.15-8.00pm *Private Booking (Life Drawing)* in the hall
ON FRIDAY	2.30-4.30pm *Events Group Meeting* in the hall 4.00-6.00pm *Young Bell Ringers Practice* in the tower 5.30-6.00pm *Quest choir practice* in the church 6.00-7.00pm *Adult choir practice* in the church
ON SATURDAY	1.30-7.15pm *Set up and rehearsal (ADMS)* in the church 7.30-21.30pm *Concert (ADMS)* in the church
ON SUNDAY	**<u>10.00am</u> REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, CIVIC SERVICE** **5.30m Sung Eucharist** 5.30pm Taizé (2nd Sunday) 5.30pm Choral Evensong (3rd Sunday) 5.30pm Service for Healing & Wholeness (4th Sunday) 7.00-8.00pm *Private Booking (Support Group)* in the hall 7.30-9.00pm *Private Booking (Handbells)* in the lounge

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

PROGRAMMES & EVENTS: NOVEMBER 2026

Parish Service for All Souls, Sunday 1st November 5.30pm at St Helen's Church.

Sung Requiem Mass for All Souls, Monday 2nd November 7.30pm at St Michael's.

Mothers' Union Meeting, Tuesday 3rd November 10.00am in the hall.

Prayers & Bears, Tuesday 3rd November 11.00am at St Michael's, suitable for young children (including babies/toddlers).

Moving into Stillness, Thursday 5th November 9.45–10.45am at St Michael's. Circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes followed by **Circle Dance, 11.00am** regular circle dancing session. Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed. Tea and coffee will be provided between the two sessions. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

"Music at the Unicorn" folk concert, Thursday 5th November 7.00pm at St Helen's. Further details at https://musicattheunicorn.org.uk/

ADMS Concert, Saturday 7th November 7.30-9.30pm at St Helen's, with rehearsal from 1.30pm. Come and join the Abingdon & District Musical Society as they celebrate their 80th Anniversary! Eighty years of bringing together singers and musicians is quite a milestone. The programme includes Borodin's Polovtsian Dances, Franck's Symphony in D minor, Shostakovich's Festive Overture and, bringing orchestra and choir together, Elgar's The Music Makers, with Joanna Harries as mezzo-soprano soloist.
Tickets are available at www.wegottickets.com/adms or on the door.

Remembrance Day, Sunday 8th November 10.00am Civic Service at St Helen's; **5.30pm** Eucharist at St Helen's.

St Michael's Christmas Fair, Saturday 14th November 10am-2pm at St Michael's.

PCC Meeting, Wednesday 18th November 7.30pm at St Nicholas' church.

St Helen's@lunch, Thursday 19th November 12.00noon, at Aston Pottery.

Faith Forum, Sunday 22nd November 12.45 – 1.15pm in the Hall (see notice).

St Helen's Church Jesse Tree Decorating, Tuesday 24th November 10.00am – 12.00pm. Please let the administrator know if you can help decorate the tree!

Silent Reflections, Tuesday 24th November 7.30pm at St Michael's Church.

Mothers' Union Service, Thursday 26th November 11.00am in the hall.

St Helen's Christmas Market, **Saturday 28th November**. Please keep the date free and start collecting things that could be sold. If you are willing to help run a stall, please let Jeanette Thomas (jeanette.thomas@btinternet.com) or Pat Hudson (patricia.a.hudson16@gmail.com) know. *See also church notice.*

Quiet Garden Day, Saturday 28th November 2026 10am - 4pm at Aston Tirrold Centre for Reflection**,** Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold, OX11 9EJ. Sue Sheppy will lead on the theme *Great Expectations.* Refreshments are provided, but please bring a packed lunch. A donation of £10 would be welcome. To attend it would be helpful to email: atquietgardendays@gmail.com in advance. All are welcome.

Advent Carol Service, Sunday 29th November 5.30pm at St Helen's church, followed by mulled wine & mince pies. All welcome.

DCC Meeting, Monday 30th November 7.30pm in the hall.

PROGRAMMES & EVENTS: DECEMBER 2026

Mothers' Union Meeting, Tuesday 1st December 10.00am in the hall.

Prayers & Bears, Tuesday 1st December 11.00am at St Michael's, suitable for young children (including babies/toddlers).

"Music at the Unicorn" folk concert, Thursday 3rd December 7.00pm at St Helens. Further details at https://musicattheunicorn.org.uk/

The Revd Dr A.K.M. Adam's Ordination Anniversary Celebration. Saturday, 5th December 2026, at 1:30 pm at St Helen's church.

ADMS Christmas Concert, Sunday 6th December 4.00-6.00pm at St Helen's

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Sunday 20th December 5.30pm at St Helen's church

SAVE THE DATEs - at St Helen's!

The Revd Naomi Gardom's Licensing, Wednesday 6th January 2027 7.30pm.

Corporate Confirmation Service, Sunday 31st January 2027 10.30am.

ST HELEN'S CHURCH NOTICES

Jeanette, David and Rachel Thomas have been astounded by all the love and support that has surrounded them in the last few days. We are at peace knowing that Steve died in the place that was his second home, collapsing near the door when the church was open and a GP coming in to look at the church which must have been very soon afterwards. It was just 20 years too early. We needed to be in church last Sunday as Steve would have wanted us to be there and having the extra hour meant that Ruth had some time to re-write her sermon – incredible! Thank you all very much.

The Revd Dr A.K.M. Adam's Ordination Anniversary Celebration
Please come to a celebration of the 40th Anniversary of AKMA's Ordination to the Priesthood. **Saturday, 5th December 2026, at 1:30 pm**, on the Feast of Clement of Alexandria, Teacher and Church Father, at St Helen's Church, Abingdon. The preacher will be the Revd Damian Feeney. Clergy invited to vest in choir dress, white stoles. Reception to follow. Any questions, contact Margaret at margaretbadam@gmail.com

St Nicolas Day Lunch – Sunday 6th December. As usual all are invited to join the annual St Nicolas Day Lunch at The Cosener's House. The menu and booking slip for this is now out. Cost is £37 for three courses (plus welcome drink, coffee and mince pie) or £30 for two courses. Please return your booking slip* to Jenny Smith (treasurer@stnicolasabingdon.org.uk) or Eluned (contact@stnicolasabingdon.org.uk) by 22 November
The menu and *booking slip is on line at https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StN/downloads/2026ChristmasMenu.pdf . Hard copies of the booking slip also available in church, please return to the office.

St Helen's 2027 calendar: Please support your church by buying one for your friends & family. Mary Anderson will sell them after every 10.30 service for £9.75.

HOSPITALITY
If you can help at any of the events listed in the calendar, please do let the Administrator know. There will be sign-up sheets at the back of the church soon.

EVENTS STEWARDING
Between 30th November and 11th December, eight different school events are taking place in St Helen's. These include rehearsals, and services/concerts in the afternoon or evening. This is a great opportunity to learn how to steward an event to help in the future. If you could offer help on one or more occasions, please let the Administrator know or speak to one of the wardens.

CHRISTMAS MARKET NOTICE
We need brand-new goods, pre-loved goods, home baking, books, jigsaws, jewellery, tombola prizes, anything that will sell please. Donations gratefully received **in St Helen's Church** on **Thursday 26th November 10.00am-12.00noon** and **in the Parish Centre Hall** on **Friday 27th November 10.00am-12.00noon**. Alternatively, see Pat or Jeanette to make other arrangements.

Please can you volunteer to help set up on Friday 27th November from 3.00pm?
There will be a break while the choir rehearse during which we will enjoy soup and sandwiches together, then continue to finish.
Thank you *Pat Hudson & Jeanette Thomas*

The Window: The **October** edition of the Parish Magazine is still available: https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php .B&W copies available in church. We are hoping to publish the **November** parish magazine on Sunday November 8th. Contributions by the end of Sunday 1st please. Thank you, Rob Rutherford

CiA News: The **October** 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 are available in church.

The zoom recording of last week's FF is online at
https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_faith_forum.html

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.