



St HELEN'S CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Welcome!

WE'RE DELIGHTED that you've come to our beautiful church, which dates back to the 12th century. Its long, fascinating history is described in a separate leaflet which you can find in the church.

A vibrant community

Today we are a lively community of Christians young and old. We welcome people of many understandings and would love you to join us. This introduction tells you about our wide-ranging social, pastoral and spiritual activities.

We enjoy exploring our faith through books, talks and open-minded discussion; we value questioning. We have groups for children of all ages, and our choir includes members aged 9 to nearly 90 – all are welcome to join.

We are sure you will enjoy the music, which is supported by our magnificent organ. St Helen's award-winning bellringers contribute to the familiar soundscape of Abingdon.

As the parish church of Abingdon, St Helen's hosts civic ceremonies, such as the annual town council service and the Service of Remembrance; local celebrations of national events (such as Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee); school carol concerts and more.

There is much more to tell, but above all we offer care and companionship. Please read on!

If you need help

Our clergy will be happy to speak with you. Their names and the office contact details are on the back. Our Welcome Team includes:

- Mary Anderson
- Linda Hobbs
- Jill Gant.

Do ask for them by name. Linda and Mary are also part of our pastoral team.

Find out more about us

Our stewards and Welcome Team are here to help you – do ask. You can find more information on our website abingdonparish.org.uk/StH

If you are hard of hearing, please set your hearing aid to 'T'. **We have disabled access.**

Church services

On Sundays our main service is a 10.30am Sung Eucharist. There is also a 10.30am Communion every Wednesday. The church is open for visitors and private prayer on weekdays from 10am till 3pm.

Children and young people

Families with babies and young children enjoy the play area near the main door, a safe space with toys and books. Our other groups go to the parish centre during part of the 10.30 service.

Junior Church for 3–8-year-olds enjoy Bible stories, games, songs and craft. In **Quest** children aged 8 and upwards explore the readings or theme of the day through activities and discussion. **Senior Quest**, for teenagers aged 14 upwards, meet monthly to consider a topical issue from the Christian perspective.

Life events

Weddings We offer the best! If you or a member of your family would like to get married here, we will be delighted to help you organise the big day.

Baptisms We love to welcome people into our church family by baptising babies, children and adults. Gwen Bevington, our licensed lay minister, will give you guidance and support. Please contact her through the office.

Funerals Likewise, if you would like the funeral of a loved one to be held here, we will help to ensure that the funeral meets your family's wishes.

Blessings, Thanksgivings and more Please ask if you would like a service to mark a special event in your life.

For all the above please contact our administrator, a member of the clergy or the Welcome Team.

Exploring faith together

Faith forum This series of talks on topical Christian themes usually takes place in the Parish Centre on the first Sunday of each month.

Home groups We have several home groups: some are well established, and there is always room for joining a group or starting a new one

Music and Bellringers

St Helen's Church is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. We offer a wonderful opportunity for young people from age 9 to experience the joy of music-making. We practise every Friday at 6pm. If you'd like to join us, contact directorofmusic@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

Our **bellringers** have won many awards. St Helen's has a fine ring of ten bells to proclaim the Church's presence in the town. We practise on Tuesday evenings and welcome newcomers. Please see the Abingdon Bells webpage at odg.org.uk/towers/abingdon

Church groups

Our St Helen's **Mothers' Union** meets on the first Tuesday of every month. We participate in global campaigns to care for family life.

The Friends of St Helen (FoSH) is a charity that helps promote the Christian faith through maintenance of the St Helen's building. We organise regular events and talks.

We are part of the **Abingdon Church Twinning Group**, which makes links with churches in our twin towns in France, Germany, Belgium and Italy. The St Helen's

Charitable Giving Group gives to local charities and international charities alike. We celebrate **Christian Aid Week** with prayers and speakers.

Community involvement

Some of us are deeply involved in the local **Food Bank** and with **Host Abingdon**, which supports refugees. Our Welcome Team will tell you how you might offer or receive help.

St Helen's Baby and Toddler Group meet on Monday mornings in the Parish Centre. Check their Facebook page, Abingdon St Helen's Baby and Toddler Group, or email bandt.sainthelen@gmail.com

The **St Helen's Beaver and Cub Scouts** meet at the Church Centre on most Wednesday evenings.

We offer **school visits** to St Helen's, linking in with the school curriculum. We are happy to offer guided tours to other groups too.

Exhibitions, concerts and more

We invite you to use our lovely spacious church for events. Our parish centre is also available for hire. All enquiries should be directed to our administrator.

St Helen's is one of three churches in the Anglican parish of Abingdon-on-Thames. The others are St Nicolas' (fondly referred to as St Nic's) in the Market Square, and St Michael and All Angels' in Park Road. We are part of the Oxford diocese, and we are members of the ecumenical Church-in-Abingdon.

Regular services

Sundays

8am	Holy Communion <i>alternates monthly with St Nic's</i>
10.30am	Sung Eucharist <i>with children's groups</i>
5.30pm	Taizé service (<i>2nd Sunday each month</i>)
5.30pm	Choral evensong (<i>3rd Sunday</i>)
5.30pm	Service of wholeness and healing (<i>4th Sunday</i>)

Wednesdays

10.30am	Holy Communion
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Weekdays

9.10am	Morning Prayer
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People

Rector	Revd Dr Charles Miller
Associate Priests	Revd Dr Jennifer Brown, Revd Dr Andrew Adam (AKMA)
Lay Minister	Gwen Bevington
Wardens	Linda Hobbs and David Pope
Director of Music	Dr Peter Foster
Assistant Organist	Andrew Shouler
Caretaker	Robin Day

Parish office

The Parish Centre, St Helen's Court, Abingdon OX14 5BS, Oxfordshire

For all enquiries, please contact our administrator, Jackie Cunningham

tel/ 01235 520144, email administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

Website abingdonparish.org.uk/StH