




St HELEN'S CHURCH


ABINGDON-ON-THAMES


WELCOME TO ST HELEN'S. We are delighted that you have come to our church. In this introduction to our Christian fellowship and worship, we share our wide-ranging social, pastoral and spiritual activities. We invite you to join us! If you need help or advice, please speak to one of the clergy and/or make contact by phone or email (see below).


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

St Helen's dates back to the 12th century. Do explore the beautiful Lady Chapel with its famous painted ceiling (completed in 1391), and pick up a leaflet about the history of the church.

These days, St Helen's is a vibrant community of Christians young and old. We have groups for children of all ages, a superb choir, several home groups, and much more besides. Welcome!

 **FOR FAMILIES** with babies and small children, the play area with soft toys is available during services. You will find toilet and nappy-changing facilities near the main entrance.

 **JUNIOR CHURCH** for 3–7-year-olds meets in church at 10.30am. During the first hymn we go to the Parish Centre, where we enjoy Christian teaching, Bible stories, games, songs, and craft. We return to the main service in time for Communion.

 **QUEST** is for children and young people aged 8 upwards. On Sundays after the Gospel reading, we go to the Parish Centre to

explore the theme of the day through activities and discussion, returning to the main service before Communion.



SENIOR QUEST is for young people aged approx. 14 upwards. We meet after the Gospel reading, usually in the church vestry on the last Sunday of each month to discuss a topical issue with ethical overtones.



HOME GROUPS We have several home groups that meet fortnightly. Some are well established, but there is always room for joining a group or starting a new one.



MUMS AND TODDLERS meet on Monday mornings in the Parish Centre, and several church people are involved in leadership. Check their Facebook page [St Helen's Toddlers](#) to see what's happening. Please contact the office to put your name on the waiting list.



OUR CHOIR helps us all to praise God through beautiful music. We are a very inclusive group, and we welcome new members. If you and/or your child would like to join us, please contact our Director of Music, Peter Foster, through the office.



READING GROUPS We have a regular reading group that meets on Tuesday afternoons. We often form new reading groups, and there is always room for more – both people and book suggestions!



MOTHERS' UNION Our MU branch meets on the first Tuesday of every month. We participate in many campaigns to care for family life all over the world.



We support **CHRISTIAN AID's** fight against poverty through fundraising and other activities. For more information please contact Mary Anderson: mary.fulani@gmail.com



FAITH FORUM is a series of illustrated talks and discussions on topical Christian themes. We meet in the Parish Centre on the first Sunday of each month.



THE FRIENDS OF ST HELEN is a charity that supports the maintenance and repair of the Church. We organise regular events and welcome new members. Please contact the Church office for further details.



THE WINDOW is our Parish magazine, which can be found on our website and comes out ten times a year. It is full of reflections, articles, pictures, quizzes and much more. Please take a look, enjoy – and consider contributing next time!



OUR BELLRINGERS have won many awards and take pride in our contribution to the soundscape of church and town. We practise on Tuesday evenings and welcome newcomers.



WE REGULARLY DONATE to the local Food Bank. Donations can be left in the basket at the end of the ramp. **If you are in need, please call 0300 330 9042 to speak to the local Citizens Advice, who can issue you with a food bank voucher if necessary.**



HELPING HANDS AND HEARTS! We welcome your participation in our church community. If you would like to join one of our teams (helping with pastoral care, serving coffee, etc), we'll be delighted to hear from you.



PASTORAL CARE If you have pastoral concerns, please do contact one of our clergy or the Parish office: we will be pleased to provide you with support and care.



WEDDINGS We offer the best! Please do contact the office if you or a member of your family would like to get married in our lovely church.



FUNERALS Likewise, please contact the office if you would like the funeral of a loved one to be held here.



BAPTISM We love to welcome people into our Church family by baptising babies, children and adults. Please contact the Church office for more information.

REGULAR SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sundays	8.00am Holy Communion <i>(alternates monthly with St Nic's)</i> 10.30am Sung Eucharist
Wednesdays	10.30am Communion <i>(in the Parish Centre September-March)</i>
Weekdays	9.10am Morning Prayer
Fridays	6.00pm Choir practice

St Helen's Church is open for visitors and private prayer on weekdays from 10am to 3pm.

PEOPLE

Rector	Revd Dr Charles Miller
Associate Priests	Revd Jennifer Brown Revd Canon Charles Masheder
Lay Minister	Gwen Bevington
Wardens	Linda Hobbs, Geoff Meen
Director of Music	Peter Foster
Assistant Organist	Andrew Shouler
Caretaker	Robin Day

Church Office

The Parish Centre, St Helen's Court, Abingdon
OX14 5BS *(down the alley signposted from West St Helen's St)*

Administrator: Jackie Cunningham
01235 520144 or 07395 943957

Visit our parish website at abingdonparish.org.uk