



*St* HELEN'S CHURCH  
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2026

Feast of SS. Philip & James

### **Stewardship campaign**

A big thank you to everyone who responded to our Stewardship Campaign back in March. I can report the following facts and figures from our Stewardship Recorder, Jeff Dale.

66 cards had been returned by Easter, including 29 pledges staying the same, 32 showing an increase and 3 a reduction. Two members joined the scheme, and the total pledged donations should amount to £102,000 over the year.

This compares to a pledged total income of £106,000 in 2025 and of £100,000 in 2024.

**Thank you** to all who are giving so generously to our church.

A slightly concerning figure is that from 2025-26, 15 members left the scheme, following the 16 who left in the previous year. There are many reasons for this, including death, moving away, differing financial circumstances etc. It would be a tremendous benefit to St Helen's if more members would join the scheme as it helps us budget and plan for what we can (or cannot) do. You can join the scheme at any time and there are envelopes containing everything you need to know in a plastic tray on the welcome desk in church.

A small group of people are working very hard to boost our income by hiring out our buildings, putting on events like concerts etc. but beyond that we rely mostly on donations. It's a tough time at the moment and many people are only too aware of rising costs, but of course these are hitting the church as well. Just our fuel and staffing costs last year came to over £50,000 and with a full-time Rector in post again, our parish share (which is paid to the diocese) will be not far short of £100,000 this year.

We are very lucky that we have investments that generate some extra income for us which we can turn to if things get very bad, but we would like to see our everyday income and outgoings on an even keel. If you don't already belong to the pledged giving scheme, please do consider joining.

Margaret Horton  
Churchwarden

**WELCOME** to St Helen's this Sunday. 10.30am *Sung Eucharist*

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

## **FOR TODAY'S SERVICE**

**Readings** Ephesians 1.3-10, John 4.1-14

**Service Setting:** Tambling, Holy Trinity Service

### **Hymns:**

Processional: 208ii Christ is made the sure foundation

Gradual: 150 Love's redeeming work is done

Offertory: 606 Thy hand, O God, has guided

Anthem: Christ is the world's true light, Stanton

Post communion: 609 To God be the glory

**Collect:** Almighty Father, whom truly to know is eternal life: teach us to know your Son Jesus Christ as the way, the truth, and the life; that we may follow the steps of your holy apostles Philip and James, and walk steadfastly in the way that leads to your glory; 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.**

## **THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S**

**ON WEEKDAYS** 9.10 am *Morning Prayer*

**ON MONDAY** 1.45pm - 3.30pm *Volunteer Group Meeting* in the Centre Lounge

**ON TUESDAY** 10.00am – 12 noon *Mothers' Union* in the Centre Hall

5:00 – 8.30pm *Yellow Submarine Group* in the Centre Hall

7.30pm – 9.00pm *Bell ringing*

**ON WEDNESDAY** 10.30am *Holy Communion*

5.15 - 6.15pm *Beavers* 6.30-8pm *Cubs* in the Centre Hall

**ON THURSDAY** 6.15 - 8.00pm *Life Drawing Class* in the Centre Hall

7.30pm *Music at the Unicorn* folk concert

**ON FRIDAY** 4.00pm *Abingdon School Bell Club*

5.00pm *Young Ringers Practice* in the church.

5.30pm *Choir Practice* in the church.

**ON SATURDAY** 3.30pm – 10.00am on Sunday *Canoeists* in the Centre Hall and Lounge

7pm and 9pm *Lumos Live* concert in the church.

**ON SUNDAY** 10.30am *Sung Eucharist*

5:30pm *Taizé service*

## PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

**New Parish Administrator appointed:** The Rector and Wardens of the parish are pleased to announce that Kate Burland will be taking up this post from Tuesday 5 May. Kate is a member of St Helen's congregation and has served on PCC. We welcome her to this role and look forward to working with her.

**Mothers' Union, Tuesday 5 May:** in St Helen's Church Centre, from 1030am. Jenny Searle will be talking about MU Looking Forward.

**Moving into Stillness:** circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes at St Michael and All Angels on **Thursday 7 May** in the church from 9.45 – 10.45 am before the regular circle dancing session at 11 am. 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.

**A concert on Saturday 9 May** at 6 pm at St Michael's Church, Park Road, by Wantage Academy Brass, CARITAS Children's Choir and Wantage Youth Brass. Our annual fund-raising concert for The Abingdon Bridge, TARIRO – Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe and the church. Tickets are available on-line, <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FYLI>, and at the door (credit card payments accepted). Adults price £12, concessions £10, 16 & under free. Do please support this key event in our programme and bring family and friends.

**Christian Aid Week, 10th-16th May:** Please support our market stall on **Saturday 9th May**. We need plants, books, DVDs, CDs, vinyl records, cakes, preserves, etc. Please call Rob King on 07825 772742 if you have books etc to donate (or email [rking.home@ntlworld.com](mailto:rking.home@ntlworld.com)) and he will pick them up. For cakes the allergen information needs to list all ingredients: e.g. flour (GLUTEN) butter (MILK), EGGS ..., with the allergens in CAPITALS. Please bring plants and home produce to the Market Place between 8.30 and 10am on the Saturday, or deliver them on Friday 8th to me at 43 Radley Road, OX14 3PL. There will be buckets in church but financial donations can also be given directly to our Abingdon [fundraising page](#). Thank you. Mary Anderson, 07956 813524

St Helen's is delighted to welcome '**Music at the Unicorn**' whilst they are displaced from the Unicorn theatre as it undergoes rebuilding work. Their first concert here will be on **Thursday 7th May at 7.30pm** (doors open at 7) when Sam Carter and Jon Wilks perform an entertaining programme of English folk music, not to be missed. Tickets are £15 and available from Frennd and Co or online at Ticketsource and Wegottickets. There will be a concert on the first Thursday of each month in June, and then from Sept through the autumn. Do pick up a programme from the Welcome Desk

**Open Church Stewarding.** If you have been thinking this is something you could do to support the outreach of St Helen's church family please talk to me, Elizabeth Simpson, after the service, or email me on [simpsonem123@gmail.com](mailto:simpsonem123@gmail.com). With thanks.

**Parish Magazine:** We hope to publish the May edition of the Parish Magazine on 10th May. It would be good to have contributions by the end of Sunday 3 May please. It isn't too late to read the April edition or even previous from the last six years! Find them here:

[https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P\\_Window.php](https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_Window.php)

**Lost property:** Accumulated items of lost property have been put on the table next to the FoSH stall. Any items not claimed by 10<sup>th</sup> May will be disposed of.

### For prayer

- those struggling with the challenges and worry of financial difficulties
- the work of the foodbank in Abingdon
- the work of the church across the country and especially in areas of poverty
- an end to conflict which has such a devastating impact on the innocent and the needy.

Please pray for the residents of Virginia Way, Wallace Close, Wellesbourne Close, West Quay.

Intercessory prayer requests to [clairembolton@googlemail.com](mailto:clairembolton@googlemail.com).

**For health, consolation & wellbeing:** Sarah Stevens, Katie Stuart, Alli, David, Anne Smithson, Loelia Lyon, Vanessa Madden, Louise Siddle, Annelise Dennis.

### Next week's readings

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter:** Acts 17.22-31, Psalm 66.7-end, 1 Peter 3.13-end, John 14.15-21

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown <a href="mailto:rector@abingdonparish.org.uk">rector@abingdonparish.org.uk</a>
Team Vicar	Vacant
Associate Priest	The Revd Dr A. K. M. Adam (AKMA) <a href="mailto:akma@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk">akma@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk</a>
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 <a href="mailto:safeguarding@abingdonparish.org.uk">safeguarding@abingdonparish.org.uk</a>
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, morning and afternoon.

E-mail: [administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk); Website [abingdonparish.org.uk/StH](http://abingdonparish.org.uk/StH)

**A copy of this Newsletter is posted regularly on our website.**