



TEAMword

31st May 2026

Trinity Sunday

Dear Friends,

This is the time of year when earnest ordinands launch into detailed accounts of the Holy Trinity in their sermons, when veteran clergy sigh and wonder if there's anyone on staff they can invite to preach, when clergy who should know better than to unfold the mysteries of God's triune identity prove that they do not, in fact, know better. It's a time when a pivotal, intricate article of faith — one that differentiates Christian faith from other expressions of spiritual trust — is battered, misrepresented, oversimplified, and generally made over into awkward metaphors and analogies, and hardly anyone emerges with a truer, wiser understanding than that with which they started.

I will not try to correct anyone's errors or even to clarify anyone's confusion in a short newsletter cover piece. Rather, I suggest that we give ourselves a theological Bank Holiday and not even try, just for a morning.

I suggest this not because I suppose it's not worth the bother, or because it's all alright as long as your heart is filled with warm thoughts about Jesus, but because the topic is *so* important, and *so* intricate, that only a theological genius (a Rowan Williams, perhaps, or a Julian of Norwich?) could write an illuminated short essay in *double* the words for which we have room here. I believe in brain surgery and rocket science, but I don't suppose I can attain an adequate understanding of them from a three hundred word squib in a parish newsletter.

Instead of instruction or an explanation, here is an offer: Think of God as One, as the very basis of one-ness, an absolute and perfect identity, and also as Three, well and truly differentiated one from another, but without the slightest hint of *separation*. In God, differentiation and identity reach a perfect resolution. Then, if you're hungry for a more nuanced understanding of the truths and errors that constitute sound Trinitarian theology, ask us for a teaching series!

Grace and peace
AKMA

NOTICES

Mothers' Union, Tuesday 2nd June 10.30am in the parish centre. The topic for the meeting is *Detailing MU Action and Outreach Projects* and the speaker Jean Vaughan. All are welcome

Moving into Stillness, Thursday 4th June 9.45–10.45am at St Michael and All Angels. Circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes before the regular circle dancing session at 11am led by Elizabeth Mitchell. No prior experience/partner needed. Tea and coffee will be provided between the two sessions. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

Corpus Christi, Thursday 4th June 12.30pm: Mass will be said as usual at St Michael's and **7.30pm:** The congregations of all the churches in the parish are invited to join us at St Michael's for a Sung Mass for Corpus Christi. Seasonal refreshments will be served after this Mass.

An evening of Viennese musical genius, Saturday 6th June 7.30pm at St Helen's church. Peter Foster and the Hurst Ensemble will perform Mozart's clarinet quintet in A major and Brahms' piano quintet in F minor. The concert tickets cost £12 (free for under16s) and are available online from Ticketsource, the Bookstore in Abingdon or at the door. All the proceeds to St Helen's so do come and enjoy a marvellous evening of music with friends.

ADMS perform Haydn's Creation, Saturday 13th June 7.30pm at St Helen's church. Tickets are available via www.wegotickets.com/ADMS or on the door.

Book Sale & Coffee Morning, Saturday 20 June 10.00-12.00 noon at St Nicolas church

Albert Park Singers Summer Concert, Friday 26th June 7.00 pm at St Michael's Church. Join us for an evening of choral favourites from West End Shows to traditional folk songs. Free entry and refreshments, donations to Sobell House and St Michael's Church

Faith Forum, Sunday 28th June in the parish centre. Fr AKMA will speak on the use of symbol in the liturgy.

Time Out for Parents - The Primary Years – A course from Care for the Family, Thursdays 4, 11, 18, 25 June, 9 and 16 July 7.30 - 9.30pm at Peachcroft Christian Centre. A course designed to help negotiate the early years and build strong family relationships. Open to all parents and carers of primary age children. For booking and more information visit the website: <https://www.peachcroftcc.org/community>

The funeral of Peter Cannon-Brookes will be at St Helen's Church on **Monday 8th June at 2.30pm**. All are welcome to attend the service. Please keep Caroline and the family in your prayers.

We give thanks for the life of Loelia Lyon. Please keep Loelia and the family in your prayers.

Parish Magazine: The May edition of the Parish Magazine is available to download from the Parish website: https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php

OUR PARISH LEADERSHIP 2026 - 2027

Our Wardens are:

St Helen's: Ms M Horton, Mr D Pope

St Michael and All Angels: Mrs L Heffernan, Miss J Kelly

St Nicolas: Mrs E Hallas

Treasurers: Mrs S Read (St Helen's) and Mrs J Smith (St Nicolas' and St Michael's)

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Miss A Green

Mrs C Brown

Mrs S Scott (also Deanery Lay Chair)

Miss A Scott (also a Diocesan Synod Representative)

Mrs E Hallas

The Revd R Rutherford, Clergy Representative

Elected PCC Representatives:

Mrs P Hudson (St Helen's)

Mrs H Clare (St Michael's)

Mr J Clare (St Michael's)

Dr R Cox (St Nicolas)

Mrs J Fishpool (St Nicolas)

Mrs J Smith (St Nicolas)

Safeguarding Team:

Mrs P Hudson (St Helen's) – Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mrs C Kimber (St Helen's) – Verifier

Mr E Chukwuma – Safeguarding Officer – St Helen's

Mr D Aitken – Safeguarding Officer – St Michael's

Mrs J Fishpool – Safeguarding Officer – St Nicolas

Parish Services, Sunday 7th June 2026

St Helen's

8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)
10.30am Sung Eucharist (1st Sunday)

St Michael & All Angels

9.30am Family Mass

St Nicolas

11.15 am Matins

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown rector@abingdonparish.org.uk
Team Vicar	Vacant
Associate Priest	The Revd Dr A. K. M. Adam (AKMA) akma@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk
Parish Administrator	Mrs K Burland

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; Website abingdonparish.org.uk

A copy of this Newsletter will be posted on our website