



St HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 12th October 2025

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

The parish centre recently had to deal with a request for a baptism certificate. That doesn't normally mean much more than a bit of an exploration in the archive, a photo of a page in the register, and so on. Many of us actually enjoy a visit back in time to generations of our congregations past. The problem arose because there was an error in the register entry, which complicates the picture considerably.

It turns out that in order to correct an error in the register of baptisms, one needs the Team Rector to make a correction. (You may have noticed that for the time being, that office is vacant.) But absent the Team Rector, the Team Vicar can make the correction — but only in the presence of the churchwardens. We did have a Team Vicar at the time (indeed, we still do have him, though he's on leave), but we don't have both churchwardens available to witness the correction. By the time we have the churchwardens back, we will have neither Team Rector nor Team Vicar, and the Associate Priest isn't a satisfactory substitute. Everything will be sorted, but the parish's Great Offices of State are beginning to look a bit dusty and... well, vacant.

Speaking as — for the days between our farewell to Fr Paul and our welcome of Jen in her new role as Team Rector — the ranking member of the licensed clergy team, it can feel a little like the words of the prophet Elijah, who would have said (were he serving our parish), 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; but the Team Rector has retired, and the Team Vicar has retired, and the Associate Priest is on leave; and I, I alone, am left.' But truly, no worries: in a few days, Jen will be instituted, we'll begin looking for a Team Vicar, and all our churches will keep the marvellous forward momentum that has kept us so strong for the past months.

The Revd Dr A K M Adam

WELCOME to St Helen's this Sunday. 8.00 am *Holy Communion*. 10.30 am *Sung Eucharist*. 5.30 pm *Taizé Prayer*. 10.30 am services at St Helen's can be accessed on Zoom from 10.15 am on: Meeting ID: 865 5159 6523; Passcode: 626891.

FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

Readings: 2 Kings 5.1-3, 7-15c; 2 Timothy 2.8-15; Luke 17.11-19

Service Setting: Aston

Hymns:

Processional: 628 Ye that know the Lord is gracious

Gradual: 383 Be still, for the presence of the Lord

Offertory: 582 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said

Anthem: Bruckner, Locus iste

Post communion: 556 Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore him

Collect:

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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.**

Psalm: 111

Response: O praise the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart.

O praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord with my whole heart:

In the company of the upright and among the congregation.

The works of the Lord are great:

and studied by all who take delight in them. **Response.**

He gives food to those that fear him:

he remembers his covenant for ever.

He showed his people the power of his acts:

In giving them the heritage of the heathen. **Response.**

He sent redemption to his people, he ordained his covenant for ever:

holy is his name and worthy to be feared.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

and of good understanding are those that keep his commandments:

his praise shall endure for ever. **Response.**

THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

ON WEEKDAYS 9.10 am *Morning Prayer*.

ON MONDAY 9.30 am *Baby and Toddler Group* in the Parish Centre Hall. 7.00 pm *Circle Dancing* in the Parish Centre Hall.

ON TUESDAY 10.00 am *Mothers' Union Meeting* in the Parish Centre Hall. 5.00 pm *Yellow Submarine Youth Group* in the Parish Centre Lounge. 7.00 pm *PCC Meeting* in the Parish Centre Lounge. 8.00 pm *Event Rehearsal* in the church.

ON WEDNESDAY 10.30 am *Holy Communion*. 7.30 pm *DCC Meeting* in the Parish Centre Lounge.

ON SATURDAY 12.20 pm *Private Birthday Party* in the Parish Centre Hall.

ON SUNDAY 8.00 am *Holy Communion*. 10.30 am *Sung Eucharist*. 5.30 pm *Choral Evensong*.

PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

Mothers' Union will meet on Tuesday 14th October, 10.30 am in St. Helen's Parish Centre. Christine Ewing will be demonstrating armchair exercises and there will be the opportunity to watch and/or take part. Refreshments will be available and there will be a "Bring and Buy" table. We will be admitting a new member to the branch and visitors are very welcome to join us.

StHelens@lunch - the next lunch will be at 12.30pm on Wednesday 16th October, at Root One Garden Centre, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, OX10 0PT at 12.30pm. If you need or can offer a lift contact Susan Scott 01234 522960.

The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown will be licensed as Team Rector on Tuesday 21st October at 7 pm in St Helen's Church.

On Saturday 1st November 2025 at 11.00 am, in Christ Church Cathedral Oxford, Linda Hobbs will be Licensed as a Lay Minister in the Diocese of Oxford. She would be delighted if you would like to support her on this important day. Following the service she would like to invite you to join her and her family in the Parish Centre for lunch. Please email if you will be able to join her for lunch (lindahobbs1954@gmail.com) and please keep her in your prayers as she prepares for this special day.

We will be holding a parish service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed at 5.30pm on Sunday 2nd November at St Helen's. This service is a special opportunity to remember in prayer, and by having names read and a candle lit, our departed loved ones. There will be a list in each church on the 12th, 19th, and 26th of October for those to be remembered. If you would like a loved one remembered in this service, please add their name to the list. All are welcome to attend this service, but you do not need to attend the service to have a loved one's name read out in memory.

The October edition of the Parish Magazine will be available to download this Sunday, October 12th from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php. Information, education, entertainment etc.

Please pray for the residents of Ladygrove Court, Ladygrove Paddocks, Lambourn Court and Lambrick Way.

Intercessory prayer requests to clairembolton@googlemail.com.

For your thoughts and prayers

- For a renewal of faith as the treasure entrusted to us.
- That we may be faithful, rather than successful, in sharing the good news.
- Thanks for all those who have taught us in the way of faith by word and example.

For health & wellbeing: Sarah Stevens, Katie Stuart, Alli, David, Anne Smithson, Loelia Lyon, Christian Szurko, Mick and Vanessa Madden.

Next week's readings: Genesis 32.22-31; 2 Timothy 3.14-4.5; Luke 18.1-8

Team Rector	Vacant
Team Vicar	The Revd Paul Smith
Associate Priest	The Revd Dr A. K. M. Adam (AKMA) akma@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk
Associate Priest	The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown jennifer.brown@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 Jackie Cunningham
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, morning and afternoon.

E-mail: administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk; Website: abingdonparish.org.uk/StH

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