



St HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 1st March 2026

The Second Sunday of Lent

St Helen's Archives

St Helen's is fortunate to possess a set of records which go back to the 16th century. The archives cover not only information on baptisms, marriages and burials, but also financial data, including the churchwardens' accounts and payments to the poor of the parish. The records provide a social and church history of the town over many centuries. In the past, we have been extremely lucky to have had dedicated archivists who have maintained the records and provided a service to the public. We are particularly indebted to Anne Smithson who looked after them so well for many years. Since Anne's retirement, we have not been able to provide the same service, which has two parts: the preservation of the records; and responding to public requests for information. Personally, I would like to add a third element – greater use of the records in research.

Some of the archives are of national significance but are rarely seen by the public; Heritage Day is an exception, and we are also in the process of digitizing a large tithe map from the 1840s to put online. But the absence of an archivist gives rise to a dilemma. The records are an important part of our heritage, but our primary concern must be their preservation and opening them up to others. Most churches deposit their archives with a county records office and, with some regret, DCC is considering whether this would now be the most suitable course of action for ourselves, for at least a portion of the records. But we would prefer to appoint a new archivist to continue Anne's excellent work. If this fascinating job appeals to you (and having done the job on an ad hoc basis for the last couple of years, I know this is fascinating), please get in contact with me through the church office and I would be delighted to show you around the archives. You would be supported by a small group already involved with the archives.

Geoff Meen

WELCOME to St Helen's this Sunday. 10.30 am *Sung Eucharist (first Sunday)*. 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: Genesis 12.1-4a; John 3.1-17

Hymns:

Processional: 6 New every morning is the love

Service setting: Bell, Celtic Saints setting.

Gradual: 582 Take up thy cross, the saviour said

Offertory: 386 Be thou my vision

Anthem: Mendelssohn, Lift thine eyes

Post Communion: 557 Praise to the holiest in the height

Collect:

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his way may we come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 *Standing Committee Meeting* in the Parish Centre Lounge.

ON TUESDAY 10.30 pm *Mothers' Union Meeting* in the Parish Centre Hall. 5.00 pm *Yellow Submarine Youth Group* in the Parish Centre Hall. 7.30 pm *Bell Ringing* in the church.

ON WEDNESDAY 10.30 am *Holy Communion*. 7.00 pm *Marriage Preparation Class* in the Parish Centre Lounge.

ON THURSDAY 6.30 pm *Life Drawing Class* in the Parish Centre Hall.

ON FRIDAY 4.00 pm *Abingdon School Bell Club* in the church. 5.00 pm *Young Ringer's Practice* in the church. 5.30 pm *Choir Practice* in the church.

ON SATURDAY 7.30 pm *The Abingdon and District Musical Society Orchestral Concert* in the church.

ON SUNDAY. 10.30 am *Sung Eucharist*. 5.30 pm *Taizé Prayer*. 7.00 pm *Abingdon Artists' Exhibition Preview* in the church.

PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

AKMA will be giving four brief Spiritual Snacks on 'Inside the Liturgy: Action and Meaning' after the 10.30 am service on each of the first four Sundays of Lent.

Parish Lent/Newcomers Lunch. There will be a Bring & Share Parish lunch today, Sunday 1st March in the Parish Centre at 12.15 pm. It will be good to welcome new/recent comers to our congregations. If you have any questions or can help with set-up, serving, or clear-up, please contact Sue Pemberton, suepem@tiscali.co.uk.

Tuesday 3rd March at 10.30 am Abingdon Mothers' Union at St Helens Church Centre - Cllr. Gwyneth Lewis speaking on Abingdon Against Domestic Abuse.

The Abingdon and District Musical Society's first orchestral concert of the year will take place on Saturday 7th March at 7.30 pm at St Helen's. The music will be Saint-Saens' Organ Symphony, Suk's Prague, Symphonic Poem and Wagner's Lohengrin: Prelude to Act 1. Then, their first choral concert of the year will be held on Saturday 21st March at 7.30 pm also at St Helens, where the music will include Handel's coronation anthems, Bach's Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring and Purcell's I was Glad. Tickets are available via www.wegotickets.com/ADMS or on the door.

Abingdon Artists' Spring Exhibition takes place in the South Aisle of St Helen's Church from Mon 9th to Sat 14th March, 10 am to 4.30 pm each day. With over 100 pictures on display it's well worth a look and it's also an opportunity to buy cards and unframed work. It is likely that over 700 people will pass through the church that week so if anyone has a spare hour when they could steward at our Welcome/Shop area, please do so. There will always be 3 Artist stewards in the church during the exhibition so you will never be on your own.

Open Church Stewarding. It is now just five weeks to the start of our Summer Stewarding of the church. Last year we had only ten regular stewards and were unable to fulfil our hopes of being able to have a welcoming presence every morning of the week. If you have been thinking this is something you could do to support the outreach of St Helen's church family but would like to know more before committing yourself, please talk to me, Elizabeth Simpson, after the service, or email me on simpsonem123@gmail.com. Please do think about this. With thanks.

We hope to publish the March issue of the Parish Magazine on Sunday 8th March. Contributions welcome to candle@abingdonparish.org.uk (by the end of today, Sunday 1st March).

The telephone in the Parish Centre Office is currently out of order due to issues at the local exchange. We are expecting the issue to be resolved by 5th March. If you need to contact the office, please do so by email at: administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk. Apologies for the inconvenience.

For your thoughts and prayers:

- We thank God for the ways in which we can support our church - with our skills, our time, our friendship, our money.
- We remember those who are in need of support, who face financial challenges, who feel alone in the world.
- We ask that our eyes may be opened to ways in which we, as a church, can move to help those who are in need.

Please pray for the residents of St Helen's Mill, St Helen's Walk, St Helen's Wharf and St Michael's Avenue.

Intercessory prayer requests to clairembolton@googlemail.com.

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

Next week's readings: Exodus 17.1-7; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown jennifer.brown@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk
Team Vicar	Vacant
Associate Priest	The Revd Dr A. K. M. Adam (AKMA) akma@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.