



St HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 28th June, 2026

SS. Peter & Paul

Were Peter and Paul cordial colleagues, working together to build up the holy Church, especially the Church of Rome? Or were they antagonists, each preaching a different gospel, vying for prominence among the congregations of Western Europe? Maybe a little of both?

For a long time, the church longed for more stories about Jesus and the apostles and saints — and in antiquity as today, where people want stories, writers will provide them. And since Peter and Paul each warranted a series of adventures of his own, why not (the ultimate marketing gambit!) devise a plot line in which they team up against a familiar villain?

So somebody supplied a story in which Saints Peter and Paul team up to defeat the evil magician Simon Magus. Now, if that name sounds familiar, it's because Peter has already encountered him in Acts. Simon had been a popular magician whose feats were so impressive that they said, 'This man is the power of God that is called Great' (Acts 8:10). He was impressed by St Philip's healings and exorcisms, so he asked if he could buy some of the power of the Holy Spirit; Peter considered this an intolerable idea, and cursed Simon.

In the later story known as *The Acts of Peter and Paul*, the author posits that Simon Magus made his way from Samaria to Rome, where his magic caught the attention of Nero. After Simon Magus became a favourite of the emperor, Peter and Paul came to challenge him to a battle of miracles. Simon would produce an amazing feat, and Peter would surpass it with something even more amazing. At last, Simon climbed a tower and set off flying; Paul urged Peter to end the contest, so Peter commanded that Satan allow Simon Magus to fall to the ground. Sadly, Simon fell and broke his neck.

This displeased Nero, who ordered that Peter and Paul be executed. Peter tried to flee, but Christ met him on the way and reminded him that *good* apostles be willing to give up their lives for Jesus's sake. Thus Peter was crucified, and Paul (the Roman citizen) was beheaded...

Read more in *The Acts of Peter [and Paul]!*

AKMA

WELCOME to St Helen's this Sunday. 8.00am *Holy Communion (1662)*; 10.30am *Sung Eucharist*; 5.30pm *Service for Healing and Wholeness*. The 10.30am service at St Helen's today can be accessed on Zoom from 10.15am on: Meeting ID: 865 5159 6523; Passcode: 626891.

FOR TODAY'S SERVICE

Readings: Acts 12.1-11; 2 Timothy 4.6-8,17-18; Matthew 16.13-19

Service Setting: Aston

Hymns:

Processional: 555 Praise my soul the King of heaven

Gradual: 516 Love divine, all loves excelling

Offertory: 376 And can it be

Anthem: Chilcott, *Be thou my vision*

Post communion: SP152 Church of God, elect and glorious

Collect: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm 125: Response: In Judah God is known, his name is great in Israel.

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion:
which cannot be moved but stands fast for ever.

As the hills stand about Jerusalem:
so the Lord stands round about his people, from this time forth for evermore.

Response

Do good O Lord to those who are good:
and to those who are true of heart.

Those who turn aside to crooked ways the Lord shall take away with the evildoers:
but let there be peace upon Israel.

Response

5.30 pm Service for Healing and Wholeness

Hymns all from *Common Praise*

519 Make me a channel of your peace

181 Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round

222 Let saints on earth in concert sing

Reading: Luke 17.30-37

THE COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

ON WEEKDAYS 9.10am Morning Prayer

ON MONDAY	Team Vicar interviews in the church and parish centre 11.15am Eucharist in the church
ON TUESDAY	2.00-4.00pm Desiring Life in the lounge 5.00-8.30pm Private booking in the hall 7.30-9.00pm Bellringing in the tower
ON WEDNESDAY	10.30am Holy Communion 5.15-6.15pm Beavers 6.30-8.00pm Cubs in the hall
ON THURSDAY	6.15-8.00pm Private booking in the hall
ON FRIDAY	8.00-10.00am School Service in the church 4.00pm Young Ringers Practice in the church 5.30pm Choir Practice in the church
ON SATURDAY	10.00-12.00pm Private booking in the hall
ON SUNDAY	10.30am Sung Eucharist

PROGRAMMES, EVENTS & NOTICES

Jonathan and Alison Oliver are renewing their wedding vows during the morning service on **Sunday 28th June** and invite you to join them after the service for cake and fizz!

Faith Forum, Sunday 28th June 12.45pm in the parish centre. Fr AKMA will speak on the use of symbol in the liturgy.

Silent Reflections, Tuesday 30th June 7.30-8.30pm at St Michael's Church. Sue Sheppy will provide material on the theme: Bear one another's burdens. We meet initially in the church room. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

Abingdon Mothers' Union, Tuesday 7th July 10.30 am in the Parish Centre. Speaker: Maureen Weston - Why I joined Mothers' Union. Plus: Discussion, Quizzes, Bring & Buy.

AAAHS Book Launch, Thursday 9th July 7.00pm at St Helen's church. Roger Thomas's book on the archaeology of Abingdon will be for sale after a short talk & refreshments.

Moving into Stillness, Thursday 9th July 9.45-10.45am at St Michael's Church. Circle dancing to Taizé chants with silent interludes, followed by the regular circle dancing session at **11 am**. Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed. Refreshments be provided. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.
NB Irregular date for July; there will be no circle dancing of any kind in August.

Heritage Weekend, Saturday 19th September 10.00-4.00pm in St Helens. The theme this year is working roles past and present. Volunteers needed to help welcome visitors, bake and serve refreshments. If you can help, please contact Pat Hudson 07787120045

Hazel & Bill would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support following the death of Bill's brother, David.

Open Church Stewarding. If you could do this to support the outreach of St Helen's church, please talk to Elizabeth Simpson, or email on simpsonem123@gmail.com.

The June edition of the **Parish Magazine 'A candle in the window'** is available from https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_window.php Do read and discuss!

Contributions are needed for the Christian-Forum column in Round & About Abingdon for August onwards. Please send to Debra McKnight dhmcknight@aol.com

Status of Team Vicar Recruitment: Interviews will take place on 29th June. Please continue to keep the process of finding our next Team Vicar in your prayers.

Confirmation and admission to Holy Communion: This notice is to ask that if you or your child would be interested in confirmation, please speak to Revd Jen or Fr AKMA so that we can begin to plan confirmation classes. We can also offer preparation for admission to Holy Communion if there are any children who would like to begin receiving Holy Communion prior to confirmation.

Intercessory prayer requests to clairembolton@googlemail.com.

For your prayers:

- For churches, schools, and other institutions under the patronage of SS Peter and Paul
- For St Paul's Cathedral, and Dean Andrew Tremlett, for their ministries to inhabitants of and visitors to London
- For St Peter's Basilica and our ecumenical sisters and brothers in the Roman Catholic Church, especially for Pope Leo
- For all martyrs, confessors, and all whose lives bear witness to the truth of the gospel

Please pray for the residents of Baillie Close, Baker Road, Banbury Cout, Barton Lane.

For health, consolation & wellbeing: Colin Casemore, Annelise Dennis, Vanessa Madden, Ann and Ron Moss, Louise Siddle, Anne Smithson, Sarah Stevens, Katie Stuart, Alli

Next week's readings: Habakkuk 2.1-4; Ephesians 2.19-end; John 20.24-29

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
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 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 on our website.