

*NORMAL OFFICE HOURS : Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10am,-1pm.*

*The office is closed on Thursdays.*

*Contact the Parish Administrator by email or on the office phone 01235 520144.*

#### **For Your Thoughts and Prayers :**

'The experience of the cross becomes the means whereby the divine energies are poured forth by the Spirit upon creation. For the Spirit, as the Spirit of communion (2 Corinthians 13.13), is the very power whereby Christ vanquished possessiveness and all forms of humanity's claims to exist by and for itself or for this world alone...Christ's self-emptying on the cross...becomes the means of the pouring forth of the Spirit who then gradually elevates humankind and creation toward the divine life.' – Charles Miller, *The Gift of the World* (2000)

For intercessory prayer requests contact [clairembolton@googlemail.com](mailto:clairembolton@googlemail.com).

*Please pray for the residents of Hyde Place, Inkerman Close, Jackman Close, John Jones Close.*

**For health & wellbeing:** Connie Tait, Barbara Mazey, Janet and Ken Chapman, Anne Benad, Janet Perry, Margaret Brooks, Mary Barton, Sue Hartley, Chris Bayliss, Bill Burnett, Gina Bruce, Sue Phipps, Angela Smith, Eleanor Robinson (outside Parish), Mary Blanks, Laura Davies, Ann Moss, Alexandra Green, Yong Mama (Sok Han's mother).

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**Next Week's Readings:** (Proverbs 3.13-18); 2 Corinthians 4.1-6; Matthew 9.9-13

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Team Rector	The Revd Dr Charles Miller
Team Vicar	The Revd Paul Smith
Associate Priests	The Revd Jennifer Brown The Revd Canon Charles Masheder
Licensed Lay Minister	Mrs Gwen Bevington
Wardens	Mrs Linda Hobbs and Dr Geoff Meen
Director of Music	Dr Peter Foster
Assistant Organist	Mr Andrew Shouler
Parish Administrator	Mrs Jenny Balshaw
Caretaker	Mr Philip Atkinson

Parish Office 01235 520144 / 07395 943957

E-mail: [administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk)

<https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/>.

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



# St HELEN'S CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Holy Cross / Trinity 14

#### Our Patronal Day

Thanks to you all for being here today. Today we celebrate what was originally the 'Invention' or discovery of the Holy Cross, associated with the emperor Constantine's mother, St Helen, who sponsored the erection of numerous great shrine churches in the Holy Land and Jerusalem. She was a popular 'theme' when churches were founded in the early Anglo-Saxon England; many were dedicated to her. (Last Friday the Church commemorated the missionary bishop of the Thames Valley and 'apostle of Wessex', St Birinus, or Birinius, of Dorchester – have you ever noticed the statue of Birinus on the rear column of the south side of the main nave aisle?)

When the first church was erected on this site in the sixth century who knows what it was like; a small stone building or a wattle and daub hut? What's clear is that a 'sacred space' was set apart, and set apart it has continued to be throughout the following fifteen centuries. Remarkable! It's no wonder, then, that the passage of time has involved maintenance, expansion (!) and repair.

As to repair, we have some of that to see to. We continue to wait for workmen to begin on the repair of ceiling plaster in the main nave. The same project will remove the obsolete heating duct in the north aisle. These are not in themselves complex jobs but they will involve materials that need to be applied in layers, each of which will need to dry. We expect the work to begin roughly a month from now, and expect that we will be able to occupy the whole interior, as usual, beginning sometime in November. Your wardens and fabric team have worked in a timely and effective way. The extraordinary delay has been a combined result of the effects of lock-down, on the one hand, and diocesan bureaucracy, on the other. Despite all that, we'll get there! In the meantime, applications have been made to grant-giving bodies and we await news of support to supplement fabric funds that we have received from our FRIENDS of St HELEN and have been able to set aside over the years for 'rainy days' like this.

*The Revd Dr Charles Miller*, Team Rector

**WELCOME** to St Helen's today, St Helen's Patronal Festival, the Feast of the Holy Cross. The *Eucharist with Choir* is at 10.30 am. If you are new to St Helen's or a visitor, please make yourself known. Please observe COVID protocols. Hand sanitizing is required and service participants will be expected to wear face coverings except for medical reasons.

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#### FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

**Reading:** (Numbers 21.4-9) ;  
Philippians 2.6-11 ;  
John 3.13-17

**Collect:** Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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#### PARISH SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

8.00 am – Holy Communion (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays) at St Nicolas' Church

9.30 am – Mass at St Michael & All Angels Church

10.30 am – Holy Eucharist at St Helen's Church [*this service will be up-loaded in full to the website each Sunday afternoon*]

8.00 am Service at St Nicolas' Church

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*You need to contact the designated person in each congregation to reserve a place and whether or not you wish to receive Holy Communion (wafer only). Hand sanitizing is required and all service participants will be expected to wear face coverings except for medical reasons.*

*Booking contact for services in each church:*  
St Helen's [administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk)  
St Michaels [ptscwatstms@gmail.com](mailto:ptscwatstms@gmail.com) /01235 797051  
St Nicolas' [andrew.r.coker@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.r.coker@gmail.com) /01235 539929  
8am service [papenfold@aol.co.uk](mailto:papenfold@aol.co.uk)

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#### THIS COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

*Morning Prayer* will be said at 9.10 am weekdays.

**ON WEDNESDAY** open 11am – 1pm for private prayer.

**ON SATURDAY** open 11am – 1 pm for private prayer.

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#### NOTICES

**A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW** Issue 7 is available on the website: <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php>

**CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER.** St Michael & All Angels Church is open for private prayer on Thursdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm; St Nicolas' Church is open on Mondays from 10 am and 1 pm.

**ST HELEN'S ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING** will be directly after the 10.30 Sung Eucharist on Sunday 4 October. You will need to book to attend - contact the Parish Administrator. Please sign nomination forms for church officers and sidesmen at back of church for election to DCC. You will find a copy of *St Helen's Reports from Groups & Organisations for 2019* on the website. If you are not able to access it, contact the Parish Office to obtain a printed copy.

**PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL** (revision only). Due to recent Covid-19 lockdown the Parish Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was postponed until 22<sup>nd</sup> October so a further revision of the Roll is required. Lay people who worship with us can join the roll if you have been baptised and are aged 16 or over. You need do nothing if you completed a form in 2019 and have no changes to contact

details. Application forms from Gill Titcombe 01235 525522 email: [gstitcombe@gmail.com](mailto:gstitcombe@gmail.com).

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING [APCM]** will take place on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October, at 7.00pm in St Michael & All Angels Church, Park Road.

**FAITH FORUM.** The next Faith Forum in our series on *Other Voices: Women, Theology & the Church* will be on Sunday 4 October at the slightly earlier time of 9.15am. Our speaker will be Dr Deborah Rooke, Associate Lecturer in Old Testament Hermeneutics at Regent's Park College, Oxford and Visiting Lecturer in Old Testament at St Stephen's House. Dr Rooke will be speaking on *Women heroes of the Old Testament*. Please remember that places are limited due to social distancing measures and to be compliant with COVID regulations we must have a list of those attending. If you wish to attend the October Faith Forum, please contact the parish office to book a place. For those unable to attend, the lecture will be recorded and uploaded to the parish Youtube channel.

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You can follow us on the church website: <https://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/>