

You can contact the Parish Administrator by email or phone 01235 520144 or 07395 943957 from Monday – Thursday, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm (closed on Fridays); please observe COVID protocols and sign in when you visit.

#### For Your Thoughts and Prayers

- For all working in the NHS and in funeral ministry
- For all anxious about the lifting of restrictions
- For the Jesus' wonderful promise of the life hereafter
- For all on holiday that they may be 'refreshed'
- For the joy of sport.

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

Please pray for the residents of Byron Close, Caldecott Chase, Caldecott Close, Caldecott Court.

**For health & wellbeing:** Connie Tait, Barbara Mazey, Ken Chapman, Anne Benad, Margaret Brooks, Mary Barton, Sue Hartley, Chris Bayliss, Bill Burnett, Sue Phipps, Eleanor Robinson (outside Parish), Mary Blanks, Ann Moss, Linda Brewer, Thea Murphy, Frank Peirson, Janet Perry, Nancy McLellan, Tom Bewley.

Next Week's Readings: Jer. 45.1-5; Acts 11.27-12.2; Matt.20.20-28

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 Jackie Cunningham
Caretaker	Mr Philip Atkinson

Parish Office 01235 520144 or 07395 943957  
E-mail: [administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk)  
[http://https://www.abingdon-st-helens.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

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

For some people, worship is largely only about Sunday attendance but for others there is the wonderful flow through each week, recognising firstly weekday Festivals like Ascension Day and Epiphany but also the many saints days, some of them very significant to our faith. One such occurs this coming week on Thursday (22<sup>nd</sup>) – St Mary Magdalene's Day. In my Essex days, one of my villages was called Magdalen Laver (you won't have heard of it!) recognising her 'patronage' of the local church.

There are three significant facts about Mary, though there are other possibilities, and this is in addition to what Luke tells us (8:2) that "she had once been possessed by seven evil spirits". She was one of a group of women who supported Jesus and the Twelve.

Three of the Gospels tell us that she was among a group of women who stood near the cross as Jesus was dying. That could inspire our continuing gratitude to those from the NHS and others who simply support the dying. I suspect that many of us have seen our loved ones leaving this life and are thankful for the help that we have received.

Matthew and Mark tell us too that Mary was among those who saw where Jesus was laid in the tomb. They may not have been like Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus who actually buried his body but they were there, like many of us as part of the group of mourners. That could also help us to thank God for all involved in funeral ministry, including Funeral Directors, whose work has been a challenge through the pandemic and to pray for them and for clergy.

However the greatest time for Mary happened in the Easter Garden, sometimes recorded happening with other women, but, most beautifully, by John on her own. It was she who was the first to say "I have seen the Lord" though some disciples didn't believe.... In our very difficult times we need to reassure people of the wonderful message that Jesus is alive for ever and promises us true and eternal life hereafter, united with our loved ones who died before us.

***The Revd Canon Charles Masheder, Associate Priest.***

**WELCOME** to St Helen's today, 7th Sunday after Trinity. *Holy Communion (BCP)* is at 8.00 am at St Nicolas'.

The *Eucharist* is at 10.30 am and can also be accessed on Zoom from 10.15am.

[Zoom link removed from online newsletter – please contact the Parish Administrator for access to the live stream. The recording will be uploaded to the website as soon as possible]

There will be no evening service.

---

#### FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

**Readings:** Jer. 23.1-6; Eph. 2.11-end; Mark 6.30-34, 53-end

#### Collect:

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same: 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. \_\_\_\_\_

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

*There will be no Morning Prayer.*

**ON WEDNESDAY** *Holy Communion* will be in the South Aisle at 10.30 am. [No booking required].

**NEXT SUNDAY** *Holy Communion* will be at 8.00 am at St Nicolas'. [Booking: contact [papenfold@aol.co.uk](mailto:papenfold@aol.co.uk) or [jil129@outlook.com](mailto:jil129@outlook.com)].

The *Eucharist* will be celebrated at 10.30 am. To reserve a place contact the Parish Office, [administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk)

---

#### NOTICES

**CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER.** St Helen's Church is open from 11am to 1pm for private prayer and visitors, on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the summer months, ending in the week of St Helen's Patronal Festival, on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

**The Prime Time Summer Event** is taking place at Christ Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon, 5-8<sup>th</sup> August. The event is designed for people who are retired. The programme is structured around our memory of distant school days. Further information can be found at: <https://cca.uk.net/events/2315/joy/>

**The Friends of St Helen's Church Annual General Meeting and summer tea** will take place soon. Further information will follow over the coming weeks.

**The Stovel family is mourning the sad passing of Margaret Stovel on Tuesday 6th July, after a short illness.** She was a Sunday school teacher, flower arranger and Sacristan at St. Helen's for a number of years and remembered the congregation fondly. The family requests no flowers, but would welcome donations to MacMillan Cancer Support in Margaret's name.

**No promises!** The clergy and wardens are looking at the possibility both of congregational singing and a greater choir, and serving refreshments next Sunday.

**Coffee is hopefully resuming on Sunday 25 July.** Several of our helpers are unable to continue on the coffee rota. If anyone would like to volunteer to fill in the many gaps please contact Janet Dale, telephone 01235 531521 or email [janetdale50@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:janetdale50@mypostoffice.co.uk)

**The next issue of 'A Candle in the Window' will be in September.** That means you have time to catch up

and we have time for a breather. Past and present issues can be downloaded from here: <http://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/DNR/window.php>

Thanks are due to over 70 people who have contributed since lockdown began.

**Silent Reflections on Tuesday 27 July at 7.30 pm will be held in St Michael's;** the precise manner will depend on the restrictions in place at the time. It is likely that the wearing of masks will be optional, and that refreshments will be available at the end. Rosalind Rutherford will introduce material on the theme: *The Lilies of the Field*. A copy will still be emailed to all those on our list, and made available on St Michael's website. Paper copies will be available in church.

#### Welcome and Candle

Priest: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:  
Oscar, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

All: **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.**

*The president gives Oscar a lighted candle and says:*  
God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

All: **Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.**

**MU notice.** On the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, several of our members are doing a 5Km sponsored walk/jog around Albert Park for our "Summer of Hope" initiative. The money raised will help support MU projects in countries around the world. We hope you will sponsor us.