

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 the continued success of the wider opening of St Helen's.
- For the success of the new stewardship campaign to be launched in the coming weeks.
- For those likely to suffer from the effects of the reduction in universal credit, the increase in fuel prices and inflation.

For intercessory prayer requests contact clairebolton@googlemail.com.

Please pray for the residents of Letcombe Avenue, Lindsay Drive, Lombard Street & Longfellow Drive.

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

Next week's Readings at 8am: Revelation 21.1-6a; John 11.32-44



St HELEN'S CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

Sunday 24th October 2021

The Last Sunday After Trinity

Opening Up St Helen's

If you look at the web entry for St Helen's on *Trip Advisor*, the main complaint is that visitors too often find the church closed. The internet has its limitations, but it hardly sends the message that we are a vital, welcoming part of the community. Our stewards do a wonderful job (and receive praise on *Trip Advisor*) but they cannot provide all-day support. Therefore, initially as a one-month experiment (subsequently extended), the church has been open for longer hours on an unsupervised basis; the DCC, the congregation, diocese and even our insurers were in favour. With one exception, there have been no hospitality abuses, a large increase in numbers and appreciation from the visitors.

Beforehand, some of us were nervous. However, our experience raises issues about the nature of trust, notably how to act in the face of limited hard evidence about the expected outcome. A still quoted, classic lecture on the subject, *The Will to Believe*, was presented by philosopher and psychologist William James in 1896. James argued that belief is justified, even if we do not have prior supporting evidence, either because evidence may only become available after we have adopted the belief or if the adoption of the belief may make the belief true. The idea has wider applicability in social science and may also provide guidance to church opening.

If you assume that someone has negative feelings towards you and act on that basis, they may react to your negativity. If you take their response as supporting evidence, then this can escalate and becomes self-fulfilling, even though this only comes from your initial belief. If, instead, you assume that the other person will act positively, then the cascade of friendliness can go in the opposite direction. That is one reason to open up and assume that our visitors will generally respect the church.

Geoff Meen, Churchwarden.

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Charles Miller
Team Vicar	The Revd Paul Smith
Associate Priests	The Revd Jennifer Brown (on sabbatical) The Revd Canon Charles Mashedor
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

Parish Office 01235 520144 or 07395 943957

E-mail: 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.

WELCOME to St Helen's today. Holy Communion is at 8am at St Helen's.

The *Eucharist* is at 10.30am 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 sermon will be uploaded to the website as soon as possible]

FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

Readings: Jeremiah 31.7-9; Hebrews 7.23-end; Mark 10.46-end.

Hymns:

Processional: 474 Immortal, invisible God only wise
Gradual: 426 Firmly I believe and truly
Offertory: 493 Join all the glorious names
Anthem: Chilcott, Be thou my vision
Post Communion: 313 My God, and is thy table spread

Collect:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Psalm: 126 - Response: *The Lord has done great things for us and therefore we rejoiced.*

When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion; then were we like men restored to life.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter:
and our tongue with singing. **Response.**

Turn again our fortunes O Lord: as the streams return to the dry south.

Those that sow in the tears:
Shall reap with songs of joy. **Response.**

THIS COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

WEEKDAYS Morning Prayer has begun at 9.10am in the Lady Chapel.

ON WEDNESDAY *Holy Communion* will be in the Parish Centre Hall at 10.30am.

NEXT SUNDAY *Holy Communion* will be at 8.00am.

NOTICES

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER. St Helen's Church is open from 10am to 3pm, Mon-Fri for private prayer and visitors.

Silent Reflections on Tuesday 26 October at 7.30 pm will be held in St Michael's (entry will be through the north door, opposite Albert Park). The wearing of masks is still recommended in areas of close contact. Final prayers will be at 8.30 pm and refreshments will be available. Rosalind Rutherford will introduce material on the theme: *A child in the midst.*

St. Helen's Christmas Market, Sat 27th Nov, 10.00am to 2.30pm. We plan to hold a market again this year to help raise funds for the church and to offer a welcome to all. Book the date now! We need helpers to man stalls, buyers and quality goods to sell. Look out for more details over the coming weeks, but if you can help in any way, please let Margaret Horton know: margaret_r_horton@yahoo.co.uk 01235 528813

From Sunday 31st October we are reintroducing the practice of having a Sacred Concert on the evening of the fifth Sunday in the month. Our Director of Music, Peter Foster will be giving an organ recital of works from the Lutheran tradition to mark Reformation Sunday

(October 31st). The programme will include music by J. S. Bach, Samuel Scheidt, Felix Mendelssohn and Franz Liszt.

Parish Magazine: the October edition is ready for downloading if you haven't yet! The November issue is being planned. We would welcome contributions including pictures of Autumn colour. Also do contact us if you would like to write a puzzle for future issues. Candle@abingdonparish.org.uk

COP26 starts on Sunday 31st October. It is not too late to express your concern for the climate and the need for urgent action. Keep it short and include your name and address. Here are some email addresses: lajla.moran.mp@parliament.uk, alok.sharma.mp@parliament.uk, boris.johnson.mp@parliament.uk

Christian Aid Quiz and puddings! Please come along to our Quiz and Autumn puddings evening at All Saints' Methodist Church, Appleford Drive, starting at 7pm on **Saturday 6th November.** The Quiz will have a climate theme. All welcome. More details from Mary Anderson, mary.fulani@gmail.com, or 07956 813524. We look forward to seeing you there.

Friends of St Helen's would like to invite you to a book-signing talk, with 'tasters' and wine, entitled:

Sweet Slices of History by Marjory Szurko

on Thursday, 4th November 2021 at 7.30 pm

in the Parish Centre Hall

The event is free for members and guests,

£5 for non members.

If you would like to come please email:

administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk