



St HELEN'S CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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:

- Success of our stewardship campaign over November.
- Thanks for the community of helpers at St Helen's.
- That the COP26 Glasgow meeting may yield fruitful and long-lasting results.
- Husband, Hayden, and family of the late Brenda Matthews. Her funeral will be at St Helen's on Monday (8th) at noon.
- Suffering Christians around the world.

Please pray for the residents of: Manor Court, Marina Way, Market Place and Marsh Court.

For intercessory prayer requests contact clairebolton@googlemail.com.

For health & wellbeing: Connie Tait, Barbara Mazy, 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, Edward Lord, Janet Dale.

Next week's Readings: Daniel 12:1-3; Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8

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 Mashedier
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 Robin Day

Parish Office 01235 520144 or 07395 943957

E-mail: administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

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

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

Sunday 7th November, 2021

The Third Sunday before Advent

Thank You

In his recent book, *The Upswing*, political scientist Robert Putnam argues that the US in the late 19th century could be characterized as highly individualistic, polarized and fragmented. But, during the first half of the 20th century, society came together to become more co-operative and less focused on narrow self-interest. This reversed yet again in the 1960s and remains the case today; the individual rather than the community rules and fewer people are willing to take on community responsibilities. The broad trends probably also occurred in Britain. We may willingly pay our membership fees to the National Trust or the RSPB but are less prepared to help run these or other community organisations.

As we enter the Stewardship season, we need to remember that the giving of time is just as important as the giving of money. At St Helen's we have approximately twenty different groups that require volunteers to run and populate them and we often receive good ideas how we might expand our mission in additional directions. Nevertheless, a new survey of our groups indicates that nearly all suffer from a shortage of helpers. This is not entirely surprising, and, in today's society, it is heartening that so many are so willing to give up so much of their time for the benefit of the church. Thank you.

But we need new helpers. Over the next few months, the DCC will be considering how this can be encouraged in the light of the survey results. If you are not currently involved in any of the groups – perhaps because you are a newcomer – please give this serious consideration. It is an excellent way of becoming involved more fully in the church community and sharing in the blessings of our common life in the Body of Christ.

Geoff Meen, Churchwarden

WELCOME to St Helen's today. *Sung Eucharist (with Welcome/Thanksgiving)* takes place 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 sermon will be uploaded to the website as soon as possible]

The *Annual CiA Town Bereavement Service* will be at 3 pm today at Trinity Church (See Notice).

FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

Readings: Hebrews 9:24-end; Mark 1:14-20

Hymns:

2 Christ whose glory fills the sky
191 O thou who camest from above
376 And can it be
278 Alleluia, sing to Jesus!

Anthem: Tye, O come ye servants of the Lord (AfC No 29)

Collect:

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all; govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THIS COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

WEEKDAYS *Morning Prayer* is said at 9.10 am in the Lady Chapel

ON MONDAY Baby & Toddler Group meets (by invitation) in the Centre Hall 9.30-11.00 am. The PCC meets in the Centre Hall 7.00-8.30 pm.

ON TUESDAY The *Desiring Life* Reading Group meets in the Lounge, 2.30-4.30 pm.

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

ON THURSDAY The Mothers' Union committee meeting will take place at 4.30-5.30 pm in the Parish Centre Hall.

ON SATURDAY ADMS Rehearsal will be held 1.30-4.00 pm, followed by the concert from 7.00-9.30 pm.

NEXT SUNDAY at St Helen's a *Remembrance Day Service* will take place at 10.00 am and *Sung Eucharist* will be at 5.30 pm.

Holy Communion will take place at St Nicolas at 8.00 am.

NOTICES

The Annual CiA Town Bereavement Service will be at 3.00 pm TODAY at Trinity Church. This will offer an opportunity to light a candle for loved ones who have died and to give thanks for our key workers who provided such sterling support throughout lockdown.

Book Sale in St Nicolas' Church on Saturday 13th November from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. **Great Bargains!**

St. Helen's Christmas Market, Sat 27th Nov, 10.00 am to 2.30 pm. We will hold a market again this year to 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

Senior Quest starting 28th November Calling all older 'young people'! We would like to start a Senior Quest for teenagers from about the age of 14 upwards, to meet during the service (leaving after the Gospel reading) in the Vestry. It will meet on the last Sunday of each month, starting 28th November and will look at all kinds of ethical questions and beliefs, and discuss the Christian viewpoint. For more information, please contact Margaret Horton, margaret_r_horton@yahoo.co.uk 01235 528813