



# Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

**An open door between heaven and earth,  
showing God's love to all**



The Second Sunday of Advent

7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

*Welcome to Holy Trinity! If you are new to the church or visiting, please make yourself known to one of the welcomers, and let us know any additional needs you may have. An accessible toilet and baby change facilities are located in the meeting room on the north side of the church (across from the door you came in.)*

*Children are a beloved and integral part of Holy Trinity, and most Sundays we run a Forest Sunday School in our small woodland area of the churchyard. The welcomers will point you in the direction of the Sunday School leaders. Children and babies are very welcome to stay in the service, or to use the meeting room if a break-out space would be helpful. We are not bothered by noise or children being children: we're just glad you're here.*

*Please sit, or stand as you feel comfortable during the service, and join in with the words in bold type. Tea, coffee and refreshments are served after the service: please stay for a friendly chat if you would like to.*

*Holy Trinity is funded almost entirely by donations. If you are able to contribute today as part of your worship, you can do so using the card reader or plate by the door on your way in or out. Regular supporters of Holy Trinity are encouraged to do so via the Parish Giving Scheme: a secure, tax-efficient way of contributing to our ministry here.*

*(i) You can access the Scheme's website through the QR code below and click on "Regular Giving," or visit*

*<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/headington-quarry-holy-trinity-oxford/>*

*(ii) call the Scheme on 0333 002 1271, Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm.*



## **Welcome and Introduction**

*The president says*

In the name of the Father  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit

**Amen**

*Words of welcome and any notices are given.*

## **Lighting of the Advent Candles**

*On each Sunday of Advent, we light a new candle on the Advent wreath. After the candle is lit, we pray together:*

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
the prophets said you would bring peace  
and save your people in trouble.  
Give peace in our hearts at Christmas  
and show all the world God's love.  
Amen.**

*During the first hymn children are welcome to join the Forest Sunday School taking place outside.*

## **Hymn 75**

Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born a Jew,  
come to make all things new;  
bear his people's burden,  
freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes,  
when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?*

God in time, God in man,  
this is God's timeless plan:  
he will come, as a man,  
born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.

Mary hail! Though afraid,  
she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb, God is laid:  
till the time expected,  
nurtured and protected.

Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Saviour, do not tarry!

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!*  
*Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!*  
*Jesus comes,*  
*Jesus comes,*  
*We will make him welcome?*

*Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)*

*Please stand*

## **Prayers of Penitence**

*A minister introduces the prayers of penitence*

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,**

through negligence, through weakness,  
 through our own deliberate fault.  
**We are truly sorry**  
**and repent of all our sins.**  
**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**  
**who died for us,**  
**forgive us all that is past**  
**and grant that we may serve you in newness of life**  
**to the glory of your name.**  
**Amen.**

**Kyrie**

*Andante*

10 Organ

*mp* Lord have mer-cy, Lord have mer-cy. *mf* Christ have

*mp* mer-cy, Christ have mer-cy. Lord have mer-cy, Lord have mer-cy.

*The president says*

Almighty God,  
 who forgives all who truly repent,  
 have mercy upon you,  
 pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
 confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
 and keep you in life eternal;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## The Collect

Let us pray:

Almighty God,  
 purify our hearts and minds,  
 that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as  
 judge and saviour  
 we may be ready to receive him,  
 who is our Lord and our God.  
**Amen.**

*Please sit*

## ***The Liturgy of the Word***

### **First Reading: Romans 15. 4-13**

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles  
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";  
and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Reading**

*Please stand.*



*The gospel is announced*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel reading: Matthew 3.1-12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
 make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

## **Sermon**

The Revd Prof Rob Gilbert

## **The Nicene Creed**

*Please stand*

Let us declare our faith in our coming Lord  
**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**



**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Please sit or kneel.*

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy.  
**Hear our prayer.**

*We pray for those to be married: Laura Mitchell and Charlie Archer.*

*We pray for those who are sick or in particular need:*

*Grace, Kitty Datta, Atmadeep Novo Datta, Bob Southgate, Benjie,  
Hunter Merritt, Elizabeth Knight, Maureen, Christine, Janet Lever, Len  
Farrar, Gillian Winman, David Blackman, Danielle Jeffcote, Andrew  
Tolhurst.*

*Those who have died recently:*

*Art Boylston, Susan Morrison, Geraldine Nicholls, Lea Clarke, Gwen Young,  
David Gregor, Madeline Tarrant, Michael Patterson.*

*Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time:*

*Albert Allcock, Alan Carter, Jean Berryman.*

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Please stand*

In the tender compassion of our God,  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and in the shadow of death  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*A minister says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### **Hymn 787**

Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine:  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart: it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.  
Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

*Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)*

## **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole church soon be gathered together  
from the corners of the earth  
into your kingdom.

**Amen.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

*Please sit or stand as you are most comfortable*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
For when he humbled himself  
to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago  
and opened for us the way of salvation.  
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day  
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.  
And so we join our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
to proclaim your glory  
for ever praising you and singing:

# Sanctus and Benedictus

**Moderato**

10 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of

19 power and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the

28 high - est. Bles-sed is he, O bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
 and as we obey his command,  
 send your Holy Spirit,  
 that broken bread and wine outpoured  
 may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
 and, taking bread, he praised you.  
 He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
 Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
 do this in remembrance of me.

*(Bells are rung)*

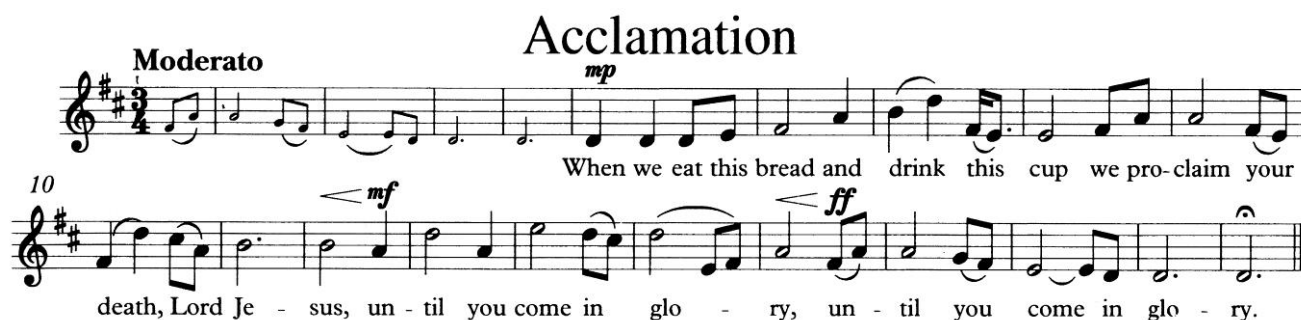
When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
 Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
 Drink this, all of you;  
 this is my blood of the new covenant,  
 which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
 Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

*(Bells are rung)*

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
 in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
 made once for all upon the cross.  
 Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
 we proclaim his death and resurrection  
 until he comes in glory.

*Deacon:* Christ is the bread of life

**Acclamation**



When we eat this bread and drink this cup we pro-claim your  
death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry, un - til you come in glo - ry.

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Please sit or kneel*

As our saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**Agnus Dei**

Slowly

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

## Invitation to Communion

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.  
**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*This is God's table and all are welcome. Please follow the directions of the stewards. We will form two lines to receive communion – the bread is distributed from the chancel step, and the wine is distributed from the lady chapel step. Please return to your pew via the north aisle. Stewards will be on hand to direct you.*

*If you are wearing a mask, it is most practical if you remove it before receiving communion. Please do not dip your wafer into the chalice. Please note that there is no obligation to take the chalice and it is fine still to receive communion in one kind only (the bread).*

*If you do not wish to receive communion and would prefer a blessing instead, please do come forwards as well.*

*Please join in with the hymn*

## Hymn 461

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
and we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.*

Gentile or Jew,  
servant or free,  
woman or man, no more. *(Refrain)*

Many the gifts,  
many the works,  
one in the Lord of all. *(Refrain)*

Grain for the fields,  
scattered and grown,  
gathered to one, for all. *(Refrain)*

*John Foley, SJ (b.1939)*

## Prayer after Communion

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

## ***The Sending Out***

### **Hymn 27**

Colours of day dawn into the mind,  
The sun has come up, the night is behind,  
Go down in the city, into the street,  
And let's give the message to the people we meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn, open the door, let  
Jesus return. Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow, tell the  
people of Jesus, let his love show.*

So light up the fire and let the flame burn,  
Open the door, let Jesus return,  
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,  
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show. *(Refrain)*

Go through the park, on into the town,  
The sun still shines on, it never goes down,  
The Light of the world is risen again,  
The people of darkness are needing a friend. *(Refrain)*

Open your eyes, look into the skies,  
The darkness has gone, the Son came to die,  
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,  
But Jesus is living, His Spirit is near. *(Refrain)*

*Sue McClellan (b.1951), John Paculabo (1946-2013) and Keith Ryecroft (b.1949)*

### **The Blessing**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



## The Dismissal

*A minister says*

As we await our coming Saviour,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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*Please join us for refreshments, served at the back of church. If you can please donate to the coffee fund in the jar provided. Please keep the flow moving by heading away from the serving hatch once you've got a drink, and feel free to use the space at the back of church or in our meeting room to mingle.*

*Please take this booklet away with you and recycle it when you have finished with it.*

**Notices deadline is now Monday 6pm.**

### Notices: December 7th

*Clergy will highlight some of these notices in their brief welcome. If there is something you would particularly like highlighted at the start of the service, please notify the clergy (by email or phone) in good time before the service, or speak to them before the service starts if this is not possible.*

#### **7 December: Second Sunday of Advent**

**8am** Holy Communion

President & Preacher: The Revd Prof Rob Gilbert

**10am** Parish Eucharist and Forest Sunday School

President: The Revd Prof Rob Gilbert

Preacher: The Revd Prof Rob Gilbert

Organist: Andrew Patterson

#### **14 December: Third Sunday of Advent**

**8am** Holy Communion

President & Preacher: The Revd Martin Little

**10am** Parish Eucharist and Forest Sunday School

President: The Revd Martin Little

Preacher: The Revd Martin Little

Organist: Andrew Patterson

### **Midweek Services:**

**9am Morning Prayer:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday when the Vicar is available.

*The Church is normally open for private prayer every day during daylight hours.*

**10am Wednesday Eucharist** followed by refreshments.

**Facebook** - Holy Trinity has a new Facebook page! If you're a Facebook user please like and follow

[www.facebook.com/holytrinityheadingtonquarry](http://www.facebook.com/holytrinityheadingtonquarry) and invite friends and family to do so too. By building our online profile we develop our outreach, locally and globally! We would like a couple of people to act as admins, to help post content and keep the page lively and engaging. Please contact Revd Martin for more information.

**Today Craft Event in the Meeting room and at the back of church at 11.15am after the morning service** Several very kind people have offered to show us their work eg Wooden pens and crocheted gifts will be available as will earrings, candles, berets and gifts previously available at our Christmas sale, and sell some of it to help support HTHQ. There will be tables at the back of the church and in the meeting room after the service, also a cake stall, so please support them during coffee. Cash or card accepted. Thank you.

**The Parish Office** new opening times will be as follows: Monday 8.30- 1pm, Wednesday 8.30-12.30pm, Thursdays 8.30-9.30- 11.30-12.30.

**Community Café every Tuesday 9.30 – 11.30am** in the meeting room in church. An intergenerational space for parents/carers to spend time with their younger ones, meet up with people of all ages over a cup of tea/coffee etc Toys available for preschool age children and toddlers.

**New cleaners needed** Would you like to help keep the church clean and tidy? You would be joining a team of three who clean about once every 4 or 5 weeks on a Friday or Saturday at your convenience. It isn't terribly arduous and can be very sociable! If you are interested please speak to Janet Masters.

**Julian Group.** The December meeting will be on **Friday 5th December at 2.30 pm at 3 Barton Road, Headington.** We meditate for half an hour on a passage provided by one of us and then discuss it before having a social time with tea/coffee and biscuits. New members are very welcome. Please contact me for further details: **Sheila Allcock 01865-769630**

**Children and Families Christmas Craft Afternoon** next **Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>** from **2pm – 3.30pm** in the **Coach House**.

Christmas craft activities include: Nativity Trail; make your own wrapping paper; biscuit decorating; make a table decoration; collaborative Art; Face Painting; Make a prayer Christmas ornament. *All Welcome – Free!*

**This week's Eco Tip:** With Christmas drawing closer, thoughts turn to present-wrapping. A useful dodge that makes it easier to wrap awkwardly-shaped items, is environmentally friendly, and says goodbye to foil and tinselly paper, is to get out the sewing machine and run up bags with draw-strings, in an assortment of sizes. Besides, they can be used in years to come!

*Hilary Rollin, Eco Church Group*

**'Birds of Lye Valley Area'** Whether or not you attended Tom Bedford's excellent presentation on 'Birds of Lye Valley and Beyond', if you would like to buy his book (title as above) please email/phone me by Wednesday Dec. 10th to place your order. Just bring me £10 (cost price) to the 10 a.m. service next Sunday (Dec. 14th) and I will hand you your copy.  
Hilary Rollin ([hjsrollin@gmail.com](mailto:hjsrollin@gmail.com) or 01865 761545)

**Pastoral care team** Are you in need of support or would you like to talk to someone? We rely on you to let us know of anyone who is ill, or in hospital or who might welcome a visit. Please contact any of the clergy (numbers on back page) or Helen Day, Janet Masters, Anne Tarassenko, or Ruth Wooldridge.

As the Anglican parish in Headington Quarry, Risinghurst and Wood Farm, we are here for every local resident. Our church is open every day. We hope that you will find God's peace as you come to pray or just sit and rest awhile. If you have questions about the Christian faith or would like to find out more about church life, please get in touch:

**Contact us**

**Vicar:** Revd Martin Little

[vicar@hthq.uk](mailto:vicar@hthq.uk) 01278 792154

*please note my day off is Friday*

**Associate Priest:** Revd Prof Rob Gilbert

[associatepriest@hthq.uk](mailto:associatepriest@hthq.uk)

**Parish Office:** [office@hthq.uk](mailto:office@hthq.uk) 01865 762931

**Churchwardens:** [wardens@hthq.uk](mailto:wardens@hthq.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Anne Tarassenko 07443 652082  
[annetarassenko@hotmail.com](mailto:annetarassenko@hotmail.com)

**Website:** [www.hthq.org.uk](http://www.hthq.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/holytrinityheadingtonquarry](https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityheadingtonquarry)

**Church postcode for emergencies:** OX3 8LQ



# Advent and Christmas 2025 at Holy Trinity, Headington Quarry

## **Sunday 30th November**

- 10am *Advent Sunday Eucharist*
- 6pm *Advent Carol Service*



## **Sunday 7th December**

- 11.30am *Craft Sale in church after the 10am service*

## **Sunday 14th December**

- 2-3.30pm *Children & Families Christmas Crafternoon*

## **Saturday 20th December**

- 4pm - *Christmas Carol Event at Wood Farm Shops*

## **Sunday 21st December**

- 10am *All-age Nativity Eucharist* (please come dressed up as your favourite character from the Christmas story, or we have lots of spare costumes to borrow!)
- 6pm *Christmas Carol Service* followed by mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies

## **Christmas Eve**

- 2.30pm & 4pm *Christingle Services for all the family*
- 11pm - *Midnight Mass*

## **Christmas Day**

- 8am Holy Communion
- 10am Family Eucharist

Quarry Road, Headington Quarry, OX3 8NU

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