



Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

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



The Third Sunday of Advent

14th 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,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.
Amen.**

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

Hymn 39

Please stand

Hills of the North, rejoice,
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of the world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.

Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

*Editors of English Praise, 1975
based on Charles Ernest Oakley (1832-1865)*

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

God for whom we watch and wait,
 you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
 give us courage to speak the truth,
 to hunger for justice,
 and to suffer for the cause of right,
 with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please sit

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
say to those with fearful hearts,
'Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.'
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.
The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.
And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.
No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,
and those the LORD has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.
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 11:2-11

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'

Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

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:

Timothy Brighthouse, John Whitwick, Lillian Collier, Susan Webster, Elizabeth Rivington.

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 373

Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver.
Purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold.

*Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
is to be holy, set apart for you, Lord.
I choose to be holy, set apart for you, my Master,
ready to do your will.*

Purify my heart,
cleanses me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart,
Cleanses me from my sin, deep within. *(Refrain)*

Brian Doerksen (b.1965)

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 464

Sweet Sacrament divine,
hid in thine earthly home,
lo, round thy lowly shrine,
with suppliant hearts we come;
Jesus, to thee our voice we raise
in songs of love and heartfelt praise:
sweet Sacrament divine.

Sweet Sacrament of peace,
dear home for every heart,
where restless yearnings cease
and sorrows all depart;
there in thine ear all trustfully
we tell our tale of misery:
sweet Sacrament of peace.

Sweet Sacrament of rest,
ark from the ocean's roar,
within thy shelter blest
soon may we reach the shore;
save us, for still the tempest raves,
save, lest we sink beneath the waves:
sweet Sacrament of rest.

Sweet Sacrament divine,
earth's light and jubilee,
in thy far depths doth shine
thy Godhead's majesty;
sweet light, so shine on us, we pray,
that earthly joys may fade away:
sweet Sacrament divine.

Francis Stanfield (1835-1914)

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.
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 646

God is working his purpose out,
as year succeeds to year,
God is working his purpose out,
and the time is drawing near;
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as waters cover the sea.

From utmost east to utmost west,
wherever feet have trod,
by mouth of many messengers
goes forth the voice of God,
'Give ear to me, ye continents,
ye isles, give ear to me,
that the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as waters cover the sea.

What can we do to work God's work,
to prosper and increase
the love of God in all mankind,
the reign of the Prince of peace?
What can we do to hasten the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as waters cover the sea?

March we forth in the strength of God,
with the banner of Christ unfurled,
that the light of the glorious gospel of truth
may shine throughout the world;
fight we the fight with sorrow and sin.
to set their captives free,
that the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as waters cover the sea.

All we can do is nothing worth
unless God blesses the deed;
vainly we hope for harvest-tide
till God gives life to the seed;
yet nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as waters cover the sea.

Arthur Campbell Ainger (1841- 1919)

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.

The Parish Office Please note the **deadline for notices** for 21 Dec (Mon 15th 9am), 28 Dec and January 4 is now on **Wednesday 9am 17th December.**

Notices: December 14th

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.

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

21 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion

President & Preacher: The Revd Martin Little

10am All Age Nativity Service – *come dressed as your favourite character*

President: The Revd Martin Little

Preacher: The Revd Martin Little

Organist: Andrew Patterson

6pm Carol Service *with mulled wine and mince pies served after the service.*

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.

Please note **Community Café** will be closed on **Tuesday 23 December.**

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

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.

Revd Prof Rob Gilbert announced last Sunday that he will be taking up the post of Team Rector for the Cherwell Benefice next Easter 2026, so will be stepping down as our Associate Priest then. More details on his installation service to follow, but we pray for Rob as he prepares for his new ministry.

Christingle oranges Would any individual or family like to donate the price of the oranges this year for our very popular Christingle services on Christmas Eve in aid of the Children's Society and Holy Trinity? Please see or contact Helen Day. Thank you.

Donations of mince pies (shop bought or homemade) would be welcomed for the carol service on Sunday 21st Dec @ 6pm to compliment the Mulled Wine. Please let Margaret Taylor or Helen Day know if you can help!

Children and Families Christmas Craft Afternoon *today* 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!*

#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 still 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.

This week's Eco Tip: Time to put up the decorations? Maybe your tree just needs to be brought down from the attic? (Fake trees, if used for a number of years, can be seen as more environmentally-friendly than real live trees). If you quake at the thought of the cost of a real tree, and the trek to get hold of one, have you thought of decorating branches cut from a tree, or even collecting teasels from the fields, applying gold paint and decorating them? A fun activity for the family on a murky day! *Hilary Rollin, Eco Church Group*

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 01278 792154

please note my day off is Friday

Associate Priest: Revd Prof Rob Gilbert

associatepriest@hthq.uk

Parish Office: office@hthq.uk 01865 762931

Churchwardens: wardens@hthq.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Anne Tarassenko 07443 652082

annetarassenko@hotmail.com

Website: www.hthq.org.uk

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

www.hthq.uk facebook.com/holytrinityheadingtonquarry info: office@hthq.uk