



Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

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



All-Age Nativity Service

21st 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 usually 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,
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children, who long for your coming.
Amen.**

Hymn 72

Please stand

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness

and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Receiving God's Forgiveness

Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

We take a moment of silence to call to mind our sins, and ask for God's forgiveness.

You were born for our salvation:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The president says

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive us our sins
and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect - A Prayer for the Day

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gospel Reading

We remain standing for the gospel reading.



The gospel is announced

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus came about. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

While Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins."

All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel." This name means "God is with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. Joseph married Mary. But he did not have intimate relations with her until she gave birth to the son. And Joseph named the son Jesus.

Matthew 1-18-end: International Children's Bible

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

POP! Nativity

Please be seated as we tell the story of Jesus's birth, using a twist on a familiar song!

**On the birthday of Jesus it's POP Nativity!
12 stars a-shining [twinkle],
11 cows a-mooing [moo],
10 sheep a-baaing [baa],
9 camels moaning [moahh],
8 donkeys braying [hee-haw],
7 angels singing
Peace to all people'.
5 noisy things!
Four shepherds, Arghh!
Three wise men,
Mary and Joe,
and Jesus the special baby.**

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The response may be used:

God of love

Hear our prayer.

This week we also hold in our prayers:

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.

Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time:

Jane Smith, Stuart Douglas, Hilary Nex, Jane Phipps, John White, Andrew Sheriff, Judith Catterall.

The Peace

Please stand

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Hymn 82

Please stand

See him lying on a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore
the Prince of glory is his name.

*Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when he came.*

Star of silver sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the Saviour of the world!
Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
sing that Beth'lem's little baby can
be salvation to the soul.
Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem

Calypso Carol, Michael Perry (1942-1996)

Children are invited to gather round the altar if they wish.

Taking of the Bread and Wine Prayer

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us;
Nourish your people with the word of life
and the bread of heaven.

Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

(Bells are rung)

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

(Bells are rung)

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord;
holy is the Lord God almighty.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord;
holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is and is to come.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!**

**Blessed, blessed, blest the one who comes;
Blest the one who comes in the Lord's name.
Blessed, blessed, blest the one who comes;
Blest the one who comes in the Lord's name.
who was, and is and is to come.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!**

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.**

Giving of 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.

Hymn 88

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds worship and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him praise,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Come have no fear: God's son is here
His love all loves exceeding.
nails, spear shall pierce him through
the cross be bourne for me, for you:
hail, hail the Saviour comes
the babe, the son of Mary

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
All tongues and people own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let every heart enthrone Him:
raise, raise your song on high
while Mary sings a lullaby.
joy, joy for Christ is born
the babe, the son of Mary.

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1989)

Prayer after Communion

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Sending Out

Please stand

Hymn 65

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say,
Jesus Christ is born today:
ox and ass before him bow
and he is in the manger now!
Christ is born today;
Christ is born today.

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Hear the news of endless bliss,
Jesus Christ was born for this:
he has opened heaven's door
and we are blessed for evermore!
Christ was born for this;
Christ was born for this.

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save:
come at his most gracious call
to find salvation one and all!
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save.

John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

The Blessing

May God the Holy Spirit,
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,
help you bear the fruits of holiness.
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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 and 2006. Produced under CCL 234208.

Common Worship: Times and Seasons copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 and 2006.

The Parish Office is now closed and will reopen 8.30am on January 5th.

Notices: December 21st

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.

21 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion ***this will resume on January 4th***

President & Preacher: The Revd Martin Little

10am All Age Nativity Service

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.*

28 December: The First Sunday of Christmas

8am Holy Communion ***this will resume on January 4th***

10am Parish Eucharist ***note no Forest Sunday School***

President: The Revd Canon Margaret Whipp

Preacher: The Revd Canon David Knight

Organist: Andrew Patterson

Revd Martin Little on leave from 26th December to January 3rd 2026.

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 *Will resume on January 7th*

*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.

New filter Coffee and Tea if you are able to it would help the church funds if you could donate to the refreshment fund each week by either putting money in the jar or by using the card machine. Thank you.

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 Our grateful thanks to Diana Harrison and Pat Whitehouse for donating 180 oranges this year for our very popular Christingle services on Christmas Eve in aid of the Children's Society and Holy Trinity.

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

This week's Eco Tip: Have you over-catered for a pre-Christmas party, or on Christmas Day itself? Don't bin the excess, but remember to respect the rules of hygiene! When we waste food, we waste the energy, water and environment that was used to grow that food. Return it to the fridge, pack an assortment of goodies for storage in the freezer, and you can have a mini-feast 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.



Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

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

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

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