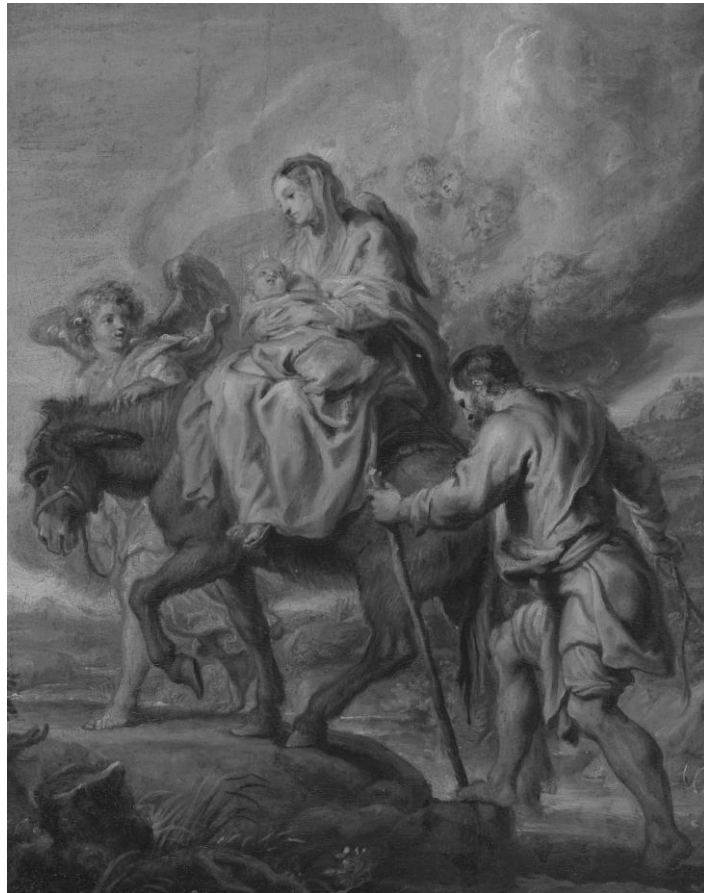


# Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

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



First Sunday of Christmas

28<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 ( resumes January 11<sup>th</sup>). 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.*

### Hymn 62

Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship,  
Christ, the newborn King,  
Come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn King!*

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant Light: (Refrain)

Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of Nations;  
ye have seen his natal star: (Refrain)

Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his Father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him;  
Every knee shall then bow down:

*Come and worship,  
Christ, the newborn King,  
Come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn King!*

*James Montgomery (1771- 1854)*

## Prayers of Penitence

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:  
'You shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.'  
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God  
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

*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.**

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**

## Gloria in Excelsis

*((Melody: Angels from the Realms of Glory*

**Glory be to God in heaven  
Peace on earth to all we sing  
Heavenly king, Almighty Father  
Worship, thanks and praise we bring.  
Gloria in excelsis deo.  
Gloria in excelsis deo.**

**Jesus Christ, Son of the Father,  
Lamb of God, our sins you bear.  
Seated in the Father's glory,  
Grant us mercy, hear our prayer.  
Gloria in excelsis deo.  
Gloria in excelsis deo.**

**You alone, O Christ, are holy;  
You the Lord most high alone,  
Jesus, with the Holy Spirit,  
Reigning on the Father's throne.  
Gloria in excelsis deo.  
Gloria in excelsis deo**

## **The Collect**

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen**

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

### **First Reading: Hebrews 2. 10-end**

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

And again,

'I will put my trust in him.'

And again,

'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

*Please stand. We repeat the refrain.*

### CELTIC ALLELUIA



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

### **Gospel reading: Matthew 2.13-end**

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned

from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon**

Revd Canon David Knight

**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.*

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

*Kathleen Bishop, Ivy Sloper, Rosemary Hill, Nancy Rowlinson,  
Henry Sheldon, Jeremy Herklots.*



*And at the end*

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

## **The Peace**

*Please stand*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

## **Hymn 69ii**

In the night, the sound of crying –  
whimpers from a babe so small:  
angels hail the new-born infant  
in that dingy cattle-stall.

In the night, the sound of crying –  
Mary journeys on with tears,  
further from the home she treasures,  
onward to uncertain years.

In the night, the sound of crying –  
fury nothing can assuage!  
Schemes of pointless, brutal murder  
spring from Herod's jealous rage.

In the night, the sound of crying –  
agonies beyond belief!  
Soldiers searching, children slaughtered –  
parents overwhelmed with grief.

In the night, the sound of crying –  
cries of faith, though hope looks vain;  
cries of joy, for Christ has conquered,  
and, with justice, comes to reign.

*Martin Leckebusch (b. 1962)*

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

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

Word made flesh, life of the world,  
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:  
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

**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.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God.  
We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,  
and was born of the Virgin Mary  
by the power of your Spirit,  
and lived as one of us.  
In this mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,  
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In him we see our God made visible  
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*(Tune: See amid the winter's snow)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and of might.  
All of heaven and earth are full  
Of your glory, Lord most high.**

**Sing hosanna to the Lord,  
Sing hosanna to our God.  
Let us join creation's praise;  
Let us now our voices raise.**

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.

Great is the mystery of faith  
**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

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**

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**

*(tune: The first Nowell)*

**O Lamb of God,  
you take away  
the sin of the world  
Have mercy on us.**

**O Lamb of God,  
you take away  
the sin of the world  
Have mercy on us**

**O, Lamb of God,  
you take away  
the sin of the world  
O grant us your peace.**

## **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.*

*Please join in with the hymn*

## **Hymn 76**

Love came down at Christmas,  
love all lovely, Love divine;  
love was born at Christmas,  
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
love incarnate, Love divine;  
worship we our Jesus:  
but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men,  
love for plea and gift and sign.

*Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830 – 1894)*

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept.*

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth  
the life of an earthly home:  
help your Church to live as one family,  
united in love and obedience,  
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;  
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***

*Please stand*

### **Hymn 80**

Of the Father's heart begotten  
ere the world from chaos rose,  
he is Alpha: from that Fountain,  
all that is and hath been flows;  
he is Omega, of all things  
yet to come the mystic Close,  
evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;  
he commanded and 'twas done;  
earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
universe of three in one,  
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
all that breathes beneath the sun,  
evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body,  
frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
that the race from dust created  
might not perish utterly,  
which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
in the depths of hell to lie,  
evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
when the Maid the curse retrieved,  
brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
by the Holy Ghost conceived,  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
in her loving arms received,  
evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil  
sang in ages long gone by;  
this is he of old revealed  
in the page of prophecy;  
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
let the world his praises cry!  
evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
let your joyous anthems ring,  
every tongue his name confessing,  
countless voices answering,  
evermore and evermore.

*Aurelius Clemens Prudentius ( 348-c.413)  
Translated by Roby Furley Davis (18.66- 1937)*

## **The Blessing**

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ-child  
be yours this Christmas;  
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.**

**The Parish Office** is now closed and will reopen 8.30am on Monday January 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Notices: December 28th

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.

### **28 December: The First Sunday of Christmas**

**\*No 8am service\* this will resume on January 4<sup>th</sup>**

**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 26<sup>th</sup> December to January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026.

### **4 January : The Epiphany**

**8am** Holy Communion

President & Preacher: The Revd Martin Little

**10am** Parish Eucharist **note no 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 Will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Facebook** - Holy Trinity has a new Facebook page! If you're a Facebook user please like and follow [www.facebook.com/holytrinityheadingtonquarry](https://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.

**#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:** In readiness for New Year Resolutions, a reminder that the Environment Agency is encouraging us to save water by adopting simple but effective everyday habits. One such means simply deleting old emails. How come? The vast data centres in which they are stored uses a phenomenal amount of water for cooling. 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](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

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

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