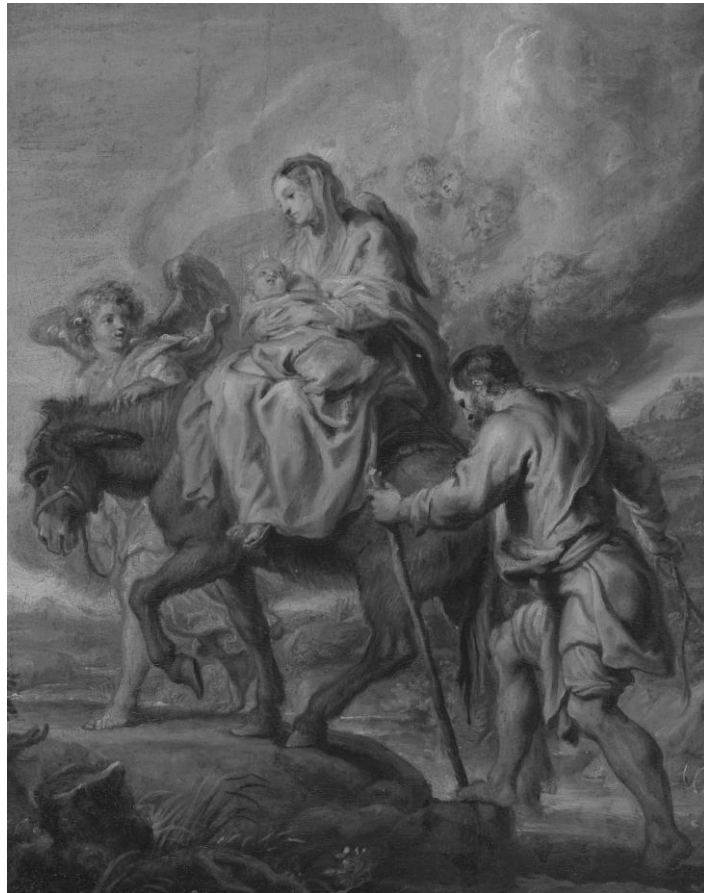


# Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

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



## Christmas Day Communion Service

*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

*Come and join the celebration, it's a very special day;  
come and share our jubilation, there's a new King born today!*

See, the shepherds hurry down to Bethlehem,  
gaze in wonder at the Son of God who lay before them  
*Come and join the celebration ...*

Wise men journey, led to worship by a star  
Kneel in homage, bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so  
*Come and join the celebration ...*

"God is with us," round the world the message bring  
God is with us, "Welcome", all the bells on earth are pealing  
*Come and join the celebration ...*

*Valerie Collison (b. 1933)*

### 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.*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading: Titus 2. 11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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 Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Gospel reading: Luke 2.1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while

Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon**

Revd Martin Little

**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.**

### **Set Prayers of Intercession**

*Please sit or kneel.*

The response to: "Holy God"

Is: Hear our Prayer

Let us bring before God our needs and the needs of the world.

Wonderful Counselor,  
give your wisdom to the rulers of the nations  
that peace may reign and the oppressed may be set free  
Holy God:

## **Hear our Prayer**

Mighty God,  
help the world to know  
that the government is on your shoulders  
and that you rule with gentleness and mercy.

Holy God:  
**Hear our Prayer**

Everlasting Father,  
bring your reign of love and justice for ever:  
in our hearts, in our families and in our nation.

Holy God:  
**Hear our Prayer**

Prince of peace,  
bring in the endless kingdom of your peace  
especially today where there is war, terror or hatred.

Holy God:  
**Hear our Prayer**

Almighty Lord,  
hear our prayer,  
and fulfill your purposes in us,  
as you accomplished your will  
in our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*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 68**

In the bleak midwinter  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter  
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him whom cherubim  
worship night and day,  
a breastful of milk  
and a manger full of hay;  
enough for him whom angels  
fall down before,  
the ox and ass and camel  
which adore.

Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air,  
but only his mother  
in her maiden bliss  
worshipped the Belovèd  
with a kiss.

What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
if I were a shepherd

I would bring a lamb  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him,  
give my heart.

*Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

## **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 60**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky  
looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

*Author Unknown*

*Little children's book, Philadelphia, 1885*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the 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 66**

Hark! the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King;  
peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
join the triumph of the skies,  
with th' angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem.  
*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see,  
Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
pleased as man with man with dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.  
*Hark! the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## **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.**

## Notices: December 25th

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](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.

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

**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.

**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.

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



# Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

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

[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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