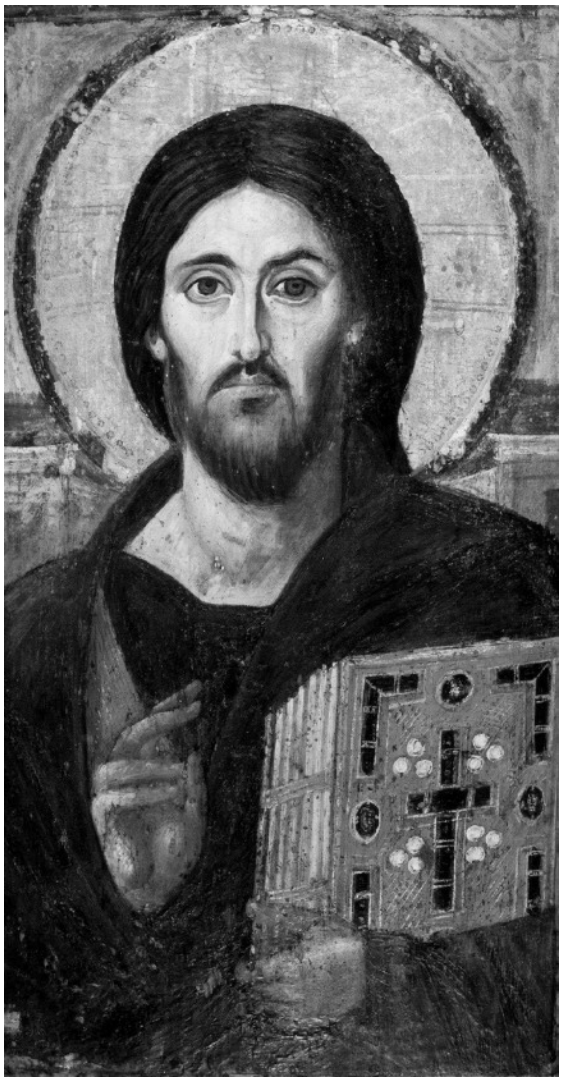
Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

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



Advent Sunday

29th November 2026

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,
born in David's city of Bethlehem,
born like him to be a king:
be born in our hearts at Christmas,
be King of our lives today.
Amen.

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

Hymn 41

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

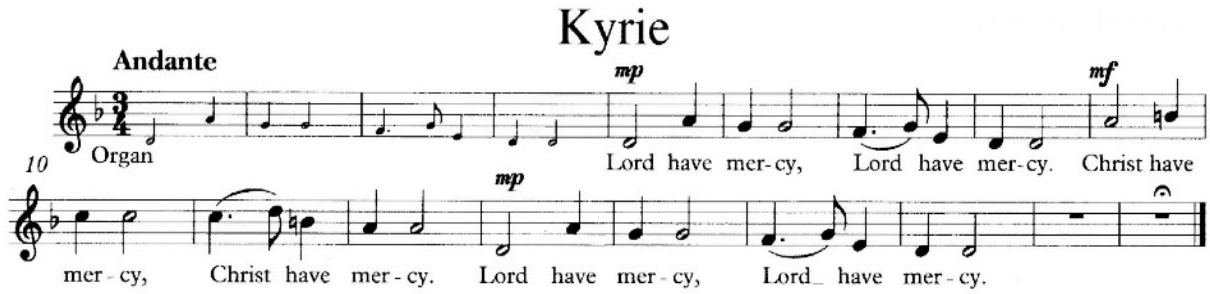
Prayers of Penitence

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.



The president says

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of God's kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray:

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Please sit

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 64. 1-9

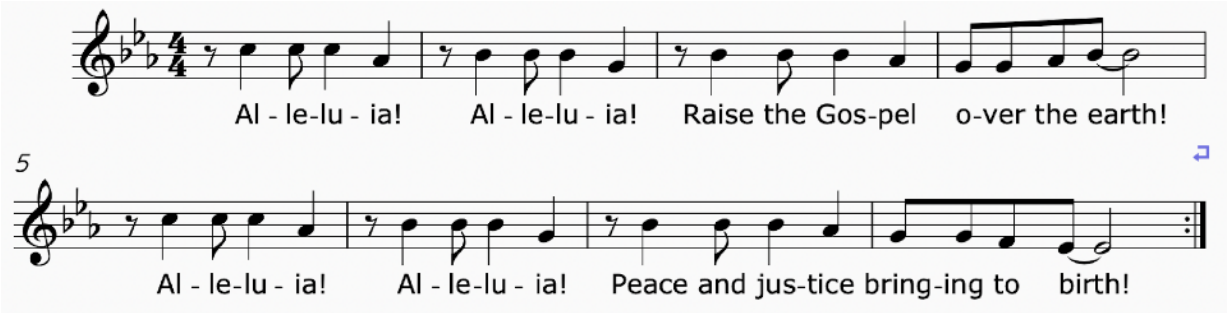
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,

who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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 24. 36-44

‘But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. **29** So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

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

Sermon

The Revd Canon Dr Margaret Whipp

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. The following response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick or in particular need: Rachel, Elizabeth, Jemima, Diana, Julie, David, Pat and family,
Those to be married:
Those preparing for baptism:
Those who have died recently: Janet Lever, John Goodenough.
Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time: Gemma Richardson, Harry Gurl, Florence Jarvis, Peter Keen, Sheila Otway, John Stubbles

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 615i

Come, living God, when least expected,
when minds are dull and hearts are cold,
through sharpening word and warm affection
revealing truths as yet untold.

Break from the tomb in which we hide you
to speak again in startling ways;
break through the words in which we bind you
to resurrect our lifeless praise.

Come now, once you came to Moses
within the bush alive with flame;
or to Elijah on the mountain,
by silence pressing home your claim.

So, let our minds be sharp to read you
in sight or sound or printed page,
and let us greet you in our neighbours,
in ardent youth or mellow age.

Then, through our gloom, your Son will meet us
as vivid truth and living Lord,
exploding doubt and disillusion
to scatter hope and joy abroad.

Then we share his radiant brightness,
and, blazing through the dread of night,
illuminate by love and reason,
for those in darkness, faith's delight.

Alan Gaunt (b.1935)
Music: Mary Jane Hammond (1878- 1964)

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.

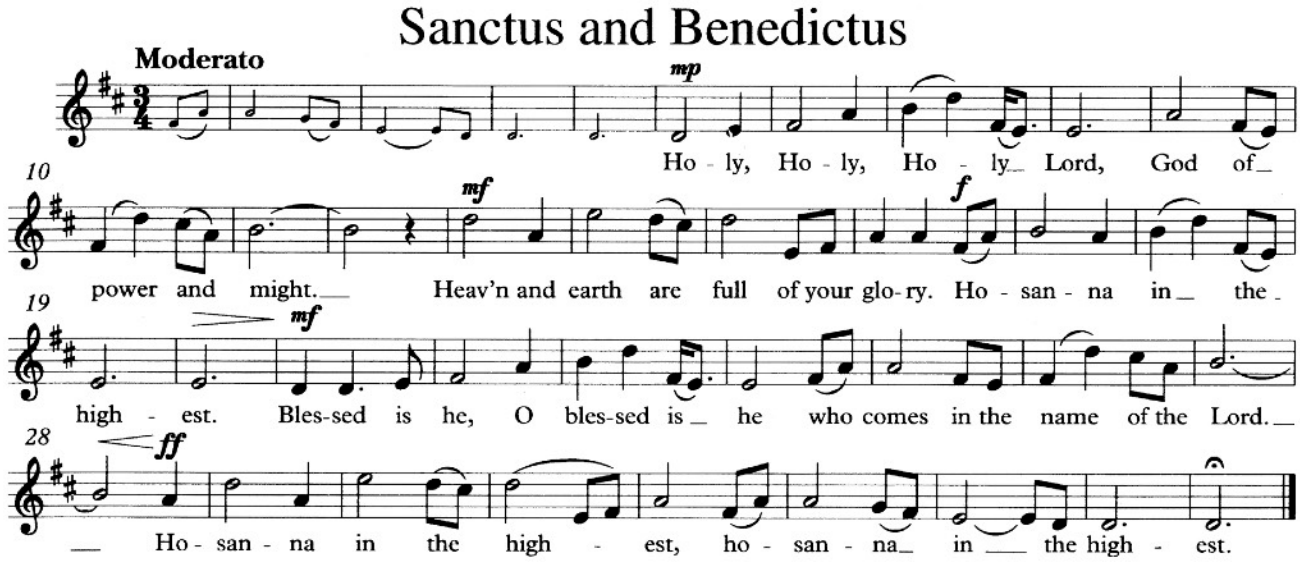
Please sit or stand as you are most comfortable

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:



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.

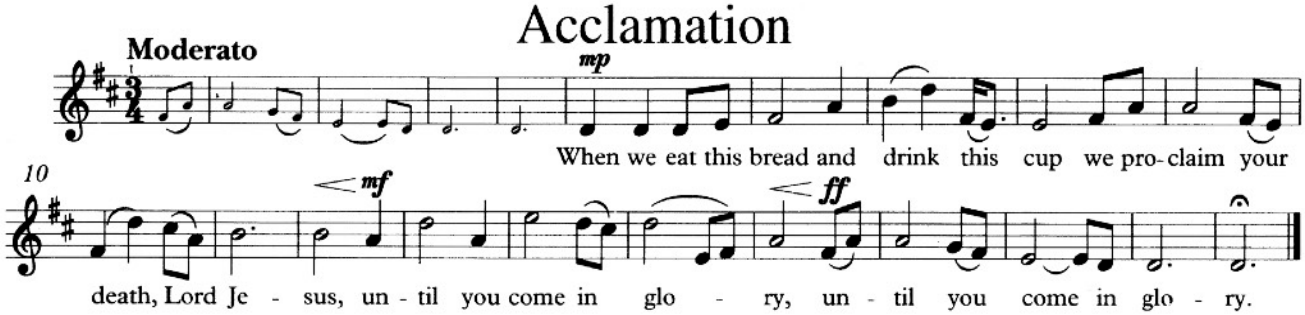
(Bells are rung)

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.

A minister says: Christ is the bread of life
We respond:



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.

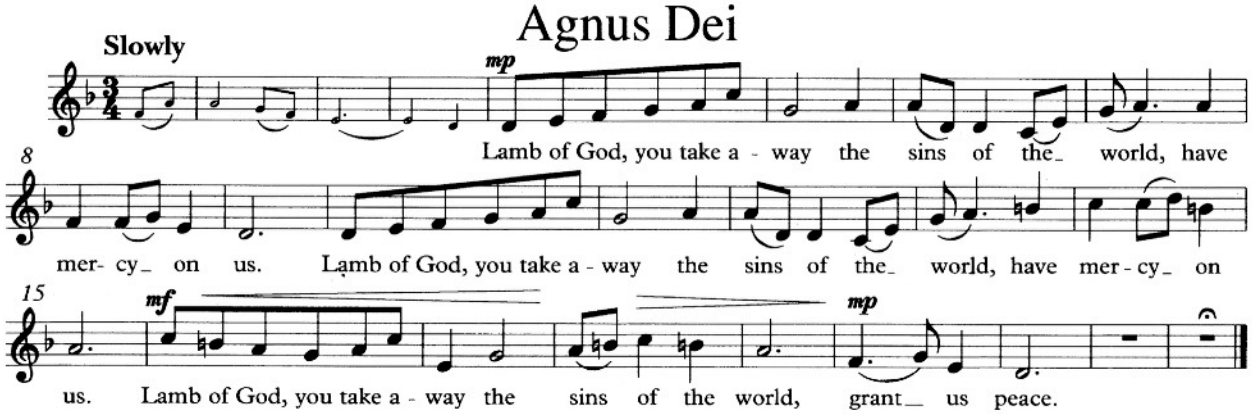
The Lord's Prayer

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.



Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

This is God's table and all are welcome. Please follow the directions of the stewards, and pause level with the front pew to allow others to pass before approaching to receive the sacrament. Please do not dip your wafer into the chalice. There is no obligation to take the chalice and it is fine still to receive communion in one kind only (the bread). We have gluten free wafers available. 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 446

Here is bread, here is wine,
Christ is with us, he is with us;
break the bread, drink the wine
Christ is with us here.

Here is grace, here is peace,
Christ is with us, he is with us;
know his grace, find his peace
feast on Jesus here.

In this bread there is healing,
in this cup there's life for ever;
in this moment, by the Spirit
Christ is with us here.

Here we are, joined in one,
Christ is with us, he is with us;
we'll proclaim, till he comes
Jesus crucified.

Graham Kendrick (b.1950)

Prayer after Communion

O Lord our God,
as we wait for the coming of thy Son our Lord,
preserve us in watchfulness and faith,
that when he shall appear
he may not find us asleep in sin
but active to serve him
and joyful to praise him;
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.

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.

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.

Sue McClellan (b.1951), John Paculabo (1946-2013), 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.

Organ Voluntary: The Trumpet Shall Sound (From The Messiah)
– G.F. Handel

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Common Worship: Times and Seasons copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 and 2006. Produced under CCL 234208. Chants © Copyright Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France. Advent Carol song *Copyright © 2002 Mark Earey* James Macmillan, St Anne's Mass © copyright 1997, 2001 by Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd.

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.

Please note the Notices deadline for Sunday December 6th is Monday 30th November 6pm. All notices for December 13, 20th, 27th and January 3rd 2027 need to be sent to Helen in the Parish Office no later than Monday December 7th. Thank you.

Notices: November 29th

29 November: Advent Sunday
10am Parish Eucharist and Forest Sunday School
President Revd Martin Little
Preacher: Revd Canon Margaret Whipp
Organist: Andrew Patterson

7 December: Second Sunday of Advent
10am Parish Eucharist and Forest Sunday School
President Revd Julia Hart
Preacher: Revd Martin Little
Organist: Andrew Patterson

6pm Sung Evensong
President: David Knight
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.

Wednesday 10am Holy Communion followed by refreshments

***Trinity Times* coming out shortly:** We will be sending out the next issue of *Trinity Times*, the church newsletter, at the start of December. If you have a news item you would like to be included (up to 250 words), please send it to newsletter.hthq@gmail.com - and/or mention it to Philippa Logan.

Julian Group. The December meeting will be on **Friday 4th December at 2.30 pm at 6 Quarry Hollow, 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**

Amnesty International Write for Rights. Come and write seasonal greetings cards to prisoners of conscience. **Sunday 6th December**, Church meeting room. Drop in any time between 2 and 5 pm. Bring your own non-religious cards and a pen. We will provide details of cases, letters to sign, and tea and cake. For further information contact: Lorna Hicks 07759 598322 or Rachel Walding 07760 846846

Posada 2026 During Advent, a nativity set of Mary and Joseph travel around the parish, visiting a different member of our church family every night. This provides a great opportunity to meet new church members, or get to know others a little better. There is a prayer to say as you welcome Mary and Joseph into your home and off on their journey to the next one. Please contact Helen Dancer email helen@nsolve.com phone: 07854173016 (WhatsApp or text probably best), giving me suitable dates and I add you to the rota. I hope there will be room in your inn this year!

Join the choir for the Christmas Carol service on December 20th it's not too late to join the choir with two rehearsals scheduled for Thursday December 10th & 17th at 7.30pm here in church to go through 3 well-known pieces. Speak to Andrew Patterson or email Helen Day in the Parish Office for more information.

SOUP The Gatehouse supports adults aged 25+ who are homeless, vulnerably housed, on low income and/or looking for company and community. Holy Trinity will again be providing soup for the Gatehouse - if you are able to make one or more batches of 2 litres of vegetarian soup by Sunday 24 January 2027, please let Monika Blackwell know (mdblackwell@hotmail.com or 07880 797009). On Sunday 17 January I leave some freezer bags, labels and instructions outside my house at 1 York Road, Headington, OX3 8NW. If you are unable to collect them please let me know and I will drop them off. Thank you - this nourishing and warming soup is very welcomed.

Building Form Foundations Appeal. Thank you so much to everyone who has generously donated and/or pledged already towards repairing our leaking roof and repayment of the building loan. There is still time to donate! Please pick up a form from the back of church and make sure you use the reference: 'Building 2026 appeal.'

This week's Eco Tip: Time to think about Christmas presents! Who would not love to receive some beautiful wax wraps? Easy to make from remainders of fabric plus wax, and very useful for picnics, packed lunches, and keeping cheese etc. fresh in the fridge.
Hilary Rollin (Eco Church Group)

Helen Day retirement gift - Helen, our Parish Administrator for almost 20 years, is retiring on 31st December! As a thank you from HTHQ, we would like to give a financial gift for Helen and Alan to enjoy together. There are three ways to do this:
1) scan the QR code below to add to Helen's online collection pot. The total will go direct to her without having to go through our accounts. Please use this option if you can.
2) make a bank transfer (email hthqtreasurer@gmail.com for bank details)
3) give cash in an envelope marked 'Helen Collection' to one of the Wardens on Sundays.
Helen's Collection Pot:

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 from a member of the team. Please contact the clergy or the Parish Office in the first instance.

Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

Christmas 2026

Saturday 12/12
- 3pm, Carol Singing, Wood Farm Shops

Wednesday 16/12
- 2pm, Carol Singing, Headington Care Home

Sunday 20/12
- 10am All-Age Nativity Service
- 6pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve
- 2.30pm Christingle
- 4pm Christingle
- 11pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
- 10am All-Age Communion

Sunday 27/12
- 10am Parish Communion



'Among the sheep
(I like a sheep have strayed)
I watch the manger where my
Lord is laid'

~ C.S. Lewis

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

www.hthq.uk

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
Parish Office: office@hthq.uk 01865 762931
Churchwardens: wardens@hthq.uk
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Anne Cowan 07885 231011
safeguarding@hthq.uk

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