Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

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

The Feast of Christ the King

22 November 2026



Welcome to Holy Trinity! This special service of Holy Communion is part of our Imagine Lewis *weekend: a celebration of the arts and spirituality inspired by the legacy of C.S. Lewis. Today is the Feast of Christ the King, the crown of the Church Year; it is also the anniversary of Lewis' death in 1963 and the anniversary of Holy Trinity's consecration in 1849. Here in 2026, Lewis's enduring writings and the parish church where he worshipped continue to share in the same mission: to open a door upon the love of God in Jesus Christ. We extend a special welcome to our guest preacher, The Revd Dr Saskia Barnden, Associate Priest, St Bartholomew's Edgbaston, and to the musicians of the U.S. band WIND who will sing for us during communion.*

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 by 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.

Praise is the mode of love which always has some element of joy in it.'

C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

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.

C.S. Lewis wrote to a little girl:

'If you continue to love Jesus, nothing much can go wrong with you, and I hope you may always do so.'

C.S. Lewis, *unpublished letter, 26 October 1963*

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

Hymn 445 *(tune: Abbot's Leigh)*

Please stand

God is here! As we his people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of his Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold,
here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel,
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

Prayers of Penitence

A minister says

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. 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.

Lewis wrote:
'The pure light walks the earth; the darkness, received into the heart of Deity, is there swallowed up. Where, except in uncreated light, can the darkness be drowned?'

C.S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm, Chiefly on Prayer*

Let us stand to sing God's praise.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God in heaven,
And to all his people, peace.
Heav'nly King, almighty Father,
May our worship never cease;
May our voices ever thank you,
Songs of blessing ever send,
May we always live to praise you,
For your glory without end.

Jesus, Son of God the Father,
Merciful beyond compare,
All our sin, by you forgiven;
Lamb of God, receive our prayer.
Jesus, you alone are holy,
Jesus, you alone are Lord,
With the Holy Spirit reigning,
And the Father—glorious God!

Tune: Blaenwern

The Collect

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the king
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
one God, one glory.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

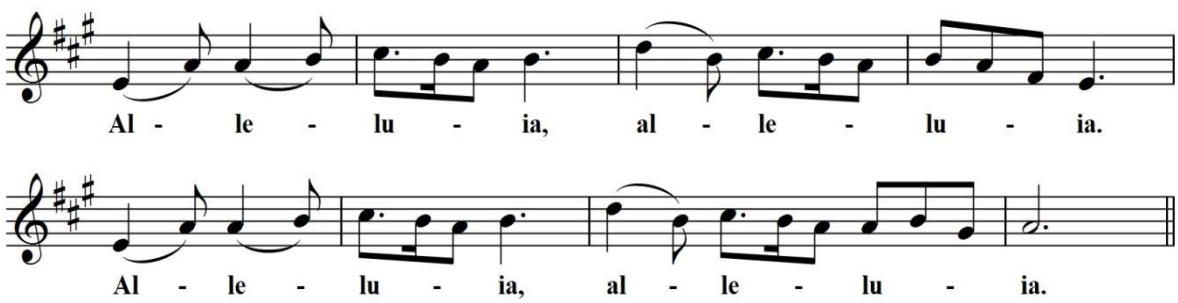
First Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

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: Matthew 25:31-end

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

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

Sermon

The Revd Dr Saskia Barnden

The Nicene Creed

Please stand

Let us declare our faith in God:
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.

To those who pray, Lewis wrote:

'Don't bother about the idea that God 'has known for millions of years exactly what you are about to pray'. That isn't what it's like. God is hearing you now, just as simply as a mother hears a child. The difference His timelessness makes is that this now (which slips away from you even as you say the word now) is for Him infinite.'

C.S. Lewis, *Letters, 1 August 1949*

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel. The following response may be used:

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

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, Sue Saville

Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time:
Clive Staples Lewis, Ian Wylie, Janne Goble, Robert Harvey, Kym Grey, Sheila Dunsmuir

And at the end

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

The Peace

Please stand

To crown all things there must be love
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

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 823

Please stand

Who would true valour see,
let him come hither;
one here will constant be,
come wind, come weather;
there's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

Whoso beset him round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound,
his strength the more is.
No lion can him fright:
he'll with a giant fight,
but he will have the right
to be a pilgrim.

Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
can daunt his spirit;
he knows he at the end
shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, fly away;
he'll not fear what men say;
he'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.

John Bunyan (1628-1688)

The poet Malcolm Guite writes:

'Here is the source of every sacrament,
The all-transforming presence of the Lord,
Replenishing our every element
Remaking us in his creative Word.
For here the earth herself gives bread and wine,
The air delights to dance where candles shine.'

from a sonnet for Maundy Thursday

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Blessed be God,
who enthrones us with Christ in the heavenly realms.
May we feed upon the bread of God
and drink the royal wine of heaven.
Blessed be God for ever.

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, our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise
holy Father, heavenly king
almighty and eternal God.
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
because you anointed Jesus Christ, your only Son,
as priest and King.
Crowned with thorns, he offered his life upon the cross,
that he might draw all people into that kingdom
where he now reins in glory.

Therefore with angels and archangels
and all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

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!

Accept our praises heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood.
who, in the same night that he was betrayed
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

(Bells are rung)

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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)

Therefore, heavenly Father,
We remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

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

Accept through him, our great high priest
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love,
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before in earth and heaven,
we worship you Father almighty
in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

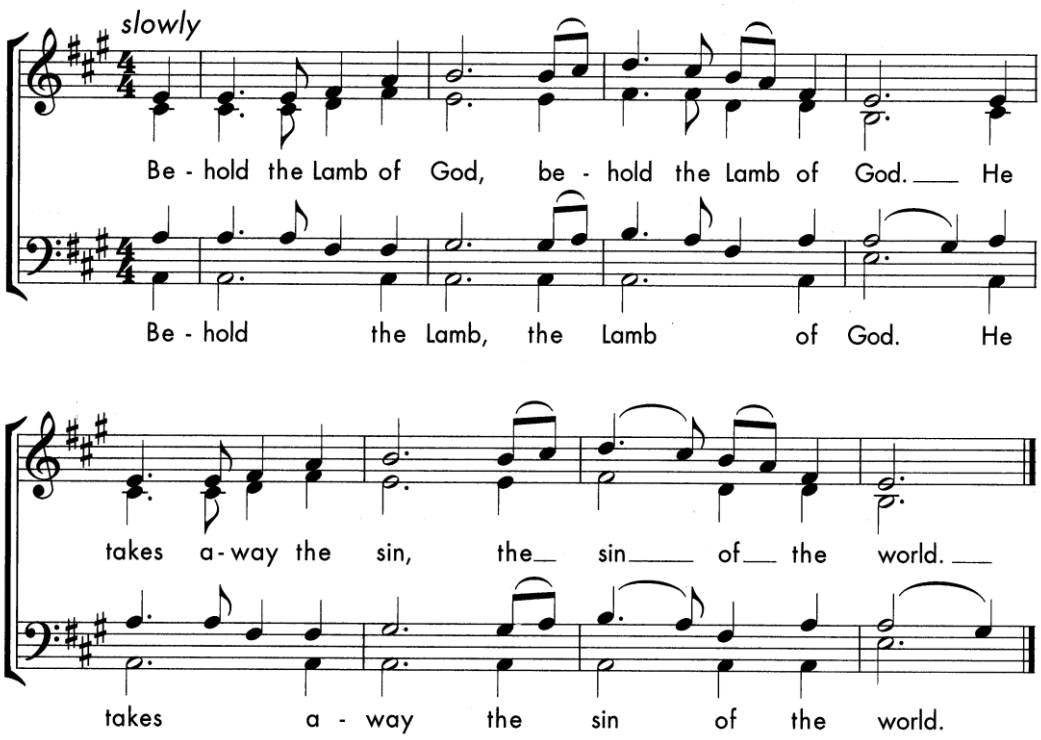
Please sit or kneel

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.



As we welcome the children and their leaders back from the woods:

Lewis writes:

'Any patch of sunlight in a wood will show you something about the sun which you could never get from reading books on astronomy. These pure and spontaneous pleasures are 'patches of Godlight' in the woods of our experience.'

C.S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm, Chiefly on Prayer*

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.

During the distribution WIND will sing their song Soma Tou Christou *written by Nori Kelley. The refrain means 'The Body of Christ.'*

Hymn 451

Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)

Prayer after Communion

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord,
the wills of thy faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may of thee be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, 1662

Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Sending Out

Please stand

Hymn 223 (*tune: Miles Lane)*

All hail the power of Jesu's name;
let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
to crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.

Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,
who from his altar call;
Praise him whose way of pain ye trod,
and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.

Let every tribe and every tongue
to him their hearts enthral,
lift high the universal song
and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.

Edward Perronet (1726-1792) and others

The Blessing

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,
that you may reign with him 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

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

Voluntary: Radetzsky March - *Johann Strauss (sr.)*

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Please note for **notices for the week of November 29th** the deadline is 6pm Monday 23rd November. Thank you.

Notices: November 22nd

22 November: Christ the King
10am Parish Eucharist and Forest Sunday School
President Revd Martin Little
Deacon: Revd Julia Hart
Preacher: Revd Saskia Barnden
Organist: Andrew Patterson
6pm Choral Evensong
Responses : Ayleward
Canticles : Dyson in F
Psalm:93
Anthem : The Apologist's Evening Prayer
Hymns: 766, 227
Voluntary : Trio Sonata in C Major – 1st Movement BWV529
Organist Andrew Patterson

24th November 10am Janet Lever funeral
25th November 12 noon John Goodenough funeral

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

Please note that there is no longer an 8am service on Sundays.

The flowers in church today have been kindly given by The Goodenough family for the funeral of John Goodenough this week.

The Empowered Girls group will be selling Apple Crumbles they have been making after church today. This is part of an exercise in which they have been looking at money and how to use it best. The apple crumbles are £5 and all the money will go to a charity of their choice. We hope you will support this venture. Andrena and Margaret.

Janet Lever's funeral will be here in church on Tuesday 24th November at 10am. All are welcome with refreshments served after the service.

***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.

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 Walding07760 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!

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: Food caddy liners? Why buy special plastic liners? The odds are that something that came into your house in a plastic bag that can be re-used as a liner. Or, depending on the nature of your food waste, it can be wrapped in newspaper before being put in the food caddy.
Hilary Rollin (Eco Church Group)

Helen Day's Retirement - our beloved Parish Administrator, Helen, is retiring at the end of 2026 after nearly 20 years in post! Details of Helen's gift and thank you celebration will be announced soon.
We are now **recruiting for the Post of Parish Administrator** and the closing date is Monday 23rd November 2026. The link to apply is as follows-:
www.hthq.uk/parish-administrator-2026/

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

**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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