



St HELEN'S WINDOW

A new 'Sunday Pattern' for St Helen's

The Revd Dr Charles Miller

Over the past 18 months, leaders and congregation alike have been pondering how St Helen's might respond to the many families who bring their children for baptism every year, together with the needs of the regular worshipping community. During the baptism service, parents make a public commitment to bring their children up in the Christian faith, and the whole congregation makes a commitment to support them in that journey. In practice, however, it is hard for both groups to keep to that commitment, as to many of the families the practice of Eucharistic worship is unfamiliar and perhaps even off-putting. It has been difficult, therefore, for parents to fulfil their baptismal vows and to connect with the Christian fellowship. Over the last year we have on two occasions (Harvest and Candlemas) tried a shorter non-Eucharistic form of worship which we called Morning Praise. Baptismal families were invited and both services were well supported and received.

In order to inform this process of discernment, all those who worship regularly at St Helen's were invited to complete a questionnaire which covered the three basic areas of service patterns, Christian formation and education (for all ages), and hospitality and fellowship. This questionnaire provoked much prayerful thought as well as lively debate. I, with the churchwardens and DCC, are grateful for all the input and responses to this process, and surely the answers will inform many debates for some time to come.

From 4th September 2011, each Sunday will have the following pattern of services:

- 8 am Holy Communion (alternating monthly with St Nicolas)
- 10.30 am Sung Eucharist
- 5.30 pm Evening service

The change of the main service time to 10.30am will allow more flexibility in terms of what else we offer. This will include a Morning Praise Service at 9.15am on the second Sunday of the month, and discussion groups, for both adults and young people at 9.15am on the first Sunday of each month. Hopefully this pattern, combined with the continuation of a Eucharist every Sunday morning, will allow both 'new' Christians and regular worshippers to develop in faith and grow together as a worshipping community.

A variety of evening service, as at present, with the new consistency of timing at 5.30pm, will seek to meet the needs of those who prefer to worship in the evening. This, with some planning and forethought which still needs to take place, will include a higher profile for the Book of Common Prayer, with a sung Holy Communion (1662) on the fifth Sunday of the month, from 2012.

The majority of the congregation completing the questionnaire rated the importance of fellowship and hospitality highly. So, occasions to extend hospitality after and before services will be extended. Of course, there will still be refreshments available in church after the main service. In addition, we intend to provide refreshments perhaps once a month, after the 8am service, as we have done on a few occasions recently.

A more detailed account of the practical details, and the reasoning behind them, can be obtained from the Welcome Desk in church or the Church Office, and are available on the website.

I am sure that everybody who values the place of St Helen's in their spiritual life, will be prepared to view these changes as a positive step in our movement forwards together as a worshipping community.

The Editors

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Copy for next issue to Church Office or via email by 5th of preceding month

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Sidesmen's Social

Barbara Earl & David Eggleton

On Monday 27 July, 27 of us assembled at the Ferryman Inn at Bablock Hythe for our annual sidesmen's social. After a round of skittles, a delicious meal was enjoyed by everyone; some even indulged in decadent desserts! Charles Miller then thanked Silvia Joinson for her 20 years of dedicated service to St Helen's Church as Senior Sidesman and

presented her with a beautiful pot plant and card signed by us all.

Martin Kimber, our new Senior Sidesman, then took over the evening and a game of knockout skittles was played, Martin being the victor.

Another successful and enjoyable evening for everyone. Thank you, Silvia!



Summer Placement at St Helen's

Mike Harmon

Five weeks have rarely fled by so quickly. It seems only like yesterday that I began my placement and here I am contemplating ending and reviewing.

I have been treated to a rich diet of varied experiences at St Helen's, St Nicolas' and St Michael's. As well as the full range of services, including daily morning and evening prayer, baptisms, Taize and Wednesday Communion, to mention but a few, I have made a school visit; helped with a service in sheltered accommodation and assisted with communion in a busy ward at Abingdon Hospital. I seem to have eaten rather a lot too; the

Welcome Lunch and a visit to Aston Pottery being the high spots.

I have valued meeting so many warm supportive people. I would have been a risk to the good order of the Sunday Morning Sung Eucharist had it not been for the nudges and whispered comments that got me to the right place at the right time and saved a collision between cross and chandelier.

I return to my final year at Wycliffe Hall with lots of fond memories, new insights and food for further reflection. The placement has been both enjoyable and thought-provoking. Thank you all.

Blue Plaques in Abingdon

Silvia Joinson

Blue plaques are placed on buildings to celebrate significant people or events. Abingdon now has three.

28 East St Helen's Street.

William III from the Netherlands was invited to come to England to 'defend ancient rights and liberties' and landed at Torbay in Devon on November 5th.

King James II's despotic rule and promotion of Roman Catholics had caused increasing discontent.

His heir was his daughter Mary married to her cousin William III of Orange, both strong Protestants. The birth of a son to James in June 1688 dramatically altered the situation: hence the letter to William. As he proceeded inland there was not initially any plan for 'regime change' and there was little appetite for armed conflict. Some discussions were held between the two sides.

When William reached Abingdon, bells were rung and £3.5.9 (£325 today)

was spent on entertaining him. He lodged with Thomas Medleycott at 28 East St Helen's Street. Whilst he was in Abingdon news came that James II had left the country, having already sent his wife and son to France. The situation was changed dramatically! Two months later in February 1689

William III and Mary II were proclaimed joint King and Queen. Thomas Medleycott had been elected to the Parliament which

worked out the settlement. Bells were rung in Abingdon for the proclamation and the double coronation in April.

39 Stert Street above Mason's shop.

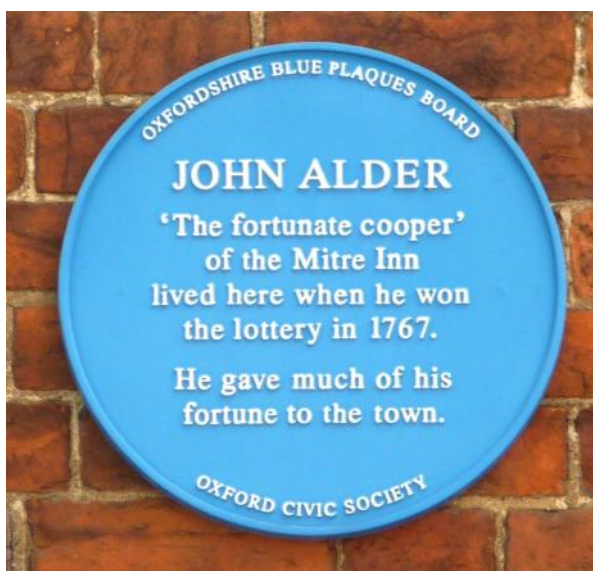
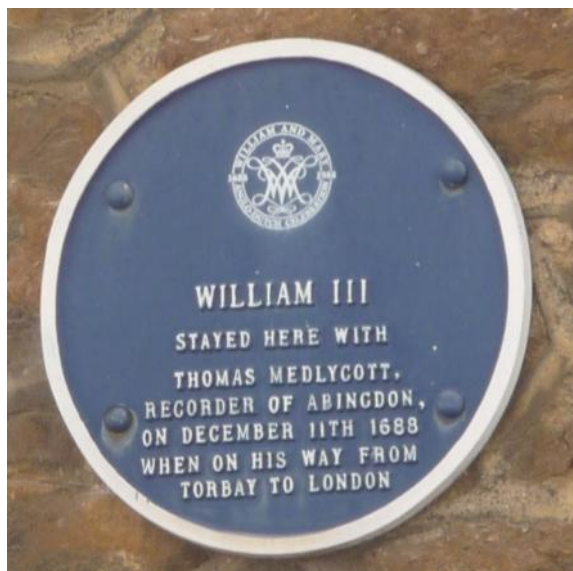
This is a remarkable story which caused a stir in Abingdon in November 1767

John Alder was a cooper and landlord of the Mitre Inn in Stert

Street. He was in serious financial difficulties and when his wife gave him £22 to pay the brewer he used £12 of it to buy a lottery

ticket. News that he had won £22000 reached Abingdon soon after midnight by special messenger who went to the Crown and Thistle where the winning ticket had been purchased. The landlord there, a Mr Powell and the messenger rushed off to tell Mr Alder the news. They roused the Alders from their bed. Initially John thought it

was a joke but they were soon all celebrating and he promised to share his good fortune. Mrs Alder was less enthusiastic partly because of the way the ticket had been purchased.



John was as good as his word. In January 1768 new clothes were given to the poor of St Nicolas parish and he purchased two fat oxen and plenty of bread to provide a feast for the poor. He bought a set of chimes for St Nicolas which rang out over the market square until 1856. He also bought a new body for the local stagecoach, The Abingdon Machine, which had the coopers' arms and the number of his winning ticket 3379 painted on it. He also bought a racehorse and re-named it, 'the Prize' which was successful at the local races. His status in the town improved; he was elected as a Churchwarden at St Nicolas and was listed as 'gent' in the voting list.

35 Ock Street

Daniel Turner was 38 when he came to Abingdon and died in harness 50 years later 'the esteemed Baptist Minister of that place'. The plaque commemorating him was unveiled on July 17th by Michael Hambleton (who retired as minister here in 2000). He described Daniel Turner as 'the most widely known and respected minister of his time. He was a real fatherly figure.' He was known in the town as 'Good Mr Turner' and was loved as a saintly



man and a fine pastor. His writings gave him a reputation in the Baptist world beyond Abingdon. He compiled one of the first Baptist Hymn books and the liturgy he composed in his study at 35 Ock Street is still used in communion services by the Baptist Church worldwide. He was known as a preacher and in his early years the congregation that he attracted grew to such an extent that the chapel had to be enlarged.

His message of toleration was ahead of his time: an era of sectarianism and division. He believed that the Lord's Supper must be offered to all 'who appear to love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity' and he included the Established Church, writing 'always remember it is the express, the repeated command and even dying charge of

the blessed Redeemer – that WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER'.

Sources of information:

The Story of Abingdon by Mienieke Cox
Vols 3 & 4

News of a Country Town by J Townsend

A Sweet and Hopeful People by
M Hambleton

Press coverage of July unveiling

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride

10th September 2011

Jeanette Thomas

The annual sponsored bike ride and walk (StRide) in aid of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) always takes place on the second Saturday in September and this year will be the twenty-sixth such event. This is a much larger event than many people realise as there are 33 counties throughout the country involved, each raising funds for their

own counties. In Oxfordshire alone there are over 500 churches taking part. Half the money raised (excluding GiftAid) goes directly to the church nominated by the participant and the rest is kept by OHCT to provide grants to churches and chapels of all denominations towards the cost of major fabric re-

continued over page

pairs. In the last few years St Helen's has received £50,000 from OHCT.

Participants visit as few or as many churches and chapels as they wish on the day by cycling, running, walking or even horse-riding between them and obtain sponsorship for the number visited. As this is a national event participants do not have to stay within Oxfordshire or even one county, so it is possible to take part somewhere else in the country

and still raise money for OHCT. Some people visit three or four churches whereas others may visit 50 or more. A short walk around the centre of Abingdon could take in three churches.

Quite a number of people go to Oxford and walk around churches and chapels centrally. This year the Bishop of Oxford is hoping to take part round Oxford. There

are no prescribed routes so you can visit as few or as many churches as you wish. Motorised travel to the first church and from your last visited is allowed. Participants are each given a sticker to wear so it is fun looking out for other people wearing stickers and there is a great sense of camaraderie. It is also a good opportunity to visit churches that are not often open – so if you have gone past a church and wondered 'What does it look like inside?' now is your chance to find out!

Not everyone considers themselves able enough to go visiting churches. However, the cyclists and walkers (StRiders) visiting churches need to be welcomed and have their sponsor forms signed. It is possible to be a sponsored welcomer - people sponsor you for each hour that you sit in church and welcome the StRiders.

The amount of sponsorship money that people raise varies considerably from £5 up to nearly £2,000. A number of people just spon-

sor themselves. Participants can even obtain sponsorship through the internet by setting up their own JustGiving page (justgivingOHCT.html) so that they can be sponsored by friends and family all around the world. Please do consider taking part in this event as visiting only a small number of churches raising a small amount is quite acceptable. The total raised from the 2010 event was nearly £110,000. A few of us from St

Helen's usually take part. Robert King, Margaret Horton and sometimes others tend to go on a long adventurous route, last year they ended up in Faringdon. The four members of the Thomas family tend to go on a family bike ride with Rachel on the back of the tandem with Steve. Last year we visited 15 churches and cycled about 15 miles. There is no rule saying that

you can only take part if you are accompanied by a church warden! It is a great event for families. Last year you probably saw local press reports about the distance a young boy had cycled on his bike with stabilisers and the number of churches he visited. It would be great to have more participants from St Helen's; if you would like to take part, please contact Robert King on 01235 553715 who is the church organiser for St Helen's.

Jeanette Thomas is the Assistant Treasurer for Ride and Stride in Oxfordshire. With over 500 churches in the county taking part and thousands of participants, there is a lot of 'behind the scenes' work involved. Well done to Jeanette for all her effort for this worthwhile cause.



What's on in September

St Helen's Church

Saturday 10 September
Heritage Day and 'Ride & Stride'
 10.00-16.00 church open
 Informal refreshments for visitors

Sunday 11 September
Patronal Festival
 Morning Praise 9.15
 Holy Eucharist 10.30
 Celebration of Rector's UK citizenship
 19.30 in South Aisle

Tuesday 13 September
Mothers Union
 Eucharist
 19.30 at Christ Church

Saturday 17 September
Coffee Morning
 10.00-12.00 Church Centre
 For Abingdon Hospital League of Friends
 Details contact Norma 520731

Sunday 18 September
Music & tea in church 16.00-17.00
 17.30 Choral Evensong with sermon (preacher: the
 Revd John Wesson). The first of three sermons to cele-
 brate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.

Monday 19 September
St Helen's @ Lunch
 12.00 Dog House Frilford Heath
 For lifts/directions contact Susan Scott 522960

Saturday 24 September
Harvest Barn Dance
 18.30-22.30 in Church south aisle
 £8.00 including simple ploughman's supper
 Details Margaret_R_Horton@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday 25 September
**Harvest Festival and Parade Service/Back to
 Church Sunday**

Wednesday 28 September
Wednesday Club
 Bring & Share Harvest Supper
 19.00 at 42 Parson's Mead
 Details Sue Austin 523436

St Michael's Church

Thursday 22 September
St Michael's Fellowship
 19.45 Church Room
 Krissie Hartley-Morris speaking on
Street Pastors in Oxford

Church in Abingdon

Thursdays 1 & 15 September
Back to 35
 10.30-11.30 Baptist Church Hall
 Opportunity for fellowship, cake and coffee
 September 1 Talk by Bill Mellor, Head Brewer
A History of Morlands Brewery
 September 15 Sally Mears, *Singing*

Sunday 11 September
Nationwide Day of Prayer
 Christians are asked to pray for a safer, more just
 world and to end the sale of arms.

Tuesday 20 September for 9 weeks
Open Doors Retreat
 19.30-21.30 St Michael's Parish Room
 An ecumenical retreat in everyday life
 Space and time to re-think our attitude and evaluate
 our response to God, to ourselves and others.
 Details from susan.sheppy@btinternet.com or 521092

Wednesday 21 - Saturday 24 September
Christ Church Reads the Bible
 As part of their 50 years celebrations they will read the
 whole Bible out loud. Also a Bible Exhibition.
 Details from ruthsavage@aol.com or 539226

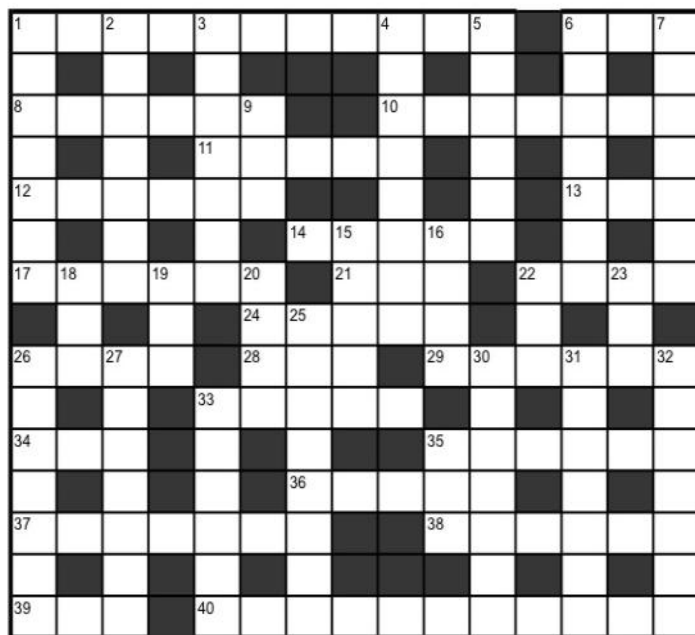
Monday 26 September
Launch of Autumn Alpha Programme
 Watch out for details of this event.

Wednesday 28 September
Fresh Vision
 19.30 at St Ethelwold's House
 Led by the Revd Laura Hodges
 This group meets monthly with a simple service
 & time for discussion & reflection.

Diary dates for October

Tuesday 4 October
Alpha Cafe
 10.00- 11.10 in Church Centre
 Start of Alpha Cafe run by Central Cluster churches

If you would like an event listed on this page let us
 know by the 5th of the previous month and we will try
 to include it. Contact Silvia at alanj@phonecoop.coop
 or 521247



Beagle's Vet by Eccles

The asterisked clues relate to the title in some way and do not have a definition.

Across

- 1 * A Wasps' forward ear (11)
- 6 Brad seemingly would give everything for this tool (3)
- 8 Knight's neighbour at palace (6)
- 10 Shining dart in a tangle (7)
- 11 It was recorded that Edward was absent (5)
- 12 Scared by a female attack (6)
- 13 European gets gold from Cologne? (3)
- 14 Green crisp (5)
- 17 Nevertheless Eve partners love (4, 2)
- 21 Employ part of household to some purpose (3)
- 22 Native lost the end of fish basket (4)
- 24 Purchase a dreaming spire (5)
- 26 Writer in Cornwall perhaps saw a bird (4)
- 28 Swan enclosure (3)
- 29 Carl as knavish rogue (6)
- 33 Rent a room with the Masons (5)
- 34 I see English formality (3)
- 35 Nail charged particle to make a companion for rack (6)
- 36 Warbler moved south to the limits (5)
- 37 Dental mixture that troubled girl in the morning - twice (7)
- 38 We hold topless thing and complain (6)
- 39 Concealed the latter half of a lady's slipper (3)
- 40 *Fashioned poor innings (6, 5)

Down

- 1 * Waterloo group good in church (7)
- 2 Muddled group use nothing short of thrust (7)
- 3 Metal that is beginning to show mocking praises (7)
- 4 In strange ways, lady gets clothes for battle (8)
- 5 * Artist's palette (6)
- 6 Lay a friend by the ancient city (7)
- 7 * Belonging to frog or lamb (7)
- 9 Whales to be found in pond out north (3)
- 15 German after bankruptcy is regretting it (5)
- 16 Witness to Elisha or Elijah (4)
- 18 The energy of six thousand (3)
- 19 Three points made afresh (3)
- 20 Counterpart of naval officer after work (4)
- 22 * For that reason (3)
- 23 Precedent of Maria backs girl (3)
- 25 'I know that my ____ liveth' (8)
- 26 * Ship can turn (7)
- 27 Red male turned green (7)
- 30 '____, ____ we all fall down' (7)
- 31 Character opposed to wine (7)
- 32 Pound and sixpence in change could be magic (7)
- 32 The French expresses repugnance and mocks (6)
- 35 Initially peruse evangelist where you sit (3)

Answers to Tree Quiz in July/August issue

1 redwood	10 aspen	22 yew	34 banyan
2 rowan	11 pine	23 plane	35 elder
3 ash	12 birch	24 poplar	36 lilac
4 cherry	13 sycamore	25 maple	37 elm
5 lime	14 willow	26 spruce	38 cedar
6 hornbeam	15 handkerchief	27 oak	39 flame
7 mulberry	16 holly	28 balsam	40 mango
8 hazel	17 chestnut	29 olive	41 walnut
9 palm	18 prunus	30 wattle	42 beech
	19 blackthorn	31 larch	43 bay
	20 fir	32 gum (eucalyptus)	44 tulip
	21 magnolia	33 kapok	45 cork

September at St Helen's Church

Divine Services

Please note new times from 4th September

Sung Eucharist	<u>10.30</u>	Every Sunday with Junior Church
11 September		Patronal Festival
25 September		Parade Sunday and Harvest Festival
Holy Communion	08.00	Sundays (in St Nicolas' Church)
Morning Praise	09.15	Sunday 9 October
Morning Prayer	09.10	Monday to Friday
Evening Prayer	17.10	Monday to Friday
Junior Church	<u>10.30</u>	Sundays
Silent Prayer	18.10	Mondays 5 and 19 September
Wednesday Church	10.30	Wednesdays, Holy Communion followed by refreshments. In Church except 7 Sept. in Church Centre Hall

Sunday Evening Services All now at 17.30

4 Sept	17.30 Eucharist
11 Sept	17.30 Taizé
18 Sept	17.30 Choral Evensong in celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible
25 Sept	17.30 Service for Wholeness and Healing

Meetings and Gatherings all in Church Centre Hall unless marked

Baby and Toddler Group	09.30 & 11.00	Mondays from 12 September
Baptism Preparation	20.00	Tuesdays 6, 20 September – lounge
Brownies	18.15	Tuesdays
Clergy consultation	19.00	Wednesdays by appointment
Cubs	18.20	Wednesdays
DCC meeting	19.30	Monday 12 September
Desiring Life reading group	14.30	Tuesdays 13 and 27 Sept – Lounge
Junior Church	<u>10.30</u>	every Sunday – starts in Church
Marriage Preparation	20.00	Weds. 7, 14, 21 September – Lounge
Mothers' Union	20.00	Wednesday 14 September
Wednesday Club	19.00	Wednesday 28 Sept, see p. 6 for details

Events (more details on page 6)

Visiting bell ringers	10.00	Saturday 3 September – tower
Ride and Stride Heritage Day	10.00 - 16.00	Saturday 10 September
St Helen's @ lunch	12.00	Tuesday 19 Sept.
Barn Dance	18.30	Saturday 24 September – in Church

*The services and events listed here are correct at the time of going to press
– please consult the weekly Newsheet if in doubt.*

To arrange baptisms, weddings and funerals contact the Church Office.
Clergy are available in the Church Office between 19.00 - 20.00 on a Wednesday.
Call the office to book an appointment.

Rector:	The Revd Dr Charles Miller
Assisting Priest (NSM):	The Revd Tim Hewes
Curates (NSM):	The Revd Dr Simon Thorn, The Revd Dr Jane Baun, The Revd SokHan Yong
Director of Music:	Christopher Fletcher-Campbell
Parish Administrator:	Linda Barker

St Helen's Church Office: St Helen's Court, Abingdon, OX14 5BS
01235 520144
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