



St HELEN'S WINDOW

The Gift of Gratitude

Charles Miller

I suspect I had swine-flu. No GP confirmed it, or even uttered the word. But the symptoms, laced with infection, were toxic indeed, and I had never had anything quite like it before. The time in bed gave me pause for thought.

In the summer when the fear of a pandemic was wide-spread we followed to the letter the Archbishops' counsel that we withhold the chalice of consecrated wine, the 'common cup', from churchgoers so as not to contribute to any possible spread of swine flu. There was a lot of comment, even grumbling. *"People should be able to make their own choice; we're grown-ups."* *"Why not let us dip the bread into the chalice rather than drink from the chalice directly?"* *"I feel like I'm being disobedient to what the Lord commanded,"* a pious women lamented. *"A grave mis-reading of the spiritual temperature,"* a wise clergyman commented. *"I think the Archbishops have underestimated how deeply those who fought for access to the chalice at the Reformation are unhappy with this discipline."*

As I mused upon the situation in my convalescence I began to consider too what I hadn't heard, especially when, in September, I decided to return to custom and share bread and wine fully. No one, in my hearing at least, expressed a sense of deep gratitude at having access to what we rightly call the "precious" blood of our crucified and risen Lord. 'Of great value'; 'greatly loved or treasured'—that's what precious means. It seemed strange to me that if we so greatly love and treasure the Sacrament of Christ's presence, why were expressions of gratitude at the return of the common cup so muffled?

Has the corrosive attitude of presumption wormed its way to our spiritual hearts? Have we so internalised the culture of entitlement that (for the purest and highest spiritual reasons, of course!) we stand on our 'right' to have both bread and wine whenever?

Holy Communion, like all the sacraments through which Christ shares his life for us, are occasions of grace. That means they come to us through no deserving of our own but only through the limitless generosity of God who gives God's self because God is Love. On our side there is no deserving or right; we welcomingly and gratefully receive. The most elucidating aspect of the situation seems to me to be our interior attitude on being deprived of something that we have no fundamental right to in the first place.

Now maybe I simply wasn't in the right place at the right time when the common cup was restored and when people made their Communion as they always had. If so, then pardon me for intemperate speculations about others' thoughts and feelings. I would, still, simply ask two questions. If people felt that deep gratitude in receiving the cup again, why were people so reluctant to express it? And if they didn't feel it, why on earth not?

Christmas is coming. The celebration of the Word-made-Flesh, like receiving Christ's life-giving presence in the Sacrament, is all about grace and gift.

Or is it?

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Reading the Bible with God?

Jeanne Wesson

*In churches there are always some people who have been reading the Bible for most, if not all, of their lives. There are others, and increasingly there are more of these, who have a very vague idea of what the Bible actually says. The Bible was not read in a school assembly and "Scripture" ceased to be a class subject before they were born. Bible stories, if discovered at all, were read alongside Hans Anderson's Fairy Tales, the Greek tragedies or as a faith book of just one of the many religions explored in religious studies. **So what does the Bible really say?** The only way to find out is to read it! A tall order when first faced with 39 books in the Old Testament section and 27 in the New Testament section within one volume. Where to begin?*

David Foster, a Benedictine monk of Downside Abbey recently wrote a book *Reading with God*. Here are a few of his recommendations:

- Clear the deck. Find a good time and a place where you can read prayerfully but in a fairly relaxed kind of way.
- Put yourself in the presence of God. Let go of the immediate things on your mind, and turn your heart to the God who dwells within.
- It is hard to suggest what passages of Scripture to begin with; it depends so much on the individual. On the whole there is a lot to be said for beginning with a Gospel, where we can really get to know Jesus. Mark or Luke might be easier than Matthew or John.
- Read a short passage slowly and prayerfully. Probably you should read for not more than five minutes or so.
- To get a clearer sense of reading as listening, it is often good to read aloud and listen to the words with your ears rather than your mind. This is what the ancients did.
- If we are reading prayerfully, listening to God, we may find that we begin to pray rather than to read.

Just remember that God is close to us and between close friends a great deal can be left unsaid.

Selected from *Reading with God Lectio Divina*. David Foster OSB of Downside Abbey.
Pub: Continuum 2005. ISBN: 10: 0-8264-6068-4, Price £10.99

BIBLE READING NOTES FROM BRF – the Bible Reading Fellowship

Many people find it helpful to have some notes to help them as they read specific sections of the Bible. There are a number of Christian publishers who produce these and the Bible Reading Fellowship is one of them.

BRF has published Bible reading notes since 1922. They currently produce four series of notes so there is something to suit everybody:

New Daylight – ideal for those looking for a devotional approach to reading and understanding the Bible. Each day has a short Bible passage, a meditation and a short reflection or prayer. Contributors include Bishop Stephen and Canon David Winter, as well as other well-known Christian writers such as Adrian Plass and Sister Helen Julian CSF.

Guidelines – designed for readers wanting more serious and challenging study, such as clergy and church leaders, with a focus on applying what we study and learn in a practical and useful way. Guidelines is particularly suited to readers who are looking for serious Bible study material which nourishes faith, provokes thought and broadens understanding. It is for those who enjoy a wide range of opinions and perspectives on Scripture. This series of notes also offers the flexibility of readings weekly or in daily portions. Guidelines aims to help readers build bridges between devotional life and current scholarly approaches to the Bible.

Day by Day with God provides a short printed Bible passage, explained and applied especially for women who have themselves found the Bible a source of strength and inspiration for life. A suggested daily prayer or meditation, as well as further reading to explore, helps connect the daily notes to your own spiritual journey.

The Upper Room – daily reflections written by readers from around the world. Contributors write very much from a personal perspective, exploring how God has worked in their everyday life and how their Christian faith has supported them and encouraged them in the challenges of everyday life. With a short Bible passage, comment and a prayer or ‘thought for the day’, The Upper Room gives a diverse range of views on living out the Christian life in actions in a wide variety of situations.

All the notes are published three times a year and are available from Christian bookshops (the nearest are ‘The Fountain’ in Wallingford or St Andrew’s Bookshop in Oxford) or direct from www.brfoonline.co.uk, 01865319700. They are suitable for individual or group reading. Five or more subscriptions delivered to the same address can be ordered free of postage and packing.

If you have found another series of notes on the Bible, or a Bible reading aid that has especially helped you please write “A Letter to the Editor” so we can share this in a future edition of WINDOW. And If you are someone who has discovered that using Bible software found on the internet has been especially helpful, we would like to hear about that too.

News from the Rev. Stephan Van Os
Former Chaplain at Dalton Barracks

By the time you read this the Revd. Stephan van Os will have moved again, this time to Tern Hill, Shropshire to become Padre of the 1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment and will participate with them in the preparations for Op Herrick 13 (Afghanistan) in September 2010. Margaret will be looking for a new job working with Learning Disabled people somewhere near Market Drayton. In the midst of this disruption our youngest daughter Caroline will be getting married on the 31st October in Leconfield and together with David her husband will be emigrating to New Zealand where she has a job as Children's Librarian in Greymouth. Anna, our older daughter is currently working in Brisbane (Queensland) and Tristan continues to solve Broadband problems from his base in Belfast. I look forward to the new challenges that await with the Royal Irish, covet your prayers for our future deployment in Afghanistan and some moments of great joy as we celebrate Caroline's marriage with all its promise for the future.

Regards to everyone in St.Helen's.

Stephan.

Charitable Giving

As Christmas approaches it is appropriate to think about our charitable giving. But, as the saying goes about giving a pet as a gift that it is not just for Christmas but for life, so it is with charitable giving.

Charitable giving is an integral part of the Christian life and mission of St Helen's throughout the year. Currently we are committed to supporting three charities on a regular basis (up to 2010) – the Milton Margai School for the Blind in Sierra Leone (£1,500 pa), the USPG project in Ethiopia run by Bishop Andrew and Janice Proud (£1,000 pa) and The Abingdon Bridge (£1,000 pa). Also in this past year we have given £1,000 to the Abingdon Alzheimer's Club and £412 was raised in a retiring collection for the DEC appeal in Gaza.

These amounts may appear small in the great scheme of things but we can have no doubt that the monies donated are well used. I recall a few years back when the world leaders were attending a summit meeting in Edinburgh I received a phone call from the Milton Margai School in Freetown saying that they desperately needed funds to buy some bags of rice to feed the children. It seemed ironic that whilst the world leaders in Edinburgh were pledging billions of pounds in aid for Africa, I was scrambling around in Abingdon to find a few hundred pounds to keep the school going. Such is the reality of running small charities and a vivid reminder of how important is your support.

As you tuck into your Christmas dinners spare a thought and a prayer for all those whom we

are supporting. Over the Christmas and New Year period the blind school in Sierra Leone is closed to give the hard working staff a few days well earned rest. The children go back to their villages with transport paid for by the school, or go to stay with friends or relatives living in Freetown. But before they depart we organise a Christmas party at the school, usually funded by the chairman of our charity's liaison committee Alhaji Hussein Jaward (a devout Moslem!) It's a very happy occasion with lots of singing and dancing but the highlight is always the extra food provided, including cakes, sweets and soft drinks.

Here at St Helen's Sue Austin, a member of our Charitable Giving Group will again be organising an "Alternative Christmas card". Last year the scheme raised £365 and was divided between the medical charity MSF (Médecins sans Frontières) and relief work in Congo. The Charitable Giving Group will be giving some thought to this year's beneficiaries and suggestions are always welcome.

Thank you for your continuing help and support and Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Peter Penfold
Chairman Charitable Giving Group, and
Chairman UK Association for the Milton Margai School for the Blind in Sierra Leone

Something new for Christmas

Fed up with sentimental and twee presentations of the Christmas story? Paperless Christmas may be just what you need! *The Adventures of Mary and Jesus – the Road Movie* uses the internet to tell the familiar Christmas story in a thought-provoking, funny and fun way. Instead of angels, expect postmen, and don't be surprised if some of the traditional animals are replaced by cars and motorbikes.

The Adventures of Mary and Jesus – the Road Movie is a joint production from BRF (the Bible Reading Fellowship) and Jerusalem Productions. It was written in Oxfordshire, filmed and edited in Lancashire and sited along a virtual rolling road built in Newcastle.

Paperless Christmas was launched to the media in September at Lambeth Palace. This is what some of the people who came said about it: "*The Road movie is great and so imaginative*" (Canon Roger Royle TV presenter.) "*What a brilliant innovative way of telling the old old story! I'm sure it will win over a whole new generation.*" (Revd Cindy Kent, Producer/Presenter Premier Radio) "*The most convincing Mary and Joseph I've ever seen, it is proof Christmas can be fun.*" (Dr James Rosenthal, President, St Nicholas Society, London Internet Church) "*Delightful...It's the future.*" (John Simpson CBE BBC World Affairs Editor)

But Paperless Christmas is not just an amusing and humorous take on a well-known tale. The unexpected twist at the end puts the whole story into context – view the movie for yourself at www.paperlesschristmas.org.uk to find out how.

“God Bless you all and God Save the Queen!”

Those are the final words of a Town Cry. The first three, Oyez, Oyez, Oyez, are Old Norman, perhaps giving us a clue about when town crying was first used as a means of communicating between the civic authorities and the people. In Abingdon, the “bellman’s” duties are listed in the Borough minute book of 1796. As well as town crying, they include sweeping the bury (marketplace) on Tuesday mornings (market day was Monday), putting vagrants out of the town and ensuring that they stayed out, looking after the fire engine and keeping its buckets filled, cleaning the corporation’s knives and forks, and in winter, sweeping snow from the County Hall roof. Crying duties for the Mayor and Corporation were carried out free of charge, but cries for townspeople and merchants were charged at sixpence each.



Nowadays Abingdon is unique in that it boasts a Guild of Town Criers, whose members take it in turn to fulfill the town crying requirements of the Town Council and of its townspeople. The Guild’s members are all volunteers and do the job for fun and in the interest of maintaining an ancient tradition which enriches Abingdon, its visitors, and its inhabitants. We cry as requested for the Mayor and Town Council and for charity events. When needed we will also cry for birthdays, weddings and commercial events, for which we make a small charge, which we donate to The Mayor of Abingdon’s charities, including the over 70’s Christmas tea party.

My introduction to Town Crying came at the 2000 Spring Festival, which starts the new “Abingdon in Bloom” season with a display on the marketplace. My wife was Mayor at the time, and the then town clerk, Brian Tonkin suggested to her that they’d have a much bigger audience if someone could be persuaded to put on the (recently retired) town crier’s regalia

and go down the Bury Street precinct with the bell advertising the event. It was when I heard him mention that he had these articles in the back of his car that I first smelled a rat! Alas that was too late, and five minutes later I was Abingdon's Town Crier. Thanks Brian!

Afterwards I was able to persuade the Town Council that I hadn't time to do the job properly, and so they invited members of the public to join the Abingdon Guild of Town Criers. Our standards are very high, and new members have to undergo an audition and an extensive training schedule, but we all enjoy it tremendously, and new applicants are always welcome!

And so to the twist in the tail. It so happens that about a year after all of this, two of the Guild members revealed that they were Morris Dancers, and that in their view, in return for helping me out with my Town Crying duties, I should take up Morris Dancing. But that's another story . . .

Tony Legge

Ripping things to do at Christmas

When I was younger, I always suspected that the children in books had more fun than I did. They may have had almost no money, or (like Milly Molly Mandy) have dressed in identical dresses every single day. They may even have suffered every natural disaster the Alps could throw at them, whilst at the same time doing prodigious amounts of outdoor games lessons, but they always found ways of enjoying themselves.

Now Jane Brocket has collected these ideas in a handy volume "*Ripping Things To Do*" (Hodder & Stoughton, 2009). Here are a selection of ideas for things to do over the Christmas holidays, some drawn from the book and a few from my own favourite children's stories.

Play at being Hansel and Gretel on a woodland walk by laying a trail of pebbles to follow. Of course the birds would thank you if you also tried a trail of breadcrumbs

onions and carrots and a whole tin of bully beef' as Susan and Peggy do in Ransome's Winter Holiday. You could even take it on a picnic, as in *Worzel Gummidge* – ladle into a jamjar, and wrap in straw and an old sweater to keep it warm.

If you prefer to stay indoors, put on a show, with costumes improvised from household objects. Just William does this par excellence, making fine disguises from petticoats, toilet covers, the dining room table cloth and a black china fern pot.

Make immense quantities of paper chains. Just be careful when hanging them not to end up swinging from the ceiling lamp, as happens to Paddington.

And after all the festivities, restore order with a thorough clean and tidy up. Take inspiration from Moomintroll's ancestor, and re-hang all your pictures, being sure to put the ones you like the least upside down.

Warm up with a winter hotpot of 'potatoes,

Catherine Kimber

Careforce and Clare

Careforce places volunteers in ones and twos to be immersed in the life of a local Christian community. It encourages volunteers to be part of the small, the ordinary, the routine and the long term of Christian ministry. One of their implicit aims is to expose young Christians from large, lively churches to the life of a normal local church. They are able to immerse themselves in, and identify with, communities of all ages and backgrounds. Volunteers are Christians aged between 17-30 who wish to spend a year serving God and those in real need.

This year Clare Hoskings is on a Housing Estate in Bristol and has sent this news to us all:

I'm settled in the Vicarage where I am living, which is on the Weston Council Housing Estate. I'm helping run children and youth groups for different ages from the Estate. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays after school I help run Rock Solid, a club for 8-13 year olds allowing them to cook, do craft, play computer games, table tennis, and a time for us to get to know them, and offer a safe, fun environment for them in the time after school. For many of them they would spend this time milling around in the streets and possibly getting into trouble.

On Thursdays after school we run a club for 5-11 year olds called Secret Agents, where we play games and do a craft, and tell a Bible story. Currently we are doing Joseph and I think lots of them have identified with him having eleven brothers! I'm also helping with "Youthie": a 14-18 year olds drop in. This runs three nights a week. One night we have a discussion time, and the others are just informal socials. I'm getting to know some of the girls a bit better although Youthie can be quite challenging, especially on a Friday night, when they are often drunk and quite badly behaved. Sometimes it's difficult to know how to deal with them so do keep praying.

I also help one morning a week in the Weston Park Junior School, with year 3, helping the teachers with literacy and numeracy classes. I am running a young leaders' Bible study on Thursday afternoons, and am trying to gain the skills to set up a website for the project.

Thank you for all your prayers, and thanks also to anyone who has sponsored me financially, I really do appreciate it.

Clare Hoskings

Star Buys for Christmas

Some of our local shops suggest:

...buying locally made cheese on a locally made bread board, accompanied by a local bottle of wine - with a locally made gift card.

Suggested by Jill at Added Ingredients

...giving Peter Pan - Classic Pop-up Sound Book (RRP £14.99 Mostly Books price £12.99)

The book that had us all going 'wow' this Christmas is the fabulous pop-up and sound version of Peter Pan. Pop-ups always make beautiful gifts and this new version of the ever popular story is given a wonderful additional magic by the quality of the sounds - from the ticking of the crocodile to the chiming of Big Ben. An amazing book that combines marvellous illustrations, magical pop-ups, atmospheric sound and a lyrical retelling of J.M.Barrie's classical tale.

...giving Auggie Wren's Christmas Story - Paul Auster pub. Faber £9.99.

A charmingly produced gift hardback of a Christmas story that will put a smile on the face. It is a short and simple, yet beautifully told and utterly beguiling tale - a story involving a blind woman, a lost wallet and Christmas dinner - in which everything is turned upside down and the lines between truth and storytelling become brilliantly blurred. An ideal gift for the person who has everything!

Suggested by Nicki at Mostly Books.

...place your order for BUCHE DE NOEL at Pâtisserie Pascal by December 20th.

...call in at Robert Gatwood the jewellers and gaze at their marvellous central display of Début Bracelets. They come in six different lengths and you choose the decorative beads. Ideal for young mums, daughters and nieces!

...finally why not treat yourselves to a meal at Kitson's Restaurant at No.15 High Street who, when possible, use local ingredients from local suppliers. If you have never been up the stairs, look inside the door and you can see a photograph of what awaits you above! Or log on to www.kitsonsrestaurant.co.uk for menus too.

Kids Speak

Here are some funny things said by children to conclude our coverage of the Year of the Child:

PHILIP aged 3 in conversation with his mother:

(a) on an autumn walk, talking about falling leaves and other autumnal things

Philip "Sing the conker song Mummy"

Mummy (racking brain) "I don't think I know any songs about conkers, darling, but I can make one up." (proceeds to try)

Philip "No, no, no! The conker song! With God and glory in it!"

After a few non-plussed seconds she realised he meant,

"Thine be the glory, risen conquering son!"

(b) When it was suggested he might like his new little brother Philip replied,

"Yes, thank you for growing him Mummy!"

ALICHA aged 3 on seeing an air balloon in the sky.

"Oh, somebody let it go Daddy!"

AIDAN aged 3 found a torch and wanting to shine it pointed to the light switch and said

"Can you turn the dark on please?"

CAL on his 6th birthday

"I am so happy. I have been wanting to be 6 ever since I was 4"

CAROLYN aged 3

In days long ago her father was curate in a church where they still wore preaching bands. One Sunday he went without them. She leant over the balcony of the church in the middle of the service and asked in a loud voice, "Where are Daddy's little trousers!"

Silvia Joinson

Solution to November Crossword

S	A	L	I	S	B	U	R	Y	W	E	L	L	S
H	I	I	P	E	L	Y	A	A					
U	N	N	A	T	U	R	A	L	E	N	N	U	I
T	C	E	O	L	O	C	N						
T	R	O	Y	P	O	L	O	L	E	F	T		
L	L	E	A	T	W	A	F	E	R	S			
E	R	N	E	S	A	R	E	S	T				
O	T	H	I	S	T	L	E	R					
I	S	L	E	K	E	R	O	T	I	C			
E	C	A	R	L	A	M	A	E	O	H			
X	R	A	Y	N	O	O	N	O	N	C	E		
E	L	M	Y	H	B	I	S						
T	A	L	L	Y	H	E	A	D	L	I	G	H	T
E	O	E	G	O	I	U	H	E					
R	I	P	O	N	W	O	R	C	E	S	T	E	R

St. Helen's Church and Church in Abingdon News

St. Helen's Church

Alternative Christmas Card

2010

Since 2005 instead of individual cards we have pinned one on the display board and donated money saved to charity.

Watch out in the newsletter for further details.

(See also page 4)

Tuesday December 8th Mothers' Union

Advent Evening of Readings Carols and Prayers

8.00 in the Church Centre. Anyone welcome

Wednesday December 9th Holy Communion Group

Service at 11.00 followed by lunch

Saturday December 12th Babes and Toddlers' Group

Christmas Celebration. 10.30-12.00 noon

Nativity Play for under 5s in Church.

(If you would like to join in, come dressed as an angel or a shepherd. Free to take part, but please bring biscuits or cakes!)

December 16th Wednesday Club

Christmas Social and Carol singing

8.00 in Church Centre Hall

Tickets in advance from Sue Austin 523436

£5 to include cold meats and drinks Please bring salad or dessert

**For Christmas Services
please see page 12.**

Sunday January 10th

4.30 Epiphany Lessons and Carols

5.30 Tea

Mother's Union

Tuesday January 12th 8.00

"Loneliness and Hidden Need"

Talk by Sheila Furlong of the Archway Foundation

Friday January 15th

Friends of St Helens

7.30 refreshments

8.00 Talk by Sheila Hills on "*The New Ashmolean*"

Sunday January 17th

Come and Sing *Messiah* and tea

2.00 Chorus rehearse (optional)

3.45 Tea break (provided!)

4.30. Performance

Singers please tell cfc@abingdon.org.uk if coming

Wednesday Club

January 20th

Quiz Evening with mulled wine and mince pies

8.00 in Church Centre Hall. Just turn up!

Saturday January 30th

Fund raising Soup Lunch.

St Nicolas Church

December 6th Patronal Festival

6.30 Choral evensong. No service at St Helen's

Church in Abingdon

"Back to 35" a joint venture with Age Concern

An opportunity for chat and fellowship 10.30-11.30

Thursday December 3rd Christmas crafts

Thursday December 17th Christmas party and Carols

35 Ock Street Christmas Break

Closes 12.00 noon Saturday 19th. December

Opens 10.30 Monday 4th January

Carol Singing for Christian Aid

Friday December 18th at the Farmers' Market

Supported by some members of Abbey Brass

9.0-12.0 but check for final details

Christian Aid Walk

Friday January 1st

Starts from St Helen's Church at 10.30

Walk to Drayton Church Centre for refreshments

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18th-25th

Friday January 22nd CiA Quiz

Sunday 24th Church in Abingdon United Service
in Peachcroft Church Centre

Led by Revd Peter Bennett.

Speaker: Bede Gerrard,

Menu for a Seasonal Feast

I'm grateful to Norah Jones for providing me with her original version of this quiz which I have modified somewhat. The answers are not based on correct spelling! RH

SOUPS

- 1) 16th letter of the alphabet
- 2) Mother between two toes
- 3) Scoffing dove?
- 4) Husky command needing space
- 5) Bovine fly swisher!

FISH

- 6) Locality
- 7) Travel on ice
- 8) What a bride values most
- 9) Our immortal inner self
- 10) Cash on delivery
- 11) Grumble and complain

GAME AND POULTRY

- 12) Break in the mountain
- 13) News carrier
- 14) Important part of Ottoman Empire
- 15) Cricket score
- 16) Grumble and complain
- 17) To be cowardly

ROAST

- 18) Grumble and complain
- 19) Son of Noah
- 20) In Latin: "I came", My Boy
- 21) 18th century essayist

VEGETABLES

- 22) Reason to call a plumber
- 23) Turn "H" around
- 24) Reason to apply for scrappage scheme
- 25) Father cuts hair

SWEETS/PUDDINGS

- 26) Carefully cooked pastry
- 27) Things of little importance
- 28) I cry out in terror

DESSERT WITH THE COFFEE

- 29) In brand new condition
- 30) They go on bolts

ENJOY A SELECTION OF

- 31) Grumbles and complaints (various)

Set by
Rod Hunt

December and January at St. Helen's Church

Divine Services

Morning Prayer	09.10 every weekday
Evening Prayer	17.10 every weekday
Sung Eucharist	10.00 every Sunday
Taizé Service	18.30 Sunday 13th Dec.
Healing Service	18.30 Sunday 27th Dec.
Evensong	16.30 Sunday 17th Jan. & Sunday 31st Jan.
Holy Communion	11.00 Wednesday 6th Dec.
Silent Prayer	18.10 Monday 14th Dec. & Monday 18th Jan.
Carol Services	16.30 pm Sunday 20th Dec.

Sunday Evening Services

St. Nicolas only	18.30 December 6th
Taizé Service	18.30 December 13th
Carol Service	16.30 December 20th
Healing Service	18.30 December 27th
Eucharist	18.30 January 3rd
Epiphany Carols	16.30 January 10th
Sing <i>Messiah</i>	16.30 January 17th
CiA Evening Service	Peachcroft, January 24th
Evensong	16.30 January 31st

Meetings and Gatherings

Brownies	18.15 Tuesday December 1st.
Christ's Hospital	14.00 Wednesday December 2nd
Alpha Course	19.30 Thurs Dec. 3rd, Dec. 10th, Dec. 17th
Christmas Lunch	Drayton Manor Golf Club, Dec. 6th
<i>Desiring Life</i>	14.30 pm December 8th
Wednesday Club	20.00 Weds. 16th Dec., 20th Jan.
Friends of St Helen's	19.30 Friday 15th January

Events

Abingdon Band Christmas concert	19.00 pm Saturday 5th Dec.
Babes & Toddlers Event	Saturday 12th December
Come & Sing <i>Messiah</i>	Sunday, January 17th.

Christmas Services at St. Helen's

Music, Poetry and Prose
Lessons & Carols
(The Mayor's Carol Service)
Dec 20th, 4.30 pm

Candlelit magic for all!
Christingle
Christmas Eve at 4.30 pm

The Mystery of Word & Sacrament
Midnight Mass
Christmas Eve at 11.30 pm

A simple said Service dating from 1662
Holy Communion
Christmas Day at 8.00 am

Joyful, with address for children
Family Eucharist
Christmas Day at 10.00 am

To arrange baptisms, weddings and funerals contact the Parish Office.

Clergy are available in the Church Office between 19.00 - 20.00pm on a Weds. Call the office to book an appointment.

Rector:
The Revd. Dr. Charles Miller
Assisting Priest (NSM):
The Revd. Tim Hewes
Curate (NSM):
The Revd. Dr. Simon Thorn
Director of Music:
Christopher Fletcher-Campbell
Parish Administrator:
Linda Barker

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

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