

Holy Trinity Headington Quarry



All-Age Nativity Service

22nd December 2024

The Gathering

Words of welcome.

Children are invited to join in our opening procession.

Hymn 75

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew.
Come to make all things new;
Bear his People's burden,
Freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
Born himself of woman,
God divinely human. *Ring, bells, ring...*

Mary, hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb God is laid;
Till the time expected
Nurtured and protected. *Ring, bells, ring...*

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Gathering Prayer

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
and also with you.

**Lord Jesus, as we gather in your name
to sing your praise,
to hear your story,
and to receive your gifts,
fill us with your love,
your peace and your joy.
Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

*On each Sunday of Advent, we light a new candle on the
Advent Wreath.*

Advent 4: Mary

**Mary's gift beyond all telling
we recall today:
Son of God within her dwelling,
born to show the way.
Who could guess the final story?
—cross and glory, Easter Day!**

After the candle is lit:

The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light
Jesus is the light of the world
A light no darkness can ever put out.

Receiving God's Forgiveness

The coming of Christ brings hope and healing to our world.
As sisters and brothers in God's family,
we come together to ask God's forgiveness.

Christ came in humility to share our lives:
forgive our pride.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ came with good news for all people:
forgive our silence.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering:
forgive our self-centredness.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The president says

The God of all mercies forgive you your sins,
and pour upon you the healing spirit of love,
peace and gentleness.
Amen.

The Collect - A Prayer for the Day

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Please sit

The Nativity Story

Christmas is a time when we remember how Jesus, God's son, was born in a stable in Bethlehem. This morning we are going to tell the story of Jesus' birth together...

Hymn

I had a dream that I was standing on a hillside
And all the lights of town were shining far below
When up in the air beautiful voices
Sing a new song, let everyone know,

*Oh and love shone down
over the hills and over the valleys,
Oh and love shone down over the world*

Somebody spoke to me, I knew it was an angel
He said there's something that I think you ought to know.
Then he just smiled, said don't be afraid now.
Sing a new song, let everyone know

And then he told me all about the baby Jesus,
How to find him where exactly I should go.
Then he was joined by millions of others
Sing a new song, let everyone know

Well did I dream or was I really on that hillside
On that Christmas night so very long ago,
When he was born Jesus our Saviour
Sing a new song let everyone know

Chaz de Whalley and Andy Piercy

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The response is used:

God of love
Hear our prayer.

We conclude our prayers with the Grace

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore.
Amen.**

This week we also hold in our prayers:

Those who are sick or in particular need:

*Grace, Josie, Kitty Datta, Atmadeep Novo Datta, Bob Southgate,
Benjie, Caroline Winwood, Enid Owens, Pam, Madeline Tarrant,
Veronika, Kenneth Sanders, Janet, Mollie Wilson, Maureen,
Helen Day, Hunter Merritt.*

Those who have died recently:

Sheila Otway, Joan Miles, Benedict Alexis, Arthur Miller.

Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time:

*Stuart Douglas, Hilary Nex, Edith Lock, John White,
Andrew Sheriff, Judith Catterall.*

The Peace

Please stand

Jesus said: "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called
'Children of God'".

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Hymn 79

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and
dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And Peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1894)

Any children are invited to gather round the altar.

Taking of the Bread and Wine Prayer

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 always right to give you thanks,
God our Creator,
loving and faithful, holy and strong.

You made us

and the whole universe,
and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.

He suffered on the cross;
he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead.

You send your Spirit
to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.
And so we join the angels
to celebrate and sing:

**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!**

Father, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.

(Bells are rung)

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.

(Bells are rung)

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

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Please sit or kneel. Children return to their seats.

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.**

We repeat the chant a few times:

**Jesus Christ, bread of life
those who come to you will not hunger
Jesus Christ, risen Lord,
those who trust in you will not thirst.**

Taizé Community

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

This is God's table and all are welcome. Please follow the directions of the stewards. We will form two lines to receive communion – the bread is distributed from the chancel step, and the wine is distributed from the lady chapel step. Please return to your pew via the north aisle. Stewards will be on hand to direct you!

If you are wearing a mask, it is most practical if you remove it before receiving communion. Please do not dip your wafer into the chalice. Please note that there is no obligation to take the chalice and it is fine still to receive communion in one kind only (the bread).

If you do not wish to receive communion and would prefer a blessing instead, please do come forwards as well.

Hymn 60

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

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

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

*Author Unknown
Little children's book, Philadelphia, 1885*

Prayer after Communion

**God of power,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and
worship you
now and always.
Amen.**

The Sending Out

Please stand

Hymn 82

See him lying on a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore
the Prince of glory is his name.

*Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when he came.*

Star of silver sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the Saviour of the world!

Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
be salvation to the soul.

Oh, now carry me to Bethlehem

Calypso Carol, Michael Perry (1942-1996)

The Blessing

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary
and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

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

Please do join us for refreshments at the back of church or in the warmer meeting room after the Service. Please take this booklet away with you, and recycle it when you have finished with it. We no longer pass the collection plate around during the service, but you are welcome to use the collection plate at the back of church, or the contactless machine, if you would like to make a donation to support the work of our church. If you would like to sign up to regular monthly giving, please visit www.hthq.uk/giving-to-the-church for more information.

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Notices: 22nd December

Sunday December 22nd : The Fourth Sunday of Advent with Nativity and Carol Services

8am Holy Communion

President: Revd Prof Rob Gilbert

10am All-Age Nativity Service

President: Revd Prof Rob Gilbert

Deacon: Revd Emily Hockliffe Essex

Organist: Andrew Patterson

6pm Christmas Carol Service

Midweek Services

Christingle Services - Christmas Eve at 2.30pm & 4pm

Midnight Mass - Christmas Eve at 11.30pm

Christmas Day - 8am Said Communion & 10am Family Eucharist

Please note: Morning Prayer will break over Christmas after Thursday 19 December, resuming on Tuesday 7 January. There will be **no mid-week Communion service** on Wednesday 1 January.

Sunday December 29th : The First Sunday of Christmas

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist – *please note there will be no Forest Sunday School*

A prayer for the vacancy:

God of vision and hope,
we thank you for all who have ministered here
throughout the history of this church.
In this time of vacancy,
may we continue to grow in love,
share in responsibility,
and seek your vision for our future,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our shepherd and our guide.
Amen.

Tots provision: Community Café From the new year, we will be offering a Community Café space from 9.30am-11.30am on Tuesday mornings, making use of the new facilities in church. All are welcome, and most especially families with young children, as the meeting room will be set up for tots to play. **If you would like to volunteer**, we would be very grateful to hear from you regarding Tuesday mornings or the possibility of an afternoon slot around school pick-up time. Contact Emily for more info.

Save the date The Bishop of Oxford formally license Laura to her new post at Balliol College Chapel on Sunday **January 19th at 5.30pm**. All are welcome to attend the service of Choral Evensong. We ask for God's blessing upon Laura and we pray for her ministry in her new calling.

The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe is coming to Aylesbury waterside theatre in 2025 I have the last few seats available for Saturday 11 October 2025 at 2pm seats are £28 each please let me know if you are interested by TODAY as the booking needs confirming and paying for early January frances.farrar23@gmail.com

HTHQ 175 Talking History the HTHQ175 committee have put together a programme of talks celebrating Holy Trinity's 175th Anniversary year:

Wednesday 8 January	C.S. Lewis's Oxford	Prof Simon Horobin
Wednesday 5 February	Racial Justice	Revd Prof Rob Gilbert
Tuesday 4 March	History of the Quarry	(speaker TBC)
Wednesday 9 April	Church and Eco-theology	Dr Tom Crook
Wednesday 7 May	Morris Dancing	(speaker TBC)
Wednesday 4 June	Our changing church	(speaker TBC)

The evening begins with refreshments at 6.45pm, the talk beginning at 7pm, and discussions close at 7.45pm. All are welcome in church.

This week's Eco Tips: Relieve the pressure of the festive season by batch-cooking in advance, saving energy, time, and fuel; maximizing astute use of the freezer - thereby avoiding last-minute preparations, or panic when supplies in shops have run out. *Hilary Rollin, Eco Group*

Eco Resources Autumn/Winter 2024

If you are looking for information on ECO matters, you might like to follow the link below for ideas on book titles, links to Zoom sessions (live and recorded), talks etc. Hilary Rollin, Eco Church Group

Go to: <https://www.hthq.uk/eco-church-resources/>

Pastoral care team Are you in need of support or would you like to talk to someone? We rely on you to let us know of anyone who is ill, or in hospital or who might welcome a visit. Please contact any of the clergy (numbers on back page) or Helen Day, Janet Masters, or Anne Tarassenko.

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: Vacancy

Associate Priest: Revd Prof Rob Gilbert
associatepriest@hthq.uk

Curate: Revd Emily Hockliffe Essex
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