

# All Saints Parish Church Highfield, Headington



Holy Communion  
Christmas & Epiphany

# Welcome to our church!

We are the Church of England parish church for Highfield, Headington.

We welcome everyone to join us on Sundays for our worship. We hope you will find the service simultaneously traditional and joyful.

Please do not feel any pressure to participate in ways you are not comfortable with. Some prefer simply to sit quietly and listen. The directions to stand or kneel are only invitations.

We reuse these service booklets, but the inserted bulletin is for you to take home.

We welcome communicant members from other Christian Churches who are baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity to receive Holy Communion. We welcome children who are not confirmed to come forward during Communion to receive a blessing.

If you would prefer not to receive Holy Communion for any reason you are still most welcome to come forward for a blessing.

## *Psalm 100*

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*

*Worship the Lord with gladness;*

*come before him with joyful songs.*

*Know that the Lord is God.*

*It is he who made us, and we are his;*

*we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving*

*and his courts with praise;*

*give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;*

*his faithfulness continues through all generations.*



# How we worship

Our service follows an overall shape:

We begin with a **call to worship**. The gospel is God's call for us to enter His presence. Everything we do is a response to God's initiative of grace. The minister therefore welcomes people in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and speaks of the grace, mercy and peace to be found in His presence.

However the presence of the Holy God reveals the fact that we have sinned and fallen short of His glory. We therefore begin with **confession**. Here we readily acknowledge and confess our sinfulness and that we deserve nothing from God. We remember gratefully that, in Christ, God has provided the means for forgiveness. Believing God's promise, we confess our sins humbly as His people. Please feel free to kneel. Once we have confessed, we hear God's promise of forgiveness spoken by the minister and then stand to sing God's praise in the Gloria.

Wonderfully the Gospel offers even more than the forgiveness of sins. It is also about us being conformed into God's image and drawn closer into His loving arms. Therefore confession and forgiveness are not the end. God wants to lead and nurture us. He does this through His Word read and taught. In this God **consecrates** us, or sets us apart, telling us what it means to live as His people. We listen to His Word read aloud and then expounded in the sermon. We respond with a joyful confession of our loyalty to the faith in the form of the creed.

We then draw near to God in holy **communion**. In this meal God signs and seals His promises to us in Christ, by His Spirit. This is a weekly practice because without it the story of the Gospel is not complete. God desires that we draw near to Him and enjoy His fellowship. This is the goal of the Gospel.

Having been renewed by God, we are then **commissioned** to go back into the world 'in the power of the Spirit to live and work to his praise and glory' – so that others, too, might come to know and participate in God's wonderful grace.

Much more explanation could be given about each of the elements of our worship – but there is no substitute for living in the story of the gospel week-by-week. May God bless you richly as you participate with us in the wonderful message of God's love and grace in Christ Jesus.

## Welcome

*Notices may be given at this point in the service*

## Hymn *(please stand)*

## Call to worship

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!  
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

Psalm 95:6-7

*Please sit or kneel*

## Confession

*Prayer of Preparation*

**All Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his very own.  
Let us therefore confess our sins.

*cf Titus 2.11-14*

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
who in his great mercy  
has promised forgiveness of sins  
to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him:  
have mercy on us,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and bring us to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*Please stand*

***All*** Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

*The Collect*

*The Collect is said, and all respond* **Amen.**

*Please sit*

## Consecration

### *Readings*

*Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading*

*At the end of each the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Notices may be given at this point in the service*

**Hymn** *(please stand)*

### *Gospel Reading*

*Please remain standing*

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please remain standing for a short prayer and then sit for the sermon*

### *Sermon*

*Please stand*

*The Apostles' Creed*

***All*** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

*Please sit*



## Communion

### *Prayers of Intercession*

*These responses may be used*

Lord, hear us

**All** Lord, graciously hear us.

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,

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

*Please stand*

### *The Peace*

We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,  
a holy nation, God's own people,  
that we may proclaim the mighty acts of him  
who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.  
Gathered as his people we share his peace.

*1 Peter 2.9*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All** and also with you.

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## Hymn

*Please remain standing*

The Lord is here.

**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give him 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 our Lord.

For he is our great high priest,  
who has loosed us from our sins  
and has made us to be a royal priesthood to you,  
our God and Father.

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

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*cf Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8-11*

*Please sit*

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father,  
who, in your tender mercy,  
gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption;  
who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered  
a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world;  
he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue,  
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray,  
and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine,  
according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution,  
in remembrance of his death and passion,  
may be partakers of his most blessed body and 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.

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.

**All Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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.**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**All we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

*Prayer of Humble Access*

**All Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean,  
our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit  
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.  
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us  
with the precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom.  
Amen.**

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.

*The president and people receive communion.*

*Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies:*

**Amen *or* Thanks be to God**

## **Commissioning**

*The Post Communion or another suitable prayer may be said. Followed by:*

***All*** 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.

**Hymn** *(please stand)*

*Please remain standing*

The God of all grace,  
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,  
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;

and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*You are most welcome to join us for refreshments served at the back of church.*

If you would like a quiet place to pray you are most welcome to use the Lady Chapel (in southeast corner of the church).

If you would like someone to pray with, please talk to the minister or anyone involved in the service.

### **DONATIONS**

We do not take a collection during the service.

If you would like to make a donation you can do so:

- 1) using a gift aid envelope and putting it in the baskets by the doors, or
- 2) online via the Parish Giving Scheme, or
- 3) via our secure website, using this QR code:



Can you find this symbol in the church? How many can you see?



This is an ancient and popular Christian symbol. It comes from ancient Greek. In Greek capitals, the first three letters of the name Jesus - *ΙΗΣΟΥΣ* - look like IHS.

However, in places where people only knew Latin, and not Greek, they thought it stood for something else! In Latin, IHS could be an abbreviation for *'Iesus Hominum Salvator'* which means *'Jesus Saviour of Mankind'*

The little cross beam on the H reminds us that Jesus saved the world by dying for us on the cross.

*[www.allsaintsheadington.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsheadington.org.uk)*