

**ALL SAINTS HIGHFIELD
PARISHIONERS'
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2026**



**Memorial roses in Lime Walk Garden
(with thanks to Brigid)**

www.allsaintsheadington.org.uk

Who's Who at All Saints

Vicar: we are now in a period of vacancy which will end with the installation of our new vicar on 11 November	Director of Music and Organist Stuart Donaldson (organist@allsaintsheadington.org.uk)
Churchwardens James Larminie (churchwarden2@allsaintsheadington.org.uk) Janet Marx (churchwarden1@allsaintsheadington.org.uk)	Assistant Organist Keith Walters
Licensed Lay Ministers James Larminie (churchwarden2@allsaintsheadington.org.uk) Christine Tucker (llm1@allsaintsheadington.org.uk)	Choir Administrator Vivienne Larminie
Safeguarding Officer Emma Steane (safeguarding@allsaintsheadington.org.uk)	Editors: Parish Newsletter Catherine Hodgkinson Catherine Hodgkinson (newsletter@allsaintsheadington.org.uk)
Hon Treasurer John Glasson	Website Christine Tucker Catherine Donaldson (webmaster@allsaintsheadington.org.uk)
Hon. Secretary PCC Vivienne Larminie (pcc.secretary@allsaintsheadington.org.uk)	Social Committee Chair Christine Tucker
Hon. Sacristan and Flower Co-ordinator Valerie Boulter	Children's Team Catherine Donaldson Andrew Steane Emma Steane
Garden Valerie Boulter Brigid Crofton John Macaulay	Welcome Team Valerie Boulter Hamid Delrouz Veronica John William Marx Susan Newey Rob Ngaio John Whitworth Lucy Whitworth

Our worship: September, October, and the first half of November 2026

As ever during this period of vacancy we are truly grateful to those who join us
to celebrate or preach (or both).

Date	Time	Sunday	Service	Celebrant and Preacher
6 September	10.00 am	Creation in Christ	Holy Communion	Revd Ginny Thomas / Bin Xia
13 September	7.30 pm	Trinity 15	Holy Communion	Revd Peter Groves
13 September	4.00 pm		Evensong at St Luke's	James Larminie and members of the choir
20 September	10.00 am	Trinity 16	Morning Prayer	James Larminie
27 September	10.00 am	Trinity 17 Harvest Festival	Holy Communion	Revd Gordon Jeanes
27 September	5.30 pm		Choral Evensong	James Larminie
4 October	10.00 am	Trinity 18	Holy Communion	Revd Pam Daniel
11 October	10.00 am	Trinity 19	Holy Communion	Revd Ginny Thomas
11 October	4.00 pm		Evensong at St Luke's	James Larminie and members of the choir
18 October	10.00 am	Feast of St Luke the Evangelist	Holy Communion	Jonathan Chaffey, archdeacon of Oxford
25 October	10.00 am	Last after Trinity	Holy Communion	Revd Gordon Jeanes
1 November	10.00 am	All Saints' Day, our patronal festival	Holy Communion	tbc
8 November	10.00 am	Remembrance Sunday	Morning Prayer	James Larminie

8 November	4.00 pm		Evensong at St Luke's	James Larminie and members of the choir
Wednesday 11 November	10.50 am	Remembrance Day	Short service of commemoration at the War Memorial at the west of the church	James Larminie

Every Tuesday at 8.30 am: Morning Prayer (BCP) in the Lady Chapel

OUR NEW VICAR

Many of you will know that interviews for the post of vicar of All Saints were held on 22 July, and an appointment was made. We are very pleased to announce that Nikolaj Christensen will be our new vicar. He is currently rector of the Wantage Downs Benefice, consisting of four churches in the south of the county. His installation will be on 11 November, at 7.30pm, and all are warmly invited. His wife Hannah is a scientist and they have two young children. Nikolaj knows the area very well, having been a curate in Iffley. He is very much looking forward to getting to know everyone at All Saints. And indeed we are looking forward to welcoming him and his family.



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AT ALL SAINTS

On Sunday mornings there is a small Sunday School for children that meets either in the children's area at the back of church or in the glass-sided chapel at the front of the church (or sometimes outside if the weather allows). We are delighted to welcome new children for a one-off visit (we're very glad to see grandchildren and other small relatives of our congregation) or as new regulars.

We try to make the sessions interactive and creative so that the children enjoy them and remember the Christian story as well as understanding how it has meaning for our lives today.

This may include games, crafts, stories, songs, puppets and more.



Crafts time unleashes creativity as we engage with the story - it can involve paint, glue and card or maybe something edible!

The children rejoin the service with their families for communion.

Then they are often very excited to come to the front of church at the end of the service to show what they have been creating in Sunday School.

If the children are still feeling energetic, we join the worship during the final hymn with percussion instruments, streamers or flags.

We are really pleased that some of our teenagers help the younger children, during the sessions.

Babies and toddlers

We have a special section of the children's corner for babies and toddlers to be with their parent/carer with lots of toys on the rug. Parents can still hear the service and can join if the children are amenable.



We encourage the children to participate in the service, e.g. reading prayers as part of the intercessions, bringing up the fruit and vegetables during harvest festival, lighting candles and reading prayers during Advent, and a short nativity

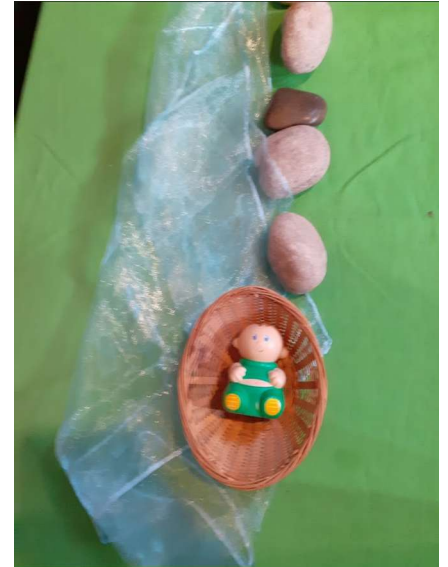
play before Christmas and there is a great atmosphere after the service while the adults enjoy tea and coffee and children play together.



We set up sensory bins and play scenes help the youngest children engage with the theme of the service.

Here are some recent examples. Can you guess which bible stories/ themes these represented?





Answers:
Baptism of Jesus; the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6); Palm Sunday - Jesus
enters Jerusalem
Jesus washes the disciples feet; Jesus walks on water,
Harvest; Practice hospitality (Romans 12:13); baby Moses

Catherine Donaldson

BRITANNIA LUNCHES

On the first Wednesday of the month we meet for lunch at the Britannia Inn on London Road and if you can join the 'regulars' we will be so pleased to see you. There is no need to book – just turn up at around 12.15 and enjoy a meal and a chat. Upcoming dates are: 2 September, 7 October, and 4 November.

ALL SAINTS CHOIR

The choir at All Saints delights us with a range of music to suit all tastes, with hymns and songs during our Sunday communion, and anthems and a variety of settings to the psalms and antiphons at our regular choral evensong on the last Sunday of the month (returning on 27 September after the August break). If you enjoy singing and would like to join the choir, please have a word with Stuart (director of music) or Vivienne (choir administrator).

COMING UP AT ALL SAINTS

There are lots of dates for your diaries in the next two months.

SEPTEMBER

Friday 18 September: unfortunately the concert by the Headington Chamber Orchestra has had to be postponed. Details to follow.

Saturday and Sunday 26–27 September will be our **Harvest Weekend**.

On Saturday morning we will be adorning the church with our gifts of flowers and produce, which will again this year go to the Emergency Food Bank. If you are able to contribute packets, cans or jars of food, these can be brought to church in the two weeks leading up to Harvest. If you prefer to donate fruit, vegetables, or flowers, these can be brought to church on the morning of Saturday 26 September. As ever, our decorating efforts will be overseen by Valerie, and she (and the churchwardens) would be grateful for any help in displaying the flowers and produce. The kettle will be on from around 10.00 am so we can have a cup of tea and chat while we work.

This is only the start of the Saturday events. In the afternoon we will be holding our late summer parishioners' garden party and this will, as last year, coincide with the Highfield Residents' Association street party. Friends from the neighbourhood will be joining us for tea from 3.00 pm. If you have cake-baking skills we'd appreciate contributions, and the Social Committee is always grateful for help serving and washing up. If you are not a fan of washing up, you could always help with putting up tables....

If it is fine there will be games for the children in the garden.

Our Sunday communion will be our harvest thanksgiving when Revd Gordon Jeanes will be celebrating and preaching. There will be choral evensong at 5.30 pm, which will be followed by a shared supper.

On the morning of Monday 28 September we would be grateful if those of you who are in a position to help out could come along to the church any time after 10.00 am to help parcel up offerings for the Food Bank and flowers and fruit for elderly members of the congregation and those who are sick.

OCTOBER

Friday 16 October, 7.30 pm: All Saints Church will host a screening of 'People's Emergency on the Climate and Nature Crisis', which will be followed by a community discussion. This is organised with the Highfield Residents'

Association. Why should such a film be shown in church? Our treasurer, John Glasson, has seen it, and says this:

The **People's Emergency Briefing** film provides a wake-up call for us all and you should watch it – especially for your children and grandchildren.

- The National Emergency Briefing is a 45-minute film, produced by ten of the UK's leading experts, on the implications of climate change and nature breakdown for health, food systems, national security and the economy.
- It sets out how bad things could get (e.g. if the Gulf Stream changes dramatically) but also what an emergency response should look like.
- It is being screened in village halls, cinemas, churches etc to seek to bring together members of the public and civic leaders and to stimulate the action which is urgently needed from the individual to the international.

Saturday 17 October: a very different sort of concert – two concerts in fact – at **2:30** and **7:00 pm**. 'Music by Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande, Coldplay, Harry Styles and more, transformed into elegant string performances creating something altogether more extraordinary. A truly captivating experience, where music, setting, and atmosphere come together to create something quite unforgettable.' This concert is organised by Candelbra Concerts, and details can be seen here:

<https://candelbraconcerts.com/products/bridgerton-inspired-concert-oxford>

And looking further ahead:

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1 November: patronal festival followed by shared lunch in Church House.

Wednesday 11 November, 7.30 pm: Installation of Revd Nikolaj Christensen as our new vicar. All are welcome.

Saturday 21 November, 4.30 pm: our friends the Oxus String Quartet will celebrate 20 years together with a concert in All Saints – as you can read below it is a special occasion.

MESSAGE FROM OXUS

Our string quartet, OXUS, is delighted to be performing our 20th birthday party concert at All Saints Church on Saturday 21 November this year. This is the seventh year of our very happy concert series collaboration with All Saints. Back in 2020, emerging from several months of the first lockdown, we were keen to be able to resume concert playing if at all possible. A tentative enquiry to James Larminie elicited an enthusiastic and supportive response, and our first few concerts were given adhering to the strict distancing guidelines of that time. We've gone on giving three concerts each year in All Saints' Church, serving up a very wide range of quartet music to enthusiastic and growing audiences. We'd really like to thank the church officers for their constant can-do attitude and cheerful, practical help.



Spike (Wilson) and I, two members of OXUS, have lived in Highfield for over 39 years. We first got together with another violinist, Louise Graham, and violist Heather Birt, (both living in Headington), in 2006. We had met as freelancing musicians, and thought it would be fun to play some quartets together. It was! We formed an instant connection, and have been playing together every week for the last twenty years, even though Heather now lives rather further away, in St Albans. We have performed in a wide range of venues over the years, from gardens and bookshops to the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, as well as the more standard concert halls. We like bringing approachable 20th- and 21st-century music to audiences, usually mixed in with more familiar composers (a bit like secreting a pill into a bowl of cat's food!),

and we have found that people are almost universally amazed and delighted by the new discoveries. We also love to communicate with our audience, and tell a story, and we have great fun devising concert programmes which take us and the listeners on a voyage full of varied scenery, but with a story or theme running through the whole.

We feel incredibly lucky to have been playing in OXUS for twenty years. A string quartet can be rather like a second family, and we are really looking forward to sharing our 20th birthday celebrations with our lovely audience at All Saints. It will include many of our specially chosen 'favourite things'. And there will be cake!

Kate Bailey

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: PRAYERS FROM THE CHILDREN

On a recent visit to Winchester we were drawn by the sight of a large number of letters, many of them strewn on the floor of the north transept, and some of them in small (open) old-fashioned suitcases. On closer inspection these were found to be written on luggage labels, a detail explained by the large Paddington Bear sitting in the centre, while other ones (with backpacks) climbed up netting fixed to the top of the pillars. A panel board explained that this was an installation entitled 'Bags of Hope', a project sponsored by the diocese which has aimed to 'foster compassion, empathy, and understanding among children,



students, and adults' for the plight of refugees and migrants. Contributions came from the schools and parishes of the diocese of Winchester.

Children were encouraged to write letters, reflections, and prayers on the luggage labels, and with the Paddingtons and their backpacks these will be distributed to refugee and migrant children within the diocese. These are just three of the messages:

Dear God, Help people find their way. We all deserve food, water and a safe place to live. We pray for the refugees who are fighting for their lives. Please help them feel welcome and give them the essentials they need. Welcome.



Dear Lord, Thank you for the homes and families we have. Please be with refugees who may not have a safe place to sleep tonight. Help people around the world to open their hearts and help them. Amen.

Refugees just want safe homes. The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the greatest intention.

Let their prayers become ours.

Janet and William