



St Helen's Church

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Loving God, Loving Others, Loving the World



Parish Magazine

November 2023

WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



Hello and welcome to November's parish magazine...

And welcome to the month of remembering! Whether its Guy Fawkes or armistice day or all souls (remembering the people we love who have died), November has a flavour of looking back and honouring what has been.

I think it seems apt at the moment, with bombs falling in various parts of the world and storms of various names whirling closer to home, to remember and be thankful for all the big and small acts of kindness and works of justice which can easily be forgotten in the face of global news.

In this edition, contributors old and new highlight a whole host of good causes and everyday acts to help others. From Fairtrade to sustainability, from offering refuge to offering the good news, there really is plenty to remember and take hope from.

I hope you enjoy the read.

With Blessings for the month ahead,

Emily

REV. SUE FIELD WRITES

Dear friends

As I write this, the clocks have just gone back and the nights are drawing in even more. Despite some bright sunny days, there is a definite change to the season as we prepare to face the winter.

In the Church's calendar we are entering into a time of Remembrance firstly around All Saints and All Souls days – times when we particularly remember those close to us who have died. We then have Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday when we remember and give thanks for the lives of those who have died in war, particularly in the first and second world wars.



As well as looking back though, this season of Remembrance invites us to reflect on current and future issues. Those who died in war gave their lives so that future generations could live in peace and freedom and there is therefore a responsibility for all of us to honour their legacy by seeking to do all we can to work for peace and enable freedom in our own relationships but also in the wider world. We can try to live peaceful lives in love and harmony with others but we often feel helpless in the face of the awful suffering and conflict in other parts of the world. What difference can we make in such complex and horrific situations?

And I write this in that wider context of the terrible atrocities and violence happening in the Holy Land and the continuing war in Ukraine and many other places. I follow the twitter feed of the Dean of St George's College Jerusalem, an Anglican education centre in the heart of Jerusalem and the Cathedral in the Diocese of Jerusalem. The Dean writes regularly about the events in Gaza and says that even Christians in Jerusalem feel helpless but they are praying. He says, 'in the middle of the continuing violence, death and fear, Christians and all people of faith are called to pray and to strive to

use their words and actions towards peace and justice.’

As Christians we are called to pray for peace and for justice not just in our immediate contexts but also in the wider world, and it would be good if all of us in the Flagstaff parishes committed daily to pray for the peace of the world and committed ourselves to ensuring that we do all we can to work for peace. The Church of England has circulated a prayer approved by Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem. Please join with me in praying this prayer each day.

*O God of all justice and peace,
we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear
which prevails in the Holy Land.
Be with those who need you in these days of suffering;
we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and Christians
and for all people of the land.
While we pray to you, O Lord,
for an end to violence and the establishment of peace,
we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples.
Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and
honour as your children – for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.*

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122).

With my prayers and best wishes

Sue



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT...

HEART WARMING SPACE?

Continuing our look at the many and varied things that God does within our church, we hear from the team behind the heart warming space about what they do and how we can support them.

One very grey day in October I headed off to the heart warming space for some light refreshments and some respite from the pouring rain. And what a warm welcome I received! That week about 12 or so of us gathered round the table with tea and cake and plenty of good conversation. It was great to spend time with people of all ages and to be introduced to some new faces. Alison even hosted a little Cilla Black sing along– although I don't think this can be expected every week!



The Heart Warming Space was launched back in April this year as somewhere for people to gather with friends or make new ones. Open from 1-4pm, refreshments are completely free of charge and everyone will be greeted with a friendly welcome upon arrival. The HWS team are keen to have more children and young families along– there is a children's activity corner, plenty of space to roam and even the garden to explore if the weather allows.

Have you thought about popping down one Friday afternoon? Do you have a neighbour who might like to meet some new people? Why not invite them along? Alternatively, you might consider joining the team who run the space. There is currently a need for people willing to join the rota for hosting the space from time to time or for those willing to come and assist

in making people welcome. You would have people helping you in setting up and serving drinks, amongst other things. The most important part of the role is most definitely being up for some friendly conversations with visitors and being a welcoming face. If you think this could be you then do get in touch with Eileen Coombs or anyone else involved with HWS.

MESSY CHURCH

This month's Messy church was held at St Helens Community Heritage Centre . Great fun was had taking a trip with Noah and the animals in the ark. Rainbow themed pizza and origami animals were created together with animal masks . Everyone joined in the song "Who built the ark? (Noah -of course!) and a wonderful rainbow painted by the children was raised to end the session.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone next month at Viscount Beaumont School, Coleorton on Sunday 26th November!



Liz Smith

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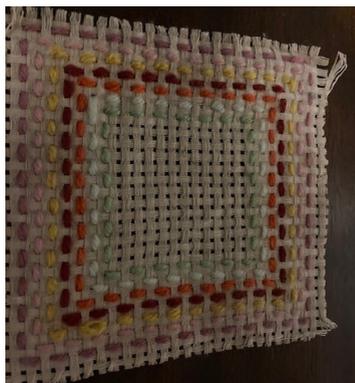
Telephone **01530 417096**

UPDATE FROM LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN OF SANCTUARY

First, a big thank you– this time to the Sew It Don't Throw It (SIDTI) group. Their recent work to encourage us to avoid fast fashion by up-cycling garments and recycling fabrics has benefitted asylum seeker families... in an unexpected way!

Helen Smith contacted me to ask if children would enjoy receiving some fun activity packs– and with the school holiday imminent, I

jumped at the chance. Each pack included easy to follow instructions (mainly in pictures), fabric pieces– and everything else needed– either to make a colourful fabric decoration or a simple embroidered mat.



I arrived at the children's accommodation (trust me!- its very far from what you would normally expect at a 'hotel'!) and was immediately greeted by an eager little girl– intrigued by the boxes of gift bags... and very excited to hear that one of these was especially for her!

THANK YOU SIDTI group for the pleasure you have given to these children, all of whom have experienced the trauma of displacement.

Next– two requests:

1– With a definite chill in the air, already the gift of a warm hat, scarf or gloves has been much appreciated. We offer these when 'meeting and greeting' outside the immigration office– and also to families at our weekly English conversation sessions. Please keep the hats, scarves and gloves coming! Collecting boxes are available at St Mary's services, in the porch at my home and at the back of St Helen's church, Ashby.

2– I hate to mention Christmas shopping so early (!) but we’re hoping to give each child at the hotel a Christmas gift. There are 40 children from a few months old to young teenagers and everything in between, so if you could put a child on your shopping list, it would be much appreciated. If you could wrap the gift and stick a post it not on it, telling me what’s inside and indicating a suitable age group, that would be great! Nothing extravagant– I’d suggest £10 at the most– and of course, feel free to share the cost with a friend.



And now, food for thought...

I attended the City of Sanctuary Annual Conference recently which was both inspiring and cautionary in equal measure.

The inspiring bit was the message that love always, ALWAYS wins over hate! For example, Nigel Farage had recently appeared on GB news, trying to stir up trouble for the ‘Schools of Sanctuary’ programme, by saying it was ‘political indoctrination, promoting open borders’. The organization responded, explaining their simple message for children of kindness to all—and the same day, 7 new schools signed up to the programme and £1000 was raised in support! Thanks very much Nigel !

The cautionary bit came in the ‘Faith Stream Workshop’ with a story from Derby Cathedral which made me cry... but more on that next month, when I have thought through its implications for our churches in terms of our welcome—or otherwise— that we offer those seeking sanctuary.

Watch this space!

Pat Stafford

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PRG DENIM WORKSHOP

On a Saturday, 2-4:30pm, there is a denim workshop for people who love creating, sticking, and designing. You can bring friends and chat whilst creating. Drinks and snacks are provided.

Staff are volunteers and are very helpful and have great ideas. The denim workshop was thought of by the staff because they thought that younger people would want a chance to be creative at no cost whatsoever. They originally taught adults to sew and mend clothes that might not fit instead of throwing them away.

Here are some pictures of people's designs:



We meet in the heritage centre at St Helen's church at 2pm, everyone welcome!

Here is one of the finished designs:



Ebony Price

ASHBY YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Sk8ers– what's it all about?

Sk8ers youth club is a space where young people can: meet with their friends, play games, sit and chat, have a game of pool, play on the Wii computer, enjoy arts and crafts, stroke buddy the therapy dog, eat Greggs and toast, have lots of drinks of hot chocolate or juice and..... Hear about God and be prayed for. It's an outreach youth club to the mostly unchurched young people in our town. We meet weekly, during term time, on a Monday in Ashby Baptist Church between 6-7pm. We have on average 15-20 young people attending each week from a group of about 40 young people.



They don't come for the good news but they will hear a snippet of who God is every week at our God spot and be prayed for, as we start the group each week. In Romans 10:14 it says "How then , can they call upon the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have never heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" This passage is very dear to me, and I believe at the very heart of what we do at Sk8ers.

Each week we demonstrate who God is by our living care for these young people. We declare who God is to us and to them weekly in our God spot. We offer the opportunity to make a decision for Christ at least once per term, by asking young people to respond and inviting them to larger



events where they can respond. And finally, we offer discipleship through out Rock Solid youth group or by becoming a helper at one of our youth groups. Everything we do is with the intention of 'sharing the good news relevantly with young people' that they may come to know Him for themselves.

Please do hold sk8ers and the work of AYFC in your prayers. Here are some prompts which you may find helpful:

- for sk8ers, for the young people who come from their many different homes and situations; that they may feel peace in the sk8ers space and loved when they are with us.
- that the seeds we sow are watered by the Holy Spirit into maturing faith in God and our Lord Jesus.
- For the staff team and volunteers who faithfully serve the young people.
- For protection over our club and provision financially and with more volunteers.
- For the three young people from Rock Solid who were baptised last month.

Katie, Vernon, Eileen, Lisa and the sk8ers team

SAVE THE DATE FOR CRACKERTERIA!

Each year AYFC host a pop-up Christmas café, staffed by our young people and raising much needed funds for the work of Youth For Christ in Moldova. This year it will be held on Saturday 2nd December. More details to follow.



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SEW IT DONT THROW IT FASHION SHOW

Last month, as the culmination of the sew it don't throw it workshops, the team hosted a fantastic fashion show of garments made using repurposed materials. The clothes were all made by the SIDTI sewing tutors and other creative friends and were modeled by willing volunteers, most of whom had attended one of the classes or events. The event coincided with Ashby's FABulous and sustainable fashion week so it was an apt time to draw attention to the cause of combating fast fashion. The event was tremendous fun and was well received by an audience of 90 across both shows.



OUR WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

	am	pm	Wednesday
1st Sunday 5th November		3.30pm All-Age Worship	1st Wednesday– 8th Holy Communion 10.30am Prior park communi- ty centre
2nd Sunday 12th November	9.30 am Remembrance Sunday		2nd Wednesday– 15th Service of the word 10.30am In church
3rd Sunday 19th November	10.30 am Holy Communion		3rd Wednesday– 22nd Holy communion 10.30am In church
4th Sunday 26th November	10.30 am Holy Communion	3.30pm Messy Church Viscount Beaumont’s school	4th Wednesday– 29th Holy Communion 10.30am In church

Regular activities:

- Monday mornings - Little Fishes 9.30 - 11.30am during term time
- Mondays - Monday Group – 8pm
- 3rd Tuesday - MU meeting – 10.30am till 12 noon
- 3rd Tuesday - PCC meeting – 7 till 9pm
- 1st Wednesday - Knit and natter – 2 till 4pm
- Thursdays - Choir practice – 6.30 till 8.30pm
- Fridays - Heart- warming Space 1-4pm
- Saturdays - Parish Prayers – 9.30am in the Hastings chapel

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY // NOVEMBER

- **TUESDAY 28TH - HERITAGE TALK 'THREADS OF HISTORY' WITH MARY TUCKEY - 7.30PM / £4** including light refreshments. Tickets available on the door.

FURTHER AHEAD: CHRISTMAS AT ST HELENS

- CHRISTINGLE– SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 3.30PM
- ADVENT CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT– SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 6.30PM
- NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS– SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 6.30PM
- NATIVITY SERVICE– SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER 5PM
- MIDNIGHT COMMUNION– SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER 11.30PM
- CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION (ALL AGE)- 10AM

SAFEGUARDING EVENTS (FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

If you think you need to take some safeguarding training (maybe a change of role– or you need to renew it) and you find it easier to attend face to face training, here are some opportunities.

- SAFER RECRUITMENT AND PEOPLE MANAGEMENT: Monday 20th November 10am-1pm.
- SAFEGUARDING LEADERSHIP—VSLT25101123 10th & 24th Nov 10am
— VSLT26131123 13th & 27th Nov 7pm
- FOUNDATION: Thursday 16th November, 1-4.30pm, St Peter's Centre, Wigston Road, Oadby
- RAISING AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE: Thursday 7th December, 1-4.30pm, 1-4.30pm, St Peter's Centre, Wigston Road, Oadby
- PTO SAFEGUARDING TRAINING– PTO8081223 Friday 8th December 10am –1pm (zoom)

For further details, including how to book, please go to <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/training-and-events> or contact Liz Smith at e.smith991@btinternet.com

Liz Smith– Safeguarding officer



JP SPRINGTHORPE & C^o

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FAIR2ALL

We are celebrating 15 years of fair2all, a shop with a difference. We are a fair trade shop working ethically and sustainably. 12 years ago fair2all moved to 17 Bath Street having initially opened in 2008 at 17 The Green.

fair2all sells a wide range of handmade items including rugs and soft furnishing, jewellery, bags and scarves, also toys and clothes and more beside – when you visit you'll know why fair2all has been described as Ashby's fair trade department store!!

Come and celebrate a thank you to all our customers; if you spend £15 at fair2all before Sunday 12th November you will receive a voucher which will give you 5% off a purchase between 15th November and 15th December. You will need to leave your email to validate your voucher. You can collect as many vouchers as you wish, one voucher gives 5% off one spend.



The aim of fair2all is to offer items which have created fair paid work for skilled people who are some of the poorest in our world. The skilled artisans who make the products are poor because of the way conventional trade works. Many fair trade businesses were created to redress this inequality.

With a fair trade business order, the producers are generally paid half the cost of the order when it is placed. This enables the producers to pay their skilled workers a fair wage and provide many of the benefits we take for granted, for example healthcare, pensions and schooling for their children.

Small producers are often supported by 'umbrella' organisations, enabling them to sell their products for a fair price, comply with regulations (including an audit to ensure that they are following fair trade principles)

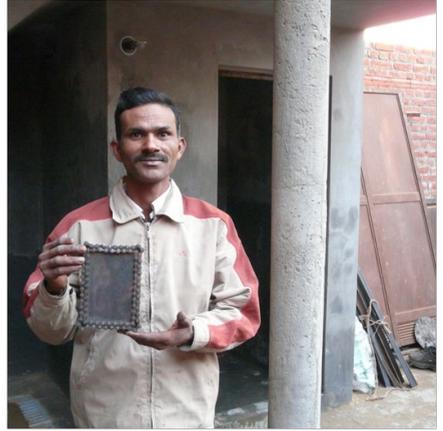
and to export their products.

The Bike Chain Picture Frames that fair2all sells are made in a workshop set up by Kamrul over 20 years ago. The fair price he's paid for these frames and other items made of recycled Bike Chain has enabled him to not only have a secure income but has meant he can employ a team of 6 fairly paid crafts people in his workshop.

Many of the products sold by fair2all are made from materials that are recycled or upcycled, are waste materials from other processes, destined for landfill, or are grown or produced with a low environmental impact.

I hope you will come and enjoy a visit (if you've not already done so) to fair2all.

For more information please see www.fair2all.net



Mandy McIntosh – Founder fair2all

A photograph of a barn dance band performing on a wooden floor. The band members are wearing various styles of pants and boots. The text "The Ranters Barn Dance Band" is overlaid in a large, blue, stylized font across the image.

The Ranters Barn Dance Band

We are a locally based 5 piece Barn Dance Band with a lady caller.

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BEING A PUMPKIN!

Being a Christian is like being a Pumpkin.

A lady recently asked her co-worker what it was like to be a Christian?

The lady replied, "It's like being a pumpkin:

God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes the dirt off you may have got from the other pumpkins. Then he cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., then he carves you a new smiling face and puts his light inside you to shine for all the world to see."



This message was passed on to me from another pumpkin that was picked from the patch. Share this with others including those who may still be in the pumpkin patch.

(Author unknown - 'Treasure Box Poetry and Praise')

Thanks to Pam Watson for submitting this seasonal anecdote.



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CONTROVERSIAL SOUVENIRS

As it is November, and the month of Remembrance, I felt that the following story from the end of the First World War would be appropriate. Incidentally, this will be my one hundredth article for this magazine!

At the end of the First World War, when troops began to return home, some of the men may have brought back souvenirs of their time in the trenches. It seems not to be well-known, however, that whole towns and villages in the UK were offered souvenirs of the conflict which were not always popular. Ashby de la Zouch was one such place that received such an offer.

Many towns expected to be offered a German field gun and would reject anything less. For example, Henley Town Council rejected a machine gun in June 1919, but accepted a field gun. Kenilworth also rejected three machine guns and applied for a field gun. At Southam in Warwickshire, the haul of war trophies was much bigger. According to the Warwick and Warwick Advertiser in December 1919 it included: 1 field gun, 1 helmet, 14 rifles, 1 suit of body armour, 1 German entrenching tool. The Council decided to accept these as souvenirs of the Great War. It was planned that the field gun would find its resting place in the new recreation ground when possession was acquired and in the meantime the Clerk promised to see that the trophies were properly stored.

In Ashby, the story was not so straightforward. At a meeting of the Ashby Urban Council, on 11th August 1919, a letter was read out from the Secretary of War stating that the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, and the Commanding Officer of the 6th and 7th Battalions of the Leicestershire Regiment, had recommended that a German field gun, captured by the battalions, should be offered to Ashby for safe keeping.

A debate immediately broke out with one member of the Council, Dr Logan, proposing that the offer be accepted, while Colonel German asked where such a thing could be kept. The strongest opposition came from a Mr Tugby who said that, while he admired those who had captured the gun, he wanted the Council to pause and think about the fact that this "instrument of war" had sent to their deaths many English soldiers. He said that the parents and husbands of those killed in battle had already been "lacerated

enough” and felt that it would not be right to exhibit a trophy which would renew their feelings of grief and sorrow. He claimed that he had spoken to relatives of the dead and that they had fiercely opposed such a proposal.

Two other Council members expressed rather different views. Mr Elliott stated that he thought time would heal the wounds of the bereaved, while Captain Hastings said that, as a soldier himself, he felt the sight of a captured gun would be a pleasurable one. Mr Tugby stated that if the gun was accepted, he would never enter the Council chamber again and it was decided to postpone a decision for a month in order to canvas more views from the people of the town.

At a meeting of the Council in September, Colonel German again proposed that they accept the German gun on behalf of the town. Once again there was disagreement. Mr George Brown claimed that a great majority of the town were in favour of acceptance, whereas Mr Tugby again stated that most of the town was dead against the idea of war trophies or indeed anything else made in Germany. He said that a British tank would have been a much better way of honouring the valour of the British troops.

Mr Tugby had apparently made enquires not just of the towns people, but also of what had happened in other towns and villages. He found that in Farnham, four guns were pitched into the river and some other trophies were “got out of sight” and eventually hidden in a cellar.

The resolution to accept the gun was carried by four votes to two and Mr Tugby remarked: “I hope you’ll have it put in the Police Station where it can be chained up!”

Whether the gun did ever come to Ashby and whether it was ever displayed anywhere, I have been unable to find out. There were no further references to it in the newspapers of the day and Ashby de la Zouch Museum have no knowledge of it either.

Wendy Freer

GARDENING TIPS FOR NOVEMBER

Although November tends to be about woolly jumpers, hot drinks and cosy movie nights, there is still plenty to do in the garden. It is an ideal time to clear up, review planting schemes and tackle any weeds. It is well known that good Mental Wellbeing has strong links to gardening. However, the days are shorter so you have less time to spend in your garden.

The Winter months can also be a challenging time for animals, so being prepared to support local wildlife, including birds and hedgehogs, can really make a difference. They need to stay warm and well-fed to survive and this can be a real struggle.

Hedgehogs go into hibernation anytime between October and December depending on how mild the temperature is. To prepare for this they often start eating more and building a nest. You should consider installing a hedgehog house in your garden, and providing them with food as long as they are eating it.



Birds usually eat more to build up fat reserves (as we know from our nuts and seeds which seem to be disappearing very quickly) and find somewhere to roost during the colder months. You could add bird boxes to your garden to give them a home for the Winter and you could also install a bird feeder and provide them with high fat foods like sunflower seeds, peanuts and mealworm fat balls. Birds need water for drinking and bathing so give them a fresh supply of clean water in a birdbath.

Continue to rake up the leaves from lawns, ponds and other areas in the garden – it seems to be a never-ending job! Decomposition of leaves and plants in a pond will raise the Nitrate levels and so reduce the oxygen which is not good for the fish and other pond creatures. As mentioned before, it is worth saving the leaves to make leaf mould.

November is a good time to plant tulip bulbs in the ground or in pots. Plant $\frac{2}{3}$ times the depth of the bulb in light soil. If your soil is heavy then add grit to improve drainage as the bulbs do not like to sit in water. Hardy bedding plants, such as Pansies, Violas, Cyclamens, Primroses and Heathers

are great tolerating our frosty British Winter and will provide lovely colour, even when it's miserable outside.

It is recommended that you cover your vegetable beds with well-rotted organic matter if leaving them empty over Winter. It will break down in the cold weather to release its valuable nutrients that will improve fertility and soil structure. Sow first Early Peas, Spring Onions and Broad Beans for early Spring crops.

Give your garden tools a check and make sure they are clean and, in some cases, sharp. Also ensure that your lawnmower has been cleaned and checked over. Remove all traces of fuel if necessary.

Consider adding fairy lights and garden ornaments to your garden. We have added many sets, they are battery operated, remote controlled and inexpensive. It is lovely to wrap up, take a walk outside on a cold Winter's evening and enjoy your garden.

Alan Cross

Wanted by Restorer

Do you have ...

⇒ pre 1970s furniture, wood or woodworking tools?

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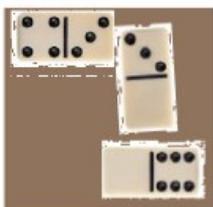
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HEART WARMING SPACE



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to
4pm

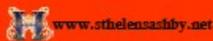
Tea
Cake
Chat
Cards
Games



Includes a
'children's
corner'



Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE65 1AB





SHOPPING LIST FOR NOVEMBER

Donations can be left in the boxes at the back of St Helen's Church, in the porch of Holy Trinity or the Congregational Church, or at any of Ashby's Co-ops. Thank you to everyone for the continued support.

Donations welcomed for the food bank's Christmas hamper appeal, to be received by December 1st please:

- Tinned salmon
- Christmas pudding/cake
- Mince pies (long dated ones please)
- Evaporated/ carnation milk
 - Pickles/ relishes
 - Tinned/ jar pates
- Savoury biscuits/ crackers
 - Nibbles / crisps
- Shortbread/ tinned biscuits
 - Chocolate treats

St Helen's Church is part of the **Ashby Churches**

Alliance Church	07753 679147
Ashby Baptist Church	01530 413721
Ashby Congregational	01530 563301
Ashby Methodist Church	01530 412298
Holy Trinity	01530 412339
Our Lady of Lourdes	01530 412237

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint Helen, Ashby de-la Zouch. Charity Number 1200922