



## St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

# Notices for 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

My dear Friends

After a run of more settled lock-down weeks, it feels like we're approaching some change, although exactly what that will look like for each of us awaits Boris Johnson's statement on Sunday night - and probably several more statements after that, too.

One thing that has been reviewed already this week is our access to our church buildings. You may have picked up on this story through the media. The review was triggered, in part, by a letter sent by a group of MPs to our Archbishops. The MPs were asking for a relaxation in rules governing access to our buildings, with a particular appeal made on behalf of bereaved families.

On Monday, in response, the House of Bishops issued a statement outlining the stages the Church of England would follow in moving from the existing position to fully opening buildings once again. We will move through these in step with government guidelines on lockdown, shielding and social isolation.

On Tuesday, the Bishops of Leicester and Loughborough wrote to clergy and licensed lay people about Stage One of this process; a stage which is to take immediate effect.

In addition to allowing access to the church to check the fabric, Stage One allows one person (and their household) per parish to go into church to pray, to preside at Holy

Communion and to live stream services. The guidelines are clear that this one person must always be the same person and that they cannot mix with anyone from outside their own household in church.

Stewart, Tim and I have thought carefully about this and have decided not to change any of our current practice in the light of this. In other words, we, as worship leaders, will continue to lead our services from our own homes, just as you will continue to engage with those services in your own homes. Only when some of us, at least, can gather together in our buildings to worship will we hold services from there - and then we will find ways of live-streaming those services to those who must remain at home.

Why have we decided this?

Well, first of all there's been a great sense of us journeying together through this pandemic, of us each being in the same situation: none of us have access to worship in church; each of us is worshipping at home. We want to preserve that fellowship, that solidarity.

Secondly, we have lots of different people leading our worship - and can once again thank my colleagues and friends who are sharing in this ministry with me. It would feel uncomfortable and divisive if one of us was able to lead worship from church, and the others weren't.

Thirdly, we want to uphold the wonderful truth that God is present with us, wherever we are. We don't need to be in church to worship God or to encounter him.

Finally, the word 'ecclesiology' - a word we use for church - comes from the Greek word meaning 'gathering'. We want to wait to use our church *building* until the church is *gathered* in it.

Do let me know your response to our approach - and do keep me in touch with how you are. I do pray for you and miss you every day!

With love

Mary

## THANK YOU

Betty King would like to thank everyone very much for the cards, flowers and condolences she received following her sister, Dorothy's death. Betty felt upheld in love and prayer and she is so grateful.

She has asked that we also pray for her sister-in-law, Emmie Ryden, who is very poorly with pneumonia in hospital in Scotland. Emmie has been in hospital since 26th March.

## VE DAY 75

Our service to mark VE Day 75 is on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am on Facebook Live. It will be an opportunity to think about our own responses to war, and our own responsibility in securing and keeping peace.

All on-line services can be seen retrospectively on our website, along with all Revd Mary's weekly letters, and the May parish magazine -

<https://www.sthelensashby.net/>

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### The bereaved:

Please pray for the family and friends of Trevor Nall, and anyone known to you who is bereaved.

Please pray for all families for whom the funerals of their loved ones have taken place during this difficult time, including:

- ◆ Sheelagh Judge
- ◆ Roy Hodges
- ◆ Mykola Kuzyszyn
- ◆ Hazel Farmer
- ◆ David Robert Smith
- ◆ Dorothy Wragg
- ◆ Marie Bowman
- ◆ Bill Woodward
- ◆ Olive Pointon
- ◆ Sheila Wood

And for the families awaiting the funerals of loved ones:

- ◆ Henry Tagg 14<sup>th</sup> May
- ◆ June Stapleton 15<sup>th</sup> May
- ◆ Judith Graves 18<sup>th</sup> May
- ◆ Ann Wheatley 18<sup>th</sup> May

### The sick, disabled or housebound:

Pray for ...

- ◆ Tia Rose Brownlow
- ◆ Val Dawson
- ◆ Margaret Stalker
- ◆ Carole Youles

...& others known to you

### In love, we remember those whose anniversary of death falls at this time, and pray for their families and friends:

- ◆ Kathleen Betty Evans
- ◆ Barbara Whitlock
- ◆ Paul Verrill Cooper
- ◆ Elsie May Avins
- ◆ David Benson

## NOTICES

### **Free Dial-in Worship Phone Line**

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Daily Hope is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044, and offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. Please spread the word.

### **Safeguarding during the coronavirus pandemic:**

The NSPCC has created a new webpage with information and advice for parents or carers who are worried a child or young person may be struggling with their mental health or has anxiety about coronavirus. The webpage includes information on: talking about feelings and worries; keeping in touch and balancing screen time; ways to create structure and routine; and helping to give children a sense of control. **Read the information and advice:** [\*Talking to a child worried about coronavirus \(COVID-19\).\*](#)

Further vital information from Leicester Diocese about safeguarding can be found [\*here\*](#).

**Domestic Abuse:** We know that for those experiencing domestic abuse, self isolating at home presents additional dangers. Women's Aid have a helpful website.

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/covid-19-coronavirus-safety-advice-for-survivors/>

### **Ashby Foodbank**

If you would like to donate food and toiletries to Ashby Foodbank there are boxes in the porches of both Holy Trinity Church and the Congregational Church. Also, the Ashby Co-ops have collection points.

### **Christian Aid Week**

Christian Aid week will be a little different this year with no house-to-house collections or Big Brekkies. Instead it has moved on-line so we can still reach out to protect our neighbours around the world.

You can make your on-line donation via the St Helen's e-envelope link below. Please share the e-envelope link with your friends and family and anyone else you know would like the opportunity to donate.

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/eyJlbnZlbG9wZSI6MzczMCwgImNoYW5uZWwiOiJjb3B5In0=>

NB When you click on the link two options are given: (1) to donate and create an e-envelope (to send to a friend) or (2) simply to donate (This second choice has two options as well: a one-off payment or a regular donation).

**May's Parish Magazine** is now available on the website.

[https://www.sthelensashby.net/Group/s/339405/Parish\\_Magazine.aspx](https://www.sthelensashby.net/Group/s/339405/Parish_Magazine.aspx)

## Photos

Julie Starkey is gathering photos to create a gallery of photos of past celebrations that St Helen's has taken part in on our website. She already has photos of the opening of the Community Heritage Centre, the Heritage Project winning awards, Remembrance Sunday, the special evening remembrance event by the Tower in 2018, the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations, and the Team Harvest party. If anyone has photos of other celebrations, please share them with Julie.

### ◆ St Helen's Prayer Chain requests:

Judith Lewis on 01530 564204  
or email [jchjcl@gmail.com](mailto:jchjcl@gmail.com)

### ◆ Notice Sheet Prayer requests:

To Jill Chapman at the virtual parish office  
on 07725 519453

## Contact Details

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◆ Flagstaff Team website:	<a href="http://www.flagstaff.org.uk">www.flagstaff.org.uk</a>	
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