



## St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

# Notices for 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

My dear Friends

My letter to you this week has at its heart a simple but vitally important request: please pray for teachers - and, with them, for teaching assistants, school support staff and governors. Please pray for schools.

Some of us work in schools, or are close to someone who does. Some of us are school governors. Most of us have children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces and godchildren who go to school. Schools lie at the heart of our community. They really matter.

And yet, over the last couple of weeks, excellent school staff have come under intolerable pressure, have been subject to the most awful vilification in the press, as they try to understand how they can safely welcome children back to school. The attacks made on teachers are completely unwarranted and make me weep. I am a governor in two schools, my sister works in school, many of my best friends are teachers and every last one of them wants children back in school as soon as possible - as soon as it is safe to do so. Their hesitations, their concerns, are only in the best interests of the children in their care, only have the safety and welfare of children right at the heart - and so their newly imposed status as new public enemy number one is cruel and unjust.

This is not a political letter. I'm not in a position to second guess the government's advice to schools and

nor do I want to do so. No, this is not a political letter. It is, instead, a plea for kindness, for compassion, for understanding, for imagination, for the honouring of a group of people who give so much to our children, and to our children's children. I know that I am 'preaching' to the converted, but my particular request to *you* is to pray; to *pray* for kindness, compassion, understanding and imagination *towards* teachers and the honouring *of* teachers in our media, in our national life, in our communities.

I don't want to be in another Zoom meeting where teachers are tearful because of the bad press they have received. I don't want to read another Facebook post from a friend who is broken-hearted having dedicated her entire working life to teaching. Please - pray for kindness.

And please pray for our children, doing so brilliantly in extraordinary circumstances, that as adults we would find ways to ensure that they thrive in body, mind and spirit as they are educated at home, and as they return to school. Jesus put a high priority on children - made protecting them a sign of his kingdom. We do too.

My friends, please pray this week for schools, for school staff, for children. There are few greater priorities for us this week.

With love

Mary

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### The bereaved:

Please pray for the family and friends of Dennis Grainger, 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
- ◆ Henry Tagg
- ◆ June Stapleton
- ◆ Judith Graves
- ◆ Ann Wheatley
- ◆ Albert Meakin

And for the families awaiting the funerals of loved ones.

- ◆ Christopher McVickers 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020
- ◆ Dennis Grainger 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020
- ◆ Graham Howells 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### The sick, disabled or housebound:

Pray for ...

- ◆ Tia Rose Brownlow
  - ◆ Val Dawson
  - ◆ Margaret Stalker
  - ◆ Carole Youles
- ...& others known to you

#### ◆ 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  
[sthelensashby@gmail.com](mailto:sthelensashby@gmail.com)

## Services:

### All-Age Communion

On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Stewart will lead us in an all-age Communion service for the Flagstaff churches at 10.30am. It will be live-streamed on Facebook, as usual, and then available on the website on the 'On-line Services and Readings' tab under Church Life.

### Care and Share

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June, the service will be an all-age service, as it would have been under our more usual service pattern. It will include the 'Care and Share' slot where we share news, pray for each other, and celebrate birthdays. It will be live-streamed to Facebook via Zoom, so if you have a birthday in June, or we missed your birthday in May, let Jill know, so we can send you the Zoom link. You'll be able to join the service live. Singing our special version of 'Happy Birthday to You' should be straightforward. How we get your virtual chocolate to you might be harder to arrange.

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

- ◆ Arthur Henry Drabble
- ◆ Elsie May Wheatley
- ◆ Sydney Charles Walker
- ◆ Brian John Colver
- ◆ Phyllis May Hill
- ◆ Albert Bird
- ◆ Edna Lucy Stewart
- ◆ Nigel John William Gray
- ◆ Horace Beadsmore
- ◆ Betsy May Perry
- ◆ Marie Anna Glendenning Liddell

## NOTICES

### **Ashby Churches' Pentecost prayer meeting – via Zoom**

All Ashby churches are welcome to join in the Pentecost Prayer meeting via Zoom on 31<sup>st</sup> May at 3pm

To join the Zoom meeting please click on the link below at 3pm on 31<sup>st</sup>.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81669376712?pwd=bEtWV0xFY0hPRGdFUE95b0RnWmgxQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 6937 6712

Password: 023452

### **Christian Aid Week**

If you missed any of our Christian Aid Week's Prayers For The Day, they can be found on the 'Recent Events' page of our website, along with the e-envelope for donations and the petition to sign.

[https://www.sthelensashby.net/Articles/577634/Christian\\_Aid\\_Week.aspx](https://www.sthelensashby.net/Articles/577634/Christian_Aid_Week.aspx)

### **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.

According to their website, they are particularly in need of

- Tinned fruit (400gms)
- Tinned sponge pudding
- Tinned meat pies
- UHT milk (1 litre)
- Breakfast cereals

They've got plenty of

- Baked beans
- Sugar

## Contact Details

- ◆ Rev'd Canon Mary Gregory:  
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- ◆ St Helen's website:  
<https://www.sthelensashby.net/>
- ◆ Flagstaff Team website:  
www.flagstaff.org.uk
- ◆ Facebook:  
St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch
- ◆ Twitter:  
@sthelensashby

This week's craft project organised by our Heritage Centre is:



**St Helen's Heritage Centre**

4 Church Yard, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics, LE651AA

## DESIGN YOUR OWN STAINED GLASS WINDOW

Even though we can't be together at the Heritage Centre for our normal fun-filled workshops, we thought we'd post some easy to do at home crafts for all to join in with.

St Helen's has many beautiful stained glass windows that range from the 13th to the 19th Century. Some depict coats of arms while others tell the story of the Life of Christ.

Could you draw your own window? It could be your family, things that you love, elements of nature or just colours that make you happy!.



Either use the template provided or draw your own outline and set to work colouring in!



We would love you to share your creations with us as we will be posting some of them online and later compiling a memory book for everyone to see when we can all be together again.

**Happy Creating and Stay Safe !**

**Send your stories and pictures to:**

**sthelensheritage@gmail.com or post on our Facebook page: Facebook.com/sthelensheritage**

Check out our new St. Helen's website for more heritage inspired activities

<https://www.sthelensashby.net/Group/Group.aspx?ID=327495>



Facebook.com/sthelensheritage

www.sthelensheritage.co.uk

Email: sthelensheritage@gmail.com



(Jill can email you the template of the window if you'd like one.)