



## St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

# Notices for 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

My dear Friends

I am not someone who cries very readily. I tend to process things internally, and often the way I express my emotion is in silence. I need to be given space to let everything filter down, to let any new, painful experience find its place within who I am and then, when I am ready, to offer that pain, and the new version of myself to God. I think this can be difficult for those around me: they can't see what's going on for me and so they feel they can't respond.

In lock-down the tears, from time to time, have come more readily; tears as I have seen the awful pain of those who are bereaved, who ache to hold one another in their shared loss but have to keep one another at a socially distanced arm's length; tears as I have seen the impact of lock-down on some of those closest to me; tears as I have listened to your struggles on the end of a phone when all I have wanted to do is come round and hold your hand; tears as someone on Market Street last week, having told me how they were managing, said 'I just want you to give me a hug' and I couldn't.

As I've been reflecting on this more ready tendency to tears, I've been reminded of the London Marathon. Bear with me now. Why the London Marathon? - well, even in 'ordinary time', the London Marathon is always guaranteed to make me weep. It's not the sight of the elite runners with their

sprint finish, magnificent though this is. It's seeing the charity runners pushing themselves step after painful step to get themselves across the line; to keep on going although everything inside them is screaming at them to stop; it's seeing their agony and their pride as they spot their family in the crowd and, eventually, as they stumble across the finish line. I can only watch the London Marathon with a box of tissues and a consolatory bar of chocolate at my side.

And perhaps this accounts for how much nearer the surface my tears are than normal; because we are *all* running a marathon at the moment - this long, long journey through lock-down - and I see how many of you are struggling to keep going, just as I recognise that I am longing to see the finish line myself. And so I want you to know just this: that I am sitting watching your marathon with my tissues and the odd bar of chocolate at my side, and I am willing you on, cheering you on, with such pride at your endurance and at your perseverance. Keep going.

I know that this week has been especially tough for some of you. I am praying for you. Pray for me. And in the words of the beautiful reading I chose for Dennis Grainger's funeral service, let us continue to 'rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep' (Romans 12.15) and let us 'run with perseverance the race that is set before us' (Hebrews 12.1). The finishing line will come one day.

In the meantime, we don't run alone  
but in the company of one another,  
and in the presence of God.

God bless you.

Mary

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

### **The bereaved:**

Please pray for the family and friends of  
Jane Wise, 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
- ◆ Christopher McVickers
- ◆ Dennis Grainger
- ◆ Graham Howells
- ◆ Jane Wise

And for the families awaiting the  
funerals of loved ones, including:

- ◆ Florence Hannah James  
on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- ◆ David Garrett  
on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### **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:**

- ◆ Alfred Henry Croxton
- ◆ Colin Henry Veitch
- ◆ Hilda May Hines
- ◆ Carrie Louise Harris

### **◆ 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)

## NOTICES

### June's parish magazine

This month's edition of the magazine, including Mary's letter, reflections on 'lockdown' from various members of the congregation, photos of some highlights, and lowlights of the last month's services, and much, much more, is available on the St Helen's Church website:

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

### Flag of Joy

In [Prayer for the Day on 4<sup>th</sup> June](#) Andy Smith invited us to create a 'Flag of Joy', so that when we gather together once more in the future we have bunting to tell our stories.

As well as sending your flag design to the Facebook page, if you're happy for them to feature in next month's magazine, please send them to Jill Chapman at

[jill.chapman12@btopenworld.com](mailto:jill.chapman12@btopenworld.com)

### Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast meeting will be Michael Phillips taking everyone on a virtual journey across America in his campervan. It is at 9.00am on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020 using ZOOM. For joining instructions please contact Geoff Richman - [geoff.richman@btinternet.com](mailto:geoff.richman@btinternet.com)

### What's happening in the St Helen's Community Heritage Centre this week?

Don't forget to check in with the Heritage Centre's Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/sthelensheritage/> or on their page on the St Helen's Church website - <https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/327486/Heritage.aspx>

### Contact Details

- ◆ Rev'd Canon Mary Gregory:  
[revmarygregory@aol.co.uk](mailto:revmarygregory@aol.co.uk)  
01530 564372
- ◆ Rev'd Stewart Betts:  
[stewart@flagstaff.org.uk](mailto:stewart@flagstaff.org.uk)  
07919 890094
- ◆ Parish Office: Jill Chapman  
[sthelensashby@gmail.com](mailto:sthelensashby@gmail.com)  
07725 519453
- ◆ Heritage:  
[sthelensheritage@gmail.com](mailto:sthelensheritage@gmail.com)  
07435 564236
- ◆ Lettings:  
[sthelenslettings@gmail.com](mailto:sthelenslettings@gmail.com)
- ◆ Buildings Team:  
[sthelensbuildings@gmail.com](mailto:sthelensbuildings@gmail.com)
- ◆ St Helen's website:  
<https://www.sthelensashby.net/>
- ◆ Flagstaff Team website:  
[www.flagstaff.org.uk](http://www.flagstaff.org.uk)
- ◆ Facebook:  
St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch
- ◆ Twitter:  
[@sthelensashby](https://twitter.com/sthelensashby)