



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 19th July, 2020

My dear Friends

Yesterday, in the chapel of Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop of Canterbury's residence, three new bishops were consecrated: Ruth Bushayger, Bishop of Horsham, Will Hazlewood, Bishop of Lewes and Hugh Nelson, Bishop of St Germans.

It was a remarkable occasion for a couple of reasons.

Firstly, neither Archbishop consecrated the new bishops, but the consecration was conducted by senior bishops instead.

Behind this unprecedented decision was a complex and not uncontroversial position. Will Hazelwood is one of those Anglican clergy conscientiously unable to receive the ministry of ordained women, or to be ordained or consecrated by a bishop or Archbishop who has ordained or consecrated women. This meant that his consecration was conducted by the Bishop of Richborough (a bishop who shares his views) and, for consistency, the Archbishop decided that Ruth Bushayger should not be consecrated by him either, but by the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullaly.

Commenting on the controversy Ruth Bushayger tweeted that both she and Will would, in fact, be consecrated by the Holy Spirit. I admire her

diplomacy - she'll make a great bishop! - but I feel sadness, too, that the church continues to live with these painful tensions. But perhaps in this the church is only reflecting the human experience where we must live with unresolved tensions; where, without wanting to, we inflict pain on one another because of our own deeply held beliefs. May the Lord have mercy upon us.

Secondly, everyone taking part in the consecrations, and the small congregation in attendance, were wearing face masks. In step with the Government's position that face masks should be worn on public transport and, from next Friday, in shops, here was a signal from the church of a probable direction of travel for places of worship, too. The Church of England website promises a statement on this in the next few days. What strange and demanding times we are living in.

As people called to be the Body of Christ together, we need to find ways to continue to reach out toward one another, to connect with one another, despite differences of theological conscience, despite the prohibitions to get close to one another, despite the veiling of our faces. Despite all this, we belong together and through pain, disagreement, and across a 2 metre distance we need to express that unity, that togetherness, for the consolation of one another and for our

better witness to the world that we belong to the God of love and that our way is love.

As we move back towards public worship - and I hope to have more news on that early next week - perhaps wearing masks, I hope that we will find new ways of embodying our love for one another. I hope that we will be able to use gesture to signal our wishing one another grace or peace. I hope that we will be able to sign our smiles. I hope that we will be able to learn from the deaf community who have embodied language and emotion with great beauty for generations, and from prisoners who have known what it is to love at arm's length.

These are strange and demanding times indeed, but we should not miss their gift either; the gift of being more intentional in how we express our life together, our love, our fellowship. And, actually, we should be good at this, for we have always said that we believe in the 'communion of saints'; that fellowship of the faithful across time and space. Perhaps now we are not just expressing belief in that communion but entering into it more deeply than ever before.

And - never forget -if I bump into you when we're both out and about and I'm in my mask, know that I'm smiling behind it at the very sight of you!

With love

Revd Mary

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The sick, disabled or housebound:

Pray for ...

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

The bereaved:

Please pray for 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

- ◆ Joe Shaw
- ◆ Eileen Hammerton

and for the families awaiting the funerals of loved ones.

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

- ◆ Frederick Charles Farmer
- ◆ Lewis Alfred Sketchley
- ◆ George Barry Robinson
- ◆ William Baker Watson
- ◆ Eileen Mabel Catling
- ◆ Jane Patricia Willis
- ◆ Harry Burnett
- ◆ Bernard Weston
- ◆ Ann Matthews Moxon

Please pray for those who have had to re-think 2020 wedding plans:

Loving God,

Surround them with your presence;

Be with them in their disappointments and in their joys,

Help them to be wise as they re-think their wedding plans.

Sustain them in their love for one another, And hold all whom they love in your great love.

Amen.

NOTICES

Zoom Drivers

We hope you have been appreciating our Zoom services, this gives us the opportunity to share readers and intercessors for our worship.

We are appealing for volunteers to help 'push the buttons' on Zoom - training would be available.

If you are interested in helping in this way please contact Simon

Starkey <simon.starkey@gmail.com>

Thank you.

Ashby Street Pastors

Since July 4th Ashby Street Pastors have started back by visiting the Bath Grounds, Hood Park and other outdoor areas around the town. We are currently going out on Saturdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm because, as confirmed by the police, this is the busiest time currently on a Saturday, with the pubs all closing by 11pm at the latest and neither of the night clubs open.

We are reduced in numbers to 7 so we have not been able to manage every Saturday, but are currently planning teams for each Saturday from 25th July till the end of August. Going forward will depend on how many of us there are but we would hope to do around 3 - 4 Saturdays a month.

We have done a risk assessment and have changed our activities, so we are maintaining 2m distance from others and each other, and we are not offering first aid.

We are requesting all Ashby churches' congregations pray for us.

Chris Lewis, ASP Coordinator

Diocese of Leicester Holiday Club

For this summer's on-line holiday activity 5-11 year olds are invited to join an elite team of spies! They will be part of the spy agency M.O.S.E.S in the battle against the sinister activities of F.A.R.E.O

Hosted on line at 10am, 10th to 14th August, there will be games, challenges, workouts, stories, jokes, songs and crafts, and opportunities take part by posting live comments, sending in photos and taking part in activities via Zoom breakout sessions.

The online security for this club will be necessarily high, so in order to join you will need to pre-register your interest by July 31st by completing an on line application form. At

www.htl.church/club

The Race To End Homelessness –

Elizabeth Smith is proposing to run 3 circuits (6km) of Hicks Lodge on 29th July. If anyone would like to join her for all or one or two circuits that would be great. Jill Chapman will walk at least one circuit, so those preferring something a little gentler could join her.

The fundraising page is:

<https://racetoendhomelessness.everydayhero.com/uk/elizabeth-smith>

Giving

We have a function on the St Helen's Church website whereby monetary giving is possible.

To do this go to the website

<https://www.sthelensashby.net/> where you'll find 'Giving' is one of the options on the drop down menu on the 'Church Life' tab. John Backman has written about our church's approach to giving, and you can click on '[donation here](#)'

Readings for Weekend Compline on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th July:

- Saturday: Ezekiel 9 OR 2 Corinthians 5
- Sunday: 1 Kings 2.10-12; 3.16-28 OR Acts 4.1-22

July Magazines

On the St Helen's website you can find not only the St Helen's parish magazine for July, but also a link to St Mary's Coleorton's latest monthly newsletter.

https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/339405/Parish_Magazine.aspx

◆ St Helen's Prayer Chain requests:

Judith Lewis on 01530 564204
or email jchjcl@gmail.com

◆ Notice Sheet Prayer requests:

To Jill Chapman on 07725 519453
sthelensashby@gmail.com

Contact Details

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◆ St Helen's website:

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

◆ Flagstaff Team website:

www.flagstaff.org.uk