



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 26th July, 2020

My dear Friends

This Sunday sees the beginning of a phased return to worship in our church buildings. Our main service will continue to be live-streamed from our homes at 10.30am, and then at 4pm we will have a service of Evening Prayer in St Helen's.

To help us make sure that the number of people who come along to the service can be accommodated in the socially-distanced seats available, **please 'book' a seat with Jill by emailing her at sthelensashby@gmail.com or by telephoning her on 07725 519453 by Saturday evening.**

The service will look and feel quite different to our pre-lockdown worship: as we arrive at church and leave later we'll be wearing masks; greeting others will need to be done at an arm's (well - two brooms') length; we'll be sitting further apart from one another; there'll be no congregational hymns; we'll need to leave church and its grounds after the service promptly without lingering to talk in groups.

There is, then, bound to be a sense of loss in *how* we'll have to gather this week and for the next few weeks, but that doesn't mean that we will not find real beauty and solace in the worship we *can* offer: as ever bells will call us

to worship, the beautiful music that Andrew, as organist and cantor, and Peter, as violinist, play will lift us and timeless liturgy will enfold us.

We might also find beauty in worship that is stripped-back and spacious. We might find ourselves lingering longer over single words or phrases, or soaking in what lies around us - either at home (for this service, too, will be live-streamed) or at church.

Certainly, this has been my experience of funerals during this pandemic. Of course, the restrictions have been costly - friends have been unable to attend funerals, we haven't been able to sing, and just as someone is craving comfort we have had to keep our physical distance. I am not underestimating the cost of any of that; not at all. And yet there has been something special about the intimacy of these funerals, about their 'home-spun' nature. I will always remember a graveside funeral in Ashby cemetery when the sun shone, and a blackbird sung, and we were in sight of the allotments where the man had spent so many good hours over the years. Even with everything we *couldn't* do, there was a richness about that service; it 'fitted'.

And so I hope we will worship at 4pm on Sunday, either at home or in church, offering God the very best that

these circumstances allow and entering fully into that experience - not looking back with too much nostalgia to what has been, or looking ahead too eagerly to what might be - but relishing the gift of the present moment in all its particularities for it is at that moment that we will encounter God -and there are no restrictions that can inhibit this priceless privilege and joy.

With love in Christ

Mary

Contact Details

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- ◆ St Helen's website:
<https://www.sthelensashby.net/>
- ◆ Flagstaff Team website:
www.flagstaff.org.uk

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Please pray for those who have had to cancel their 2020 wedding, and for those who are going ahead, especially for the couple marrying on 2nd Aug

◆ Hayley and Ben

And those for whom we are reading wedding banns at our 4pm service:

◆ Maisie and Fred

◆ Sarah-Jane & Michael

◆ Sally and Lee

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:

◆ Ethel Jean Watson (known as Jean)

◆ Francis Mary Illsley

◆ Charlotte Tilley

◆ Janet Henderson Stuart

◆ Ronald Anthony Kemble

◆ Frederick Mitchell

NOTICES

Facemasks in church

On Thursday afternoon the C of E announced that everyone attending church, be it for private prayer or public worship, leading the service or as a congregant, should wear a facemask.

An enormous thank you to Carol Eyley who has made 80 masks for us at St Helen's. This is so helpful as it means that we have a supply for anyone who arrives at the church building without a mask of their own, and which they can take away with them when they leave.

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.

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!

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

Monetary giving is possible via our website

<https://www.sthelensashby.net/> The 'Giving' page is on the drop down menu on the 'Church Life' tab.

Readings for Weekend Compline on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th July:

- Saturday: Jeremiah 26.1-15
OR Mark 1.14-20
- Sunday: 1 Kings 6.11-14, 23-
end OR Acts 12.1-17

◆ 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
519453sthelensashby@gmail.com