



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 5th September, 2020

Dear Friends

On Wednesday, we held the funeral of Carole Youles in St Helen's church. Despite the sadness, it was a lovely occasion full of love and warmth for a very special woman who had sung in the choir for many years. Some of our church family were able to stand outside church in honour of Carole. That meant such a lot to Keith: thank you.

Carole's service marked an important 'first' for us in our gradual, careful, emergence from lock-down. About ten days ago, the Church of England said that choirs and worship groups could begin singing in worship again, either outside or inside, although congregational singing is not allowed. Even the singing of choirs and worship groups has to be carefully risk assessed: singers have to stand 2m apart from each other, and at least 2m away from the congregation; only 'small groups' should sing at any one time; the singers should not face one another as they sing - and so on.

Nonetheless, what an important and exciting development this is for all of our congregations! It meant that we could have four singers singing together at Carole's funeral. It was almost overwhelming hearing sung worship in a church building again; so beautiful; a measure of some of what we have missed.

I have had a meeting with Andrew Chapman and Caroline Essex to look at a Risk Assessment for reintroducing the St Helen's choir to in-building services. There is already a plan for music at Staunton Harold, and I look forward to conversations at Breedon and at Isley Walton and, in time, at Coleorton, when the congregation there feels ready to meet in-person again. Our musical worship in each of these settings will be different to what we have been used to, but how good it will be to 'sing to the Lord a new song!'

Music is an integral part of Advent and Christmas as celebrated in each of our parishes, and I am already turning my mind to how we might celebrate these important seasons this year, when much of what we usually do just won't be possible. Watch this space....

Finally, after a period when we have been 'fire-fighting' - responding to each new development as best we could, writing and re-writing risk assessments - I hope we are emerging into a steadier state when we can begin to do some more sustained thinking, some more generative work, take a future-look. I've set out some of these opportunities in this week's pew sheet. What could you engage with?

With love
Revd Mary

PRAYER

The 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
- ◆ Florence Hannah James
- ◆ David Garrett
- ◆ Lindsay Pointon
- ◆ Joe Shaw
- ◆ Eileen Hammerton
- ◆ Bernard Newns
- ◆ Dora Garner
- ◆ Doris Joyce
- ◆ Eileen Callaghan

Please pray for the family and friends of Carole Youles, especially Keith, and of Geoffrey Marston, especially his wife Kathleen.
(Sincere apologies for getting his name wrong previously. Jill)

The Sick

Pray for those who are sick, disabled or housebound, including especially

- ◆ Margaret Stalker

...& others known to you

Wedding couples

Please pray for the those who have weddings at St Helen's this month:

- ◆ Maisie & Fred on 19th
- ◆ Sally & Lee on 26th

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

- ◆ Robert Anderson Stuart
- ◆ Lionel Arthur Statham
- ◆ Iona Wilson
- ◆ David Myrddin Jenkins
- ◆ Mabel Ellen Hunt
- ◆ Frederick Henry Scattergood
- ◆ Martin George Bowron

◆ St Helen's Prayer Chain:

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

◆ Notice Sheet Prayer requests:

Jill Chapman on 07725 519453
or sthelensashby@gmail.com

NOTICES

A personal note from Revd Mary

My Mum is having shoulder replacement surgery on Thursday (10th). She is staying with me so we both have to shield completely from the morning of Monday 7th to the morning of Thursday 10th. This means that I won't even be able to open the front door if you call round even for a chat on the drive. After Mum's surgery, I am taking a few days compassionate leave to care for her (Saturday 12th to Tuesday 16th) and then will have to limit my face-to-face contact for a few more days to safeguard Mum from infection. Apart from when I am on compassionate leave, I will be available, as ever, via the telephone.

Thank you for your love and prayers at this time.

Pastoral Principles for Living Well Together

The Church of England is asking all its parishes to ready themselves for conversations about human sexuality. To help us in this, they are producing resources called *Living in Love and Faith* which will be available to us next year.

In the meantime, they are asking us to engage in a series of conversations called 'Pastoral Principles'.

These 'Pastoral Principles' are designed to help us have good conversations even on challenging topics; conversations where we are open and attentive to others, and alert to our own assumptions, preferences, even prejudices. They are designed, too, to help us look at our life together and identify any hidden barriers which might make some feel unwelcome among us.

In September and October, our Flagstaff Family will explore these 'Pastoral Principles' together on Zoom.

Meeting together from 7.30-9.00pm, the evenings are:

- 16th Sept An introduction to the Pastoral Principles
- 23rd Sept Principle 1: Acknowledge prejudice
- 30th Sept Principle 2: Speak into silence
- 7th Oct Principle 3: Address ignorance
- 14th Oct Principle 4: Cast our fear
- 21st Oct Principle 5: Admit hypocrisy
- 28th Oct Principle 6: Pay attention to power

Each of these evenings will include a Biblical reflection or meditation, prayerful reflection and open discussion. If you'd like to learn more about good conversation and about our welcome to others please put

these dates in the diary and join us. If you can't make some sessions, you are still most welcome to come to the others.

If you'd like to ask any questions about this process, please don't hesitate to ask me or Revd Stewart.

Please do email me at revmarygregory@aol.co.uk if you'd like to part of these conversations, and I'll send you the Zoom link.
Revd Mary

Hello Heritage - 5th to 20th Sept
Our 'St Helen's Hidden Nature event is accessible via the website, Instagram, or Facebook.

Night Prayer/Compline:

With Night Prayer now being live-streamed to Facebook on Tuesdays and Thursdays only, on other evenings the invitation is for each of us to pray compline at home, using one of the three orders of service we have prayed during lockdown (available on the website) and using the lectionary readings.

Next week's readings are:

- ◆ Sunday 6th September
Ezekiel 12.21-13.16 OR Acts 19.1-20
- ◆ Monday 7th September
Proverbs 25.1-14 OR Mark 8.11-21
- ◆ Wednesday 9th September
Proverbs 26.12-end OR Mark 8.27-9.1
- ◆ Friday 11th September
Proverbs 30.1-9, 24-31 OR Mark 9.14-29
- ◆ Saturday 12th September
Proverbs 31.10-end OR Mark 9.30-37

September's magazine is available under the What's On tab on our website <https://sthelensashby.net/>
It includes a reminder on page 18 of when and where there will be services in September, and the new pattern we will follow from October.

APCM

This will be held on ◆ 27th October at ◆ 7.30pm. The meeting will be held in church, for those able to attend there, and on Zoom for those who will join the meeting from home. Further details to follow.

An Evening to ask Four Questions

As we consider 'life after lock-down', and a time when we will all be in more normal circulation again, we need to ask ourselves Four Questions:

1. What did we do *before* lock-down that we want to begin again?
2. What did we do *before* lock-down that we don't want to begin again?
3. What have we done *during* lock-down that we want to continue?
4. What have we done *during* lock-down that we don't want to continue?

I would like to invite you to an evening on Zoom to explore these four questions. We will then feed the outcome of these discussions into our APCM.

This will be on ...

- ◆ 19th October
- ◆ from 7.00-9.00pm

The first 30 minutes will be a social time to enable us to catch up with one another after so long apart!

Nearer the time, I will ask you to let me know if you would like to come along so that I can send you the Zoom link, and also find someone to help you if you are not confident with using Zoom. In the meantime, please save the date!

Mary

Mens Breakfast by ZOOM

- ◆ Saturday 12th September at 9:00.
Michael Phillips- UK inland waterways
 - ◆ Saturday 10th October
Andy Smith- Lord Nelson
- To get the Zoom link email Geoff at geoff.richman@btinternet.com

Contact Details

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