



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 13th September, 2020

Dear Friends

I am writing this week's letter with very mixed feelings.

In joy and in thankfulness I ask you to pray for Liz Smith who begins her training on Saturday to become a Reader in the Flagstaff Family of Churches. Liz will train for a year and then serve in our town and villages. I know that she will have a rich and unique ministry amongst us. Please - pray for her.

In joy and in thankfulness I ask you to pray for the Revd Laura Jackson - part of our extended Flagstaff Family - who will be ordained priest this Sunday in Leicester Cathedral. Laura is a great gift to God's church. Please pray for her, and for Andrew, Molly, Will and Rory.

In sorrow and in thankfulness I ask you to pray for the family of David Watson, who died on Sunday and who served our Flagstaff Family as a Reader (and was a Reader for nearly 55 years), as a founder member of Ashby Youth for Christ, as a member of Ashby Churches, as a PCC member and as friend and mentor to so many. He served, too, as Mayor of Ashby but was first and foremost a beloved husband to Pam, a dear father, brother and befriender of prisoners. David's life shone with the joy of the Lord in the kindness of whose company he will spend eternity. Please thank God for David and rejoice in his rebirth. Please pray

for God's comfort to surround Pam and his peace to fill her.

In sorrow and in thankfulness I ask you to pray for the family of Margaret Stalker who died on Tuesday and who worshiped at St Helen's for many years and was a faithful and much loved member of our Mothers' Union. Margaret had this in common with David: that she too shone with her faith in Jesus Christ; she was irrepressibly hopeful, joyful, faithful and so incredibly tenacious and determined. Please thank God for Margaret and rejoice in her rebirth. Please pray for God's comfort to surround Carol, Gwynne and Gaynor and for his peace to fill them.

David and Margaret's deaths are the eight and ninth deaths of members of our Flagstaff Family since lock-down began. We also remember, in sorrow and in thankfulness, June Stapleton and Geoff Marston from our Breedon congregation; Roy Hodges from our Coleorton congregation and Dennis Grainger, Jane Wise, Joe Shaw and Carole Youles from our St Helen's congregation. So many dear friends who have begun again face-to-face with God.

Thinking of these faithful people - of Liz and Laura, and David, Margaret, June, Geoff, Roy, Dennis, Jane, Joe and Carole - reminds me of a Christian belief that has become increasingly important to me over these past months when Covid-19 has, by and large, kept us apart from

one another: the 'communion of saints'.

When we say in our creeds that we believe in the communion of saints we are saying that we believe in the gathering, the unity, of God's faithful people living here on earth, or living again in heaven; that although we might be kept apart physically or temporally, we are held together in Jesus Christ, in our membership of him.

And so I will let this belief comfort me as I think about those who have died: that they continue part of our Flagstaff Family even as they leave this earth and that as they do they pass on the baton of ministry they have held so faithfully to Liz and to Laura and to each of us.

God bless you
Revd Mary

PRAYER

The bereaved

Praying especially for the families and friends of David Watson and Margaret Stalker, for anyone know to you who is recently bereaved, and for all families for whom the funerals of their loved ones have taken place during this difficult time.

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

- ◆ Doreen Mary Fair Jones
- ◆ Phyllis May Hamilton-Fox
- ◆ Leslie Stuart
- ◆ (Hilda) Mary Tyldesley
- ◆ Charles Stringer
- ◆ Beatrice Anne Kendall
- ◆ Ray Foster Gilks
- ◆ Colin Frederick Brown
- ◆ Alfred Miller

Wedding couples

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

- ◆ Sally & Lee, brought forward to 12th
- ◆ Maisie & Fred on 19th

◆ 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

Sunday Worship

Now that our Flagstaff Family's church buildings are re-opening, these are our planned services for Sundays are:

◆ 13th September

10.30am Holy Communion from home
4.00pm Evening Prayer at St Helen's

◆ 20th September

10.30am Holy Communion at St Helen's
4.00pm HC at Staunton Harold

◆ 27th September

10.30am HC at St Helen's
4.00pm HC at Breedon on the Hill

From October

◆ 1st Sunday

10.30am All-Age worship from home
4.00pm HC at Isley Walton

◆ 2nd Sunday

10.30am HC at St Helen's
4.00pm HC at Worthington

◆ 3rd Sunday

10.30am HC at St Helen's
4.00pm HC at Staunton Harold

◆ 4th Sunday

10.30am HC at St Helen's
4.00pm HC at Breedon on the Hill

◆ 5th Sunday

10.30am Flagstaff Family Service HC
streamed live from home.

Jill Chapman will take bookings for these services except Worthington's

on sthelensashby@gmail.com

Book Worthington's via Emma Harris on office@trinityashby.net

Wednesday worship

The 10.00am service of Holy Communion will be streamed live from St Helen's from Wednesday 23rd Sept

Night Prayer/Compline is live-streamed to Facebook on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On other evenings the invitation is for each of us to pray compline at home using the lectionary readings.

Next week's readings are:

- Sunday 13th Sept: Ezekiel 20.1-8, 33-44 OR Acts 20.17-end
- Monday 14th Sept: Isaiah 63.1-16 OR 1 Corinthians 1.18-25
- Wednesday 16th Sept: 1 Chronicles 15.1-16.3 OR Mark 10.17-31
- Friday 18th Sept: 1 Chronicles 21.1-22.1 OR Mark 10.35-45
- Saturday 19th Sept: 1 Chronicles 22.2-end OR Mark 10.46-end

NOTICES

The Race to End Homelessness

Enormous thank you for all the support and generous donations I received for the Race to End Homelessness.

The event has raised £130,000 nationwide, of which we raised £442.79 - AMAZING

Over 900 people signed up from across the UK and collectively covered thousands of kilometres to help reach this incredible total. This will support people who are homeless with immediate needs, like food supplies and mobile phones, and longer term help with things, like mental health and access to benefits, so they can rebuild their lives.

Thank you too to my fellow runners and walkers.

Elizabeth Smith

Pastoral Principles for Living Well Together-Starts this week

The Church of England is asking all its parishes to ready themselves for conversations about human sexuality. To help 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 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 Sept and Oct, our Flagstaff Family will explore these 'Pastoral Principles' together on Zoom, meeting together from 7.30-9.00pm. The evenings are:

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

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

Gathering Stories, Generating Insights We're invited by the diocese to share our own stories of church, faith and the experience of following Jesus, in the last 6 months during this turbulent time of Covid, lockdown(s) and significant disruption. More info on the website on the What's Coming Up page under the What's On tab.

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

Little Fishes Our Little Fishes Toddler Group cannot yet return to the Heritage Centre, but they have lots of interesting plans for Christingle, parent get-togethers via Zoom, and more. See their page on the website.

September's magazine is available under the What's On tab on our website <https://sthelensashby.net/>

APCM

This will be held on ◆ 27th October at ◆ 7.30pm, in church *and* on Zoom. Details next week.

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

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