



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 20th September, 2020

Dear Friends

I was walking through a well known supermarket this week and started to notice a seasonal shift in the shelf spacings. Being a former retailer I was able to make an immediate and accurate conclusion as to why.

However a couple of aisles later and all sense of subtlety was blown out of the window; 'Buy Now For Christmas' a large banner suggested.

It seems like Easter is just behind us and yet we are seeing sights like this in our shops. However as churches we do need to begin thinking about how we are going to celebrate Christmas and proclaim the good news of the birth of Jesus. Some preliminary thinking has been happening this week already.

The Covid-19 pandemic has undoubtedly presented the church with problems, yet it has also given us fantastic opportunities to develop our own discipleship and spread the good news of the gospel message in exciting and imaginative ways. We have seen Prayer For the Day continue to be well received and has also presented opportunities for different people to contribute.

There seems a tension where we need to hold in lament the things we cannot do, yet grasp the opportunities to adapt to the circumstances. Easter was different but still special,

weddings are different and still special, therefore Christmas 2020 will be different but can also still be a special time.

Needless to say we will be asking for your support in delivering a different but special Christmas 2020, and let's be optimistic about what God can do in these times and approach this Christmas time with a fresh sense of anticipation.

Stewart

Contact Details

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

PRAYER

The Sick

Pray for those who are sick, disabled or housebound.

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:

- ◆ George Smart
- ◆ Ian Malcolm Thompson
- ◆ Vincent Obi Oriel Kettell Jinks
- ◆ Ronald Garrett

Wedding couples

Please pray for Maisie & Fred whose wedding day is September 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

NOTICES

Thanks

Alison Gregory would like to thank everyone most warmly for their lovely cards and flowers following her shoulder replacement surgery. The operation went well. Rehabilitation from this surgery is lengthy and she expects to be with Mary for about six weeks as she recovers.

Funeral arrangements for Margaret Stalker and David Watson

◆ Margaret Stalker's funeral is this coming Monday, 21st September, at 10.45am at Bretby Crematorium. Due to the restriction on numbers, this will be for the family only, and for any friends they invite. However, the service will be live-streamed and the family welcome anyone who would like to do so to join them on screen.

To do this please visit

www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view and, when asked, give the login 48468 and password ckwjwbmt.

Later on, when we are more fully back in church, Margaret's family would like her to be remembered by us in a Sunday morning service.

◆ David Watson's funeral is on 29th September at midday at Ashby cemetery - people are welcome to attend at a good social distance. A memorial service will follow at a later date.

Holy Communion in St Helen's and Staunton Harold churches

◆ This Sunday our 10.30am service will be streamed live from St Helen's. It will be a service of Holy Communion.

◆ Our 4.00pm service at Staunton Harold is also Holy Communion.

If you would like to attend either of these services, please book with Jill Chapman by emailing her with your name(s) and telephone number(s) to sthelensashby@gmail.com
At St Helen's Holy Communion will be administered from the crossing. Please follow the steward's directions. At Staunton Harold, Holy Communion will be administered to you in your seats.

Pastoral Principles for Living Well Together

Still to come

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 out fear
21 st Oct	Principle 5: Admit hypocrisy
28 th Oct	Principle 6: Pay attention to power

If you'd like to learn more about good conversation and about our welcome to others please email Revd Mary at revmarygregory@aol.co.uk for the Zoom link.

Harvest collection

This year, we are inviting donation of goods to one of two charities catering for those in need.

◆ The first is 'The Bridge' in Leicester, a charity working with those who are rough sleeping. They would welcome donations of:

- socks, scarves, hats and gloves in dark colours only please
- long-life foods
- face masks
- pet food, in particular cat food

◆ The second is 'Link to Hope Shoe Box Appeal' for families and the elderly. You are invited to fill a shoe box with specific listed items, or donate one or more items (which will then be collated with other donated items to fill a shoe box) The list of required items can be found at <https://linktohope.co.uk/shoobox-appeal-2020/shoobox-registration-2020/shoobox-options/packing-a-link-to-hope-shoobox/> or ask Jill to send you a list. The full list will appear in our October magazine also.

Coming Up in October

◆ An Evening to ask 4 Questions

19th October, 7.00-9.00pm, via Zoom

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?

◆ APCM

27th October 7.30pm

The meeting will be held both in the church building and, simultaneously, online via Zoom. We hope this maximises the number of people who will feel able to attend and addresses the accessibility question from both directions.

It is important that we know who would like to attend the meeting in the building, and who would like to attend online so that we can make sure that we do not exceed our social distancing capacity in the building, and so that we can issue the Zoom link to those who want to attend that way. In due course, we will ask you to express your preference for attendance.

The Diocesan Registrar has issued guidance outlining how voting can be legally conducted in-building and online. In-building, to reduce the risk of infection spreading via ballot papers, voting will be preferably by a show of hands. Online, Zoom has a polling function which will be explained at the meeting.

In the meantime, please do put this date in your diaries.

Many thanks,
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.

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.

Job opportunity Arab World Ministries, based in Loughborough, are seeking to recruit a new Finance Co-ordinator. It would suit a committed Christian who would love to use their office and administrative skills in a team that seeks to help build the Kingdom by supporting those who work "full-time" in that challenging field. Details of the role can be found by emailing carlas@awm-pioneers.org, or by visiting the AWM website: www.awm-pioneers.org.

Worship

Sunday Worship

As our Flagstaff Family's church buildings are re-opening, this is our service pattern for Sundays:

◆ 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.

Wednesday worship

The 10.00am service of Holy Communion will be held in St Helen's Church from **Wednesday 23rd Sept** (& also live-streamed to Facebook)

Jill Chapman will take bookings for these services except Worthington's on sthelensashby@gmail.com

Book Worthington's via Christina Walmsley by 'email

*christina@stmatthewsworthington.net
or on 01530 413797*

Night Prayer/Compline will be live-streamed to Facebook on Tuesday 22nd Sept, Thursday 24th Sept and Tuesday 29th Sept. It will take a break until Advent.

If you would like to continue to pray compline at home on other evenings, the lectionary readings for next week are:

- Sunday 20th Sept: Ezekiel 33.23, 30-34.10 OR Acts 26.1, 9-25
- Monday 21st Sept: Ecclesiastes 5.4-12 OR Matthew 19.16-end
- Wednesday 23rd Sept: 1 Chronicles 29.1-9 OR Mark 11.27-end
- Friday 25th Sept: 1 Chronicles 29.21-end OR Mark 12.13-17
- Saturday 26th Sept: 2 Chronicles 1.1-13 OR Mark 12.18-27