



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 27th September, 2020

Psalm 13 begins with the psalmist addressing God on four fronts with the same anguish ridden question: How long O Lord?

I wonder how many times God has been asked the same question during this year?

Now, I would reiterate that there is nothing wrong in asking that question, it is perfectly valid and a privilege that God has given us through relationship with him, lament is a legitimate reaction, one that God will not turn his ear from.

As I write to you this day, the briefing from the Chief scientist and medical officer is being digested by our news agencies.

The underlying feeling from different aspects of our society and indeed the world is; How long?

It has been a very challenging time, since the pandemic started to hit the headlines we have had so many changes implemented around us. Moreover just when it seems that we have adapted to the latest guidance the situation changes again. This can of course be frustrating and worrying amongst other feelings.

As the Flagstaff team I think we have responded positively to the many challenges we have had. No, we probably have not got everything right but we have had a prayerful approach to our various responses, always trying to balance guidance,

legislation and pastoral needs. Indeed copious risk assessments have been written, reviewed and implemented in order to ensure that we are acting with the upmost responsibility to people's safety.

We have seen St Helen's open for private prayer on Saturdays. Evening prayer and in some places communion services have also been held or due to be held soon. Although this has been very different it has complemented the online presence that has been maintained throughout the pandemic. Even a look through the news sheet reveals that we are very much active and will continue to be in whatever form we can be.

However, in the anticipation of new and more restrictive Government announcements the forms that activity takes may need to re-evaluated.

Yet in the midst of this, we can return to Psalm 13 and remember the message of verse 5 that: 'I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.'

So whatever the twists and turns this year continues to produce we can be confident of a certainty: The **steadfast** love of God. A quick glance at my Oxford dictionary tells me God's love is Constant, Firm and Unwavering. We may still be living in uncertain times but there are still certainties that we can be assured of, the steadfast love of the Lord is one of those.
Yours in Christ, Stewart

PRAYER

The Sick

Pray for those who are sick, disabled or housebound.

The bereaved

Praying especially for the families and friends of anyone known 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:

- ◆ Francis Alfred Boughton
- ◆ Ethel Hannah Callendine
- ◆ Ada Spencer

◆ 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

Thank you

Now that the dust has settled, Andrew, Christopher and I send our grateful thanks to Rev. Mary, Andrew, Caroline, other members of the Choir and members of our St. Helens' family for their prayers, condolences, sympathy and support at the time of Carole's funeral. In spite of Covid, we were very satisfied and impressed with what we were able to do to give her a lovely send-off and I will continue to find consolation in the video replay of the event. It was heart-warming to be greeted by the "crowd" as we came out of church! Thank you, Everybody! Kind Regards, Keith.

Our 2 Holy Communion services on 27th September are:

- ◆ 10.30am, streamed live from St Helen's Church, Ashby.
- ◆ 4pm at the Priory Church of Saint Mary and Saint Hardulph, Breedon. If you would like to attend either of these services, please book with Jill Chapman- sthelensashby@gmail.com Please include your 'phone number, even if you have booked previously.

Funeral arrangements for David Watson

- ◆ 29th September at midday, Ashby Cemetery. A memorial service will follow at a later date.

If you hope to be present in Ashby Cemetery for David's funeral please, at Pam's request, don't wear black but, instead, wear 'rainbow colours'. The Town Council has confirmed that Government regulations state that cemeteries are not capped as to 30 mourners. However, given the rising infection rate it is imperative that social distancing is rigorously adhered to (2m, please) and that anyone in a vulnerable category does not attend. We will livestream the service to the St Helen's Facebook page for those who will be safer watching the service from home. Revd Mary

Pastoral Principles for Living Well Together

- Principles still to come -
- 30th Sept Speak into silence
 - 7th Oct Address ignorance
 - 14th Oct Cast out fear
 - 21st Oct Admit hypocrisy
 - 28th Oct 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.

NHS Covid-19 app

This app launched on Thursday and is designed to help the NHS contact those who have been in close proximity to someone infected with Covid-19. To support the NHS in this way we simply need to:

- ◆ download the app to our smart phones
- ◆ on entering a shop, pub, cafe, bus, train or church, scan the NHS QR code to register that you are in that building
- ◆ if anyone else at that venue at the same date and time subsequently reports a positive Covid-19 test, the app will automatically contact you and advise you of any action you need to take.

All of our churches - and the Heritage Centre - have QR codes for you to scan as you come in. Please do consider downloading the app and making use of this opportunity to protect the NHS. Revd Mary

Harvest collection

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

- ◆ 'The Bridge' in Leicester, a charity working with those who are rough sleeping OR
 - ◆ 'Link to Hope Shoe Box Appeal' for families and the elderly.
- Full information will be found in our October magazine, available on our website on October 1st.

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. Please let Jill C know (sthelensashby@gmail.com 07725519453) if you would like to attend the meeting in the building (so that we can make sure that we do not exceed our social distancing capacity) or if you would like to attend online (so that we can issue the Zoom link.)

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is at 9:00am on Saturday 10th October when Andy Smith will talk on Lord Nelson.

The meeting will be by Zoom. For the link please email Geoff Richman geoff.richman@btinternet.com . The following Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday 14th November at 9:00am

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 is held in St Helen's Church (& also live-streamed to Facebook)

Christina Walmsley will take bookings for Worthington's services via christina@stmatthewsworthington.net
Jill Chapman will take bookings for all other services on sthelensashby@gmail.com

Night Prayer/Compline - a pause

This coming Tuesday 29th sees the last in our online services of Compline which we started back in March - or rather, the last for the time being. We have decided to have a pause from online Compline for October and November, and then to resume it for Advent. We hope that coming to it afresh in December will help make Advent distinctive in this exceptional year.

I know that you would want me to thank Judith, Andy and Stewart on your behalf for their dedicated, creative and prayerful leadership of these services for us over the last few months. And thank you for 'the kindness of your company' in sharing with us in these times of night prayer.

Revd Mary

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

- Sun 27th Sept: Ezekiel 37.15-end
OR 1 John 2.22-end
- Mon 28th Sept: 2 Chronicles 2.1-16 OR Mark 12.28-34
- Wed 30th Sept: 2 Chronicles 5 OR Mark 13.1-13
- Thurs 1st October: 2 Chronicles 6.1-21 OR Mark 13.14-23
- Fri 2nd October: 2 Chronicles 6.22-end OR Mark 13.24-31
- Sat 3rd October: 2 Chronicles 7 OR Mark 13.32-end

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
- ◆ Twitter:
[@sthelensashby](https://twitter.com/sthelensashby)