



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 18th October, 2020

When we lived in Melton Mowbray we were very close to the Leicester - Peterborough railway, a busy line. For some time while we were in the area there was a foot-crossing over the tracks. It had one of those signs that said 'Stop, Look, and Listen'. One day we witnessed someone crossing whilst wearing earphones, we could hear the oncoming train sounding its warning horn with an increasingly frantic regularity!! The person was completely oblivious and was close to being struck, but wasn't.

As churches we are working our way through the postponed Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM) and it does strike me that now even more than ever we may need to be mindful of the advice on that signpost. Stop, Look and Listen.

Sometimes it can be good to Stop, giving ourselves a chance to think about what we are going say and how it will be said. Perhaps trying to be mindful of how it will be understood. The busyness and frustration of our current lives can be so distracting, stopping can therefore be a good thing, pausing can provide a chance to take a step away from ourselves.

Looking is important – 'noticing' was a theme for a Prayer For the Day this week. So by properly looking we notice things, not just the things that

are obvious but those little hidden things. Of course we can't see what isn't there but absence is something to also be aware of. Therefore taking a good look can be helpful, it brings opportunities to see a lot of what is and isn't going on around us.

This brings us to Listen. The first word of the Rule of St Benedict is listen. Listening can be a discipline, we need to listen to God, to others and even to ourselves. Even in Covid times there are different needs being expressed. We all come with our own preferences but we should also be aware of preferences of others, we need to listen.

If we were to be using a railway crossing footpath, listening often means taking note of what is not there, namely a train!! The science tells us the crossing is clear. Sometimes the absence of voices is worth paying attention to also.

Stop look and listen, is also a good place to start in prayer for very similar reasons, stopping, taking time out for God. Looking, looking around perhaps giving thanks and taking notice of needs etc that surround us. Then of course there's listen, listen to God - after all prayer is not a monologue.

Yours in Christ

Stewart

NOTICES

TOMORROW

An Evening to ask 4 Questions

19th October, 7.00-9.00pm, via Zoom

As we consider 'life after lock-down' we are holding a meeting to ask ourselves Four Questions. The outcome of these discussions will then be fed into our APCM.

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?

Let Revd Mary or Jill know if you would like to come along so you can be sent the Zoom link.

NEXT WEEK

APCM

On 27th October at 7.30pm the APCM will be held in the church building and, simultaneously, online via Zoom.

Please let Jill C know (07725519453 sthelensashby@gmail.com) if you would like to attend the meeting in the building or if you would like the Zoom link.

NB Nominations, for Churchwardens or PCC, should be emailed to Mary with the name of the proposer and the seconder.

A link to the APCM report is on the What's Coming Up page on the St Helen's Church website

https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/335533/Whats_coming_up.aspx

◆ 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

An additional role for Mary: The Diocese of Leicester's Rural Mission Enabler

It will be announced next week that I have been appointed as the Diocese of Leicester's Rural Mission Enabler, a role which I will fulfil alongside my existing vocation as Team Rector of the Flagstaff Family of Churches. The Rural Mission Enabler is a new role which has been developed in response to both the Bishop of Leicester's Rural Commission (2017) and the Covid-19 pandemic which has exacerbated the challenges faced by many rural churches. The purpose of the role is to develop and implement a bold new strategy for rural mission and ministry, which will feed into the diocese's wider 2026 planning. This is a significant, strategic piece of work which has been weighted at two days a week.

I know that many of you will be concerned how I will manage this project on top of my work here, but I want to assure you I agreed to take on this role, at the invitation of Bishop Martyn, only after I had negotiated significant resources to enable me to do so. I will, then, have a one-day a week researcher, who will research aspects of the project and deal with its administration; a one day a week PA who will deal with some of my Flagstaff Family administration and, whilst Stewart is on placement, an assistant priest who will support me in priestly ministry and in leadership of some aspects of the Flagstaff Family. I hope this goes some way to reassuring you that this new role will be sustainable for me, without effecting adversely our life together. Please pray for me as I take up the reins of this new role. And do ask me about it when you're speaking to me - I would love to answer your questions.
Revd Mary

A Time to Remember: our annual memorial service

On Sunday 1st November at 6.30pm we will hold our annual memorial service, A time to Remember.

Because of restrictions on socially-distanced numbers in church, this will be held in the building with services leaders and musicians present, but with others invited to join with us via Facebook live. This will be a service for all in the Flagstaff Family of Churches, and **will be on the Flagstaff Facebook page** – search on Facebook for The Flagstaff Family of Churches and 'like' the page.

If you would like to have someone remembered in the service, in the reading of the names of those who have died, please email their name to Jill at sthelensashby@gmail.com.

Remembrance Sunday

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Remembrance Sunday will be marked differently this year. Depending on how Government advice develops between now and then, there will either be a short service on the Bath Grounds for those allocated tickets (a limited number of around 100 people) OR the service will be in St Helen's, but closed to the public. In either event, the service, at 10.45am, will be streamed live to the Town Council Facebook page. There will be no parade and no organised wreath laying at the war memorial on Market Street. I know we all understand why things have to be different this year and that our priority must be to protect the most vulnerable and to do what we can to halt the spread of the virus. There will be a said service of Holy Communion that afternoon at 4pm in St Helen's, streamed live to Facebook.

St Helen's Gift Day: 1st Nov 2020

Read Revd Mary's letter to all at St Helen's via this link

<https://www.sthelensashby.net/PublicHer/File.aspx?ID=266761> or ask Jill Chapman for a printed copy.

Pastoral Principles for Living Well Together

Principles still to come -

21st Oct Admit hypocrisy

28th Oct Pay attention to power

Email revmarygregory@aol.co.uk for the Zoom link.

Christmas Window Display

Are you artistic or creative? Could you create a window display to be part of our trail?

From 18th -23rd December between 4-7pm windows in houses across the town will be depicting Christian Christmas Carols. A leaflet of the trail will be published, and children will be encouraged to work out (with their parents) which carol/song each window is depicting, either for fun or to win a prize!

You are invited to decorate a downstairs/ upstairs window visible from your drive or safely from the road, depicting a Christian Christmas song. If you are interested or want more Information, please contact Eileen Coombs on 07711286486.

The Flagstaff Collective

We are looking to start a Flagstaff band for such occasions as some 5th Sundays in smaller churches, Christmas / Easter events inside or outside, and other opportunities there might be to explore new things. People can commit to as much or little as they are able to at different events. If anyone is interested in being a part of this exciting project then please contact: Pete Hyland petehyland@mail.com 07970652148.

PRAYER

The Sick

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

- ◆ Katie

The bereaved

Pray 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:

- ◆ Kathleen Mary Miller
- ◆ Ruby Payne
- ◆ Albert Edward Homer
- ◆ Percy Spencer
- ◆ Sarah Francesca Dakin

Worship

Sunday

- ◆ 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

Wednesday

10am Holy Communion at St Helen's

*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

Lectionary readings for next week are:

- Sun 18th October:
Proverbs 4.1-18
OR 1 John 3.16—4.6
- Mon 19th October:
2 Chronicles 26.1-21
OR John 13.1-11
- Tues 20th October:
2 Chronicles 28
OR John 13.12-20
- Wed 21st October:
2 Chronicles 29.1-19
OR John 13.21-30
- Thurs 22nd October:
2 Chronicles 29.20-end
OR John 13.31-end
- Fri 23rd October:
2 Chronicles 30
OR John 14.1-14
- Sat 24th October:
2 Chronicles 32.1-22
OR John 14.15-end