



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 22nd November, 2020

Dear All

What are your plans for New Year? - no, not *that* New Year which, this/next year, will need special measures with socially distanced armography for Auld Lang Syne and air kissing as Big Ben chimes twelve and careful sanitising of any coal that is passed to you over your threshold. No, I'm not talking about *that* New Year, but the New Year that starts on 29th November, on Advent Sunday - the beginning of the new Church year.

Advent is such a special, such a significant time for us in the church; this year, perhaps more than ever before. It is a time when we acknowledge the pain of this world and look forward to a new world when God will wipe away our tears and there will be no more mourning or crying or pain. It is a time when we prepare for the birth of our Saviour as a baby and look forward to his return to earth as a King. It is a time when we defy the darkness, proclaim that it can never extinguish the Light.

This year, we are marking Advent in several special ways:

Advent Carol Service on Advent Sunday 29th November, at 6.30pm

Streamed live from home to our Flagstaff Family Facebook page, this is a beautiful service of readings and music, reflecting on light in the darkness: the light of creation, the

light of Christ, the light of heaven's eternal city.

Advent Prayer for the Day, every morning from 30th November at 8.00am

Prayer for the Day in Advent will take on an especial theme, looking at the Jesse Tree, at Jesus' family tree; tracing his ancestors of faith from creation all the way up until his birth. Each character we look at will have their own symbol which you might like to create at home and hang on a tree. If all that sounds a bit too much like hard work, Jill will be creating an online Jesse Tree for us.

Advent Compline, Wednesday nights in December at 9.00pm and every night from 17th-23rd December

Quiet, reflective services to end the day in the kindness of God's company.

I'll tell you more about our plans for Christmas later. For now, why not plan your New Year with us; diary some of these opportunities for worship and look for the dawning of Christ's coming.

God bless you

Mary

NOTICES

Volunteers Still Needed for the 'star assembly line'!

To launch 'Light in the darkness' in the town, we will be hanging stars from trees, hedges and fences in the early mornings of 28th and 29th November. Each star will have a small gift tag attached, inviting people to take them home, and signposting them to the What's On page of our website for details of the Advent and Christmas services.

Amazingly, our team has produced 1100 stars and 1100 labels! Now we need your help please, to tie the labels to the stars.

If you let Revd Mary know that you could do a batch at home, she will deliver the kit to your doorstep and collect the completed stars from there when you've finished them.

Many thanks.

Ashby Foodbank

◆ If possible Ashby Foodbank would like Christmas items by the end of November in order to make up hampers.

The Foodbank is only able to take donations up to 11th December. They will resume accepting donations in the New Year.

◆ November shopping list:

Sponge puddings (longlife), Longlife Fruit Juice, Jam, Tinned hot meat (such as chicken in white sauce or stewing steak), Tinned Custard, Washing up liquid, shampoo, shower gel, Christmas chocolate treats, Christmas puddings, items for Christmas hampers.

Please note at present we do not need baked beans, tinned soup or pasta.

Items can be left in the porch of Holy Trinity.

Advent Course: Tuesday evenings in December

The Revd Rob Marsh, who is seconded to us, is offering to lead an Advent course for the Flagstaff Family called "Journeying through Advent with New Daylight" produced by BRF. It is designed for individual use and to also have a weekly group meeting.

The course is described as 'Five weeks of Advent material for church groups and individuals, offering themed reflections by well-loved contributors from the *New Daylight* archive alongside specially written questions for group discussion.'

Week 1: The Advent antiphons – David Winter

Week 2: 2 and 3 John – Steve Aisthorpe

Week 3: Light in the darkness – Amy Boucher Pye

Week 4: Word incarnate: John 1:1–16 – Andy John

Week 5: Psalms of hope – Margaret Cundiff

The individual price of the book is £2.99 and the suggestion is that we bulk purchase to save the postage costs. A donation to the Church to cover the cost if you are able, can then be made.

You are invited to get in touch with Rob if you would like to take part in this course via Zoom. Please email Rob at ministry@family-marsh.uk.
ORDER your book by 25th

Stamps

Anne Heaton has offered to act as a collection centre for used stamps which she will send to RNIB. Drop them off (before Jan 1st) at 19 Rydal Gardens, LE65 1FJ. Foreign stamps need to be separated from UK stamps, and a cm left round each one.

12 Days of Giving

Ecclesiastical Insurance have launched this year's 12 days of giving. During the period 7th – 22nd December they donate £1,000 to 10 eligible charities each weekday totalling £120k to 120 charities over 12 days. To nominate St Helen's, visit movementforgood.com/12days and click 'nominate a charity now'. Each draw will close at midnight the day before, with all nominations rolled over to the next available draw unless the charity is drawn.

The more nominations a charity gets, the greater its chance of receiving a £1,000 donation, so start spreading the word to your friends and family.

Nominate today

Contact Details

- ◆ Revd Canon Mary Gregory:
revmarygregory@aol.co.uk
01530 564372
- ◆ Revd Rob Marsh:
ministry@family-marsh.uk
07557 536926
- ◆ 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:
-The Flagstaff Family of Churches
-St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch
- ◆ Twitter: @sthelensashby

PRAYER

The Sick

Pray for those who are sick, disabled or housebound.

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:

- ◆ Christopher Mark Handford
- ◆ Arthur Dickinson
- ◆ Eva Marjorie Bower
- ◆ John Ashwin Gammon
- ◆ Christina Iris Jones
- ◆ Hughie Noel Tebay
- ◆ Sarah Ellen Brooks

◆ 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

Services will be streamed live on
Flagstaff Family of Churches
Facebook page

Sundays 22nd & 29th November

10.30am Holy Communion

Advent and Christmas for children

Christingle

- 13th December at 4pm ...
- Includes 'Build your own Christingle!'
- Collect DIY pack from St Helen's 12th December 10am to 12 noon

Christmas Windows

- 18th-23rd December at 4pm-7pm
- Spot the carol! Displays all over town.
- Map available from sthelensashby@gmail.com or www.sthelensashby.net

Bedtime Stories

- 18th-23rd December at 7pm

Children's Carol Service

- 24th December at 5pm
- including Nativity Play & Christmas Jumper competition

Advent and Christmas for everyone

Advent Carol Service

- 29th Nov at 6.30 pm

Prayer for the Day

- The Jesse Tree Advent calendar
- 30th Nov-24th Dec at 8am

Night Prayer/ Compline

- 2nd 9th 16th & 17th-23rd Dec
- 9 pm

Christmas Carol Service

- 20th Dec at 6.30 pm

Christmas Eve Holy Communion

- 11pm

Christmas Day Holy Communion

- 8.30am & 11.30am

Night Prayer/Compline

Lectionary readings for next week are:

- Sun 22nd November:
2 Samuel 23.1-7
OR Matthew 28.16-end
- Mon 23rd November:
Isaiah 14.3-20
OR Matthew 9.18-34
- Tues 24th November:
Isaiah 17
OR Matthew 9.35-10.15
- Wed 25th November:
Isaiah 19
OR Matthew 10.16-33
- Thurs 26th November:
Isaiah 21.1-12
OR Matthew 10.34-11.1
- Fri 27th November:
Isaiah 22.1-14
OR Matthew 11.2-19
- Sat 28th November:
Isaiah 24
OR Matthew 11.20-end