



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 6th December, 2020

Dear Friends

As my days get busier, and the daylight more fleeting, Freya and I are doing a lot more of our walks in the dark. Apart from the frisson of negotiating Mount Walk's pitch-black, slippery twists and turns, these are beautiful walks. Why? - because of the Milky Way of Christmas lights that are beginning to be hung along fences, under eaves and around trees. (It is as well that Stewart is on secondment and so won't be reading this - the beauty of Christmas lights is something on which we differ!)

When I was walking past one house last night and admiring the arrangement of their lights into a Christmas tree design I was struck by something for the first time: what a gift these lights are to *others*; how they're for the benefit, not of those who live *inside* the house, but to those passing by *outside*. The creators of the Christmas-tree-esque light installation on Leicester Road won't see their own lights but they've put them up for the delight of others.

This might be a helpful picture for us who are called to be lights in the darkness of the world; called to let our light shine before others so that they learn something of God and of his goodness. Like the Christmas lights around our town and villages we are to shine, not for our own benefit, but to bring hope and joy to others.

Now, I know we're all weary, I know energy levels are low, but I wonder if we could try to do one light-bearing action this Advent that might make a difference to someone else?

One of the ways the St Helen's church family are going to do this is through our Christmas Windows initiative. Together, with our brothers and sisters at Holy Trinity, over 40 of us are decorating a window in the theme of a Christmas carol, and lighting it up, so that from 18th-23rd December, from 4-7pm, people can follow the trail available on sthelensashby.net and see the Christmas story lit up in windows all over town.

The trail map will be available soon. When it's available, why not download it and enjoy these windows that others have created for you - and remember that Jesus was the light who came to shine for *you*, to be hope in your darkness.

God bless you.

Mary

Star scattering - thank you!

Thank you so much to all those who helped in any way with scattering stars around town last Saturday morning. Thank you to our churchwardens, to Val Bowron and Valerie Backman who crocheted no less than 1200 of them; to Sharn and team who made all the labels for us; to those who tied the labels to the stars and to Liz Smith, Sue Evans, Eileen Coombs and Sharn Stinson who were my fellow stealth star hangers. The response to this initiative has been overwhelmingly positive. One Facebook page in Ashby - run by our very own Richard Issitt - had dozens of positive comments, and our own post on Facebook had over 6000 views! Well done, everyone, for spreading a little light and joy.
Revd Mary

Collect your DIY Christingle kits!

Collect your kits next Saturday, 12th December, between 10.00am and 12 noon at church, ready for the online service on Sunday 13th at 4.00pm on the Flagstaff Family page. We'll make our Christingles during the service - so don't eat your sweets too soon!
Revd Mary

What's On

- Prayer for the Day
The Jesse Tree Advent Calendar 30th Nov to 24th Dec at 8am
If you are not inclined to make your own Jesse Tree advent calendar but would still like to join in the fun, there is an e version of our Flagstaff Family Jesse Tree Advent Calendar at the click of a mouse:
<https://calendar.myadvent.net?id=d84e80cd7b5fd7ad3e46065f87d063e9>

- Compline
9th, 16th–24th Dec at 9pm
- Christmas Windows
18th–23rd December at 4pm-7pm
- Bedtime Stories on-line
18th–23rd December at 7pm
- Christmas Carol Service on-line
20th Dec at 6.30 pm
- Children's Carol Service on-line
24th December at 5pm
- Flagstaff Family service - online
27th December at 10.30am

Find on-line services, bedtime stories etc on the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page, or afterwards on the St Helen's website

Services in church – booking required

Sundays

- ◆ Sunday 6th December
4pm Communion at Isley Walton
- ◆ Sunday 13th December
10.30am Communion at St Helens
4.00pm Communion at Worthington
- ◆ Sunday 20th December
10.30am Communion at St Helens

Wednesdays

- ◆ Wednesday 9th December
10.00am Communion at St Helen's
- ◆ Wednesday 16th December
10.00am Communion at St Helen's
- ◆ Wednesday 23rd December
10.00am Communion at St Helen's

Christmas Eve

- 11.15pm Communion at Holy Trinity
- 11.30pm Communion at St Helen's

Christmas Day

- 8.30am Communion at St Helen's
- 9.00am Communion at Breedon
- 10.30am Communion at St Helen's

To book seats by email -

- ◆ Isley Walton, Breedon or St Helen's
sthelensashby@gmail.com
- ◆ Worthington
christina@stmatthewsworthington.net
- ◆ Holy Trinity
office@trinityashby.net

NOTICES

Ashby Foodbank

◆Ashby Foodbank would like to thank everyone for their support during the past year.

◆The Foodbank is only able to take donations up to 11th Dec, resuming accepting donations in the New Year. Items can be left in the porch of Holy Trinity.

◆Opening times and locations in December:

Tues 15th 9.30am to 11.30am at

Ashby Congregational church

Thurs 17th 9.30am to 11.30am at St

Stephen's church Woodville

Fri 18th 9am to 10.30am at Measham

Baptist church

Fri 18th 2pm to 4pm at Ashby

Congregational church

Tues 22nd 9.30am to 11.30am at

Ashby Congregational church

Weds 23rd 1.30pm to 3.00pm at Ashby
Congregational church

Thurs 24th 9.30am to 11.30am at St

Stephen's church Woodville

◆The foodbank will then be closed until Tuesday 5th January, after which normal opening hours at all distribution sites will resume.

◆In case of emergencies that can't wait until the 5th January, the Foodbank can be contacted on 07542 118878 between 9am and 3pm on Tues 29th, Weds 30th and Thurs 31st December.

◆Foodbank Vouchers are available from Alan Sedgman, Revd Mary or kengarnerashby@hotmail.com

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.

Christmas Cards & Fairtrade gifts

Although we have not been able to hold our fairtrade stall in church this year there are Christmas cards and many potential gifts at the Fair2All shop on the corner of South Street and Bath Street, and at their online shop: <http://www.fair2all.net/>

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast Meeting is at 9:00am on Saturday 12th December 2020 by ZOOM. (See last week's notices sheet for details, including the Plate Challenge.)

Matt, last month's Men's Breakfast speaker, was sent an email inviting him to speak at another event in Burton. Sadly he has lost the email and is very keen to contact the sender to give his talk. Please let Geoff know geoff.richman@btinternet.com if you were the sender, or know who it might be, so they can be reconnected.

12 Days of Giving

There is still time to nominate St Helen's for the chance of receiving a donation of £1000 from Ecclesiastical Insurance as part of its 12 Days of Giving scheme, when they will donate to 120 different charities during December.

To nominate St Helen's, visit movementforgood.com/12days and click 'nominate a charity now'. You also need to tick the box 'registration exempt'

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 year.

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

- ◆ Nicholas Charles Jervis
- ◆ Gordon Heaward
- ◆ Eric Haines Fielder
- ◆ Dorrie Watson
- ◆ Ronald Slater Allison

◆ 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

Contact Details

- ◆ Revd Canon Mary Gregory:
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01530 564372
- ◆ Revd Rob Marsh:
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07557 536926
- ◆ Parish Office: Jill Chapman
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- ◆ 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