



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 13th December, 2020

Dear Friends

First of all, let me thank you all, so much for making my 50th birthday so special! The celebrations started, a day early, with the wonderful surprise of Mr C acting as the Milk Tray man and then finding the most enormous box of Milk Tray on my doorstep after All-Age. Thank you!

Thank you, too, for the many Facebook messages, for the cards, flowers and presents. I was on a Zoom meeting most of my birthday morning, and had a lovely time waving at the steady succession of people coming up the drive to post things or leave things for me. In the afternoon, I had a walk at Moira Furnace with my best friend and, in the evening, a curry with Mum.

One of my callers that day, listening to my birthday plans, said something that has stuck in my mind. Sharing my enthusiasm for the simple, wonderful blessings of the day, she said to me 'it's the little things, isn't it?' - the little things that often mean so much; the little things that really make a difference.

How right she was. No, it wasn't possible to have a big 'do'; it wasn't even possible to be in the same room as my sister. And, no, George Clooney didn't come calling. And, no, I wasn't given a Porsche (although I

was given a Lego set I've been longing for!). But my day was full of something far more precious, far more special than any of those things (except being with my sister) - love of friends and family; laughter; good food; great company. Simple. And honestly, with the accumulation of all these little things I wouldn't change a thing. I really do feel blessed.

I wonder whether focusing on the little things might be the way to approach this season of Advent and Christmas; to look, not at what we don't have, but at what we *do* have; to take delight in the simple things around us - the sunset, the Christmas lights, the love written through the cards we receive, the solace of our worship.

We're not saints, of course - and so we'll miss our parties and our gatherings; we'll miss our crowded carol services and our raucous Christmas dinners. But - God is here! He is with us! And in this, we rejoice.

Much love
Mary

Carol singing

Government guidelines allow for six people to carol sing outside, providing that household groups social distance from one another by at least two

meters and from anyone to whom they are singing.

At the invitation of their managers we are going to sing carols on

◆21st Dec from 5.30pm to the nursing homes on Tamworth Road

◆22nd Dec from 5.30pm on Prior Park

Please note that we won't of course be going inside any building but will sing outdoors only.

If you'd like to sing on either evening please email me and I will form two groups of six.

It may be that more than 12 people would like to do this and I am sorry if anyone is disappointed but we must adhere to the rules.

Thank you for understanding.

Revd Mary

Bookings

A reminder that you will need to book to reserve a seat at any of our forthcoming services: Wednesday 16th and 23rd December (there will be no service on 30th) and Sunday 13th and 20th. It will be especially important to book for our services on Christmas Eve (11.30pm) and Christmas Day (8.30am and 10.30am). Please book for just ONE of these services initially, and tell Jill if you'd like to on a reserve list for a second service - we'll certainly fit you in if we can.

Carol Service 2020

What a treat awaits us! - our Carol Service for 2020, masterminded by Andrew Chapman and filmed by Rory Jackson in all the churches of our team. With beautiful music and readings this promises to be extra special. It will be posted to the Flagstaff Family Facebook page at 6.30pm on 20th December. Settle down to enjoy it - and do share the post so that others can enjoy it too!

Sunday 27th December - invitation to worship

Bishop Martyn and Bishop Guli have urged clergy, churchwardens and all those who make worship 'happen' to take Sunday 27th December off, and to have a long weekend and a complete rest in this most demanding of years. As a ministry team, we gratefully accept their suggestion. The bishops have invited us all, instead, to worship with one of the services they are leading: with Bishop Martyn as he leads a service at Leicester Cathedral or Bishop Guli as she leads a national service. Both of these services will be pre-recorded and online so our hard-working bishops can have Sunday 27th December as a day of rest, too.

Best wishes

Mary

Living in Love & Faith: The Course

The Church of England has now published its material on a Christian exploration of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Following our Pastoral Principles conversations in the autumn, we would like to offer this 'Living in Love and Faith' course to our Flagstaff Family of Churches on **13, 20 and 27 January, and 3 and 10 February**, all Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. Each course member will need the book that accompanies the course. The books cost about £5.00 each, slightly less if we buy in bulk. So that I can get these ordered in good time, please could you email me confirming that you'd like to attend the course, and would like a book. I would like to place the order by **21st December** so responses before then would be really helpful.

Many thanks.

Revd Mary

What's On Summary

- Prayer for the Day
The Jesse Tree Advent Calendar
30th Nov to 24th Dec at 8am
- Compline
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
CANCELLED

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 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 -

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

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:

- ◆ Elsie Muriel Hutley
- ◆ Audrey Beatrice Garland
- ◆ Elizabeth Harris
- ◆ Ellen Caroline Spencer
- ◆ William Arnold
- ◆ Joan Ethel Marlow
- ◆ George Ronald Thornley
- ◆ William Wilson
- ◆ Derrick Armson
- ◆ Thomas William Ison
- ◆ Annie Wheatley
- ◆ Maurice George Evans

Contact Details

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- ◆ 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

◆ 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