



## St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

# Notices for 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

Dear All

I write this with three overwhelming emotions: tiredness (of course!), excitement and gratitude.

I am excited because, on Sunday evening at 6.30pm, we are launching our carol service, filmed last weekend on location in every church in the team. I was there for some of the filming and I can tell you that this is going to be so special: the readers read beautifully, the singers sang exquisitely, and Rory, our camera man and director, filmed expertly. Please do join us online at 6.30pm - because although it's not live it would be so good to experience it 'together'.

It is partly in the carol service that my excitement spills over into overwhelming gratitude to so many: for our musicians, led so skillfully and tirelessly by Andrew Chapman and Caroline Essex, who have worked incredibly hard to enhance our worship together; for our creatives, for Jill Chapman and Sharn Stinson, for our star-crocheters and our window-decorators, for creating beautiful publicity and windows that are light in the darkness; for our doers, for Eileen Coombs and Simon Starkey and Martin Vaughan and Neil Adams and Don Crombie and our wardens and so many others, who get on with jobs that need doing - that make things happen; for our telephone support

team, our shoppers, our befrienders, our worship-telephone-liners who have made all the difference to those who are isolated or without IT; for our Prayer for the Day and Compline teams, for our storytellers and online crafters, for such an outpouring of creative worship and deep and challenging reflections; for all those who pray faithfully and have enabled the prayers of others by stewarding solitary prayer Saturdays; for those who, against natural inclination, have embraced the technology of these times and worshiped as a Flagstaff Family of Churches; for those who have found their role in this pandemic whatever it has been - mask-makers, chocolate-posters, cheer-givers, foodbank volunteers..... - and have played it.

Honestly, I am so proud of every single one of you; so grateful to be in community with you. This has been a massively tough year, the going is still tough, but through it all we have done our best and we have been family. In all this, we have glorified God.

Thank you! And - Happy Christmas!

Much love

Mary

## **'The Annunciation' Lucy Beckett**

Once only . across lilies . to the core  
of mystery . of making . of the power  
of God in Trinity . after . before  
the silent consonance of that single  
hour  
a girl was called to answer in consent  
the terror of his glory covering her  
his fathering spirit asking to be lent  
our mortal flesh and blood . our earth .  
in her  
breaking open the kingdom of his son  
so that the word through whom all  
things were made  
should be conceived in her . his will  
be done  
in any of us . however afraid  
of suffering ahead . the dark we pray  
his angel will light for us as his way.

## **Giving**

A reminder that you can give on-line  
to the work of our church via the  
website  
<https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/327469/Giving.aspx>

## **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 **21<sup>st</sup>  
December** so responses before then  
would be really helpful.

Many thanks.

Revd Mary

## **Ashby Foodbank is open:**

- ◆ Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> 9.30am to 11.30am at  
Ashby Congregational church
- ◆ Weds 23<sup>rd</sup> 1.30pm to 3.00pm at  
Ashby Congregational church
- ◆ Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> 9.30am to 11.30am at St  
Stephen's church, Woodville
- ◆ It will reopen Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
In case of emergencies that can't wait  
until the 5<sup>th</sup> January, the Foodbank  
can be contacted on 07542 118878  
between 9am and 3pm on Tues 29<sup>th</sup>,  
Weds 30<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## What's On Summary

- Prayer for the Day  
The Jesse Tree Advent Calendar  
30<sup>th</sup> Nov to 24<sup>th</sup> Dec at 8am
- Compline  
16<sup>th</sup>–24<sup>th</sup> Dec at 9pm
- Christmas Windows  
18<sup>th</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> December at 4pm–7pm
- Bedtime Stories on-line  
18<sup>th</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> December at 7pm
- Christmas Carol Service on-line  
20<sup>th</sup> Dec at 6.30 pm
- Children's Carol Service on-line  
24<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm
- **Flagstaff Family service - online  
27<sup>th</sup> 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 [https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/338385/Online\\_Services\\_and.aspx](https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/338385/Online_Services_and.aspx)

## Services in church – booking required

### Sundays

- ◆ Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
10.30am Communion at St Helens

### Wednesdays

- ◆ Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

- ◆ Breedon or St Helen's book by email - [sthelensashby@gmail.com](mailto:sthelensashby@gmail.com)
- ◆ Holy Trinity - Please go to [trinityashby.net/midnight](http://trinityashby.net/midnight) and complete a form for each person in your Christmas Bubble

## 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:

- ◆ Douglas William Drakeley
- ◆ Walter Howard Kernan
- ◆ Elizabeth Mary Armstead
- ◆ Gladys 'May' Cosway
- ◆ Harry Merrils Hunt
- ◆ Audrey Pendlington Fletcher
- ◆ William George Coleman
- ◆ Eric Kelly
- ◆ Betty Eileen Bradford
- ◆ Phyllis Blundell
- ◆ Elenora Peckham
- ◆ Elizabeth Homer
- ◆ Sydney Edward Taylor
- ◆ George Smart
- ◆ Arthur Gerald Broadhurst
- ◆ Jack Jones
- ◆ John Charles Hunt
- ◆ Sophy Georgina Hallmark
- ◆ Olive Edith Inwood

### ◆ St Helen's Prayer Chain:

Judith Lewis on 01530 564204  
or email [jchjcl@gmail.com](mailto:jchjcl@gmail.com)

### ◆ Notice Sheet Prayer requests:

Jill Chapman on 07725 519453  
or [sthelensashby@gmail.com](mailto:sthelensashby@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto: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