



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 20th 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 **21st
December** so responses before then
would be really helpful.

Many thanks.

Revd Mary

Ashby Foodbank is open:

- ◆ 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
- ◆ It will reopen Tuesday 5th January
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.

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 https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/338385/Online_Services_and.aspx

Services in church – booking required

Sundays

- ◆ Sunday 20th December
10.30am Communion at St Helens

Wednesdays

- ◆ 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

- ◆ Breedon or St Helen's book by email - sthelensashby@gmail.com
- ◆ Holy Trinity - Please go to 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

◆ Notice Sheet Prayer requests:

Jill Chapman on 07725 519453
or sthelensashby@gmail.com

Contact Details

- ◆ Revd Canon Mary Gregory:
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<https://www.sthelensashby.net/>
- ◆ Flagstaff Team website:
www.flagstaff.org.uk
- ◆ Facebook:
-The Flagstaff Family of Churches
-St Helen's Ashby de la Zouch
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