



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

## Notices for 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2021

Dear Friends

I'm writing this just a few hours after the Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, announced that we would be going into Tier 4 restrictions from one minute past midnight tomorrow (Thursday) morning. Being placed in this Tier is a mark of how grave a situation we are in: the virus is in our community and the rate of infection is high. We will, I know, continue to do all we can to support one another and to protect the most vulnerable.

Part of protecting the most vulnerable must be to review how we are worshipping at this time and, in particular, whether we should continue with in-building services; something which is permitted in Tier 4 but which may not be advisable. With this in mind, I am meeting with the Standing Committee on Friday afternoon, by which time we may have received advice from the Diocese. In the meantime, I will also have discussions with Andrew Chapman, our Director of Music, and others who lead worship. I will be in touch again as soon as we have come to a prayerful mind about what our approach should be.

In this difficult point in the pandemic, I wanted to share with you one of my favourite Bible stories. Israel's army are fighting a battle with the Amalekites and Moses is on a hilltop

above the action, praying for the army as they fight. As was the custom then, Moses prays with his arms lifted up as if reaching out to God.

As the battle rages on, Moses gets tired and his arms drop down. Whenever his arms drop the Israelite army faces a setback in the battle. And so Moses' lieutenants, Aaron and Hur stand either side of Moses and each hold up one of his arms until Israel is victorious.

I love that story not because of its rather confusing portrayal of prayer but because of the wonderful picture of support, of standing together in times of difficulty, of us lending our strength to others when we feel exhausted.

I want us to hold that picture before us for the next few weeks, to make this commitment to one another: that we will hold one another up and hold one another in prayer before God.

When I am strong, let me support you. When my strength fails me, please hold me up. And let us never forget that underneath each and every one of us are God's everlasting arms.

Much love

Revd Mary

## Giving

A reminder that you can give to the work of the 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.

**Ashby Foodbank** will reopen  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

## 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

## 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 the pandemic.

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

- ◆ Lilian Ann Glascoe
- ◆ Albert Henry Bennett
- ◆ Eric Williams
- ◆ Walter Henry Poxon
- ◆ Mary Jane Sketcley
- ◆ Trevor Cartledge
- ◆ Edith Mary Powell
- ◆ John Latimer
- ◆ Eva Slater
- ◆ Harry James Trevena
- ◆ Dorothy May Glover
- ◆ Jennifer Frances Middleton
- ◆ Wallace Henry Allcock

### ◆ 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)