



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 10th January, 2021

Dear Friends

There feels so much to say this week - and yet I hardly know where to begin. Perhaps with some practicalities.

So, firstly, our **worship**. Whilst we are allowed to worship in our buildings during this lock-down which began in the early hours of Wednesday morning, every PCC in our Flagstaff Family of Churches have agreed that we will not do so, but will worship online together instead.

We have made these decisions with a heavy heart, but with the absolute conviction that this is the right thing to do to safeguard one another, to protect the NHS and to be in solidarity with our communities where so many are staying at home, just as we are urged to do. I know that some will feel this decision very keenly, but will also understand just how necessary this is. For similar reasons, we are not opening for solitary prayer on Saturdays either.

Instead, here's what our weekly plan will be:

Sunday 10.30am Flagstaff Family Holy Communion, streamed live to the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page

Tuesday 8.00am Prayer for the Day, uploaded to the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page

Wednesday 10.00am Flagstaff Family Holy Communion, streamed live to the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page

Wednesday 7.30pm Living in Love and Faith course, on Zoom (link sent to participants)

Thursday 8.00am Prayer for the Day, uploaded to the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page

Saturday 9.30am Prayer gathering, on Zoom (link in email)

Our prayer is that this pattern would be sustaining and life-giving as we navigate these difficult times.

Secondly, **our prayers**. Most of you will know that we have a prayer chain, currently on email, where we share prayer requests for anyone who has asked for this support. If you would like to be added to the prayer chain, so that you can pray for others, please email Judith Lewis at jchjcl@gmail.com and she will gladly add you. Similarly if you like the prayer chain to pray for you, please contact Judith or myself and we will make sure that happens.

Thirdly - and this might be overreaching the usual remit of my humble pew sheet letter - **the world**. I am writing this the morning after I watched, with horror, as the President of the United States openly

urged disorder, destruction and even violence at the heart of the democracy of his own country; a democracy which has always sought to hold other countries to account for the openness of their own electoral processes. We have all seen what ensued. We are called to pray for America; to pray for the resumption of a more ordered, lawful way of national life; to pray for the safety of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris; to pray for our own democracy, and to watch over it to ensure that it, too, isn't eroded.

Lastly, **how are you?** This is a pretty overwhelming time, isn't it? - a pandemic which is, it seems, getting more grave by the day, and which is coming every closer to us; a lock-down in winter; political upheaval; personal feelings of vulnerability and isolation. It's fine to admit to yourself, and to say to others that you're not Ok, to say that you're struggling or weary or anxious. This is not a failure of faith in any way. It's normal. This is tough. You don't have to be heroic every day. No-one expects that of you, least of all God. Instead, be gentle to yourself. Celebrate small wins. Be kind to others. Watch over them. If you manage to do that you are doing really well. Keep on.

And - although I have written this so many times during this pandemic, I will write it again - God is with us. He hasn't abandoned us. He will never leave us. Underneath us are his everlasting arms. Cry out to him and then rest in his embrace.

If you need me call. Send a carrier pigeon (or an email). Together, we'll get through this.

Much love

Mary

Ashby Foodbank

January Shopping List:

Instant mashed potato
Tinned potatoes
Tinned vegetables
Tinned pulses
Longlife sponge puddings
Squash
Handwash
Toothbrushes
Shampoo
Toilet Rolls
Deodorant

Ashby Churches Prayer Meeting

On Sunday 24th January at 2:30 pm (for 30 min) we will be gathering from across the churches to pray.

Please email prayer-meeting@ashbychurches.org to get the Zoom link (which you are welcome to share with others).

Greetings from Erasto Mollel

Dear Friends,

Greetings in Christ Jesus!

It's my hope that with the grace of God, you have had good time during Christmas and a happy new year despite corona pandemic! We also had the same. Ordination and retreat thereafter also went on well. I'm posted on mission area around the school where I teach. We don't have a church there around so it is declared a mission area.

I really thank God for this anointment in His work! God bless you all! Erasto

January Magazine

This month's magazine is available on the website. The version on the site for the first few days of January was missing four pages, including Pam Watson's piece re David. The amended version is at https://www.sthelensashby.net/Group/s/339405/Parish_Magazine.aspx

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:

- ◆ Robert Shearer Stalker
- ◆ Alice Pagett
- ◆ Margaret Rose Nutting
- ◆ Eric Roberts
- ◆ William Reginald Price
- ◆ John William Spencer
- ◆ Kathleen Ray Reeves
- ◆ Alice Hilda Gilks
- ◆ Ada Elizabeth Osborn
- ◆ Vera Kelley (nee Orton)

Contact Details

- ◆ Revd Canon Mary Gregory:
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- ◆ Lettings:
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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