



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 17th January, 2021

Dear Friends

Over the last week, I've had a few conversations with people who have said how useless they feel; how they wish that there was something they could *do*, some difference they could make. Usually very active, with a heightened sense of contributing to the common good, they watch the news, hear of hard-pressed parents and carers, or of exhausted NHS staff, and long to be able to help. This feeling is especially sharp, I think, for those who have loved ones in hospital. Please know: we are praying for you.

I think this feeling of being useless, coupled with what feels like a lack of agency and choice due to the restrictions we are living under (however much we support them and are committed to upholding them) can be debilitating. This combination can sap all motivation from us, make each day seem long and without purpose.

But I am reminded of Zerubbabel, an Old Testament character whose name I remember by thinking of rubber balls. (See what I did there?) Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, appears in the book of Zechariah, a prophet who ministered at the time when God's people were seeking to rebuild the Temple after its destruction by the Babylonians.

Zechariah, it seems is speaking to a people very cynical about the rebuilding programme. They are overwhelmed by the task in front of them into inactivity and inertia. Even when Zerubbabel makes a start, they mock him for his efforts which seem so insignificant, so paltry, compared to the scale of the task. In answer, this is what Zechariah says to them: 'Do not despise the day of small things'.

'Do not despise the day of small things' might be a good motto for us at the moment. No, we may not be able to join in with acts of great heroism, such as NHS workers are doing day after day. No, we may not be able to volunteer as we usually do. No, we may not be able to give hard-working parents a break, but there are small things we can do. We can telephone a friend or drop a card through a neighbour's door. We can send some flowers to someone who is struggling or bake a cake to share with others. These are 'small things', certainly, but if you have been on the receiving end of any of them you will know what a big difference they can make.

'Do not despise the day of small things.' Continue to do all the good you can, however insignificant that might seem to you. And remember

there continue to be two really significant things you can do. Firstly, by staying at home, by keeping to the rules, you are safeguarding the most vulnerable, protecting the NHS. Secondly, by praying you can bring our world and all its needs before God, who can do more than we can hope for or even imagine.

For doing all the small things, for doing those two significant things - thank you.

Much love

Mary

NOTICES

Giving

Do you have questions about the practical ways we can respond to God's love for us, or questions about how best to organise financial giving? Our treasurer, John Backman, is happy to talk it through with you. Contact him via the Parish Office - You can find out more about the Parish Giving Scheme at info@parishgiving.org.uk and you can make donations to the work of St Helen's via our website - <https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/327469/Giving.aspx>

Living Life to the Full Course

Change of dates:

- ◆ The Living in Love and Faith course amended dates are:
 - ◆ **Wednesdays 20th & 27th January, and 3rd & 10th February**
 - ◆ **& Monday 15th February**
- ◆ Meeting start time - 7.30pm
- ◆ Anyone who would like to attend please email Revd Mary to confirm and to receive the Zoom link. - revmarygregory@aol.co.uk

Ashby Youth for Christ AGM

- ◆ 19th January
 - ◆ 7pm
 - ◆ via Zoom
- If you would like to attend please email helen.davis@yfc.co.uk for the link.

Ashby Churches Prayer Meeting

- ◆ Sunday 24th January
 - ◆ 2:30 pm (for 30 min)
 - ◆ via Zoom
- Please email prayer-meeting@ashbychurches.org for the Zoom link (which you are welcome to share with others).

St Helen's on-line jig-saw

A suggestion on the St Helen's Church Heritage Facebook page is to do their on-line jig saw of the Royal Coat of Arms which sits high on the west wall of church.
https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=0aeb192e5aea&fbclid=IwAR1IP_h_qXefbk1ajeZ2T8dsX3nTgAjNQs1RwDhP85JXC97aeJHkgBRLXR4

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:

- ◆ Dorothy Myrtle Statham
- ◆ Elizabeth McVicker
- ◆ Margaret 'Betty' Hughes
- ◆ Harry Farmer
- ◆ Reginald Charles Westbrook
- ◆ Edith Catherine Jones
- ◆ Pauline Sybil Dean
- ◆ Gordon Willars
- ◆ Mary Gertrude Swann
- ◆ Ivan Richard Martel
- ◆ Jessie Fox

Contact Details

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- ◆ 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

◆ 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