



## St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

# Notices for 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2021

Dear Friends

If our lovely Flagstaff Family is like a boat, and we are sailing the waters of life and faith together (bear with me!) then it feels as if we are caught up in a storm at the moment, buffeted by wave after wave after wave:

bereavement follows bereavement follows a significant diagnosis follows difficult news about the return of schools or the prospects for our students. It can feel as if our little boat is going to be inundated, overwhelmed.

Given this image that has resonated with me over the last few days, it will come as no surprise to you that I've been thinking about the time when the disciples are in a boat with Jesus, crossing the Sea of Galilee. He is exhausted and falls asleep. The disciples, though, are wide-awake and terrified. A terrible storm has whipped up and they are convinced they are going to drown. They shake him, wake him, and he speaks peace to the storm, and it is stilled.

This little episode has a lot to say to us just now. It reassures us that Jesus is in the Flagstaff Family boat with us as we are buffeted by this storm; he hasn't abandoned us to face the elements alone; he is with us. It also holds out the promise that one day he will still the storms that threaten to overwhelm us now, that he will guide us to safe harbour. Shall we just pause over that second

element, that stilling of the storm? You see, we can feel (oh, go on then, *I* can feel) like this is all up to us - that somehow we must make things better, we must perform some super-human rescue, we must be the ones to settle the turmoil, to answer the distress, that so many feel. We are to play our part, of course, but we are also, especially, to entrust ourselves to the one who *can* do things that we cannot - who can give peace that passes understanding, who *can* still the storm.

In our independence, in our determination, in our problem-solving-mode, it is hard to entrust ourselves to another, even to The Other, but that is what Jesus invites us to do; to allow him to take our burdens from us and to rest.

When I was ordained a priest, Bishop Jack told me that I was to be a sponge: to absorb all the hurt, all the distress, all the sorrow that people wanted to share with me - and then, every evening, to squeeze out all of that at the foot of Jesus' cross. Can we each try to do that? - to support one another, to love one another, to carry one another's burdens - and then to offer it all to Jesus, the one who has, already, borne our burdens and carried us to eternal life?

God bless you, God still you, God sustain you.

Mary xx

## NOTICES

### **For the 100,000...for the one**

In the film *Schindler's List*, Stephen Spielberg has a brilliant device to help his audience comprehend the horror of the holocaust. He knows that people's minds won't stretch to the loss of six million Jewish people, and so in an otherwise black and white production, he films just one little girl in colour, highlighting her bright red coat. We see her playing with her friends, dashing home for tea and, later, we see her rounded up by the Nazis, marched towards a mass grave, shot. This one little girl helps us to *feel* the tragedy of the holocaust even if our minds cannot comprehend it.

This week, the death toll from the Covid-19 pandemic in this country passed 100,000. We cannot comprehend this. But we can feel the terrible loss of *one* life, of Alan's. This is what I tweeted on the day his death was reported in the daily numbers: 'Today, 1401 deaths, one of them my friend: husband, dad, grandad, brother, faithful follower of Christ; servant-hearted, protective, generous, joyous, proud Devonian. Behind every number, a story. After each death, a community of loss.'

We know and love our 'one'. God knows and loves *every* one.  
Revd Mary

### **Team Service: this Sunday 10.30am**

As this is a fifth Sunday, we will join with the congregation of St Matthew's, Worthington, as they lead our morning worship for the whole team. Simply join the Flagstaff Family of Churches in the normal way at the normal time. All the words you need will appear on the screen.

## Virtual Messy Church

Dear All,

You are warmly invited to join us on Zoom for a 'Virtual Messy Church' this coming Sunday afternoon (31<sup>st</sup> January) at 4pm.

We're hoping to recreate - as far as possible on line, all the aspects of Messy Church that we have all been missing so much. (I only wish we could provide you with refreshments! :-)

We will join together in story, song and prayer and also go into small groups to attempt some 'fun family challenges'.

In order to complete these challenges, you will need to have with you:

- Some Maltesers
- A bowl of warm water
- A plate
- A dice,

And *Either*

- Plenty of lego bricks

Or

- paper and pencils

**Intrigued? We do hope so!! Join us on Sunday and find out more!**

**We can't wait to see you all –**

**Please contact Revd Mary for the zoom link .**

**Email [revmarygregory@aol.co.uk](mailto:revmarygregory@aol.co.uk)**

With love from all the Messy Church team.

PS If you have time, please ask the children what they think God is like. (We just want single words and there are, of course, no 'right' or 'wrong' answers! Please send them by email to Revd Rob [ministry@family-marsh.uk](mailto:ministry@family-marsh.uk) )

## **Alan Sedgman's funeral: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February, at 2pm**

Because of the pandemic, we are strictly limited as to how many people may attend Alan's funeral in person, in the building. Adrienne has contacted those to whom she is able to offer a seat in church. However, the service will be live-streamed to the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page, and everyone who cannot be in the building itself is warmly invited to join us online where you will be an equal and honoured member of the congregation.

Revd Mary

## **All-age worship: 7<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30am**

I'm really looking forward to leading our All-Age worship next Sunday! I've called it 'Hundreds and Thousands' - you have between now and then to work out why!

This is a shout-out for anyone who has a birthday in January or February to let me know so that we can sing Happy Birthday to you, and for anyone who has news to share - good, or more difficult - so that we can pray with you. Please let me know, too, if you would like to appear 'in person', on Zoom, for this.

Revd Mary

## **Holy Communion: 7<sup>th</sup> February, 4.00pm**

Revd Rob will lead a simple service of Holy Communion on the Flagstaff Family of Churches Facebook page

## **Giving**

A reminder you can make donations to the work of St Helen's via our website -

<https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/327469/Giving.aspx>

## **Lent 2021**

I hope that you will join us for some or all of the opportunities over Lent, so that we can journey together in preparation for Easter.

Revd Mary

On **Ash Wednesday**, we'll have services of Holy Communion at 10.00am and 7.30pm, both online only.

## **Sundays & Tuesdays**

During Lent we will be asking ourselves the questions, 'What is the church? What is it *for*?'

### Sunday Sermons –

Each week one of our preachers will take a different image for the church and explore it

### Team Talk Tuesdays (Lent Course) -

Each following Tuesday from 7.30-9.00pm, we'll dig deeper into that topic together through Bible study, discussion, prayer and worship.

The sessions are:

◆ Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb - The Bride of Christ - a worshipping community

◆ Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - The Body of Christ - an active community

◆ Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March - The Family of Christ - a supportive community

◆ Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March - The Servant of Christ - a serving community

◆ Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March - The Herald of Christ - a proclaiming community

## **Daily reflections** Recommended

reading is 'At Home in Lent: an exploration of Lent through 46 objects' by Gordon Giles. There is a reading for each day in Lent, inspired by an object from the home. Please let Mary know by January 31<sup>st</sup> if you'd like to be included in her bulk order.

## Daily Hope

is the Church of England's 24 hour free telephone line for music, prayers (including prayers from the MU), reflections (including mental health reflections voiced by Pam Rhodes) and full worship services.

Callers to the line are welcomed with a short greeting from Archbishop Justin Welby, before being able to choose from a range of options.

Ring **0800 804 8044**

## Christian Aid Conference

Ahead of Christian Aid Week in May, there will be a new online Conference on the 22-26<sup>th</sup> February to help equip and inspire supporters. There'll be a range of sessions and speakers to watch live or to watch at a later date if you can't make it. Full details of the whole conference are in February's parish magazine, which can be found on the What's On page of the St Helen's Church website.

## Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is at 9:00am on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 when Hugh Milward will give a talk titled "The Life & Times of Just an Ordinary Bloke".

The following meeting is on 13<sup>th</sup> March when Vernon Baylis will talk on Ashby Youth for Christ's Adventures Both of these meetings are via Zoom. Contact Geoff Richman via [geoff.richman@btinternet.com](mailto:geoff.richman@btinternet.com) for the Zoom link

## Prayer Chain'

If you would like to be part of the 'Prayer Chain' and receive e-mails letting you know the names of those for whom prayers have been requested, email Judith Lewis on [jchjcl@gmail.com](mailto:jchjcl@gmail.com) and she will add you to her list of recipients.

## 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:

- ◆ Joseph Goacher
- ◆ Ben Morris Veitch
- ◆ Roy Cook
- ◆ Edward Green
- ◆ Joseph John Wilson
- ◆ Alfred Archer
- ◆ Eileen Spiby
- ◆ Lilian Ann Glascoe
- ◆ Beryl Janice Willars
- ◆ Helena Allegonda Antonia Harley
- ◆ Olwen Linda Westbrook
- ◆ George Stockwell

### ◆ 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**

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- ◆ Flagstaff Team website:  
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