



St Helen's Church

Loving God, loving others, loving the world

Notices for 7th February, 2021

Dear Friends

February looks set to be a time of fond farewells and joyful reunions in the ministry and leadership teams of the Flagstaff Family.

As soon as their pandemic-plagued house moves are finalised two couples who have so enriched the lives of our village churches are moving: John and Val Dawson to be nearer to their children and grandchildren in Winchester and Paul and Jo Yates to be closer to family in Wales. What a lot we have to thank them for, and how much we will miss them!

John has been a warm and supportive colleague to me, a willing helper, a listening ear. He is greatly loved, especially in the villages of Breedon and Worthington, where he is known for his tireless pastoral care, his intimate knowledge of generations of the villages' families. Val has been a wonderfully bright presence in the villages, lightening social occasions by her positive outlook and her great sense of humour, and baking wonderful cakes for soup-a-Saturday. They're a great team!

Paul and Jo Yates have been my right-hand man and woman at Breedon, working tirelessly to care for the church building and its grounds. Jo slaved with me over the application for a Heritage Lottery

grant, feeding me homemade Welsh cakes whenever I despaired of the task. With her support, we were awarded the grant at our first attempt: the tower is being repaired as I write, and we are in the process of appointing a Heritage Officer to enhance the visitor experience there. What a legacy she leaves! And Paul - well he has ordered fuel, hoovered carpets, dug plots for the burial of ashes, carried water up ladders, responded to alarms, been the verger for countless weddings and funerals, chopped down trees, put up benches, all whilst educating me on Aston Villa! Thanks for everything Jo and Paul (well - except, perhaps, for the Aston Villa bit!).

We also need to say thank you and farewell to the Revd Rob Marsh who has been with us on secondment since November. Rob has been a good-humoured, resourceful and invigorating colleague, sharing his many skills with us, not least in the field of technology. He has been a great support to me as I have started my new role as Rural Mission Enabler, and has supported, Coleorton, in particular in realising its long-held ambition to start an online Messy Church; something which they did with great success this last Sunday! Thank you Rob - our prayers go with you on the next chapter of your ministry.

With all these farewells, it will be good to welcome back the Revd Stewart Betts following his secondment. Stewart starts back with us this coming Wednesday, and we will look forward to benefiting from all that he has learnt. Some of us will also look forward to the resumption of his Dad-jokes!

At this time of transition in the ministry team of our Flagstaff Family of Churches, perhaps our prayer might be: 'For all that has been - thanks! For all that will be - yes!'

God bless you

Mary

NOTICES

Today's Services

- ◆ All-age worship: 10.30am
 - ◆ Holy Communion: 4.00pm - Revd Rob will lead a simple service of Holy Communion
- Both services are live 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>

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**

Coming up:

Ash Wednesday - two services of Holy Communion at 10.00am and 7.30pm, both online only.

Sundays & Tuesdays in Lent

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 21st and Tuesday 23rd Feb - The Bride of Christ - a worshipping community
- ◆ Sunday 28th and Tuesday 2nd March - The Body of Christ - an active community
- ◆ Sunday 7th and Tuesday 9th March - The Family of Christ - a supportive community
- ◆ Sunday 14th and Tuesday 16th March - The Servant of Christ - a serving community
- ◆ Sunday 21st and Tuesday 23rd March - The Herald of Christ - a proclaiming community

Men's Breakfast

- ◆ Saturday 13th Feb 2021 at 9am Hugh Milward's talk titled "The Life & Times of Just an Ordinary Bloke". &
- ◆ 13th March 2021 at 9am 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 for the Zoom link

Christian Aid Conference

There are full details of Christian Aid's online Conference, taking place on the 22-26th February, in February's parish magazine, which can be found on the What's On page of the St Helen's Church website

https://www.sthelensashby.net/Groups/339405/Parish_Magazine.aspx

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 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:

- ◆ Clifford James Cunnington
- ◆ John Peter Starforth
- ◆ Blanche Amelia Harrison
- ◆ James Edward Hedley
- ◆ Ronald Frederick Barrett
- ◆ Michael Dean
- ◆ Maurice Arthur Hall
- ◆ William Samuel John Staples
- ◆ Norman Evans
- ◆ Mary Sonia Hamlin
- ◆ Helen Margaret Trevena

◆ 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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01530 564372

◆ Revd Rob Marsh:
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07557 536926

◆ Parish Office: Jill Chapman
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◆ Heritage:
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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